

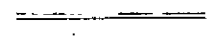
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1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

NEW SOUTH WALES.



VOTES

AND

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

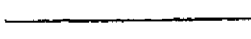
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DURING THE SECOND SESSION

OF

1898,

WITH THE VARIOUS DOCUMENTS CONNECTED THEREWITH.



IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. III.



SYDNEY:

WILLIAM APPELGATE GULLICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, PHILLIP-STREET.

1899.

1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS.

SECOND SESSION 1898.

(IN THREE VOLUMES.)

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OF

1898.

(Opened 16th August, 1898, prorogued 23rd December, 1898.)

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1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

DUDLEY COLLIERY EXPLOSION.

(REPORT OF THE COURT OF INVESTIGATION ON.)

Printed under No. 4 Report from Printing Committee, 29 September, 1898.

REPORT OF THE COURT OF INVESTIGATION.

Sir,

On the morning of the 21st March, at 9 a.m., an explosion took place at Dudley Colliery, in consequence of which fifteen men lost their lives. A Coroner's inquest was held subsequently on two of the bodies which had then been recovered. The taking of evidence extended over fourteen days, and fifty-one witnesses were examined. The verdict of the Jury was to the effect that the two men, Thomas Dorrity and John Benson, met their death in the Dudley Colliery on the 21st March, 1898, from carbon mon-oxide poisoning, and that there was not sufficient evidence before them to determine the cause of the explosion. They added:—

- “ We consider the natural ventilation insufficient and unreliable, and that the artificial ventilation of the Dudley mine is quite sufficient to ventilate the said mine, providing air-courses are in thorough order and bratticing is carried up to each working-face.
- “ We consider that sufficient examination was exercised for the safety of the workmen, according to Rule 4 of Part 2 of the Coal Mines Regulation Bill (referring to the deputy's inspections); but we consider a greater margin should be allowed for a more thorough inspection of the whole mine at all times, and with station farther back from the working-faces.
- “ We consider the question as regards naked lights a matter between management and inspection.
- “ We are of opinion, according to evidence, that all precautions necessary for the safety and comfort of the workmen were attended to by the Management, with the exception of Rule 1 of Clause 47, Part 2, of Coal Mines Regulation Bill, referring to ventilation being constantly produced, of which we consider ourselves unable to interpret.
- “ We consider that the Dudley disaster was quite unexpected, as not sufficient reports of danger were made to the Management prior to the explosion.”

Owing to a fire that manifested itself during the search for dead bodies, it was deemed necessary by those who undertook the management of exploring operations after the explosion to temporarily seal the pit down. This was done on 24th March, and it was unsealed on 17th June.

I received an appointment in June, under the hand of the late Secretary for Mines, Mr. Sydney Smith, to hold an investigation into the causes of the explosion, under the provisions of Section 23 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act of 1896. As the indications seen immediately after the unsealing of the pit pointed to a great confusion underground, and five bodies were not yet recovered, it was decided to postpone the opening of the inquiry until the hitherto unexplored districts had been opened up.

In the meantime, after the last body had been recovered, I spent the greater part of one day in the pit in company with Mr. Atkinson, Chief Inspector of Coal Mines; Mr. John Dixon, an Inspector of Collieries; Mr. Humphreys, Manager of the Dudley Colliery; and Mr. Turnbull, Manager of the A.A. Company's Colliery, who was then superintending the opening up of the mine; and I visited the chief points of interest in connection with the explosion.

Court of
Investigation.

The Court of Investigation was opened on Monday, 15th August; and sittings for the taking of evidence were held on thirteen days, when forty-five witnesses were examined orally. I used as exhibits the depositions of various persons who had been called at the Coroner's Inquiry, but whose evidence was not of sufficient importance to warrant the expense of bringing them to the Court by summons. [*Appendix C.*]

The following persons appeared before me, representing various interests:—
 Mr. W. H. Baker, Solicitor, appearing in the interests of Mr. Hugh Humphreys.
 The Hon. Alexander Brown, M.L.C., appearing for the proprietors of the Dudley Colliery.
 Mr. James Curley, Secretary of the Colliery Employees' Federation, appearing on behalf of that Federation, and also for some of the relatives of the deceased.
 Mr. A. A. Atkinson, Chief Inspector of Coal Mines, appearing to watch proceedings in the interests of the Mines Department.

They were afforded the opportunity of cross-examining witnesses, and, at the conclusion of the evidence, of addressing me on any matter they might think pertinent to the inquiry.

No evidence was obtainable as to the circumstances leading up to the explosion, inasmuch as no person survived who was in the mine at the time of the disaster; but a number of witnesses gave evidence as to the general condition and management of the colliery; of its examination (immediately after the explosion, and also after the unsealing in June) as to the presence of fire-damp; the finding of the bodies of the men who were killed; and there is no reason to suppose that any evidence which is material to the inquiry has been withheld.

Upon the facts so disclosed, I have the honor to submit my Report, under the following heads:—

- (1.) Description of the Mine.
- (2.) The Management and Working of the Mine.
- (3.) The State of the Mine just before the Explosion.
- (4.) The Explosion and its Results.
- (5.) Cause of the Explosion.
- (6.) Conclusion.

(1.) *Description of the Mine.*

The Dudley pit is situated some few miles south of Newcastle, in the locality known as Redhead. Sinking operations commenced somewhat more than nine years ago. There are now two shafts—the down-cast, 624 feet below the surface, and the up-cast or fan shaft, 553 feet deep. The coal is bituminous in character, and, as is general in the Newcastle district, it is the Borehole seam that is being worked. The height of the seam is 6 feet 3 inches, and it is worked to an extent of 5 feet 9 inches, 6 inches being left in the roof. Above the coal is a band, 2 feet 6 inches in thickness, consisting of rotten shale and ironstone. In places where the shale has not fallen the roof is supported by props; but falls have occurred from time to time in spite of these precautions. The mine as a whole is dry and dusty, more particularly so in Nigger's heading and the headings to the right of the second right main headings. The district to the left of the lastmentioned headings is wet. The main roads are watered,

Shafts.

Seam.

Roof.

Mine dry and
dusty.

watered, but it was admitted to be done more for the sake of convenience in travelling, and it is obvious that to water the roadway and to omit the sides where the fine dust collects, would be useless as a check upon the spread of an explosion. There is a rise, generally speaking, in the pit from the down-cast towards the up-cast shaft. The area that has been worked up to the present is acres. The plan appended hereto, and marked "A," will show the main features of the mine; the crosses with figures denoting the places where the dead bodies were found; the pencil arrows showing the directions of force or flame as deposed to by different witnesses; the small ink arrows giving the direction of the air-current. The lines coloured blue are the intake airways, those in red the return.

(2.) *The Management and Working of the Mine.*

The system of working is what is known as the "pillar and bord"; the wider oblong spaces on the plan indicate the pillars, and the narrow the bords. The mine, when working, has always given off fire-damp, more or less, especially in the winning places; and when the connection was being made between the two shafts, it was found advisable by the Management to introduce safety-lamps for that particular work. In recent years, however, naked lights have been used throughout the mine, except during the deputy's inspections, when safety-lamps are used. The working places have always been bratticed up to the face, even prior to the existing Coal Mines Regulations Act, and when it was not compulsory; but, nevertheless, numerous instances were recorded by witnesses of the presence of fire-damp in an inflammable state, manifesting itself by igniting at the naked lights of the men. The pit is ventilated by a fan situated at the mouth of the up-cast shaft, which usually runs when the mine is at work, at a speed of from forty to forty-five revolutions to the minute. There are five distinct ventilating districts, and the main intake current is distributed throughout the workings by means of splits. It has been the custom, when there were no men in the pit at the week end, to stop the fan on Saturday and Sunday, and, should all the men be going to work on Monday morning, to start it again on Sunday night. After the men had come out of the pit at 4 p.m., the fan would be idle daily until 9 p.m., when it would again be started—some hour and a half before the shiftmen went down.

The method of inspection under Rule 4 was as follows:—

It appears that since 1896, in addition to the miners who were working on contract, shiftmen were employed on day-wages in getting coal at night-time. Rule 4 provides, for the purpose of inspection, that a station or stations shall be appointed at the entrance to the mine, or to different parts of the mine, and no workman shall pass beyond any such station until the part of the mine beyond that station has been examined in the prescribed manner.

Section 46 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act provides for the division of a mine into parts, but there is no evidence that the Dudley pit has been divided in accordance with that section. As a matter of fact, at Dudley a station has been established at the bottom of the down-cast shaft, and beyond this point the miners on contract may not pass in the day-time till they receive the deputy's permission. The shiftmen and water-bailers, on the other hand, were in the habit of passing this station before any inspection of the mine had been made, and travelling with an intake current of air would wait at a flat or station in their respective districts for the deputy's report. At night the deputy would go down the pit half an hour before the men, and examine the working-places in each district where the men were to work, travelling with the air-current. If he found gas, his duty was to remove it before the men went in to that working-place; if all was safe, the practice was to mark the date in each bord or working-place. After this inspection he would meet his men at the station for that particular district, make a verbal report to them as to the condition of the district and set them to work, and subsequently make the prescribed entry in the deputy's book. Thus the men would very often be at work at their places before the deputy had made his report in his book in accordance with the Act. Later on, in the early hours of the morning, he would make a second inspection, as provided for in Rule 4, and would meet the miners going down at 7.30 a.m. at the station near the bottom of the down-cast shaft. The old workings were not examined unless the ventilation going through them subsequently passed through a district where men were at work. The deputy's duty was further to

replace

Reporting
presence of
gas.

replace immediately all brattice that was disarranged, and convey to the manager all information which he had with regard to the presence of gas and other sources of danger. There was a corresponding obligation imposed on all persons employed in the mine by the Special Rules of the colliery to report to the person in charge of the works the existence of fire-damp. In practice, it would appear from the evidence that the deputies recorded in their book the place and circumstances of their finding gas in the course of their inspections, but the books do not show any entry of an ignition of gas having taken place during the ordinary working hours. Many of the miners admitted that they made no report of the presence of gas which they experienced from time to time; some, indeed, stated that they did report such ignitions to the deputies, but the latter when so informed seem to have neglected to make these matters known to the manager. I shall have occasion to refer to these matters in detail later on.

(3.) *State of the Mine just before the Explosion.*

The places had been balloted for by the miners on March 17th, and Monday, 21st, was to be the first day of working under the new arrangement. Operations had been suspended in Nigger's heading since the previous October. On the 18th March some men had been at work laying rails in that part, in pursuance of the intention to resume work there immediately. In the second left district, Bob's heading had recently been worked by night and Star's heading by day. Work had also been carried on in the second right district. On various occasions since the beginning of the year fire-damp in a more or less inflammable state was proved to have been given off both in the face of the second right main headings and in the bords contiguous thereto; but in the previous ten days it had been detected in Bob's heading, in a bord opposite to the spot where the body of Hindmarch was subsequently found, and also in the last unholed bord, marked "AO" on the plan.

19th March.

The men came out of the pit on Saturday morning, the 19th. Up to that hour nothing unusual was noticed, nor was there any indication of the subsequent explosion. The fan, according to the usual practice, remained idle from then until Monday morning; it was to start at 6 a.m. that day. There was, however, some uncertainty as to what hour it did commence to work, and I have come to the conclusion that the time was undoubtedly later than usual. However, by 6:30 its speed was somewhere about 42 revolutions to the minute, thereby providing for a current of air to the extent of 100,000 cubic feet entering the mine every minute. And it was stated by several witnesses that this volume of air was sufficient to dilute and render harmless all noxious gases with which it came directly in contact; that although there might possibly be some accumulation of gas that morning in consequence of the fan having been idle for forty-seven hours previously, yet that current of air was ample, assuming that the brattice and ventilating apparatus generally were in proper order, to clear the mine of all noxious gases in less than one hour.

21st March.

Duties of
workmen.

Young was the examining deputy for the day. His work would take him down the pit about 7 o'clock. Towards 7:30 the other men descended. Amongst them were Hetherington, the deputy, and Hindmarch, the underground manager. The two deputies carried safety-lamps when last seen at the pit-mouth that morning; the other men, including Hindmarch, had naked lights. Benson, the pumpman, had been engaged at the pump. Hetherington had charge of a gang of men in Nigger's heading. Young would be in charge of the three water-bailers, Rudge, Jones, and Cook, whose work was in the left of the second right-hand headings. In the second right return airway there was a fall of roof some four stentons in by of the up-cast shaft. Haddon and Mowbray would be employed there filling skips, which M'Dougal wheeled round to Price and Dunn, who, in their turn, disposed of the contents in the stow-bord behind the up-cast shaft. Hetherington would probably examine the district called Nigger's heading for his men. Young would first examine the district where the water-bailers were about to work, and according to practice place the date, in chalk, upon the working-faces. Having disposed of them he would probably proceed with the examination for the other men. After completing this preliminary inspection, Young had some work to do near where his body was ultimately found. There would be then, some hours later, a second inspection provided for by the Act. Hindmarch's duties took him nowhere in particular

on

on that morning. In all fifteen men were in the pit at 9 o'clock, and as far as is known there was to be no shot fired that day, nor has any evidence been obtained since to suggest that a shot was fired before the explosion took place. Two youths, Croker and Parsons, were down below for a short time that day, returning to the surface just before 9 o'clock. About 8.45 Green was seen by Croker at the cross-cut end, and Dorritty in charge of a horse at the pit-bottom. None of these fifteen men were seen alive again.

(4.) *The Explosion and its Results.*

At ten minutes past 9 there was a loud report, and quantities of dust and dirt were forced up both of the shafts. These indications were noticed to proceed from the up-cast shaft some few seconds earlier than from the down-cast. At the up-cast the result was that the covering of the shaft was blown away and a door of the fan chamber was broken, and the timber baulks, on which rest the pulley legs, were plastered with mud on the underside. At the down-cast the cage, weighing 22 cwt., which was at the pit-mouth at the time, was thrown upwards some 23 feet, the chain of the cage was broken, some sheets of iron were blown off the roof, and dust and small coal were emitted in large quantities. The cage at the shaft-bottom was wrecked, and the guide-ropes were broken. The exploring parties descended the pit in the course of that same day. At the shaft-bottom there was evidence of very great force travelling outby; the ventilation was everywhere disarranged. Up to the 24th ten dead bodies had been recovered, but owing to the presence of what was deemed to be a fire it was decided to seal the pit down.

Up to that point the evidence indicated that the force had proceeded chiefly from the left-hand side of the mine, and it was thought by some that Nigger's heading was the initial point of the explosion. Since the unscaling of the pit in June, most parts of the colliery have been carefully and minutely explored, and further investigation has led the majority of the witnesses who offered an opinion on the matter to locate the starting-point somewhere on the right-hand side of the mine. Indeed, not only is there a difference of opinion as to the inference to be drawn from the facts disclosed, but in more than one instance there is a conflict as to the evidences of force. Moreover, thousands of tons of fallen roof were found after the pit had been reopened, and it was proved that many of these falls had taken place after the shafts were unsealed. The displacement of air so occasioned would have the same effect upon stoppings as the explosion itself. Care is therefore required in endeavouring to trace the course of the explosion to avoid attributing to the original force damage which has been caused subsequently.

After due consideration the following are the conclusions I have arrived at as to the indications of force:—

Proceeding first along the main narrow bords intake airway from the down-cast shaft, we find a set of full skips near the overman's cabin, which had evidently been blown along the road some distance by a force travelling outover. At the first overcast the wall on the left-hand side was standing, that on the right bore evidence of having been acted upon by two forces, one travelling outby, the other proceeding from the back heading of the first right-hand heading. Of the stentons between the first overcast and the cross-cut, three were standing, the stopping of the second going inby being blown into the return, that is from right to left. Opposite that stenton a set of loaded skips were standing; some of these had been blown against the right rib, indicating a force from left to right. Opposite the third stenton, which was standing, was another set of skips. Some of the skips in the middle of this train were forced against the right rib. Three skips at the rear, that is on the inby side and just opposite to the first cut-through, were spread out and partly turned round in the direction of the down-cast shaft. At the cross-cut the door marked "D" on the plan had been blown inover. Here again was a set of skips standing; those actually opposite to the cross-cut opening being moved against the right rib as if a force had come outby from the cross-cut. The first skip of this set was tipped on end and blown outby. Either the sixth or seventh stenton was standing, but with that exception all stoppings between the narrow bords from the cross-cut, and as far as the faces of the main narrow bords, were blown into the return. Standing opposite to the second cut-through was another set of skips, the rear skips being turned round from right to left, in a similar manner to those at the first cut-through. The second over-cast

Second
over-cast.

over-cast shows a force from left to right, the bricks being blown outby, and the timber from left to right. At the entrance to the second left headings there is a drift of dust driven from the heading into the main narrow bord. Yet, again, Mr. Humphreys says that some of the timber has not yet been recovered, and the only part hitherto unexplored where it can possibly be found is the return airway of the second left-hand heading. The door of the first stenton inby of the second over-cast was blown towards the left, and its remains were found in the return of the second left-hand headings. The third over-cast affords no clear evidence. We find the bricks are blown into the return towards the left, and some of the timber was found in the intake of the second right-hand headings to the right. Still travelling inby of the third over-cast, the stoppings to the right of the narrow bords are blown to the right; the first stopping has been blown to the right with some force, inasmuch as some bricks were found 44 yards away in that direction. The stentons further inby are fallen, but as no part of the stoppings has been found in the intake it is fair to assume that the force which must have displaced them was from left to right. Travelling along the main narrow bords return inby from second over-cast, the first two stoppings on the left are blown from right to left; the third was fallen.

Third
over-cast.

There are indications of flame in the stentons, both inby and outby of Star's heading.

Star's
heading.

Going along Star's heading there is a general indication of force and flame in the bords on either side of the heading, having travelled from the main narrow bords. In some bords the brattice has been blown up against the left rib, and has been subjected to great heat. The flame has travelled down the bords on the left towards the second left-hand headings. From the end of Star's heading to where Hindmarch's body was unearthed there is no evidence of flame, as the roof has fallen. In the bord to the right of Hindmarch the brattice-cloth is torn. Some props in the bord to the left show signs of flame having travelled towards the second left headings. From this point, generally speaking, there is evidence of flame, as seen by scorched props and coke-dust travelling towards the second left. In the going bord at the fourth pillar, down from Star's heading, a full skip has been driven some distance off the flat in the same direction. In the second left-hand return, the first stopping inby was standing, the second has fallen, and the third was blown into the intake.

Second
left-hand
headings.

In a bord directly opposite to the third stenton, and contiguous to the intake, some bricks were found which had been blown 20 yards from that stenton. Between the second and first left headings, coke-dust and other signs of flame are to be met with. The stoppings between the first left-hand headings have been blown from right to left with great force, the bricks of the first, second, and third being embedded to a depth of 3 or 4 inches in the opposite pillar.

First
left-hand
headings.

First cut-
through.

Returning again to the junction of the second left headings with the main narrow bords, travelling outby, in each of the three cut-throughs there is evidence of flame, and in the first cut-through inby of the first over-cast the tram of a skip was found close to the main narrow bords, some 20 yards inby the skip itself was found. There are indications that it had been loaded, and coal was lying about in the vicinity. Just inside this heading were also found the bottom of some empty casks, the other portions lying on the inby side of this skip.

Second
right-hand
headings.

Taking the second right main headings, going inby, the stoppings between the two headings are all blown from right to left, with four exceptions—that is, the third, fourth, seventh, and ninth, which are standing. The fourteenth stenton shows very strong force from right to left, the bricks of the stopping being embedded in the opposite pillar. The stoppings on the left-hand side of the intake do not present an uniform appearance. As far inby as the fan-shaft they are blown from left to right, inby of the fan-shaft many are standing; those which have been displaced are blown from right to left. On the flat at the first going bord on the left side of these headings a skip has been blown inover. Of the stoppings in the first going bord to the left, the first on the left is standing, that on the right is blown to the right. The stoppings on either side of the next two headings are blown right and left respectively. Further on inby of the second going bord a skip has been blown outover. In the going bord the stoppings of the first and second headings have all been blown to the left. In the third heading the left stopping is blown left, and the canvas stopping on the right is standing. From the main narrow bords the force has been towards the first going bord, and from the face of the second right headings the force is also towards that bord. In the whole of this district there is no evidence of flame, and the force is only slight.

First going
bord.

Second going
bord.

Returning

Returning to the third over-cast, and traversing the second right-hand return, the first, second, and fourth stoppings on the right inby are blown into the return, and a door on the second pillar behind the up-cast shaft has been blown towards the return. The first stopping on the right inby of the up-cast and such others as can be traced have been blown into the return. Second right return.

Taking next the bords off the second right-hand return, at the inner bord inby where Young's body was found, a skip has been forced inover. From this spot to the face of the heading there is no sign of force or flame, and there have been no falls. Travelling along the face, there are no indications between where Young's body was found and bord 21, as the roof has fallen. In the neighbourhood of the latter bord a skip has been tipped in the direction of the main narrow bords, and props in that vicinity indicate that flame has travelled outby. Between this point and the stow-bord the directions of force and flame are very conflicting—sometimes inby, at other times outby, and occasionally travelling opposite directions in two parallel bords. Going from the stow-bord towards the main narrow bords, the same conflicting evidences of flame are encountered. Stow-bord.

The body of Cooke when discovered was lying a pillar's distance from his water-tub. Haddon, Rudge, and Jones were found nearly 70 yards away from their respective working-places, and Mowbray some 35 yards. The rest all died close to their work. The immediate cause of death of every man whose body was examined *post-mortem* was attributed to carbon mon-oxide. In some instances the bodies were burnt or injured by falls of roof, which injuries might in themselves have brought about the death of the individual in the course of a few days had not the effects of after-damp immediately supervened. A detailed account of the circumstances surrounding the death of each man will be found in Appendix "D."

(5.) Cause of the Explosion.

All the witnesses were in substantial agreement that the explosion has been caused by the ignition of fire-damp at a naked light; that the quantity of gas was probably not large; but that the explosion has been intensified and extended by the action of coal-dust. The initial explosion must have stirred up some fine dust, which in its turn has been inflamed and exploded, thus leading to a series of almost simultaneous explosions. As to the seat of the explosion, there is much difference of opinion. Messrs. Atkinson and Humble make Hindmarch's light the starting-point; Mr. Croudace agrees with them—that the mine fired on the left-hand side, but does not actually say where. The Brothers Dixon, and Messrs. Humphreys, Henwood, Ross, Brown, and Mason say it originated on the right-hand side, the witnesses varying in making Young or Haddon or Price the initial point of the disaster, or leaving the matter entirely at large. Messrs. Turnbull and Thomas declined to commit themselves to either side. So long as it is established that this was a fire-damp explosion, the fixing of the exact point of ignition becomes a matter of secondary importance; and although there are difficulties in the way of adopting either theory, the balance of probability to my mind is in favour of the explosion originating at Hindmarch's light. From Hindmarch the general direction of the explosion was across the second and first left-hand headings, through the pump-drift, and up the down-cast shaft. Portion of this force was diverted when meeting the second left headings, and after driving the stenton stoppings into the intake, it it has travelled along the intake and blown the second overcast into the main narrow bords. Here the force has again subdivided after striking against the fast wall of the main narrow bords, part of it travelling inby has blown the door in the first stenton into the return, as described, thus allowing a portion of the explosion to travel along the return. As the force travelled along the main intake, it found a partial escape into the third cut-through. Continuing inby, it has distributed itself left and right through the stoppings on either side, thus reaching respectively Star's heading and the headings to the right of the main narrow bords. As it approached the face the force was gradually dying out, and in its last effort travelled against the air from the face of the main narrow bords to where the two air-currents met in that bord (No. 54). Returning now to the main narrow bords at the second over-cast. At this point the remainder of the force of the explosion took a direction outby, finding a partial escape at the second and first cut-throughs. In these headings to the right of the main narrow bords, the explosion has travelled in different directions, Fire-damp explosion.
Coal-dust.
Seat of explosion.
Left side most likely.
Course of explosion.

directions, finding an outlet partly at the first right headings, partly at the up-cast shaft, and also through the stoppings off the return of the second right-hand headings, eventually crossing these lastmentioned headings somewhere near the spot where Rudge and Jones were found; then travelling with slight force against the air and along the working-faces as far as bord 54, and outby as far as the second going bord.

The fact of dust issuing from the up-cast shaft earlier than from the down-cast does not assist us, for that is equally consistent with either theory. Again, the evidences of force and flame in the second right district are so contradictory as to afford little help in themselves.

Right-hand
side theory.
Difficulties.

The following seem to me strong objections to accepting the view that the mine fired on the right-hand side :—

- (I) The evidence of force having moved the second over-cast from left to right, and having carried a skip and casks along the first cut-through, is inconsistent with the idea that the explosion entered the main narrow bords from the right-hand side, and no explanation that has been offered has removed that difficulty from my mind.
- (II) If the explosion had originated on the right, one would expect a greater exhibition of force than the evidence affords, in the stoppings between the second right main headings; and some evidence of flame or force at the faces of the same headings.
- (III) The fact that all the men on the left-hand side were found close to their work, whilst on the right-hand at least five had travelled some distance from their places before they succumbed, suggests that those in the right heard the sound of the explosion, and, being alarmed, had dropped their lamps, and had had sufficient time to travel, in three instances, as much as 70 yards before they were overcome. Such an occurrence would not be probable if the explosion originated some 200 yards away, when the sound and force would reach them almost simultaneously.

On the other hand, the left-side theory presents a difficulty. If Hindmarch's light initiated the explosion, one would expect the flame to branch out in all directions when first seeking an outlet. It may be that Hindmarch, before being overcome by after-damp, travelled some short distance towards the second left headings, and that the explosion, after splitting at the second over-cast, has returned almost to the starting-point. It was suggested that, although Hindmarch entered to the pit with a naked light, he would be carrying a safety-lamp at the time of his death. To settle this question, I adjourned the Court for a week to give the Management an opportunity to make full search in the vicinity of his body and Young's, but up to the last day the Court sat no trace of any lamp or light in either spot had been found.

Cause of gas
accumulating.

There was, undoubtedly, some accumulation of gas upon which the ventilating current was unable to properly act on that morning. This may have been brought about by a fall of the roof liberating a quantity of gas, or the fall may have disarranged the brattice, and thus caused an accumulation of gas shortly before the explosion, or the brattice may have been disarranged on the previous Saturday in some bord where gas was exuding, and the accumulation of those forty-seven hours may have been uninfluenced by the air-current on Monday morning up to the moment that the naked light came into contact with it. There is no evidence upon the matter, and I can only say, judging from the history of the mine, that the last alternative seems the most probable.

Conclusions.

I find that—

- (I) The explosion was caused by the ignition of fire-damp at a naked light.
- (II) The explosion was intensified by the agency of coal-dust.
- (III) Evidence did not show what was the approximate quantity of fire-damp, or what the circumstances were under which it assumed an explosive character.
- (IV) Ventilation was not "constantly" produced in accordance with the terms, Section 47, Rule 1, of the Act.

(v)

- (v) Inspections were not conducted in accordance with General Rule 4.
- (vi) There was in the mine a quantity of fire-damp, which rendered the use of naked lights dangerous.
- (vii) Locked safety-lamps should have been used at the time of the explosion.

It is manifest, according to the decision of the English Courts in the case of *Knowles v. Dickinson* (2 E. and E., 705), that it is the duty of the Management to keep the fan constantly at work each day in the week, and whether the men are actually in the mine or not, so long as it is being worked as a going concern. The circumstances of that case are very similar to the present one; and the decision seems to me to be directly in point. A prosecution for a breach of the Act in this respect is at the present date barred by statute. However, the following remarks are noteworthy in this connection:—

- (I) The evidence proved that the stoppage of the fan from Saturday till Monday was not the cause of the gas being in an explosive state; on the contrary, that the volume of air was sufficient to dilute all noxious gases (assuming the brattice was in proper order so as to enable the current to reach all places where gas did exist).
- (II) The practice of stopping the fan at the week-end has been common for years to Dudley and other pits without any protest on the part of the colliery inspectors. In fact, the wording of the report of Mr. Inspector Humble, of 31st October, 1896 (Appendix E), reads as if he was then under the impression that the fan need not be worked unless men were actually in the mine.
- (III) A notice has been issued by the Chief Inspector of Coal Mines since the conclusion of the Coroner's inquest to Mr. Humphreys, drawing his attention to the duty of keeping the fan at work during any temporary suspension of work; and the Manager, since that notification, has complied strictly with the terms of Rule 1.

As to the method of inspection (Division V, page 24): A station with a deputy board in accordance with Rule 4 and Special Rule 11, has been established at the bottom of the down-cast shaft. Beyond that no person may pass until the part of the mine beyond that station has been stated by the deputy to be safe (see Rule 4).

The practice with regard to inspection before the miners enter in the morning, as above mentioned (see page 3), is strictly in accordance with the rule; but the system in connection with the night shift is undoubtedly not only irregular, but a breach of the rules. The deputy precedes the night-shiftmen down the pit by some half hour; they in their turn pass the station at the entrance to the mine and wait at different places or stations as they have been termed, till they see the deputy. My view of the provision as to stations is as follows:—

Where a mine is worked as a whole with one system of ventilation, then one station only is allowable—that is, at the entrance to the mine. If, however, a mine is divided into parts, under the provisions of Section 46 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, so as to make each part a separate mine within the meaning of the Act, then a station may be established at the entrance to each different part. I find confirmation of this view in a passage of the judgment of Mr. Justice A. L. Smith, in *Wales v. Thomas* (16 Q.B.D. 340, page 348).

Therefore, to appoint stations in the various districts of Dudley, as deposed to in evidence, is a violation of the Act in two respects, for

- (1) Only one station is permissible as the colliery is at present worked.
- (2) That station must be at the entrance to the mine.

With the removal of these various so-called stations from the various flats, the examining deputy will then make a complete inspection of the working-places, &c., and will meet the shiftmen at the entrance to the mine, and sign his report in the same manner as he now does when the miners on contract go to work.

As to Division VII (page 9)—the use of safety-lamps: The evidence shows that from its earliest history the mine has always been giving off fire-damp, and to deal with it effectually it has been necessary to brattice the working-places. The history of the mine during the eleven months prior to the explosion shows that gas had been reported by deputies on sixteen different occasions in various parts of the mine.

mine. Miners had experienced ignitions of gas in the faces of the second right headings generally, in the first left, and, during the week previous to the explosion, in Bob's heading and in the bord next to where Hindmarch's body was found. After the explosion a quantity of fire-damp was discovered in the faces of the second right main heading. This might be due to the circumstances attending the explosion, yet since March 21st, we find that, though the faces of the coal have been undisturbed, gas was being still exuded as late as August 20th from the faces of the second right-hand main headings, and up to the end of the same month in the bords abovementioned in Bob's heading.

The deputies' books some years back, and after the fan was introduced, show that in different parts of the mine gas was found daily for periods extending over a fortnight (Appendix F). From the evidence it is clear that it was necessary to have both the fan at work and the brattice erected in order to prevent accumulations of gas. On different occasions when the fan has been working and the brattice disarranged gas has been discovered, and *vice versa*. Some twenty witnesses gave evidence of ignitions of fire-damp, which they had experienced. These ignitions may be divided into the following classes:—

Causes of gas lighting up.

- (1.) Those caused by the bratticing being damaged, or not being sufficiently close to the face.
- (2.) Those caused by the firing of a shot.
- (3.) Those caused by workmen going to the face with a naked light too soon after firing a shot.
- (4.) Those caused by a workman's light when drilling a hole.
- (5.) Cases of which no explanation is forthcoming.

Referring to these individually, the first may be dealt with by properly enforcing the provisions of Rule 1 as to ventilation. The means for detecting the presence of fire-damp require the constant attention of those in authority. In many instances the insufficiency of the brattice to carry off the gas should have been found out by the deputies, or, if discovered, should have been remedied. The necessity of strict attention to this part of their duty should be impressed upon the officials.

As to (2): Possibilities of that kind may be avoided by strictly adhering to the conditions of General Rule 12.

(3): May be obviated by more care on the part of the workmen, who, in more than one instance, admitted that they knew they were taking a risk in returning to the face with a naked light before the smoke had cleared away.

A number of cases unexplained.

There remain, however, a number of instances where an ignition of gas has taken place which could not be accounted for by any temporary defect in an otherwise perfect system of bratticing. These ignitions occurred sometimes in the early morning when the miner first entered his working-place; on other occasions after a temporary absence during the shift. In these cases there was no shot-firing, and the brattice was well up to the face. In most cases the flame was of small extent, with the exception perhaps of Harrison's, the flame in his bord ran back along the broken roof a distance of 12 yards. Nobody hitherto had actually been burnt. Several witnesses treated these flares-up, as they were styled, with great contempt (the Manager saying that 99 cases out of 100 there was no necessity to make a special report as the quantity was infinitesimal). The underground manager did not consider a flame 4 or 5 yards long dangerous to workmen. As illustrating the danger attending the lighting of a very small quantity of fire-damp, I will refer to the report for 1892 of Mr. Stokes, one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Mines for the Midland Counties. Referring to fire-damp, he says: "With regard to what quantity might be considered dangerous, a clear proof of what might be the result of igniting a very small quantity of gas is given in the lists of non-fatal explosions, in which is recorded the ignition of a very small quantity of fire-damp at a gate-end lip by a naked light held by a workman. The quantity was so small that the man who ignited the gas was in no way injured, but the flame from the ignited gas passed along a break in the roof and exploded other gas in the goaf and burnt two men working 56 feet away from the point of first ignition. This accident clearly shows that a quantity of gas so small in itself as when ignited not to injure the person igniting it, is yet sufficient to prove dangerous to the mine and persons working some distance from it, due to its flame being extended by gas lying unknown in breaks in the roof."

Danger of fire-damp.

The

The above extract shows that a small quantity of inflammable gas may be a danger to workmen if there are surrounding circumstances of an aggravating nature.

Another element to be considered is the question of coal-dust. The Manager Coal-dust. says that the whole of the left side of the second right is damp, also Bob's heading and the lower portions of the second left and first left; but the remainder of the mine is both dry and dusty.

The Royal Commission on explosions from coal-dust in mines, in their Report published in 1894, are of opinion that the danger of explosions in a mine in which gas exists, even in very small quantities, is greatly increased by the presence of coal-dust; that air and dust with a very small quantity of fire-damp, such as practical people perhaps could not find with the ordinary safety-lamp, would cause violent explosions. Thus what might be a local explosion of a simple character is transformed through the medium of coal-dust into a widespread disaster. Increased danger from fire-damp.

Moreover, it appears that, from time to time, falls of roof may take place in the Dudley pit, which may either liberate some fire-damp or derange the brattice and cut off from the influence of the ventilating current those parts of the pit contiguous to the damaged brattice. The falls have not hitherto been frequent, yet, as Mr. Humphreys says in his evidence, "the falling of the roof on the brattice is a possibility that has to be reckoned with in the mine. The roof, as it is generally in the mine, is liable to fall at any time in spite of precautions." Falls of roof.

Up to the time of the explosion no measures had been taken by dumping the coal-dust to check the spread of a possible explosion.

The existence of these three sets of circumstances, namely,—

- (1.) The ignitions of gas in spite of proper and perfect ventilation;
- (2.) The liability of the roof to fall and derange the ventilation;
- (3.) The presence of coal-dust ready to transmit and intensify a fire-damp explosion,

suggests the question: Was the use of naked lights likely to be dangerous to workmen in the mine about the time of the explosion, and should safety-lamps have been used? My answer is, undoubtedly yes.

The Honorable A. Brown, on the question of safety-lamps, referred me to the Report of the Royal Commission on Accidents in Mines of 1886, where it appears, on page 117, they refrained from prohibiting the use of naked lights in mines giving off fire-damp. But it will be noticed that whilst the Commission do not advise safety-lamps merely because a mine gives off fire-damp, they assume that their adoption is essential when fire-damp is associated with coal-dust; and certainly the trend of expert opinion and legislation during the last ten years in England is to enforce the use of safety-lamps in every mine where fire-damp is found. Royal Commission, 1886, opinion as to safety-lamps.

Mr. H. D. Greene, Q.C., in his Report in 1890 on the Llanerch Colliery Explosion, advocates legislative prohibition against allowing or using naked lights in a mine where inflammable gas has been reported within a period of twelve months. Opinion of Mr. H. D. Greene, Q.C.

Mr. Robson, Her Majesty's Inspector of Mines for the South Wales District, in his Annual Report of 1890, states that in his opinion all mines known to produce fire-damp should be worked with safety-lamps of the best description, and all other lights excluded. Mr. Robson.

Mr. Martin, another Imperial Inspector, holds equally strong views. Mr. Martin.

Our own local Act, the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896; makes it compulsory under Rule 4 to conduct all inspections of the working-places with a locked safety-lamp unless the mine has been absolutely free from inflammable gas for a period of twelve months. Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896.

The explosives in Coal Mines Order, 1898, supersedes the rule in England which corresponds to Rule 12 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act of this Colony, and indicates that in any mine in which inflammable gas has been found within three months in such a quantity as to be indicative of danger, or which is not naturally wet throughout, no explosive, other than those specially authorised by that order, shall be used. Statistics further show that whereas in Great Britain 1,561 persons lost their lives through explosions caused by a naked light between 1873 and 1893, during 1897 there were only fifteen deaths from the same cause, when 720,000 were engaged and the output of coal was 200,000,000 tons. Explosives in Coal Mine Order, 1898.

Opinions of witnesses called.

The Inspectors of Coal Mines, who up to the time of the explosion had not heard of these ignitions of gas detailed in evidence before me, stated that those facts demanded the use of safety-lamps throughout the Dudley Colliery. Mr. Turnbull says: "If you find gas and it lights up you ought to have safety-lamps." Mr. Croudace says: "If gas is given off and the ventilation working and the brattice well up, one should increase the ventilation or use safety-lamps." Mr. Henwood says: "If Harrison's evidence is true, the gas is a danger to workmen."

Manager ignorant of the ignitions of gas.

Mr. Humphreys swore that with the exception of Harrison's experience he had no knowledge of gas igniting at naked lamps when the ventilating appliances were in proper order. And in justice to himself, it should be mentioned that many of the men who gave evidence of these flares-up admitted that they failed to report them to the proper authority, and, further, when the matters were reported to a deputy, they were not recorded in any way. Thus the probabilities confirm the Manager's testimony. However, I think that the incident Harrison spoke of, and the other circumstance peculiar to this colliery, should have put him upon inquiry and prompted him to use safety-lamps in compliance with Rule 8. Such a matter as a prosecution for breach of this rule is now out of the question, as it is statute-barred after three months (see Section 62).

Prosecution.

Nor do I think I am justified in making any recommendation as to a prosecution for manslaughter, for the jury at the Coroner's Inquest had before them all the facts of the case and decided that no responsibility was to be attached to the Manager for the consequences of the disaster. In the first place I cannot say that such a finding was unreasonable, and secondly, I do not think it lies within the scope of this inquiry to suggest criminal proceedings for any offence other than what may be dealt with under the Coal Mines Regulation Act itself.

Future working of the mine.

For the future, the use of safety-lamps is entirely a matter for the discretion of the Management; responsibility in this respect is removed by Section 20 from the shoulders of the inspectors and transferred to the mine officials. And I have no doubt that they will show the same regard for the interests of all associated with the mine as has been exhibited in the past.

Coal-dust.

Side by side with the precautions taken to prevent the ignition of inflammable gas, strict measures should be adopted to prevent the possibility of a small local explosive becoming extensive through the agency of coal-dust, and some method either of removing the dust or of damping it, or both, is essential where the dust exists in any quantity.

Importance of reporting presence of fire-damp.

However, the true interests of the mine cannot be effectually safe-guarded unless all concerned strictly comply with the requirements of the Act and the Special Rules. Special Rules 15 and 71 impose upon the deputy and the miners respectively, the duty of informing those in charge of the existence of fire-damp whenever found. The tendency seems to have been for the individual to constitute himself the judge of what should be reported and what not. Mr. Humphreys said that in 99 cases out of 100 there was no occasion to make a special report as the quantity of gas was insignificant. A manager should clearly understand and likewise impress upon those under his control, that every discovery of gas of any quantity must be reported in compliance with the Special Rules under pain of instant dismissal. Had this course been universally adopted throughout the mine, it is possible that we should never have heard of the Dudley explosion.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

C. G. WADE,

Sole Commissioner,

19th September, 1898.

The Honorable Joseph Cook,

Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

CASE OF SYDNEY COOPER AS TO MINING UNDER A
ROAD, PARISH OF CLIVE, COUNTY OF GOUGH;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

Printed under No. 13 Report from Printing Committee, 24 November, 1898.

SYDNEY: WILLIAM APPLIGATE GULLICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1898.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

EXTRACTS FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VOTES NO. 32. THURSDAY, 27 OCTOBER, 1898.

12. CASE OF SIDNEY COOPER, AS TO MINING UNDER A ROAD, PARISH OF CLIVE, COUNTY OF GOUGH:—
Mr. Moore moved, pursuant to Notice,—
- (1.) That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into and report upon all the circumstances attending the case of Sydney Cooper, who was the holder of an authority to mine under a road separating portions Nos. 330 and 413, in the parish of Clive, county of Gough, such authority being obtained by him as the holder of a document purporting to be a mineral license, but which was held by the Appeal Court, holden at Inverell, not to be a mineral license, as the "butt" was not attached thereto.
- (2.) That such Committee consist of Mr. Cook, Mr. Austin Chapman, Mr. Cann, Mr. Gormly, Mr. Thomas Brown, Mr. Macdonald, Mr. Cruickshank, and the Mover.
- (3.) That the Report, Minutes of Proceedings, and Evidence of the Select Committee of Session 1897 be referred to such Committee.
- Question put and passed.
-

VOTES NO. 40. TUESDAY, 22 NOVEMBER, 1898.

7. CASE OF SIDNEY COOPER, AS TO MINING UNDER A ROAD, PARISH OF CLIVE, COUNTY OF GOUGH:—
Mr. Cruickshank, as Chairman, brought up the Report from, and laid upon the Table the Minutes of Proceedings of, the Select Committee for whose consideration and report this subject was referred on 27th October, 1898.
Referred by Sessional Order to the Printing Committee.
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1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

—

**CASE OF SYDNEY COOPER AS TO MINING UNDER A ROAD, PARISH OF
CLIVE, COUNTY OF GOUGH.**

—

REPORT.

—

THE SELECT COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly appointed on the 27th October, 1898,—“ *to inquire into and report upon all the circumstances attending the case of Sydney Cooper, who was the holder of an authority to mine under a road separating portions Nos. 330 and 413, in the parish of Clive, county of Gough, such authority being obtained by him as the holder of a document purporting to be a mineral license, but which was held by the Appeal Court, holden at Inverell, not to be a mineral license, as the ‘butt’ was not attached thereto,*” and to whom was referred on the same date “ *the Report, Minutes of Proceedings, and Evidence of the Select Committee of Session 1897,*”—have agreed to the following report:—

Your Committee having considered the Report and Evidence referred, find as follows:—

1. That Sydney Cooper, being the holder of a mineral license, was granted an authority, dated 28th August, 1893, to mine for tin upon and under a road, portion No. 1, parish of Clive, county of Gough, between portions 413 and 330.

2. That Cooper worked continuously on the ground from August, 1893, to March, 1896, and that no work had been done on the land in question at the time Cooper applied for the authority.

3. That subsequently it became evident that portion of the ground was mined under, as a serious subsidence took place, and Cooper ultimately took proceedings in the Warden’s Court against the holders of the adjoining land in respect of same. Pending the hearing of the case an injunction was issued restraining the defendants from dealing with the wash-dirt (estimated to contain from 4 to 5 tons tin ore) then in their possession, and supposed to have been taken from the ground in question.

4. That, at the hearing of the case at the Warden’s Court, a verdict was given against Cooper by Acting Warden Saunders on the ground that no encroachment had been proved. Cooper immediately appealed against this decision to the Mining Appeal Court.

5. That, prior to the hearing of the case in the Warden’s Court, Cooper had applied to the Acting Warden for the necessary order for an opening to be made, from the ground which had fallen in, to the defendants’ workings, in order to establish the connection and prove the encroachment; but the order given by the Acting Warden only permitted of a survey being made of the workings then open, which was obviously insufficient for the purpose in view.

6. That, on a similar application by Cooper, after the case had been dealt with in the Warden's Court, and prior to the appeal being heard, an order was issued to Surveyor Folkard to fully survey the underground workings; and Cooper was prepared to place the facts disclosed by such survey before the Appeal Court.

7. That a technical point was taken in the Appeal Court that Cooper was not the holder of a mineral license at the time he obtained the authority, as the "butt" was not attached to such license. The Judge held that the point was fatal, and Cooper was compelled to withdraw his case.

8. That the Judge thereupon dissolved the injunction, and that Cooper immediately applied for a further injunction, which was refused.

9. That a clause was inserted in the Mining Act Amendment Bill (then before Parliament, and which was subsequently passed) to remedy the defect in the law which resulted in the disallowing of Cooper's appeal.

10. That Cooper went to considerable expense in his appeal, his legal costs and loss of tin ore being estimated at £300.

11. Your Committee have not deemed it necessary to call further evidence in order to thoroughly investigate the subject-matter of the legal proceedings, but they are satisfied from the evidence taken that Cooper had good cause of action, that he adopted every possible means within his power to prove his case, and that he was prevented from proceeding because the mineral license issued to him by the Mines Department was held by the Judge of the Appeal Court not to be a mineral license within the meaning of the Mining Act, in consequence of which he suffered considerable loss.

Your Committee, therefore, recommend Cooper's case to the favourable consideration of the Government.

GEO. A. CRUICKSHANK,

Chairman.

*No. 1 Committee Room,
Legislative Assembly,
22nd November, 1898.*

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

TUESDAY, 22 NOVEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Cann,
Mr. Gormly,

Mr. Moore.

Mr. Cruickshank,
Mr. Macdonald,

Mr. Cruickshank called to the Chair.

Entry from Votes and Proceedings, appointing the Committee, and referring the Report, Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence of the Select Committee of Session 1897, read by the Clerk.

Papers referred before the Committee.

Resolved (*on motion of Mr. Gormly*), "That the Report of the former Committee, dated 8th December, 1897, be the Report of this Committee."

Chairman to report to the House.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

STOCKTON COLLIERY DISASTER.

(RETURN RESPECTING EVIDENCE OF THE CORONER'S INQUEST ON.)

Printed under No. 13 Report from Printing Committee, 24 November, 1898.

RETURN to an *Order* of the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 12th May, 1897, That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

“ All papers, documents, evidence, and reports of inquiries in connection
“ with the Stockton Colliery Disaster.”

(Mr. Fegan.)

SCHEDULE.

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Portion only of this return printed, by order of the Printing Committee.

STOCKTON COLLIERY DISASTER.

PART I.

Inquest on bodies of Smith and Curran, and Eulogy on action of Jury and Coulson.

No. 1.

Telegram from Mr. Inspector Dixon to The Under Secretary for Mines and
Agriculture.

Newcastle, 2 December, 1896.

CHARLES SMITH, furnace-man, and George Curran, shiftman, were found dead about 4 o'clock this morning, near bottom of upcast shaft, Stockton Colliery; death evidently caused by breathing noxious gas from old workings. An inquest will be held this afternoon, which Mr. Inspector Humble and myself will attend.

JOHN DIXON,

Inspector of Collieries.

Seen. Ask for full report at once.—S. SMITH, 2/12/96.

No. 2.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to Mr. Inspector
Dixon.

2 December, 1896.

Re death of Smith and Curran, Minister desires full report at once.

No. 3.

Telegram from Mr. Inspector Dixon to The Under Secretary for Mines and
Agriculture.

Merewether, 2 December, 1896.

INQUEST on Smith and Curran adjourned till to-morrow morning, and may not finish to-morrow. Full report cannot be furnished until the evidence is closed, but as soon after as possible.

JOHN DIXON,

Inspector of Collieries.

Seen.—D. McL., 3/12/96.

No. 4.

Telegram from Mr. Inspector Dixon to The Under Secretary for Mines and
Agriculture.

Newcastle, 3 December, 1896.

INQUEST on the bodies of Smith and Curran at Stockton adjourned to Tuesday morning next. The jury is composed of business men, and this being pay-week end, they cannot leave business until after Monday.

JOHN DIXON,

Coal Fields Office.

Seen.—D. McL., 3/12/96.

No. 5.

Telegram from Mr. Inspector Dixon to The Under Secretary for Mines and
Agriculture.

Merewether, 9 December, 1896.

INQUEST on Smith and Curran concluded yesterday evening. Verdict: "Accidental death," by inhaling poisonous gas, but no evidence to show who left the doors open near furnace. Messrs. Jury and Coulson were highly praised by the jury for the manner in which they acted when they found the bodies near furnace in Stockton Colliery on Wednesday morning last.

JOHN DIXON,

Inspector of Collieries.

No. 6.

The Coroner, District of Newcastle, to The Under Secretary of Justice.

Sir,

Newcastle, 19 December, 1896.

I have the honor to forward this day by post, registered under separate cover, depositions of witnesses taken at an inquest held before me, at Stockton, on the 2nd, 3rd, and 5th days of December, instant, on the bodies of George Patrick Curran and Charles Smith.

I enclose application for an advance and obligation receipt for the sum of £9, to enable me to pay the jurors attending the inquest.

I also enclose death informations, and beg to submit myself,

Yours, &c.,

GEO. C. MARTIN,

Coroner, District of Newcastle.

Submitted. A copy of the verdict and rider in this case might be brought under the notice of the Chief Secretary.—G.M., 10/12/96. Approved.—A.J.G., 12/12/96.

NEW

NEW SOUTH WALES, }
to wit. }

County of Northumberland.

10 December, 1896.

INQUISITION held at the dwelling-house of Mrs. Chilvers, known as the sign of the "Federal Hotel," at Stockton, in the District of Newcastle, in the Colony of New South Wales, this 2nd day of December, continued on the 3rd of December, again continued and concluded on the 8th day of December, 1896, before me, George Cannon Martin, one of the Coroners of our Sovereign Lady the Queen for the Colony aforesaid, on view of the bodies of Charles Smith and George Patrick Curran, then and there lying dead.

Upon the oaths of—

Evan Rees,
James Hayler,
Lawrence Anderson,
Reuter Lavis,
Michael John Torply,
Richard Thomas,

Frederick William King,
Richard Lynn,
James Sutton,
William Bain Hill,
John Clement,
Charles Bruce,

twelve good and lawful men of Stockton aforesaid, who having been sworn, and charged to inquire (on the part of our said Lady the Queen) when, where, how, and by what means the said George Patrick Curran and Charles Smith came to their deaths, do, upon their oaths, say that we find that the said George Patrick Curran and Charles Smith, at Stockton, in the District of Newcastle, in the Colony of New South Wales, on the 2nd day of December, 1896, died in the Stockton Colliery, and that their deaths were caused accidentally from being poisoned by inhaling noxious gases, commonly called black-damp, the said gases being accumulated and caused by the doors Nos. 2 and 3 being left open; but there is no evidence before us to show how these doors came to be left open.

We, the said jury desire to place on record the brave, and heroic and courageous action of Robert James Jury and George Coulson, who risked their lives by carrying the bodies of George Patrick Curran and Charles Smith from a poisonous to a purer atmosphere.

In witness whereof, as well the said Coroner as the jurors aforesaid, have to this inquisition set their hands and seals this day and year aforesaid.

Geo. C. Martin, Coroner.
Evan Rees, Foreman.
Lawrence Anderson,
Reuben Lavis,
Richard Thomas,
Frederick William King,
John Clement,
Richard Lynn,
Michael John Torply,
Charles Bruce,
William B. Hill,
James Hayler,
James Sutton,

Jurors.

New South Wales—District of Newcastle—2nd, 3rd, and 8th December, 1896.

INQUISITION on view of the bodies of George Patrick Curran and Charles Smith. Finding that the said deceased died in the Stockton Colliery on the 2nd day of December, 1896, and that their deaths were caused accidentally from being poisoned by inhaling noxious gases, commonly called black-damp. Rider.

GEO. C. MARTIN,
Coroner.

CHARLES SMITH, labourer, aged 35, birth-place not known; was said to be sober when going into colliery; not temperate generally.

GEO. C. MARTIN, Coroner.

Newcastle, 8th December, 1896.

GEORGE PATRICK CURRAN, miner, born Ireland, aged 60 years; was said to be sober when going into colliery; usually a temperate man.

GEO. C. MARTIN, Coroner.

Newcastle, 8th December, 1896.

NEW SOUTH WALES }
to wit. }

County of Northumberland.

INFORMATION and depositions of witnesses, taken on oath, before me, George Cannon Martin, one of the Coroners of our Sovereign Lady the Queen for the Colony of New South Wales, this 2nd day of December, 1896, at the dwelling-house of Mrs. Chilvers, known as the sign of the "Federal Hotel," at Stockton, District of Newcastle, in the said Colony, on view of the bodies of George Patrick Curran and Charles Smith, then and there lying dead.

Robert James Jury, having been sworn, states:—I am a foreman and an attendant at the brattice in the Stockton Colliery, and I live at Stockton; I have seen, in the presence of the Coroner and jury this day, at the Stockton Colliery Office, the bodies of two men; I know one of them as George Curran, and the other I do not know his name, but I know that he worked at the Stockton Colliery for some time past; I went to work in the Stockton pit this morning at 4 o'clock, my usual time, accompanied by my mate, George Coulson; as soon as we opened the first separation door we found there was something wrong with the ventilation; as the air could rush straight away, from the downcast shaft to the furnace, we proceeded to the second separation door, and found it open; after we got through the second separation door we found the third door open and foul air coming from the old workings and going direct on to the furnace; as soon as we found that the foul air was coming in that direction, we knew something was wrong; our lamps began to burn badly; these lamps are carried in the caps; we pushed on to the furnace as near as we could get, on account of our lights showing so badly; just before our lamps went out we came across the bodies of the two men whose bodies have been viewed; I took up one in my arms; he was in a sitting position on a seat a few yards from the furnace; his head was leaning against a prop; the air there was very foul; this man was George Curran; this man did not speak; he felt quite limp and his body felt cold under the small inside shirt he was wearing; I carried him back to the second separation door, and my mate went back to the second separation door to get a light; my mate had got a light kindled, and we went back to the furnace to bring away the second man; as soon as we got there our lights went out again; my mate went back again to get a light, and I carried the other man to the second separation door, where my mate was getting a light; the second man, when I picked him up, was lying on the floor face downwards; he seemed the same as Curran did, and did not speak; my mate, George Coulson, went away for the underground manager, and I remained with the bodies, and within a few—say ten—minutes the underground manager, Mr. McDonald, was with me where the bodies were; we lifted the bodies into the cage, and brought them to the surface, and were carrying George Curran to the office from the pit-mouth when Dr. Hester came up; the second and third doors I have mentioned in my evidence should not have been open as they were unless specially ordered by the under manager or manager, because by being open the ventilation was interfered with; I can only imagine it might be the two men whose bodies we found who left the doors open as they passed through; these men would know that it was contrary to the rules to leave these doors standing open.

By Mr. Humble: We commence our daily inspection of the pit by visiting the furnace first; I do not remember ever finding the two doors open before; that is, the second and third doors; if we found the furnace-men at work and the current of air all right we did not inspect that part further; I have travelled down the old road four or five times during the past year, and I considered the air I found travelling there fairly good; I do not remember finding any foul air at the point I found it this morning, between the second and third doors, on any previous occasion; the furnace-men never made any complaint to me of finding foul air coming to the furnace; George Curran is an old experienced miner and district man, and should be fully acquainted with a matter of this kind; I was quite satisfied that the foul air we met was dangerous;

dangerous; I experienced a sensation of suffocation on meeting the foul air, and an acid taste in my mouth like a sort of acid taste, and having had a good experience of black-damp, and never having been overcome, it induced me to push along through to get the men out; there were no lights burning at the part where the bodies were; the lights in the men's caps were extinguished; I cannot guess how long the men might have been overcome by the foul air when we found them; I would not be sure about what kind of air it was I met, but at first I thought it was black-damp; the doors were not propped open I think, I cannot be sure; after we had taken the bodies out I think Mr. Coulson closed the doors; I went back to the pit some three or four hours after the bodies had been removed; I went to the furnace and found the air there all right as it is when the doors are kept shut.

By Mr. Curley: The opening leading into the old workings is between the second and third doors, the object of two doors is to supplement one with the other; George Coulson is a fireman, and acts the same as I do in other parts of the pit; we inspect the pit every morning, commencing at 4 o'clock; I cannot say if there is any other special inspection besides Coulson's and mine; the manager and under manager and deputies may go round to inspect; I did not know how many furnace-men are employed in the colliery; I think the two men whose bodies we found commenced work at half-past 9 last night; I do not know the men whom these two men relieved; I think these two men would have been relieved at 6 o'clock; the man whose name I do not know seemed to have a good knowledge of how to keep a furnace going—he always had a good fire on; I have had no conversation with the manager or under managers as to two inspections a day in the pit; I have seen the new Mining Bill, and have read it; I think there is in the pit at night a night overman and several shiftmen.

By Mr. O'Sullivan: I think myself from the position I found the bodies in that they must have been nodding, and did not notice the foul air stealing on them; I know the special rule No. 28, and what it applies to; I do not think the fatality would have occurred had the two doors I have mentioned been closed; I am sure it could not have happened.

By Mr. Curley: The old road I have mentioned, the rope-road, is where the foul air came from; it is possible that some of the officials in the pit may have gone up this road last night, but I do not know that they did; a partial stopping could be erected on this road, but there must be a small opening or manhole in it, and this might be left open thoughtlessly the same as the other doors; I have never found men at the furnace nodding; George Coulson was overcome, because he met the foul air; I should say that a furnace-man who went to sleep would not be a fit man to have at a furnace; I have been nearly two years a fireman at the Stockton Colliery.

Sworn and made at Stockton, this 2nd day of }
December, 1898, before me, — }

GEO. C. MARTIN, Coroner.

ROBERT JAMES JURY.

[Note.—This evidence was put in at the Court of Inquiry by Mr. Wilshire, as Exhibit No. 5, and read, 23/3/97.]

Jeaffreson William Hester, having been sworn, states:—I am a legally qualified medical practitioner, and reside at Stockton; at twenty minutes past 4 o'clock this morning, the 2nd of December instant, I received a message to go at once to the Stockton Colliery; I arrived at the colliery at half-past 4, just in time to find two men carrying another man on a stretcher between the pit-top and the colliery office; I examined the man on the stretcher immediately, and tried artificial respiration for about half a minute, but became perfectly certain that the man was dead, and I told the men to take him to the office: this was done: this man whom I examined was George Curran; whilst further examining him in the office a few minutes later a second body was brought in also dead; this man I knew by appearance, but not then by name; I had seen him in Stockton for some years; both bodies were cold, Curran's face being somewhat congested in appearance, the other man being pallid; neither of the men had any mark or sign of external violence: I think in all probability from the fact that *rigor mortis* had not set in, and yet that the bodies were cold, that they had been dead somewhere about four hours; this morning at 11 o'clock I made a *post-mortem* examination of both bodies; I opened the body of George Curran, and found the lungs completely engorged with blood, but otherwise healthy; the heart contracted and empty on the left side and full of blood on the right side, but otherwise healthy; the liver was also congested, but healthy; the kidneys and other organs healthy; the stomach was perfectly healthy; upon opening the skull I found the brain somewhat congested, but also healthy; in my opinion the cause of the death of George Curran was from asphyxia; I cannot say from what cause; probably from his appearance it was caused by carbonic acid poisoning; I then opened the body of the other man, whose name I was told was Charles Smith; I found his lungs healthy; his heart surrounded by very much fat, and with some fatty infiltration; both cavities were contracted and empty; the liver was normal and healthy; the stomach and intestines were also healthy; the kidneys were schirrotic and very hard; on opening the skull I found the brain healthy, but somewhat congested; in my opinion the cause of the death of Charles Smith was syncope, due to poisoning of some kind, and not to asphyxia; in all probability Smith died a short time before Curran, on account of his heart not being thoroughly sound, and the poison, whatever it was, taking effect on the weakened heart; Smith was a fairly healthy man, and might, even with his heart in the state it was, have lived for years except for any sudden shock; Curran was a great sufferer from rheumatism, but his prospects of living were quite sound in the usual way.

By Mr. Humble: In the body of Curran I noticed that the blood was darker than is usual; I did not notice any difference in his skin; the expression of the men's faces was perfectly calm; Curran, to my mind, died from carbonic acid poisoning, but it might have been mixed with carbonic oxide or other noxious gases; I cannot say if the men died suddenly, but the presumption is that they did not, as there were no signs of convulsions immediately before death; I think it is extremely probable that the men did not suffer at all, and probably did not know that death was coming to them.

Sworn and made at Stockton, this 2nd day of }
December, 1896, before me, — }

GEO. C. MARTIN, Coroner.

J. W. HESTER.

John Pary, having been sworn, states:—I am a labourer, and I live in Hunter-street, Stockton; I have seen this day in the Stockton Colliery office, in the presence of the Coroner and jury, the body of a man named Charles Smith; I have known him for about five years; he was a labourer, and has worked at the Stockton pit for about twelve months; he was about 35 years of age; I do not know where he was born; he was never married, as far as I know; he and I have hatched together in Stockton for about eighteen months; he used to take a drink occasionally; I have seen him drunk once or twice; I saw Smith at 8 o'clock last night; he was quite sober then; he does not leave any property that I know of; he has a mother alive in Guernsey, and I think he has a sister living there also.

By Mr. Curley: Before Smith went to work at the Stockton pit he worked at Donovan's lime-kilns; Smith told me that he worked as a furnace-man at the Stockton pit; I think he has been a furnace-man for about twelve months; Smith said to me yesterday morning that he was very near coming home at night, as he was overtaken with damp, and he had nearly spewed his inside out; he never complained about it but this once; he did not say he had complained of this to the pit manager; I told him he ought to: I work at the Stockton Colliery; I work along the main road; I knew the road to the furnace; I have been that way; I know the road that the rope goes up; I never worked on this road; I have worked near the furnace at night after the pit had knocked off; I was instructed to go there by Jack Gear; Jonathan Price went with me when I went to work there; I went through two small doors to get there; I would be about an hour at work there; I know that Jonathan Price looked after the rollers up there; I never saw any trappers at these doors to look after them.

By Mr. Humble: The small doors I have mentioned were manhole doors, about 3 ft. 6 in. x 2 ft. 6 in., as no skips go through them it is not usual to have trappers at them; I know that there are two large doors on the main road leading up to the furnace; there are no trappers at these doors that I am aware of.

By Mr. O'Sullivan: There are no trappers at these doors, as there is no traffic, except a few skips of small coal for the furnace.

Sworn and made at Stockton, this 2nd day of }
December, 1896, before me, — }

GEO. C. MARTIN, Coroner.

JOHN PARRY.

At this stage the inquest was adjourned, for the purpose of obtaining further evidence, until 10 o'clock on Thursday, the 3rd day of December instant, at Mrs. Chilvers' "Federal Hotel," at Stockton.

Dated at Stockton, this 2nd December, 1896.

GEO. C. MARTIN,
Coroner.
Inquest

Inquest resumed, in pursuance of adjournment, at 10 o'clock on the 3rd day of December, 1896, at Mrs. Chilvers' "Federal Hotel," at Stockton, in the District of Newcastle, in the Colony of New South Wales, on the bodies of Charles Smith and George Patrick Curran; the jurors having answered to their recognizance, the examination of witnesses was proceeded with.

Dated at Stockton, this 3rd December, 1896.

GEO. C. MARTIN,
Coroner.

This deponent, *James Errington*, on his oath, saith as follows:—I am the day-shift furnace-man at Stockton Colliery, and reside at Stockton; I knew Charles Smith, one of the deceased men; I do not know George Curran; I left the furnace at 3 o'clock on last Tuesday afternoon; no one takes my place, but afterwards the pumper comes and attends to the fire till my mate, Charles Smith, arrives; he is due for duty at half-past 9 at night; when I left the furnace was burning all right, and the current of air was good; I came out by the furnace way, and came through a big door, close on between 30 or 40 yards away from the furnace; I closed this door; it is my duty to do so; I then passed the rope-road, and came to a small manhole door, about 30 yards away from the big door; I closed this door after me; there was no foul air then; about 10 yards further on I came to another small manhole door; I passed through this, and closed it after me; there are no more doors on that road; I did not meet with any foul air; the air current was good all through; the pumper would be the only man to pass these doors after I left until Smith and his mate went to the furnace, but some of the officials of the pit might travel along the way to the furnace if they had anything to do there; there are two other big doors on the left side of the rope-road between the shaft and the furnace; these doors are only used to take small coal for burning at the furnace; I never noticed any foul air coming out of this rope-road; between the shaft and the furnace these doors are only used to take small coal for burning at the furnace; I never noticed any foul air coming out of this rope-road at any time; I have been a furnace-man at this part of the Stockton Colliery for about two years and eight months, and during the whole of that time have never felt any bad air there; I should say that foul air from any part of the old workings would be from black-damp, and would consist of carbonic acid; if these doors that I have mentioned were left open the men at the furnace would suffer from foul air coming from the old workings.

By Mr. Humble: We burn six skips of coal at the furnace every twenty-four hours; these skips must pass through the three big doors I have mentioned; there is no other material passed through these doors, except the skips of coal and the refuse from the furnace; I have never seen the door next the furnace standing open when I have gone to work there; at a portion of the shift there are two men at work at the furnace; all the coal is taken in at night-time for the furnace, and that is the reason there are two men there at night; as far as I know, Curran's employment was helping the other man to get the coal in; Smith never told me that he met any foul air at the furnace a day or two before the accident; I have never been down the old rope-road; I never leave the furnace; I have not been down to the furnace since the accident; I have never noticed any indication of noxious gases when I have been in the old workings; I have never seen the current of air reverse at the furnace.

By Mr. Curley: There is fresh air coming to the furnace-men looking through the doors, through the crevices, and under the bottoms of the doors; there is no other provision for fresh air than the return air; the sealing through the doors of air would be very good; I should say it would be 200 feet; I saw Mr. Dixon trying it some time ago; the fire in the furnace was a fairly good one; when I leave at 3 o'clock I leave a good fire banked up a little at one side; the pumper goes down to work at half-past 1, and I leave him there at 3; he leaves work at half-past 9, when the others come in; I am told to keep a good fire going, a workable fire, and that is what I do; the firemen visit the furnace for inspection every morning at 4 o'clock; I have seen them there when I was on the night shift; the overman and deputies have access to the whole of the mine, but no others would go along the road by the two large doors from the shaft unless instructed to go there—this I mean is where the coal is taken; the coal is taken in by a single skip at a time, two men at one skip; the men take the coal from between the first and second doors from the shaft at a siding; I saw Charles Smith on Tuesday morning last, when he left me at work in the pit; Smith did not make any complaint of being affected by black-damp or foul air; Smith would have certain orders that the doors must be kept shut, and I have told him so myself; I have never seen the fire at the furnace at any time affected by black-damp; if black-damp were there I must have felt it in attending the fire.

By a Juror: The doors, after being opened and passed through, would close of themselves unless banged open beyond their balance.

By Mr. O'Sullivan: The doors are hung against the air current, which closes them unless so opened that they get beyond their balance.

Sworn and made at Stockton, this 3rd day of }
December, 1896, before me,—

JAMES ERRINGTON.

GEO. C. MARTIN, Coroner.

This deponent, *Mary Curran*, on her oath, saith as follows:—I am the daughter of George Curran, and reside at Stockton; the body I saw lying in the office of the Stockton Colliery yesterday morning was that of my father, George Patrick Curran; he was 60 years of age, and was born in Ireland, and has been in this Colony about forty years; he was married in Newcastle when he was 40 years of age, and he married Bridget Gordon; he leaves four in family, two boys and two girls; he does not leave any property or invested money.

Sworn and made at Stockton, this 3rd day of }
December, 1896, before me,—

M. CURRAN.

GEO. C. MARTIN, Coroner.

This deponent, *Henry Burt*, on his oath, saith as follows:—I am a night deputy overman at the Stockton Colliery, and reside at Stockton; I knew the deceased men; I went down the pit with them at half-past 9 on last Tuesday night; I left the two men Curran and Smith at the pit bottom; they went along the travelling road in the direction of the furnace; I visited the furnace part after the accident had happened, at a little after 5 o'clock; the doors were then closed and the air current was good as usual; I did not visit this place at all during the night; no one could go along the road to the furnace after these men went in, except myself; no one had any right to go along that road; if the doors were left open it must have been by these two men; I have cautioned both of these men to be careful about seeing that the doors were properly closed after they had passed through; I have said this to them on several occasions; I considered them both steady, sober, and careful men; to the best of my belief, Mr. McDonald, the overman, was the man who first put these two men on to work in the pit.

By Mr. Humble: I have held my present position about three months; in the absence of the manager and under manager I have full control of the whole of the colliery and the men working therein; I visit this furnace and the men at work there every night; I have no fixed time for inspecting; sometimes I visit the furnace first, and sometimes the other end of the colliery; Tuesday night was an exception, as I knew Mr. McDonald had visited in and round the furnace and had reported to me that all was clear there; the visit of Mr. McDonald on this occasion was for a special purpose; this was done on account of a report I made to Mr. McDonald on the Tuesday morning; this report was first made by a shiftman named Gould to me; I had instructed Gould to go to the furnace on Monday night to empty the coal skips at the furnace, and he told me that whilst doing this he had felt very sick and giddy, but could not say what had caused this feeling; he said he had two of the doors open while having the skips taken in; I went at once to see what was the matter; I went direct to the furnace, and found everything correct, the doors shut and the air current quite clear; I went down the rope-road towards the old workings, and found the road all clear, but I reported what I had been told and what I had done to Mr. McDonald, when he came on duty at 6 o'clock on the Tuesday morning, and in consequence, I presume, that Mr. McDonald made his inspection; I did not attach any importance to Gould's report, as I had never found any foul air there; neither Curran nor Smith ever complained to me of feeling giddy or sick; on one occasion when Smith was with another man there, I found the big door nearest the furnace open; I did not notice anything in the air except a greater current of air on account of this door being open; I cannot say if it was propped open or merely swinging; I was down at the furnace last night, and the big door nearest the furnace was open, and that allowed a mixture of air and gas to get through from the No. 3 old workings to the furnace; there was black-damp coming through strongly; I did not stand in it; it put the light out at once; in all probability it was such a mixture as this that affected the two men from the same source, and from a door being left open; I am satisfied the mixture I felt was partly black-damp; the pumper never complained to me of anything; I did not notice anything hot in No. 3 workings, or anything likely to generate bad gas.

By

By Mr. Curley: Mr. McDonald did not give me any definite instructions to visit the furnace locality; I did not consider it necessary to go hurriedly to again see the locality, as Mr. McDonald had inspected the place, and I knew I should visit it again in the morning or during the shift; Gould mentioned the matter to me at about half-past 12; as I have said, I did inspect the locality after Gould's complaint, and found all right; I saw Smith on the Monday night at the furnace, after hearing Gould's report, and he said that he (Smith) had felt a little bit sick at the time he was fetching in the coal; when Gould was there; he did not say from what the sickness was caused; I told him he should not leave the doors open longer than possible: it was in my mind that black-damp might come from the old workings when I was speaking to Smith, on account of the door being left open; Smith said he would see that the doors should not be left open—it should not occur again; Mr. McDonald and I did not get into any conversation about the matter then; I did not make any special report of the matter; I made my report of doors being left open to the overman; I did not report it to the manager; I did not make a special visit to the furnace last night; I was merely firing up the furnace as I was ordered; I should regard black-damp in that locality as a special source of danger to be guarded against; when I have gone direct to the furnace at the commencement of any shift I have found the furnace burning, but well banked up.

By Mr. O'Sullivan: The special way to guard against black-damp in that portion of the pit is to keep the doors closed.

Sworn and made at Stockton, this 3rd day of }
December, 1896, before me,—

HENRY BURT.

GEO. C. MARTIN, Coroner.

Inquest adjourned, for the purpose of obtaining further evidence, until 10 o'clock on Tuesday, the 8th day of December instant, at Mrs. Chilvers' "Federal Hotel," at Stockton.

GEO. C. MARTIN,
Coroner.

Dated at Stockton, this 3rd December, 1896.

Inquest resumed, in pursuance of adjournment, at 10 o'clock on the 8th day of December, 1896, at Mrs. Chilvers' "Federal Hotel," at Stockton, in the District of Newcastle, in the Colony of New South Wales, on the bodies of George Patrick Curran and Charles Smith; the jury having answered to their recognizance, the examination of witnesses was proceeded with.

GEO. C. MARTIN,
Coroner.

Dated at Stockton, this 8th day of December, 1896.

This deponent, *George Coulson*, on his oath, saith as follows:—I am a fireman, and reside at Stockton; I knew the two deceased men, Charles Smith and George Patrick Curran; my mate Jury and I went down the Stockton pit at 4 o'clock on last Wednesday morning; we went along the road leading to the furnace, and came to the first door, which we found shut close; the door is about 30 yards from the downcast shaft; I noticed the plan now produced, and on it I can trace the road leading to the furnace; after passing through this door we came to the second door, which we found open; it is about 36 yards from the first door; when we got to this second door I said to my mate, "There is something wrong, we had better make up to the furnace"; I smelled something wrong, and this was the reason I used to him those words; we went up further and through a third door, about 28 yards from the second door; this was also open; we then went towards the furnace, and saw one body in a sitting position, and then when we got there our lights went out, and I ran back with our two lamps and lit them, and I came back to Jury and said to him, "Tackle one body, and I will try and keep the lights in"; as soon as we got the first body out we went back for the other, and I closed the doors as I came to them, after getting the bodies through; our lights went out twice; the lights were worn in our caps; I left Robert Jury with the two bodies, and went away for Mr. McDonald, the under manager, and then I sent the watchman away for the doctor; I thought the foul air we met with was black damp; I had never noticed on any previous occasion in this part any foul air; the foul air we met with must have come from the old working, and would travel along the rope-road and then along the furnace road; the object in having the doors I have mentioned is to force the air current round, so as to keep the air in its proper course; if the doors were left open the foul air would mix with the current of pure air; I have never seen these doors left open previously; no one goes along the road to the furnace except the manager and the pumpers, or anyone specially ordered to go; the two men, Smith and Curran, went into work at the furnace at half-past 9 o'clock on Tuesday night; there was no occasion for anyone to go along the furnace road after these men went in until Jury and I went to inspect in the morning; we visit the furnaces the first thing, so as to see that there is a good fire being kept up, and we then inspect all parts of the mine afterwards.

By Mr. Humble: I did not notice anything peculiar in the air a morning or two before the accident; none of the men at the furnace ever complained to me about there being foul air there; the men, instead of sitting where they usually sit at the furnace, could go further in, where the air is purer; I think the men would have been safer further in; I have not travelled along the rope-road to the old workings for some years; the last time I was there I was removing rails and timber, and I found the air very good; I came across one place that was particularly warm in the old workings in the top drive; I did not notice any smell or anything peculiar in it; I have been down the mine since we got the two bodies out; I was at the furnace; I found the same smell as I noticed on the Wednesday morning coming along the rope-road; my light did not go out on this occasion, so that I think there must have been a difference in the composition of the air; I did not then believe it was black-damp: it affected my head and my breathing.

By Mr. Curley: The second body was lying on its stomach; this was Smith's body; the bodies were close to each other; I can show the part where the bodies were on the plan; it is marked with two red crosses; it was about 9 o'clock when I went in on the Wednesday morning; I felt a sort of dizziness in my head then; the men generally take five or six skips of coal in; the road for the skips is pretty level; it rises a little going up to the furnace; the doors would have to be opened twelve times going in and taking out skips; I was in at the furnace on Monday morning, the 30th of November last; Jury was with me; the men did not make any complaint about anything; I was in on the Tuesday morning, but had no conversation with the men; there was another man there on the Tuesday; the man was Gould; he did not say anything to me; the warmth in the old workings was exceptional; it was a little warm; the warmth was not of sufficient importance for me to draw the overman's attention to it; I only visit a portion of the working-places; I did not notice any stagnant air in any of the other places I visited; I sometimes go round for inspection a second time in the landing-places to look after the bratticing.

By the Foreman of Jury: The coal is kept on a siding, and when taken to the furnace only requires the second and third doors to be opened to admit it; it is on a rise to the furnace from the No. 3 workings.

By Mr. Curley: The coal siding is between the first and second doors; the furnace stands higher than the No. 3 workings, even if they were open to the top drive.

By Mr. O'Sullivan: I know No. 28 special rule of the Stockton Colliery; I am fully acquainted with its purport; the part of the accident is about 5 yards from the main return; if the two men, Smith and Curran, had been sitting in the main return they would have been out of the way of the noxious air; there are two means of entry and exit for the workers, apart from the entrance of the furnace-men, but the travelling road is the one they are supposed to use; if there should ever be anything wrong with the travelling road the men could come out by the shaft siding and the main return; I do not think that the two men could have met with death had the two doors been closed—in fact, I am sure they would not have met with their death.

By Mr. Curley: The main return is worked and the route written on the plan; the shaft siding is not shown on this plan; if there was poisonous air in all the pit the men would not be safe anywhere; I know nothing of what caused the two men's deaths.

By Mr. O'Sullivan: I mean that I do not positively know what caused the men's deaths, but my opinion is it was caused by black-damp in their case; I think this was so from my own observation and experience.

By Mr. Humble: The plan produced shows the workings of the top drive; the travelling road and shaft siding are in the bottom coal; they are both intake airways, not return airways; the connection between the travelled road and shaft siding and the workings shown on this plan are separated by doors, and, supposing there are noxious gases in those workings shown on this plan, it does not follow that the travelling road and shaft siding would have noxious gases in them, and therefore I am sure the workers would have good air to travel in or out to the workings or shaft.

Sworn and made at Stockton, this day, the 8th of }
December, 1896, before me,—

GEORGE COULSON.

GEO. C. MARTIN, Coroner.

This

This deponent, *John Driscoll*, on his oath, saith as follows :—I am in charge of the steam-pump in the colliery, and reside at Stockton ; I knew the deceased men, Curran and Smith ; I believe I saw these two men at the bottom of the shaft on Tuesday night, as they came down with the relief ; I presumed that Smith was going to his work at the furnace ; I was going up, as I was leaving my work at the pumps ; I was at the furnace at 6 o'clock on the Tuesday evening, as it was my duty to see that the furnace was going all right between 3 o'clock and the next shift ; I went along the furnace road, and passed through all the doors ; I went right up to the furnace, and found the air the same as usual all the way ; I returned the same way, and closed every door after me ; we are instructed to be very careful in closing all doors ; this warning is on the doors—"Keep shut"—in white chalk ; I found, as I have said, that the air was pure and as usual ; I am always going along this road, and never found the air in any way but good ; I know what black-damp is well ; I have never met with it or any noxious gas that I know of on the rope-road.

By Mr. Humble : I go up to the furnace as often as I think the furnace requires ; I have been up as often as three times between 3 and half-past 9 ; I remain five minutes or more occasionally ; I do not recollect ever finding the door next the furnace open ; the men at the furnace have never complained to me of bad air.

By Mr. Curley : I have been at the pumps over three years ; the pumps are all pretty well together at the shaft bottom ; one of my pumps is in the main return on the bottom level ; there was a kerosene pump in the pit, about a mile away, some eight months ago ; it may be there now ; I have not heard of it lately ; I know it is not working, nor has it for some considerable time ; it was on the bottom level ; I have seen as many as sixteen men come down just as I am ready to go up ; I have been up the rope-road often, but I have not been up it for about two years—that is to say, right through it ; my shift last week finished at half-past 9 at night, and this week it will be at half-past 1 in the day-time ; a man—I think his name was Grimm—relieved me at the pumps on last Tuesday night, at half-past 9 ; he had no occasion to go to the furnace, though he might have gone there.

By Mr. O'Sullivan : I know by the special rules that Rule 24 prohibits anyone going to any part of the pit, on his own account, other than where he works, without special authority ; if Grimm went up to the furnace on Tuesday night he would be breaking this rule unless he was so ordered.

Sworn and made at Stockton, this 8th day of

JOHN DRISCOLL.

December, 1896, before me,—

GEO. C. MARTIN, Coroner.

Inquest adjourned for the purpose of obtaining lunch until a quarter past 2 o'clock in the afternoon, on Tuesday, the 8th day of December instant, at Mrs. Chilvers' "Federal Hotel," at Stockton.

GEO. C. MARTIN,

Coroner.

Dated at Stockton, this 8th December, 1896.

Inquest resumed, in pursuance of adjournment, at 2.15 p.m., on the 8th day of December, 1896, at Mrs. Chilvers' "Federal Hotel," at Stockton, in the District of Newcastle, in the Colony of New South Wales, on the bodies of George Patrick Curran and Charles Smith ; the jury having answered to their recognizance, the examination of witnesses was proceeded with.

GEO. C. MARTIN,

Coroner.

Dated at Stockton, this 8th day of December, 1896.

This deponent, *William McDonald*, on his oath, saith as follows :—I am the overman at the Stockton Colliery, and reside at Stockton ; I knew the two deceased men, Smith and Curran ; Smith was furnace-man and Curran assisted when required in emptying small coal at the furnace ; these men, Curran and Smith, went in at half-past 9 o'clock on Tuesday night, the 1st December instant, and I was at the furnace about half an hour before they got there ; I went to see that all was right ; it was not my usual duty—not at that time ; the reason of my going there was through a report I got from the night overman, H. Burt, on the morning of Tuesday, stating that one of the attendants of the furnace had complained to him of foul air ; then I went in and examined a part of No. 3 working, and found all as usual ; I went about 200 yards in from a little door under the rope-road, so, by finding all as usual there, I thought I would come back about the same time, as they had complained about getting the foul air on the previous night ; I examined all round the furnace, also the doors, and found all in perfect order ; I then went down the rope-road and went further into No. 3 working than I had done in the morning, and found everything as usual ; then I came back to the furnace again, and from there I went to the top ; I then saw the furnace-man, Smith ; from the appearance of Smith I thought he had had a drop of drink, and I questioned him ; he said "No, I have not tasted any" ; I told him then to be very careful, as his duty had been explained often enough to him, and he knew what it was ; Smith said that was all right, and he would be attentive to what I had said, so I left them ; it was then half-past 9 o'clock ; I saw Mr. Burt, the night overman, then ; I told him what I had been doing, and where I had been, and that all was as usual ; I never met any foul air, and did not attach any importance to the report after I had made my examination ; I have never met any foul air in this part ; I generally go up there every day ; Jury and Coulson inspect the working-places and the furnaces every morning ; they visit the furnaces first ; I merely told Mr. Burt on meeting him, after visiting the furnace, that I had been there and that everything was correct.

By Mr. Humble : I did not tell Henry Burt that he ought to go to visit the furnace after I had been there, but he knew it was his duty to inspect there ; I expected Burt would go there as usual ; when I was in No. 3 workings, as I have mentioned, I did not notice anything that smelled peculiarly, and my light burned very well ; both doors were closed when I was in No. 3 ; I was in No. 3 workings about a month ago ; I was in the face of the main ganning bord ; the air there was very pure ; it did not surprise me, as I had so often been there under the same conditions there ; I have often visited this part without making any special preparation for making any air extra current ; there was no additional heat or extra temperature ; no black-damp, or anything different to what I usually found there ; up to the time that I heard the bodies had been found I knew of nothing in this part of the pit that could cause any trouble ; I went into the pit at about a quarter past 4 on Wednesday morning, and saw the two bodies at the pit bottom ; I then went away to the furnace, and found the third door open—not very open only about 8 or 9 inches open ; I noticed a little black-damp there, and my lamp would not burn very well, and I knew by the smell it was black-damp ; I have found that black-damp has different smells ; if it was pure black-damp it would have no smell ; I regarded what I noticed to be in the air as something to be guarded against ; I found this door was only open through a piece of coal having got jambed against it ; I removed this and shut the door ; I came back to the shaft ; in the meantime the furnace had very nearly gone out ; I came back after leaving the bodies with the doctors, and then went to the furnace, and then went down to the No. 3 workings again and found in about 200 yards down from black-damp ; considering the doors had been open so long I did not wonder at this, as on account of the extent of these workings there would be bound to be some ; where there some black-damp . . . * the third door would be the only door that would have any effect in bringing any mixture from the No. 3 workings ; there was a little different peculiarity in the smell of this black-damp to what I had generally found in black-damp ; I came back to the furnace and had two men with me ; I kindled up the fire ; it was pointed out to me the place where the two bodies were found ; one was sitting, and the other on the ground as if he had fallen over that way ; this was not the only place where these men could keep watch on the furnace ; they could have gone some yards further in, and been in a large current of fresh air ; I then went back along the rope-road, and got a bit further in ; everything was the same except for the black-damp I had found previously ; I made further inspection afterwards, accompanied by Mr. Humble and Mr. Daniel McAuliffe, on the Wednesday morning at about 8 o'clock ; we went down the rope-road towards No. 3 district ; when we got half down, between the furnace and No. 3, I heard Mr. Humble say, "I smell something like fire-stink" ; we went right down into No. 3, and I found it fairly good until we went about 20 or 30 yards into the flat ; the air began to get thick then ; we did not lose our lights ; we did not go far in enough for that ; we returned and got on to the pit bottom ; we then met Mr. Dixon, the Chief Inspector, there, and we went back to the furnace with him ; a proposal was made by Mr. Dixon that the conditions prevailing at the time the bodies were found should be repeated by opening the third doors, the nearest door to the furnace ; the effect of this, after it had remained open ten minutes, was to bring black-damp to the furnace ; I am certain it was black-damp ; Mr. Humble and Mr. Dixon thought the mixture coming into the furnace was the product of some fire in the old workings ; I fancy Mr. McAuliffe was of the same opinion as Mr. Dixon and Mr. Humble ; I remember a naked light being placed in the road-end leading to No. 3 ; therefore, the mixture that I thought was black-damp had to pass over this light ; this light was not extinguished ;
this

[* "And when the doors were opened a current of air would be turned on."—Extract from notes of evidence taken by the inspectors.]

S

-this light was lifted by Mr. Dixon as soon as the smell came along ; I do not think the light remained sufficiently long for the mixture to affect it ; there must have been a large quantity of this mixture in the old workings to come along in ten minutes, the time the door was open ; a mixture like this coming along with the door open would be quite sufficient to account for the deaths of the two men ; we discussed the origin of the mixture : I thought it was common black-damp from its peculiar smell ; Mr. Humble said he thought it was carbonic oxide, given off by some combustible matter ; Mr. Humble considered this mixture extremely dangerous ; no mention was made of the danger of approaching it without a current of air, but I am aware it is dangerous to approach any of these gases without a current of air.

By Mr. Curley : When Burt reported to me about the air, he said a man of the name of Gould had spoken to him about it ; Burt did not say how Gould was affected : I did not ask Gould to come to the office to see me ; Burt did not tell me that Smith had complained to him : when Burt reported this to me, and after I had made my inspection and found nothing wrong, I thought the man reporting must have been drinking ; when Burt reported to me I asked him if he had examined the place, and he said, "Yes," and could not find anything wrong ; the ventilation of the colliery as a whole has been well kept up during the past two years ; the operations of the new Act did not cramp me ; we had no difficulty so far : I cannot say if our management asked for any exemptions under the new Act : the visiting officials in our pit are deputies ; Bailey and Jones and the fireman Jury, and Coulson and myself, as under manager these are the day visiting officials ; for the night there is Henry Burt, night overman ; none of these officials, or in fact anyone in the pit, has reported anything the matter with the return air, or the old workings, with the exception of the Tuesday morning's report ; the manager of colliery has not drawn my attention to anything ; the old workings have not been visited at any regular time, but are inspected occasionally ; I cannot say that I have ever smelled the same smell as I came across on the morning I have mentioned, but I have smelled something very near it ; I have noticed this in No. 45 district : this district is about 700 or 800 yards away from the rope road ; I have never noticed anything of any sort in other parts of the mine : if Burt had complained to me that men were sick and giddy, and that their lights were not affected, I should not have taken any more interest in the matter than I did ; I am acquainted with gases in mines, and I know something about carbonic oxide ; something less than 1 per cent. is fatal ; sulphuretted hydrogen is something about the same in regard to its deadly results ; I cannot say if either of these gases are in the Stockton pit ; I have no reason to believe there is a deadly gas in the Stockton mine other than carbonic acid or black-damp : the fresh air I have mentioned in my evidence comes from No. 3 shaft ; in the night-time this current of air travels over very few men ; in the day-time it will travel over 100 men, perhaps 130 men ; we have six different splits in the mine ; I cannot say just at the moment the quantity of air to each split ; we last measured our air a fortnight ago ; it is always registered in a book kept for the purpose ; I have never had any complaints from anyone of deficient air ; I told the manager of the report that Burt made to me the same day as Burt told me : in the afternoon about 3 o'clock the manager said to me "Be careful, and do not go too far" ; we had no discussion about what it was ; someone interrupted us while we talked ; the Government inspector was down the mine about a week ago ; he has been down the mine four times since the new Act came into force ; I went down the pit with the inspector the last time : we went into some of the old workings up by the new No. 3 shaft and up by Gardiner's heading, and we visited all the working-places ; we did not visit No. 3 district ; when I went down on Wednesday morning, at about a quarter past 4, I went direct to where the men were ; I went to the furnace about ten minutes later.

By Jury : Black-damp with a current of air with it from the main return would not put out the furnace ; carbonic oxide mixed with air would not put out the furnace either ; in the same way as I have stated as regards black-damp.

By Mr. O'Sullivan : The regulations and special rules as to the working of the pit are posted up in a conspicuous place ; I know that the two deceased men had copies of the special rules.

Sworn and made at Stockton, this 8th day of
December, 1896, before me,—

GEO. C. MARTIN, Coroner.

WILLIAM McDONALD.

[NOTE.—The evidence of this witness was put in at the Court of Inquiry as Exhibit No. 2, by Mr. Wilshire, and read, 22nd March, 1897.]

This deponent, *William McDonald*, recalled, on his oath, saith as follows :—

Recalled by Jury : Fresh air might mix with the black-damp coming from the No. 3 workings by coming through No. 1 door.

Sworn and made at Stockton, this 8th day of
December, 1896, before me,—

GEO. C. MARTIN, Coroner.

WILLIAM McDONALD.

No. 7.

The Under Secretary of Justice to The Principal Under Secretary.

Sir,

Department of Justice, Sydney, 10 December, 1896.

I am directed by the Minister of Justice to forward for the perusal of the Chief Secretary the accompanying copy of verdict and rider at inquest held before George Cannon Martin, Esq., J.P., Coroner, at Newcastle, on the 2nd, 3rd. and 8th instant, touching the cause of death of Charles Smith and George Patrick Curran, at Stockton, in the District of Newcastle.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE MILLER,

Under Secretary.

No. 8.

Minute of The Hon. the Minister for Mines in connection with the recommendation of the Jury.

I AM in accord with the view expressed by the jury that the action of Messrs. Jury and Coulson deserves to be recognised, and this should take the form of some tangible and permanent record. Brave deeds such as they performed, as well as the other courageous men who risked their lives in attempting to save their fellows, in the subsequent action, should not be allowed to pass by merely placing on official record a statement of the facts.

I think appreciation of their action should be shown by presenting them with a memento in the form of a gold medal, fittingly inscribed, to record the heroic action which won for them not only the admiration of their fellow workers, but the whole community. Conspicuous bravery such as they exhibited should not be allowed to pass without recognition, and the presentation of the mementos proposed will show them and others who may be placed in similar circumstances that such deeds as they performed are not allowed to pass unrecognised.

S. SMITH.

1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)
—
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

COAL MINES REGULATION ACT, 1896.
(OUTPUT OF COAL UNDER.)

Printed under No. 10 Report from Printing Committee, 3 November, 1898.

[Laid upon the Table in answer to Question No. 10, Votes No. 81, 26 October, 1898.]

Question.

- (10.) Output of Coal under Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896:—Mr. Nicholson asked the Secretary for Mines,—
- (1.) Referring to information given by the late Secretary for Mines, Mr. Sydney Smith, *re* the report of the Chief Inspector of Mines, showing the gross output of coal from the various mines of the Colony,—is that report to hand?
- (2.) If so, what is the gross output of the various collieries since the Coal Mines Act came into force?
- (3.) What was the proportionate amount weighed at each colliery?

Answer.

- (1.) A report dealing with a number of the principal collieries was furnished by the Chief Inspector, and I will presently lay a copy of it upon the Table.
- (2.) The output for a broken period cannot be given, as the Act only provides for an annual return being supplied by the owners. A return is published in each Annual Report of the Department, giving the output of coal at each colliery.
- (3.) This information, so far as it has been ascertained, will be found in the document to be presently laid upon the Table of the House.

STATEMENT showing tubs or skips of round or large coal raised and weighed at the several large Collieries in the Northern, Southern, and Western Districts during the several periods named.

Northern District.

Name of Colliery.	Period.	Tubs of Round Coal Raised.	Tubs of Round Coal Weighed.	Percentage of Tubs Weighed.	Miners.
A.A. Company's Borehole	First nine days of 1898	10,433	2,155	11.08	50
A.A. Company, Sea Pit	December 25, 1897, to April 30, 1898	77,549	6,580	8.48	303
Wallsend No. 1 Tunnel	" " May 14, 1898	115,940	13,641	11.76	400
" No. 2 "	" " " "	23,488	5,609	24.13	
Burwood	February 21 to May 14, 1898	37,154	4,635	12.47	216
Lambton	December 25, 1897, to April 16, 1898	25,789	3,411	13.22	134
Waratah	January 8 to May 14, 1898	11,997	895	7.46	93
Newcastle Company, B Pit	December 25, 1897, to April 30, 1898	66,040	4,820	7.29	230
" " A "	" " May 14, 1898	74,248	4,635	6.24	232
Seaham	" " " "	56,693	3,495	6.16	167
West Wallsend	" " April 30, 1898	49,735	2,494	5.01	205
Hetton	" " May 14, 1898	74,302	4,703	6.33	172
Duckenfield	" " April 30, 1898	61,557	7,656	12.43	200
Minni	" " May 14, 1898	83,870	6,340	7.56	232
Stockton	January 1, 1897, to April 30, 1898	51,776	1,975	3.81	180
Greta	" " May 12, 1898	17,874	1,338	7.48	90
Pacific	" " April 30, 1898	32,397	2,399	7.40	150
Wickham and Bullock Island	" " " "	53,160	5,489	10.32	180
		938,002	82,330	8.82	3,234

Southern District.

Name of Colliery.	Period.	Tubs of Round Coal Raised.	Tubs of Round Coal Weighed.	Percentage of Tubs Weighed.	Miners.
Metropolitan	January 1 to May 7	50,041	2,818	5.62	177
South Clifton	" " " "	17,417	366	1.90	74
Bulli	" 15 to " "	29,635	1,607	5.42	130
South Bulli	" to April 23	45,727	3,125	6.83	190
Bellambi	" " " 30	13,790	2,513	18.21	45
Corrimal	" " " "	39,295	4,314	10.97	173
Mount Pleasant	" " " "	17,489	4,451	25.45	85
Mount Keira .....	" " " " .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mount Kembla	January 1 to April 30	60,062	4,634	7.71	157
		273,456	23,828	8.71	1,031

Western District.

Name of Colliery.	Period.	Tubs of Round Coal Raised.	Tubs of Round Coal Weighed.	Percentage of Tubs Weighed.	Miners.
Oakey Park	January 8 to May 14	13,127	260	1.98	25
The Vale	" " " "	16,244	642	3.95	31
Zig Zag	" " " "	15,601	1,265	8.11	30
Vale of Clwydd	" " " "	15,566	1,541	9.90	41
Eskbank	" " " "	14,778	1,367	9.25	30
Lithgow Valley	April 2 to " "	5,718	*72	1.25	20
Hermitage	January 8 to " "	17,646	3,332	18.88	25
		98,680	8,479	8.59	202

* At this colliery there is neither weighman nor check weighman. The manager weighs occasionally, and he informed me that he usually weighs about 24 tubs per fortnight.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

SUMS PAID TO DISCOVERERS OF GOLD-FIELDS.

(RETURN RESPECTING.)

Printed under No. 10 Report from Printing Committee, 3 November, 1898.

RETURN to an *Order* of the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 26th October, 1898, That there be laid upon the Table of this House, a Return showing,—

“What sums have been paid to discoverers of gold-fields by the Mines Department since 1885, the amount in each case, and the nature and position of the fields discovered.”

(Mr. Holman.)

PARTICULARS of Rewards paid for the Discoveries of New Fields since 1885.

	1887.	£
John Pugh, Billabong Gold-field, Parkes	... ..	250
	1891.	
John Bracken } James Elliott } Hillgrove Gold-field ... ..	... ..	500
Peter Daly }		
Alexander Cameron } Alexander Paton } Alectown Gold-field ... ..	... ..	300
Alexander Whitelaw }		
Gahan and Turner, Pambula Gold-field	... ..	500
William Fenton } Thomas Ring } John Hayes } Peak Hill Gold-field ... ..	... ..	500
Denis Madden }		
Gus. Menzies }		
John McGuire, senr., Costigan Silver-field, Tuena	... ..	100
C. H. Vitnell, Kookabookra Gold-field ...	... ..	200
	1892.	
Charles Mitchell } William Woods } Swamp Oak Gold-field ... ..	... ..	225
Henry Wright }		
William Sullivan } John Farrell } Niangala Gold-field... ..	... ..	100
		£2,675

1898.

(SECOND SESSION).

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

GOVERNMENT METALLURGICAL WORKS AT CLYDE.

(RETURN RESPECTING.)

*Printed under No. 13 Report from Printing Committee, 24 November, 1898.**[Laid upon the Table in answer to Question No. 7, Votes No. 39, 17 November, 1898.]*

Question.

- (7.) Government Metallurgical Works at Clyde:—Mr. Hurley asked the Secretary for Mines,—
- (1.) What is the number of tons of mineral ore that has been treated by the chlorination process at the Government Metallurgical Works at Clyde since the works started operations?
 - (2.) What is the number of tons of mineral ore that has been treated by the cyanide process at the Government Metallurgical Works at Clyde since the works started operations?
 - (3.) What is the number of tons of ore that has been treated by what is known as freemilling or the battery process at the Government Metallurgical Works at Clyde since the works started operations?
 - (4.) What is the number of tons of mineral ore, of all classes, treated by all processes at the Government Metallurgical Works at Clyde since the works first started operations?
 - (5.) What has been the value of gold bullion or other metals extracted from all ores treated at the Government Metallurgical Works at Clyde since the works started operations?
 - (6.) What is the amount of money the Government has received for the treatment of all ores at the Government Metallurgical Works at Clyde since the establishment of the works at Clyde?
 - (7.) What is the amount of an average pay-sheet per month for salaries and all expenses in connection with the working of the Government Metallurgical Works at Clyde?
 - (8.) What have the Government Metallurgical Works cost the Government, including everything, up to date 15th November, 1898?

Answer.

- (1.) 61 tons.
- (2.) 81 tons.
- (3.) 369 tons.
- (4.) 488 tons.
- (5.) £2,822 4s. 3d.
- (6.) £559 15s. 9d.
- (7.) £226 17s. 2d.
- (8.) £12,203 15s. 9d., including wages and salaries.

In making these replies, it is necessary to point out that although the strictest economy is observed in carrying on the works, it cannot be expected that the establishment should be self-supporting, seeing that its operations are purely experimental, the results of which are of great commercial value to the miner. The object of the treatment to which the parcels of ores are subjected is to ascertain the best method of treating the ore at the mine, so that the process in operation there may be improved, if possible, or the installation of unsuitable methods may be prevented, and thereby incalculable waste to the Colony checked or altogether avoided. With this purpose, then, much more work is put into the treatment than is paid for by the fees charged, and the efficiency of the work done is not to be measured by the amount of fees received, nor by the total tons treated.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS AND TRAMWAYS.

(ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RAILWAY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1898.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 51 Vic. No. 35.

*Printed under No. 1 Report from Printing Committee, 6 September, 1898.*Office of the Railway Commissioners of New South Wales,
Sydney, 13th August, 1898.

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS,—

SIR,

In accordance with the provisions of the 45th clause of the Railways Act of 1888, 51 Vic. No. 35, we have the honor to present, for the information of Parliament, our Annual Report upon the working of the Railways and Tramways for the year ended June 30th, 1898.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The result of the year's working may be briefly summarised as under :—

	Railways.	Tramways.	Total.
Total Earnings ...	£3,026,748	£313,871	£3,340,619
Total Expenditure ...	1,614,605	259,141	1,873,746
Balance after paying } working expenses }	£1,412,143	£54,730	£1,466,873

RAILWAYS.

The total miles open for traffic on the 30th of June last, was 2,691 $\frac{1}{4}$.

The following extensions were opened for traffic during the year :—

Line.	Mileage.	Date opened.
	m. c.	
Nevertire to Warren...	12 33 $\frac{1}{4}$	January 1, 1898.
Bogan Gate to Condobolin ...	39 22 $\frac{1}{2}$	March 1, 1898.

Further extensions of the Pioneer class are now under construction, viz. :—

- Berrigan to Finley—13 miles 71 chains.
- Tamworth to Manilla—29 miles 41 $\frac{1}{2}$ chains.
- Moree to Inverell (first section)—35 miles.

The Berrigan to Finley extension will probably be completed and opened for traffic in September next. The construction of the Tamworth to Manilla line is progressing, and the Moree to Inverell line has been commenced.

The lines of the "Pioneer" class now open for traffic, which were fully described in our last annual report, have, on the whole, proved satisfactory both as regards working and traffic.

The increase of business on the Narrabri-Moree pioneer line has justified it being classed and worked as an ordinary branch line. For the pioneer coaching stock the ordinary carriages have been substituted, the platforms have been improved, and a gradual improvement will be made in the road formation.

As the line is not fenced it was originally intended that it should be worked by daylight only, but owing to the development of traffic night running has been introduced, the engines being provided with powerful head-lights.

The pioneer lines, Parkes-Condobolin, Jerilderie-Berrigan and Finley, and Nevertire-Warren, promise well.

The total capital cost of the lines open for traffic stands at £37,719,402. The interest on this sum at 3·661 per cent., the average interest payable on the debt of the Colony, amounts to £1,380,907.

The result of the year's transactions, after paying all working expenses and providing interest on the capital cost of the whole of the lines open for traffic, is a credit balance of £31,236.

The coaching traffic shows an increase of £27,561, and the Goods traffic, including wool and live stock, a decrease of £15,555, leaving a net increase of £12,006.

First class passengers increased, £2,045; second class, £19,430; parcels, £5,272; and miscellaneous, £814.

In connection with the increase in passenger earnings, 560,252 additional passenger journeys were made.

As anticipated in our Annual Report for last year the earnings under the head of Wool and Live Stock show a large falling off, the decrease amounts to £110,670, viz. :—Wool, £58,933 and Live Stock, £51,737.

Other classes of Goods traffic however increased to the extent of £95,115; Grain, Flour, &c., contributing £42,264; General Merchandise, £31,833; Minerals other than Coal and Coke, £14,792; Coal and Coke, £5,056; and Hay, Straw, and Chaff, £1,170.

Wool, Live Stock, and other traffics show a decrease of 97,950 tons; Minerals, other than Coal and Coke, an increase of 93,523 tons; and Grain, Flour, &c., 67,950 tons; the net result being an increase of 63,523 tons.

In consequence of the greater mileage of lines open, the additional volume of Passenger traffic, and the largely increased tonnage of less remunerative character, the Working Expenses increased £13,387.

The train miles run were 8,340,338, being an increase on last year of 209,933 miles. The increase is mainly due to the opening of new lines, the additional service on the North Shore Line, and improvements in other directions.

The earnings per train mile were 7s. 3d., and the net earnings 3s. 4½d., as compared with 3s. 5¾d. last year.

The percentage the working expenses bear to the gross revenue is 53·34.

The effect of recent droughts will still be felt in connection with the wool and live stock traffic, and it is feared that during the present year not much, if any, expansion can be anticipated from this source. The outlook, however, for the grain season is exceptionally good.

The following table shows the progress and results of the working of the Railways and Tramways for a period of years.

Year.	Open to 30 June.			TOTAL EARNINGS.			NET EARNINGS AFTER PAYING WORKING EXPENSES.			CAPITAL EXPENDED.		
	Railways.	Tramways.	Total.	Railways.	Tramways.	Total.	Railways.	Tramways.	Total.	Railways.	Tramways.	Total.
	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1882	1,268	22	1,290	1,701,016	126,202	1,827,218	763,651	23,066	786,727	15,943,616	447,940	16,291,556
1883	1,320	25	1,345	1,934,694	190,699	2,125,393	751,220	11,822	763,042	16,905,014	585,062	17,490,076
1884	1,618	27½	1,645½	2,089,740	219,942	2,309,691	786,010	4,775	790,785	20,080,188	686,402	20,766,540
1885	1,732	27½	1,759½	2,178,172	223,340	2,401,512	717,555	15,945	732,900	21,831,276	751,730	22,583,006
1886	1,889	29	1,918	2,163,803	230,410	2,394,213	668,577	23,957	692,534	24,071,454	857,488	24,928,937
1887	2,036	38½	2,074½	2,212,718	225,348	2,438,066	752,375	12,893	765,268	26,532,122	923,608	27,455,730
1888	2,114	38½	2,152½	2,295,124	236,519	2,531,643	764,573	17,323	781,896	27,722,748	877,244	28,599,992
Railway Act came into operation 22nd October, 1888.												
1889	2,171	38½	2,209½	2,538,477	243,563	2,782,040	933,875	21,728	955,603	29,839,167	909,595	30,748,762
1890	2,182	39½	2,221½	2,633,086	268,962	2,902,048	967,251	44,889	1,012,140	30,555,123	933,614	31,488,737
1891	2,182	42½	2,224½	2,974,421	292,650	3,267,271	1,143,050	53,171	1,196,221	31,768,617	1,004,212	32,772,829
1892	2,185	48	2,233	3,107,296	305,090	3,412,386	1,193,044	56,499	1,249,543	33,312,608	1,099,659	34,412,267
1893	2,351	49	2,400	2,927,056	295,367	3,222,423	1,188,540	61,559	1,250,099	34,657,571	1,118,471	35,776,042
1894	2,501½	58½	2,559½	2,813,541	278,194	3,091,735	1,221,699	48,911	1,270,610	35,855,271	1,248,986	37,104,257
1895	2,531½	61	2,592½	2,878,204	282,316	3,160,520	1,310,615	51,323	1,361,938	36,611,366	1,428,518	38,039,884
1896	2,531½	61	2,592½	2,820,417	289,181	3,109,598	1,268,529	52,898	1,321,427	36,852,194	1,434,896	38,287,090
1897	2,639½	62½	2,702	3,014,742	306,695	3,321,437	1,413,524	57,814	1,471,338	37,369,205	1,452,670	38,821,875
1898	2,691½	65	2,756½	3,026,748	313,871	3,340,619	1,412,143	54,730	1,466,873	37,719,402	1,478,251	39,197,653

EXTENSION OF THE RAILWAY INTO THE CITY.

In our last Report this subject was referred to as follows :—

The proposed extension of the railway into the city is a matter which demands some mention in this Report, not with the object of advocating any particular route—our views on that subject having been placed most fully before the Public Works Committee—but because of the absolute necessity for a decision in the matter. The time has arrived when it must be emphatically stated that the passenger business cannot longer be conducted at Redfern with reasonable convenience to the public, or without unnecessary risk.

The accommodation is inadequate, and consequently there is, notwithstanding the exercise of the utmost care and the use of all modern appliances for safe working, an element of danger which would not attach to a terminal station arranged to meet traffic requirements.

For the daily business the accommodation is below what is required, and for holiday or exceptional traffic it is very deficient.

We trust that the question of the extension of the railway into the city will be finally dealt with on an early date.

The experience of the past twelve months has more fully impressed the Commissioners with the absolute necessity for a prompt settlement of this long-pending question.

Now that the Public Works Committee has reported in favour of the Hyde Park Scheme, which has been from the first recommended by the Railway Commissioners, we hope that there will be no delay in giving effect to the Report of the Public Works Committee.

UNIFORM GAUGE.

During the Federal Convention which met at Adelaide in April, 1897, the Right Honorable the Premiers of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia agreed that the Chief Railway Commissioners of those Colonies should meet and discuss the question, and bring up a report. At a meeting in Melbourne in August last year all the necessary details were agreed upon, and a report was subsequently made.

The matter is perhaps one which does not call for immediate final action, yet it should not be lost sight of, as the longer it remains altogether in abeyance the greater the cost will be eventually. That there must in the end be uniformity of gauge there can be no doubt, and it would be a step in the right direction to begin to prepare for the change. The Commissioners agreed that it could be conveniently effected within five years; but it is not imperative to adhere to this period.

Both economy and general utility suggest the adoption of the standard 4 feet 8½ inch gauge, which is that in existence in New South Wales.

The early settlement of the question would be of benefit to the colonies interested, as gradual preparations for this extensive change could be made.

SAFETY APPLIANCES.

Steady progress has been made with the work of interlocking of points and signals.

The fitting of the goods stock with the Westinghouse quick-acting freight brake appliances is drawing to completion, only a small balance now remaining to be fitted.

RATES.

Unfortunately, the conditions of some portions of the country through drought, necessitated the introduction of "Starving Stock" rates. Under these rates stock coming within that designation were carried at a reduction of 50 per cent. on ordinary stock rates from the drought-stricken districts to where feed and water could be obtained. Stock of which a forced sale was made by reason of the necessity to remove them from one district to another for the purpose of feed were similarly dealt with. Store stock requiring railway transit by reason of the travelling stock routes being impracticable were carried for distances of not less than 100 miles at a reduction of 25 per cent. on ordinary rates. A similar reduction was also made in the freight of fodder for starving stock.

ANNUAL REPORT OF RAILWAY COMMISSIONERS.

5

RETURN showing Mileage per Ton and Earnings per Ton per Mile of Goods Traffic carried during the years ended 31st December, 1879, 1883, 1891, 1894, and 1897.

	COAL AND SHALE.					FIREWOOD.				
	1879.	1883.	1891.	1894.	1897.	1879.	1883.	1891.	1894.	1897.
Tons carried	1,039,099	1,596,408	2,673,378	2,440,389	2,873,737	112,171	160,662	176,790	188,416	187,299
Miles carried	14,212,532	25,863,800	46,882,655	35,154,389	44,310,948	3,009,080	4,349,344	4,734,019	5,155,475	4,979,616
Average miles per ton	13.68	15.88	17.53	14.41	15.42	26.82	27.07	26.77	27.36	26.59
Gross Earnings	£ 48,394	85,820	148,299	105,228	114,162	12,977	18,001	21,709	18,185	17,410
Earnings per ton per mile...	d. 0.82	d. 0.81	d. 0.76	d. 0.72	d. 0.62	d. 1.04	d. 1.03	d. 1.10	d. 0.85	d. 0.84
	GRAIN AND FLOUR.					HAY, STRAW, AND CHAFF.				
	1879.	1883.	1891.	1894.	1897.	1879.	1883.	1891.	1894.	1897.
Tons carried	36,249	65,736	198,491	241,669	258,550	22,467	35,119	64,967	83,819	105,150
Miles carried	3,611,407	7,756,369	22,130,334	36,250,854	39,894,801	743,679	2,712,396	10,024,149	13,691,695	17,769,831
Average miles per ton	99.63	117.99	111.49	150.00	154.30	33.10	77.23	154.29	163.35	168.99
Gross Earnings	£ 15,526	26,493	61,521	92,284	101,474	4,579	11,739	19,797	24,302	29,078
Earnings per ton per mile...	d. 1.03	d. 0.82	d. 0.66	d. 0.61	d. 0.61	d. 1.48	d. 1.04	d. 0.46	d. 0.43	d. 0.39
	WOOL.					LIVE STOCK.				
	1879.	1883.	1891.	1894.	1897.	1879.	1883.	1891.	1894.	1897.
Tons carried	31,773	63,887	111,797	124,102	100,003	27,805	68,050	123,211	153,082	177,448
Miles carried	6,283,838	15,184,040	30,262,222	34,882,444	27,332,825	3,726,176	13,224,154	34,650,831	37,481,715	47,585,890
Average miles per ton	166.30	237.67	270.86	281.08	273.32	134.01	194.30	270.26	244.84	268.17
Gross Earnings	£ 53,932	140,791	314,151	354,450	258,361	44,336	151,557	267,661	302,419	325,727
Earnings per ton per mile...	d. 2.45	d. 2.23	d. 2.49	d. 2.44	d. 2.27	d. 2.86	d. 2.75	d. 1.85	d. 1.94	d. 1.64
General Merchandise, and Traffic not included in other groups.										
	1879.	1883.	1891.	1894.	1897.					
Tons carried	361,797	682,067	1,008,599	679,618	859,756					
Miles carried	29,706,330	67,991,304	92,087,454	74,473,281	91,526,713					
Average miles per ton	82.11	99.68	91.30	109.58	106.46					
Gross Earnings	£ 366,808	693,740	806,382	668,364	724,536					
Earnings per ton per mile	d. 2.96	d. 2.45	d. 2.10	d. 2.16	d. 1.90					

NOTE.—The traffic carried on departmental account has been deducted from the figures throughout, so as to give a fair comparison.

Return of Ton Mileage for Year ended 31st December, 1897.

Description of Traffic.	Total Tons carried.	Total Miles carried.	Average Miles per Ton.	Earnings, exclusive of Terminal Charges.	Earnings per ton per Mile.	Percentage of each class to Total Tonnage.
	tons	miles	miles	£	D.	per cent.
Coal	2,873,737	44,310,948	15.42	114,162	.62	62.99
Firewood	187,299	4,979,616	26.59	17,410	.84	4.11
Grain, Flour, &c. ...	258,550	39,894,801	154.30	101,474	.61	5.67
Hay, Straw, and Chaff ...	105,150	17,769,831	168.99	29,078	.39	2.30
A Class and Miscellaneous*	316,648	23,659,938	74.72	89,611	.91	6.94
Wool	100,003	27,332,825	273.32	258,361	2.27	2.19
Live Stock	177,448	47,585,890	268.17	325,727	1.64	3.89
All other Goods	543,108	67,866,775	124.96	634,925	2.25	11.91
Total	4,561,948	273,400,624	59.93	1,570,748	1.38	100.00

* Miscellaneous traffic consists of timber, lime, manures, fruit, vegetables, hides, tobacco leaf, bricks, gravel, drain-pipes, and traffic of a similar nature.

THE following statement shows the earnings and expenses in connection with a number of lines in the Colony for the years ended the 31st December, 1896 and 1897.

Line.	Length.	Capital Cost.	Interest on Capital.	Working Expenses.		Total Earnings.		Loss after providing for Working Expenses and Interest.	
				Year ending December, 1897.	Year ending December, 1896.	Year ending December, 1897.	Year ending December, 1896.	Year ending December, 1897.	Year ending December, 1896.
Narrandera to Jerilderie ...	Mls. ch. 64 54 ³ / ₄	£ 424,234	£ 14,848	£ 8,213	£ 7,957	£ 12,220	£ 10,794	£ 10,841	£ 12,011
Junee to Hay	167 35 ³ / ₄	1,049,772	41,991	32,324	33,891	57,463	67,208	16,852	8,494
Wallerawang to Mudgee ...	85 6	1,043,287	40,185	19,094	20,254	32,608	33,187	26,671	27,242
Cootamundra to Gundagai..	33 45 ¹ / ₂	276,364	9,601	5,305	5,615	9,823	8,761	5,083	6,168
Goulburn to Cooma	130 40	1,462,361	51,183	27,495	25,464	36,631	29,118	42,047	47,525
Murrumburrah to Blayney..	110 63	1,143,249	40,014	31,709	32,667	31,168	30,487	40,555	42,172
Orange to Molong, Parkes, and Forbes	95 49	717,225	25,103	18,871	18,569	39,974	41,473	4,000	2,162
Blacktown to Richmond ...	16 12	197,506	8,279	8,278	8,743	11,483	11,719	5,074	5,256
Tamworth to Armidale ...	76 76	1,214,546	47,511	23,203	24,578	42,281	38,123	28,433	34,207
Armidale to Jennings ...	132 42 ³ / ₄	1,539,946	58,800	34,419	33,891	36,853	32,027	56,366	62,819
Hornsby to Milson's Point	13 27 ¹ / ₂	616,904	22,508	14,534	12,927	22,440	19,321	14,602	14,721
Sydney to Kiama	71 52 ¹ / ₂	2,185,744	75,415	105,203	104,883	142,987	146,251	37,631	33,909
Kiama to Nowra	22 43 ¹ / ₂	380,794	13,333	5,127	5,132	5,956	6,478	12,504	11,974
Lismore to Murwillumbah...	63 57	920,717	32,274	6,831	5,179	10,707	9,214	28,398	28,152
Sydenham to Belmore	5 3 ¹ / ₂	201,983	7,041	4,829	4,643	3,947	3,727	7,923	8,119
Culcairn to Corowa	47 39	232,752	8,188	3,361	3,435	4,226	4,540	7,323	7,118
Nyngan to Cobar	81 27 ¹ / ₂	324,334	11,642	9,927	10,436	20,177	18,961	1,392	2,885
Cootamundra to Temora ...	38 69	192,761	7,184	4,986	5,044	8,651	10,034	3,519	2,159
	1,257 24	14,124,479	515,100	363,709	363,358	529,595	521,423	349,214	357,093

In the aggregate these lines show a slight improvement; but the loss incurred has a serious effect upon the net result of the working of the system as a whole.

ACCOMMODATION FOR THE TRAFFIC AND CONDITION OF LINES AND ROLLING STOCK.

The passenger and goods rolling stock have been maintained in good order and increased.

The 1st class corridor cars referred to in our last report have been in traffic since October, and are much appreciated.

Similar cars of the 2nd class are now in course of construction. These will be placed upon the Southern express, and the train will then be a vestibule corridor train throughout.

Various additions have been made to the rolling-stock, included in which are six composite sleeping carriages, six 2nd class lavatory carriages, and eighteen suburban cars.

The expenditure in the renewal and repairs of engines, carriages, and waggons has been increased by £5,294 over last year, which showed an increase of £36,829 on the preceding year.

Among the renewals are nine new powerful goods engines and twelve suburban cars.

A new foundry has been constructed in connection with the Eveleigh workshops, and the building formerly used for the purpose has been converted into an addition to the Boiler-shop. Contracts have also been let for building a new Erecting-shop.

To meet the requirements of the large expansion of the grain traffic, and also the probable general increase of business, orders are about to be placed for ten additional powerful goods engines and four hundred goods waggons, half of the latter will be built in the railway workshops and the balance by contract.

The permanent way has been maintained in a satisfactory condition, and the expenditure in painting and renovating stations and buildings has been larger than usual.

The station and refreshment rooms at Newcastle have at considerable cost been much improved and enlarged, and the expenditure of a large sum in the further improvement of the yard arrangements and approaches has recently been authorised.

Important and extensive alterations and additions have been made at the Hamilton-Bullock Island Junction, which will facilitate the working of the coal traffic at Newcastle.

Complete relaying, also rerailing, resleeping, and lifting and ballasting have been proceeded with in a satisfactory manner.

A portion of the Wagga Wagga viaduct has been replaced by a steel structure, and the work will be steadily continued to completion.

Two important timber bridges have been wholly renewed in steel, and extensive repairs have been made to timber bridges throughout the lines.

As in the past, many works fairly chargeable to capital have been carried out and debited to working expenses.

During the recent inspection of the lines various works were authorised to meet traffic requirements.

IMPROVEMENT OF GRADES AND CURVES.

In connection with the improvement of the Main Western Line over the Blue Mountains, the line between Mount Victoria and Blackheath has been duplicated, and the grades improved in both directions.

Improvements in the grades between Blayney and Mullion Creek have been completed.

On the Southern Line similar work has been done in the vicinity of Exeter and Frampton, between Jindalee and Cootamundra, and Bethungra and Illabo. On the South-Western Line, between Junee and Narrandera, a considerable reduction in the grade is almost completed.

The grades on the Northern Line are also receiving attention. Those at Woy Woy and Carlingford have been cased, and work is in progress between Wyong and Morrisett, and Waratah and East Maitland.

The work of improving grades will be continued where the outlay will produce a profitable return.

These works are carried out by bodies of workmen under the immediate control of the Commissioners' officers.

RESULTS OF THE WORKING.

RAILWAYS.

Year ended 30 June, 1898, compared with 1897 and 1888.

PARTICULARS.	1898.	1897.	1888.
Total spent in construction and equipment	£37,719,402	£37,369,205	£27,722,748
Total Debentures finally paid off	£1,902,975	£1,696,675	£1,017,875
Total cost per mile open for traffic (including Workshops, Rolling Stock, &c., &c.)	£14,015	£14,157	£13,114
Total miles open for traffic	2,691½	2,639½	2,114
Average miles opened for the year	2,659	2,575½	2,044
Gross revenue	£3,026,748	£3,014,742	£2,295,124
Working expenses	£1,614,605	£1,601,218	£1,530,551
NET PROFIT ON WORKING (After paying Working Expenses).	£1,412,143	£1,413,524	£764,573
PERCENTAGE OF WORKING EXPENSES TO REVENUE	53·34	53·11	66·69
Earnings per average mile open	£1,138	£1,171	£1,123
Working expenses per average mile open	£607	£622	£749
NET RETURN PER AVERAGE MILE OPEN	£531	£549	£374
Gross earnings per train mile	s. d. 7 3	s. d. 7 5	s. d. 6 10¼
Working expenses per train mile	3 10½	3 11½	4 7
NET PROFIT PER TRAIN MILE (After paying Working Expenses).	3 4¼	3 5¼	2 3¼
PERCENTAGE OF PROFIT TO CAPITAL INVESTED	£ s. d. 3 15 0	£ s. d. 3 15 11	£ s. d. 2 17 0
Number of passenger journeys	23,233,206	22,672,924	15,174,115
Goods tonnage	4,463,728	4,375,584	3,331,671
Live-stock tonnage	166,836	191,457	68,101
Train mileage... ..	8,340,338	8,130,405	6,689,313

TRAMWAYS.

On the 30th June, 1897, 62½ miles were open for traffic, and on the 25th of April last the Electric Line from Willoughby Road to Victoria Avenue, Willoughby, a distance of 2 miles 45 chains, was opened, making a total of 65 miles of line in use.

The working of the whole of the Tramways for the year resulted in an increase of revenue of £7,176; the working expenses increased by £10,260, which was almost wholly caused by the increased cost of fuel.

The cost of the lines open for traffic upon which interest has to be paid is £1,478,251.

The return upon the capital invested is £3 14s. 9d. per cent.

The table on the following page will give further details regarding the year's operations.

CONDITION OF EXISTING LINES.

The lines are in good order. A fair proportion of relaying has been done, which in the case of Elizabeth-street necessitated the expensive work of repaving portion of the street.

ACCOMMODATION FOR THE TRAFFIC.

The rolling stock has been well maintained and increased. The Marrickville line from Enmore to Edinburgh Road has been duplicated.

Considerable reductions have been made in the fares, and improved services introduced in various directions.

Further improvement of services cannot, however, be attempted until a considerable amount of duplication of the line is carried out, the congested traffic in Elizabeth-street reduced, and some relief in connection with shunting at the Bridge-street Terminus obtained. The duplication work is under consideration, and will be carried out gradually. The difficulties in Elizabeth-street and the Bridge-street Yard will, to a limited extent, be removed by the opening of the George-street electric tramway about the beginning of next year, but the public requirements and those of satisfactory working can only be fully met when the conversion of the present steam system into an electrical system is carried out.

It is hoped that simultaneously with the opening of the George-street tram line the North Shore lines, which are now partly cable and partly electric, will be wholly operated by the latter power.

RESULTS OF THE WORKING.

TRAMWAYS—ALL LINES.

Year ended 30 June, 1898, compared with 1897 and 1888.

PARTICULARS.	1898.	1897.	1888.
Total spent on construction and equipment	£1,478,251	£1,452,670	£877,244
Total cost per mile open	£22,742	£23,243	£22,786
Total miles open for traffic	65	62½	38½
Gross revenue	£313,871	£306,695	£236,519
Working expenses	£259,141	£248,881	£219,196
NET PROFIT (After paying Working Expenses) ...	£54,730	£57,814	£17,323
PERCENTAGE OF WORKING EXPENSES TO REVENUE	82'56	81'15	92'67
Earnings per average mile open	£4,982	£4,987	£6,224
Working expenses per average mile open	£4,113	£4,047	£5,768
Gross earnings per tram mile	1/11½	1/11½	3/4½
Working expenses per tram mile	1/7½	1/7½	3/1½
NET PROFIT PER TRAM MILE	4	4½	3
PERCENTAGE OF PROFIT TO CAPITAL INVESTED	£ s. d. 3 14 9	£ s. d. 3 19 9	£ s. d. 1 19 7
Number of passenger fares collected	74,076,152	72,343,812	53,957,395
Tram mileage... ..	3,252,608	3,088,138	1,888,786

Further information regarding the working of the various sections will be found as an Appendix, page 38.

We have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servants,

CHARLES OLIVER,
Chief Commissioner.

W. M. FEHON,
Commissioner.

DAVID KIRKCALDIE,
Commissioner.

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APPENDIX I.

Chief Mechanical Engineer's Report.

Sir,

Eveleigh, 20 July, 1898.

I have the honor to report, for the information of the Commissioners, that the rolling-stock, the machinery, pumping plant, and water supplies of the railways have been maintained in efficient working condition.

Locomotives.

Three tender engines—Nos. 84, 88, and 89—were rebuilt and converted into tank engines for suburban line work, and 10 goods engines, for main line service, were rebuilt with enlarged boilers. Three hundred and fifty-seven engines have been repaired during the year—186 of them at Eveleigh, 51 at Newcastle, and the remaining 120 at smaller depôts. Two hundred and thirty-eight of them received heavy repairs, and the remaining 119 had general repairs of a lighter character. Four boilers for “Q” class engines were built in the Eveleigh shops, and 13 new boilers taken from store and fitted to locomotives. Three hundred and thirty-three boilers were overhauled during the year—196 of them at Eveleigh, 47 at Newcastle, and the remaining 90 at smaller depôts. One hundred and eighty-four of them were internally examined, heavily repaired, refilled with tubes, and returned to locomotives. Thirty-seven stationary boilers were overhauled; 7 of them received heavy repairs.

Carriages and Waggon.

Ninety-seven vehicles were rebuilt as replacements in the Eveleigh shops, and 1 at Newcastle, during the year. Thirteen hundred and eighty-eight passenger vehicles were repaired; 1,110 of them at Eveleigh, and the remaining 278 at Newcastle. Two hundred and ninety-two of these vehicles received heavy repairs, and the remaining 1,096 had general repairs of a lighter character. Forty-two wagons of the open bogie type, class “G”, were rebuilt, strengthened, and converted into bogie bolster wagons, class “F”. Five thousand six hundred and fifty-three wagons and vans passed through the Eveleigh and Newcastle shops during the year, of which 1,864 were heavily repaired.

Two thousand two hundred and ninety-three axle-boxes of defective designs were abandoned and replaced by standard boxes, charged to working expenses.

New Stock charged to Capital Account.

Eighteen suburban cars, 3 first-class corridor cars, 6 second-class lavatory carriages, and 6 composite lavatory sleeping carriages were added to the coaching stock during the year. The corridor carriages were built in the Eveleigh shops, and the remainder by contractors. Twenty-six merchandise vehicles were built in the Eveleigh shops as additions to goods' stock. The cost of these vehicles, charged to Capital Account, is £50,365.

New Stock charged to Working Expenses.

Six powerful goods engines, Nos. 534, 535, 536, 537, 542, and 543, have been charged against working expenses during the year. Their collective tractive power equals 172,662 lb., and they replace 10 old engines of the least useful type, which have an aggregate tractive force of 141,876 lb.

Twelve new bogie suburban cars were built by contractors, having a total floor area of 4,200 square feet, and replace 21 old carriages with a floor area of 3,998 square feet. Fifty-three new goods vehicles, 15 of them being large bogie trucks of 24 tons carrying capacity, and 27 bogie live-stock vehicles, were built in the Eveleigh shops, and 20 goods brake-vans were obtained from contractors.

£52,357 were charged against the working expenses for the year on account of the above engines and vehicles.

The following statement shows the relative mileage executed and the working cost of the Locomotive Branch for the two years ending June, 1897 and 1898:—

	1898.	1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
Train miles	8,340,338	8,130,405	209,933	.....
Engine miles	11,908,461	11,614,964	293,497	.....
Percentage of unproductive miles on train miles..	42.78	42.86	.....	0.08
Revenue	£3,026,748	£3,014,742	£12,006	.....
Expenditure	£736,616	£727,140	£9,476	.....
Do in per cent. to revenue	24.34	24.12	0.22	.....
Cost in pence per train mile	21.197	21.464	.....	0.267
Do engine mile... ..	14.846	15.025	.....	0.179

To facilitate the boiler-shop work at Eveleigh a new foundry has been constructed during the year—300 feet by 60 feet—thus liberating the old foundry, and doubling the size of the boiler-shop; and contracts have been let for the construction of the new erecting shop which was asked for in my last year's report. It is anticipated that these additional facilities, when in full swing, will add greatly to the convenience of repairs, and avoid expenditure which, without them, must have continued and increased.

The attached statement shows the relative position of the locomotive, carriage, and wagon stock on 30th June, 1897 and 1898.

I have, &c.,

W. THOW,

Chief Mechanical Engineer.

The Secretary to the Railway Commissioners.

APPENDIX II.

RAILWAYS.—RETURN OF WORKING ROLLING STOCK, 30TH JUNE, 1898.

	LOCOMOTIVES.		COACHING.							MERCHANDISE.						DEPART- MENTAL STOCK.	TOTAL.
	Engines.	Tenders.	Special and Sleeping Cars.	First Class.	Composites.	Second Class.	Brake-vans.	Horse-boxes, Carriage- trucks, &c.	Total.	Goods open.	Goods covered.	Meat Trucks.	Live Stock Trucks.	Brake-vans.	Total.	Loco. Coal Railway, &c., Wagons.	
Stock, 30th June, 1897...	502	420	41	178	84	241	181	301	1,026	7,356	627	111	1,156	205	9,455	1,048	10,503
Stock, 30th June, 1898...	494	419	49	172	84	261	181	303	1,050	7,357	627	110	1,130	205	9,429	1,041	10,470

A. Nine powerful goods engines (3 of which were paid for out of Working Expenses last year) with a tractive power of 256,295 lb., replace 17 small type engines, with an aggregate tractive power of 214,378 lb.; 10 goods tender engines have been fitted with new boilers and rebuilt, and 3 passenger tender engines have been converted into suburban tank, fitted with new boilers, and rebuilt.

B. Three new corridor cars, 6 compo. lavatory, 6 second-class lavatory express, and 18 (first and second) suburban bogie carriages have been added to stock. Twelve suburban bogie carriages (first and second class), having a floor area of 4,200 square feet, replace 20 eight and six wheel radial stock and 1 sleeping car—having an area of 3,993 square feet; 9 (first and second class) suburban bogie cars and 1 carriage truck have been rebuilt; 12 carriages have been converted.

C. Fourteen wagons, with coal-boxes fitted to same, 11 open bogies, and 1 gas truck, have been added to stock; 220 goods vehicles have been rebuilt or replaced during the year—88 were rebuilt, and 132 were replaced by 73 of larger capacity.

APPENDIX III.

REPORT on the Condition of Permanent-way and Works for the year ending
30th June, 1898.

Sir, Office of Engineer-in-Chief for Existing Lines, 9 July, 1898.

In submitting for the information of the Commissioners the annual statement of the working of the Permanent-way Branch, I have the honor to report that the permanent-way, works, and buildings have been maintained in a thoroughly efficient state during the past year.

Relaying, Reballasting, &c.

During this period, 47 miles 32 chains have been completely relaid, rerailed, or resleepered; 170 miles 52 chains have been lifted and ballasted; and 76 miles 66 chains of fencing have been renewed, and 23 miles 7 chains of new fencing have been erected in connection with deviation works.

25,661 new sleepers and 33,003 good sleepers, recovered in relaying, have been used for partial resleepering and repairs, thereby adding a total of 27 miles to the length of road put into perfect condition during the year.

Special attention has been given to station and other buildings, a considerable expenditure having been incurred in their renovation by painting, &c. A number of works, adding to the accommodation for traffic, &c., which might fairly be charged to Capital, have been carried out and debited to Working Expenses.

Extensive repairs have been made on the timber bridges throughout the whole of the lines, and of the Wagga Wagga viaduct 76 spans have been replaced by steel superstructure and trestles on concrete foundations, and 59 spans additional are ready for erection. The bridge over Ironbark Creek, which consisted of three spans of 26 feet, and which has already been renewed twice through the ravages of the *teredo navalis*, has been replaced by a steel superstructure of 110 feet span on concrete abutments resting on piles driven to a depth of 45 feet. The bridge over Styx Creek carries three lines of rails, and was considerably damaged by a flood. It has been replaced by one span of 71 feet, in steel, on concrete abutments. The whole of these renewals have been charged to Working Expenses and were carried out without interfering with the traffic.

Improvement of Grades and Curves.

The Main Western line has been duplicated between Mount Victoria and Blackheath, the grade of the old line greatly improved, and deviations to improve the grade between Blayney and Orange and between Orange and Mullion Creek have been completed. On the Southern Line similar improvements have been carried out in the vicinity of Exeter and Frampton, between Jindalee and Cootamundra, and between Bethungra and Illabo; while on the South-western Line by alterations of a similar character the ruling gradient between Junee and Narrandera has been reduced to 1 in 80, with the exception of a length near Marrar, which is nearly finished. On the Northern Line heavy grades have been cased at Woy Woy and Carlingford, and similar works are in progress between Wyong and Morrisett and between Waratah and East Maitland.

Surveys have been completed and plans prepared for other grade improvements on the Southern and Northern Lines, and these will, as in the case of others completed during the year, be carried out departmentally.

Extensions opened.

The following extensions (pioneer lines) have been opened for traffic during the year:—

Nevertire to Warren	...	12 miles	33 $\frac{1}{4}$ chains,	on 1st January.
Bogan Gate to Condobolin	39	„	22 $\frac{1}{2}$ „	on 1st March.

Sidings laid in and extended... .. 5 miles 52 chains.

	New.	Second-hand.	Total.
Sleepers used in new sidings	1,222	10,233	11,455
Sleepers used in main lines—			
Relaying and resleepering	86,399	4,967	91,366
Repairs and respacing	25,661	33,003	58,664
Deviations to improve grades and curves	31,549	8,653	40,202
Total	143,609	46,623	190,232

	Blue-metal and other hard stone.	Sandstone and Gravel.	Total.
Ballast used in main lines—	Cubic yards.	Cubic yards.	Cubic yards.
For relaying	4,272	.....	4,272
For ordinary ballasting	48,884	20,764	69,648
For deviations to improve grades and curves	39,143	.....	39,143
Total	92,299	20,764	113,063

Length of new fencing erected... .. 99 miles 73 chains

Length of fences wired 40 chains.

Culverts and flood-openings constructed and extended 255 s. ft. additional waterway.

I have, &c.,

THOMAS R. FIRTH,
Engineer-in-Chief for Existing Lines.

The Secretary to the Railway Commissioners.

APPENDIX IV.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT OF THE EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE FOR YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1898, WITH CORRESPONDING PERIOD IN 1897.

DR.		RAILWAYS.				CR.	
EXPENDITURE.	YEAR ENDED JUNE 30,	CORRESPONDING PERIOD IN	REVENUE.		YEAR ENDED JUNE 30,	CORRESPONDING PERIOD IN	
	1898.	1897.			1898.	1897.	
	£	£			£	£	
To MAINTENANCE OF WAY, WORKS, AND STATIONS	353,969	358,057	BY PASSENGERS—				
LOCOMOTIVE WORKING	378,504	374,322		1898. 1897.			
ENGINE REPAIRS AND RENEWALS	218,951	199,933		No. No.			
CARRIAGE AND WAGGON REPAIRS AND RENEWALS	139,161	152,885		FIRST CLASS TICKETS	254,534	257,734	
TRAFFIC EXPENSES	455,545	444,857		2,092,194 2,267,854	560,864	546,158	
COMPENSATION—PASSENGERS	1,250	1,284		1,277,186 11,049,046	54,359	49,114	
Do GOODS	2,048	1,610		0,848 8,869	33,190	30,145	
GRATUITIES TO WIDOWS AND CHILDREN OF EMPLOYEES AND PAYMENTS ON ACCOUNT OF PENSION ALLOWANCES	4,504	5,203		32,779 31,189	27,783	26,103	
FIRE INSURANCE FUND	1,250	1,250		Do WORKMAN'S WEEKLY TICKETS	13,293	12,938	
GENERAL EXPENSES	59,425	61,817		357,764 333,354	92,256	87,024	
				HORSES, CARRIAGES, AND DOGS	63,380	62,078	
				PARCELS AND CLOAK ROOM	3,182	3,287	
				MAILS			
				MISCELLANEOUS			
				TOTAL COACHING	11,02,821	1,074,581	
	1,614,605	1,601,218		GENERAL MERCHANDISE	1,055,300	978,939	
				WOOL	283,171	342,104	
				LIVE STOCK	320,532	372,269	
				MINERALS—COAL AND COKE	192,842	187,786	
				MINERALS—OTHER THAN COAL	40,976	26,184	
				MISCELLANEOUS	7,107	8,195	
				TOTAL GOODS	1,899,928	1,915,477	
				GENERAL MISCELLANEOUS	23,999	24,684	
				GRAND TOTAL	3,026,748	3,014,742	
BALANCE, NET RETURN AFTER PAYING WORKING EXPENSES	£ 1,412,143	1,413,524					
GRAND TOTAL	£ 3,026,748	3,014,742					

The Expenditure in 1898 includes £14,478 Capital Works, and in 1897, £15,210.

THOMAS HALL,
Chief Accountant.

APPENDIX V.
SCHEDULES under **WORKING EXPENSES** for the Year ended the 30th June, 1898, with corresponding period in 1897.
RAILWAYS.

BRANCHES.	Year ended June 30, 1898.	Correspond- ing period in 1897.	BRANCHES.	Year ended June 30, 1898.	Corresponding period in 1897.
Maintenance of Way and Works.			Traffic Expenses.		
Salaries, &c., of engineers, surveyors, draftsmen, clerks, inspectors, foremen, and timekeepers	29,123	28,653	Chief Traffic Manager, Superintendents, and office staff	20,446	20,714
Maintenance and renewals of permanent way, viz.:—	218,873	215,582	Station-masters, night officers, relieving and supervising staff	81,164	80,054
{ Wages	48,078	61,406	Station guards, and coaching clerks	22,332	22,481
{ Materials			Pointsmen, signalmen, and gatekeepers	41,812	40,764
Repairs and improvements, &c., of stations, buildings, bridges, signals, and other works	35,675	33,514	Guards	56,291	54,116
{ Wages	19,517	15,769	Porters, labourers, &c.	140,707	135,832
{ Materials	2,667	3,043	Stores for stations	27,984	27,017
Sundries			Advertising, stationery, printing, &c.	13,165	11,739
1898. 1897.			Travelling and incidental	3,089	3,110
{ Quadruple	8½	8½	Sundries	43,222	43,780
{ Double	154½	154½	{ Wages	8,690	3,175
{ Single	2,528½	2,476½	{ Materials	2,233	2,075
Lines open and maintained—	2,691½	2,639½	carriages and wagons	£ 455,545	£ 441,857
£ 353,969	358,057		Compensation.		
Locomotive Working.			For personal injury—Passengers	1,253	1,284
Chief Mechanical Engineer, Superintendents, officers, and clerks	14,385	14,544	For damage to and loss of goods	2,016	1,610
Foremen and timekeepers	10,397	10,591	£ 3,269	2,894	
Drivers and firemen	180,090	176,516	Gratuities to widows and children of employees who have met with accident, also gratuities to staff on retirement and payments to Civil Service Fund on account of Pension allowances	4,504	5,203
Cleaners, coalmen, and labourers	54,373	54,741	Fire Insurance Fund	£ 1,250	£ 1,250
Stores for cleaners	3,100	2,956	General Expenses.		
Sundries	12,529	12,858	Commissioners, Secretary and office staff	8,146	9,217
Coal, coke, and wood	68,977	70,422	Account branch	10,136	10,007
Water	24,861	22,985	Audit branch	8,721	8,793
Oil, tallow, and waste	9,778	8,709	Stores branch	6,081	6,351
£ 378,504	374,322		Telegraph branch	15,990	15,649
Engine Repairs and Renewals.			Sundries	10,351	11,803
Repairs and renewals of engines	141,241	139,097	£ 59,425	61,817	
{ Wages	77,710	60,836	GRAND TOTAL		
{ Materials			£ 1,614,605	1,601,218	
£ 218,951	199,933				
Carriage and Waggon Repairs and Renewals.					
Coaching stock repairs and renewals	35,055	40,393			
{ Wages	22,911	36,978			
{ Materials					
Goods stock repairs and renewals	50,029	48,708			
{ Wages	31,166	26,806			
{ Materials					
£ 139,161	152,885				

The Working Expenses include £14,478 in 1898 and £15,210 in 1897 for additional works which might very properly have been charged to Capital.

THOMAS HALL,
Chief Accountant.

APPENDIX VI.

COMPARATIVE Analysis of Revenue and Expenditure for the years ended 30 June, 1898 and 1897.

Particulars.	Year ended 30 June, 1898.				Year ended 30 June, 1897.			
	Miles.				Miles.			
	Average miles open for traffic ... 2,659				Average miles open for traffic ... 2,575½			
	Train mileage—				Train mileage—			
	Passenger ... 4,079,970				Passenger ... 3,886,020			
	Goods ... 4,260,368				Goods ... 4,244,385			
	Total mileage ... 8,340,338				Total mileage ... 8,130,405			
	Numbers or Tonnage.	Revenue.	Per mile open.	Per train miles	Numbers or Tonnage	Revenue.	Per mile open.	Per train mile.
REVENUE.								
	Numbers.	£	£	d.	Numbers.	£	£	d.
First-class Passengers	2,092,194	254,534	95·7	14·97	2,267,854	257,734	100·1	15·92
Second-class do	11,277,186	560,864	210·9	32·99	11,049,046	546,168	212·1	33·73
Season Tickets, 1st class	8,848	54,359	20·5	3·20	8,869	49,114	19·1	3·04
Do 2nd class	32,779	33,190	12·5	1·95	31,189	30,146	11·7	1·86
Workmen's Weekly Tickets, 2nd class	357,764	27,783	10·5	1·63	333,364	26,103	10·1	1·61
Horses, carriages, and dogs		13,293	5·0	0·78		12,938	5·0	0·80
Cloak-room and parcels		92,256	34·7	5·43		87,024	33·8	5·38
Mails		63,380	23·8	3·73		62,078	24·1	3·83
Miscellaneous		3,162	1·2	0·19		3,287	1·3	0·20
Total, coaching		1,102,821	414·8	64·87		1,074,581	417·3	66·37
	Tons.	£	£	d.	Tons.	£	£	d.
General Merchandise	1,358,720	1,055,300	396·9	59·45	1,337,396	978,039	380·1	55·36
Wool	98,608	233,171	106·5	15·95	111,639	342,104	132·8	19·34
Live stock	166,836	320,532	120·5	18·06	191,457	372,260	144·6	21·05
Minerals—Coal and Coke	2,818,383	192,842	72·5	10·86	2,832,055	187,736	72·9	10·62
Minerals, other than coal	168,017	40,976	15·4	2·31	94,494	26,184	10·2	1·48
Miscellaneous		7,107	2·7	0·40		8,195	3·2	0·46
Total, goods	4,630,564	1,899,928	714·5	107·03	4,567,041	1,915,477	743·8	108·31
Sundries, special and miscellaneous		23,999	9·0	0·69		24,634	9·6	0·73
Total Revenue		3,026,748	1,138·3	87·10		3,014,742	1,170·7	88·99
EXPENDITURE.								
	Expenditure.	Per mile open.	Per train mile.	Percent. to Revenue.	Expenditure.	Per mile open.	Per train mile.	Percent. to Revenue.
WORKING EXPENSES.								
	£	£	£	d.	£	£	£	d.
Maintenance of way, works, and stations	353,969	133·1	10·18	11·09	358,057	139·0	10·57	11·88
Locomotive working	378,504	142·3	10·89	12·51	374,322	145·4	11·05	12·42
Engine repairs and renewals	218,951	82·4	6·30	7·23	199,933	77·6	5·90	6·63
Carriage and waggon repairs and renewals	139,161	53·3	4·00	4·60	152,885	59·4	4·51	5·07
Traffic expenses	455,545	171·3	13·11	15·05	444,857	172·7	13·13	14·76
Compensation—Passenger	1,250	0·5	0·04	0·04	1,284	0·5	0·04	0·04
Do Goods	2,046	0·8	0·06	0·07	1,610	0·6	0·05	0·05
Gratuities to widows and children of employes, and payment on account of Pension Allowance	4,504	1·7	0·13	0·15	5,203	2·0	0·15	0·17
Fire Insurance Fund	1,250	0·5	0·01	0·04	1,250	0·5	0·04	0·04
General expenses	59,425	22·3	1·71	1·96	61,817	24·0	1·82	2·05
Total expenditure	1,614,605	607·2	46·46	53·34	1,601,218	621·7	47·26	53·11
Net profit	1,412,143	531·1	40·64	.....	1,413,524	549·0	41·73	.....
EXPENDITURE PERCENTAGE TO GROSS REVENUE,					EXPENDITURE PERCENTAGE TO GROSS REVENUE,			
53·34					53·11			

The Expenditure includes Capital Works charged to Working Expenses.

Percentage of Expenditure in each Division.

Divisions of Expenditure.	Year ended 30 June, 1898.	Year ended 30 June, 1897.
	%	%
Maintenance of Way, Works, and Station	21·92	22·36
Locomotive working	23·44	23·38
Engine repairs and renewals	13·56	12·49
Carriage and Waggon repairs and renewals	8·62	9·55
Traffic Expenses	28·21	27·78
Compensation (Passengers)	0·08	0·08
Do (Goods)	0·13	0·10
Gratuities to Widows and Children of Employes, and payment on account of Pension Allowance	0·28	0·32
Fire Insurance Fund	0·08	0·08
General Expenses	3·68	3·86
	100·00	100·00

APPENDIX VII.

RETURN showing the Number of Passengers, Tonnage of Goods, Train Mileage, Earnings, Working Expenses, Percentage of Working Expenses to Gross Earnings, Net Earnings, Capital spent on Lines open, and Interest on Capital Invested each year, from 1855 to 1898, inclusive.

Year.	Length of Line.	Number of Passengers.	Tonnage of Goods and Live Stock.	Train Mileage.	Earnings from Coaching Traffic.	Earnings from Goods Traffic.	Total Earnings.	Working Expenses.	Earnings per Train Mile.	Working Expenses per Train Mile.	Percentage of Working expenses to Gross Earnings.	Net Earnings.	Total Capital expended on Lines open.	Interest on Capital Invested.
	Miles.	No.	Tons.	No.	£	£	£	£	d.	d.	%	£	£	%
1855	14	93,846	140	14,107	9,093	156	9,249	5,959	167.34	101.37	64.43	3,290	515,347	.63
1856	23	350,724	2,469	68,371	29,526	2,757	32,283	21,788	113.32	76.48	67.49	10,495	683,217	1.53
1857	40	329,019	20,847	107,822	34,970	8,417	43,387	31,337	96.58	69.75	72.23	12,050	1,023,838	1.17
1858	65	376,492	33,385	141,495	45,858	16,451	62,309	43,928	105.69	74.51	70.50	18,381	1,231,867	1.49
1859	55	425,877	43,020	147,618	46,502	15,258	61,760	47,598	100.41	77.38	77.07	14,162	1,278,416	1.10
1860	70	551,044	55,394	174,249	45,428	16,841	62,269	50,427	93.37	67.52	80.93	11,842	1,422,672	.83
1861	73	595,591	101,130	214,881	49,637	25,367	75,004	61,187	83.77	68.34	81.58	13,817	1,536,032	.89
1862	97	642,431	205,139	274,565	62,096	41,775	103,871	68,725	90.79	60.07	66.16	35,146	1,907,807	1.84
1863	124	627,164	218,535	315,177	71,297	52,644	123,941	96,867	94.38	73.76	78.16	27,074	2,466,950	1.09
1864	143	693,174	379,661	415,422	81,487	66,167	147,654	103,715	85.30	59.92	70.24	43,939	2,631,790	1.66
1865	143	751,587	416,707	483,446	92,934	73,048	166,032	108,926	82.42	54.07	65.60	57,106	2,746,373	2.07
1866	143	668,330	500,937	490,475	85,636	82,800	168,535	106,230	82.49	51.99	63.64	62,305	2,786,094	2.23
1867	204	616,375	517,022	600,751	87,564	101,508	189,072	117,324	82.02	46.87	62.08	71,748	3,282,320	2.18
1868	247	714,563	596,514	768,529	99,408	124,951	224,359	144,201	70.06	45.03	64.29	80,158	4,060,950	1.97
1869	318	759,635	714,113	893,552	109,427	155,543	264,975	176,362	71.17	47.37	66.57	88,613	4,681,329	1.89
1870	339	776,707	766,523	901,139	117,854	189,288	307,142	206,003	81.81	54.86	67.08	101,189	5,566,092	1.81
1871	358	759,082	741,986	931,333	129,496	225,826	355,322	197,065	91.57	50.79	55.46	158,257	5,887,258	2.68
1872	398	733,910	825,360	1,036,255	164,862	260,127	424,989	207,918	98.43	48.15	48.92	217,071	6,388,727	3.39
1873	403	875,602	923,738	1,109,879	178,216	306,020	484,236	238,035	104.71	51.47	49.16	246,201	6,739,918	3.65
1874	403	1,035,501	1,070,938	1,249,233	188,595	347,930	536,575	257,703	103.09	49.51	48.03	278,872	6,844,546	4.07
1875	473	1,288,225	1,171,354	1,472,204	205,941	408,707	614,648	296,174	100.20	48.28	48.18	318,474	7,245,379	4.39
1876	509	1,727,730	1,244,131	1,688,964	233,870	459,355	693,225	389,400	98.50	48.22	48.96	353,819	7,990,001	4.42
1877	598	2,957,144	1,430,041	2,106,802	271,588	544,332	815,920	418,985	92.95	47.73	51.35	396,935	8,883,177	4.46
1878	683	3,705,733	1,625,886	2,655,176	306,308	596,681	902,989	536,988	81.62	48.54	59.47	366,001	9,784,645	3.74
1879	734	4,317,864	1,720,815	2,932,463	319,950	632,416	952,366	604,721	77.94	49.49	63.49	347,645	10,406,495	3.34
1880	819	5,410,138	1,712,971	3,239,462	390,149	770,863	1,161,017	647,719	86.02	47.99	55.79	513,298	11,778,819	4.35
1881	995	6,907,312	2,033,850	3,923,929	488,675	955,551	1,444,226	739,334	83.33	45.16	51.12	705,892	13,301,597	5.30
1882	1,268	8,984,313	2,619,427	4,851,157	587,825	1,111,038	1,698,863	934,635	84.05	46.24	55.02	764,228	15,843,616	5.13
1883	1,320	10,272,037	2,864,566	5,937,261	661,751	1,263,713	1,931,464	1,177,788	78.07	47.61	60.97	753,676	16,905,014	4.48
1884	1,618	11,253,109	3,124,425	6,403,041	745,665	1,340,572	2,086,237	1,301,259	78.19	48.77	62.37	784,978	20,080,138	4.20
1885	1,732	13,506,346	3,273,001	6,633,399	830,904	1,343,464	2,174,368	1,458,153	78.61	52.72	67.06	716,215	21,831,276	3.37
1886	1,859	14,881,604	3,218,532	6,479,265	849,253	1,310,817	2,160,070	1,492,992	80.01	55.30	69.12	667,078	24,071,454	2.90
1887	2,036	14,451,303	3,339,253	6,472,107	850,499	1,357,796	2,208,295	1,457,766	81.88	54.05	66.01	750,535	26,532,122	2.96
1887-88	2,114	15,174,115	3,399,772	6,689,313	918,975	1,376,149	2,295,124	1,530,551	82.31	54.91	66.60	764,573	27,722,748	2.85
1888-89	2,171	16,096,223	3,495,539	7,641,769	1,025,601	1,512,876	2,538,477	1,634,602	79.72	51.34	64.39	903,875	29,539,167	3.14
1889-90	2,182	17,071,945	3,783,950	8,003,826	1,059,791	1,573,295	2,633,086	1,665,835	78.90	49.91	63.26	967,251	30,555,123	3.17
1890-91	2,182	19,037,760	3,802,349	8,410,421	1,177,037	1,707,384	2,974,421	1,831,371	84.88	52.26	61.57	1,148,050	31,768,617	3.59
1891-92	2,185	19,918,916	4,296,713	8,356,096	1,189,231	1,918,065	3,107,296	1,914,252	89.25	54.98	61.60	1,193,044	33,312,608	3.58
1892-93	2,351	19,932,703	3,773,843	7,505,310	1,115,042	1,812,014	2,927,056	1,738,516	93.60	55.59	59.39	1,188,540	34,657,571	3.48
1893-94	2,501	19,265,732	3,493,919	7,169,785	1,047,029	1,766,512	2,813,541	1,591,842	94.18	53.29	56.58	1,221,699	35,855,271	3.46
1894-95	2,531	19,725,418	4,075,093	7,594,281	1,022,901	1,855,303	2,878,204	1,567,589	90.96	49.54	54.46	1,310,615	36,611,866	3.60
1895-96	2,531	21,005,046	3,953,575	7,719,618	1,043,922	1,776,495	2,820,417	1,551,888	87.68	48.24	55.02	1,268,529	36,852,194	3.44
1896-97	2,639	22,672,924	4,567,041	8,130,405	1,098,696	1,916,046	3,014,742	1,601,218	88.99	47.26	53.11	1,413,524	37,369,205	3.79
1897-98	2,691	23,233,206	4,630,564	8,340,338	1,126,257	1,900,491	3,026,748	1,614,605	87.10	46.46	53.34	1,412,143	37,719,402	3.75

The accounts were made up to the 31st December in each year up to 1887, since that time up to the 30th June in each year.

Camden and Sans Souci Tramways not included prior 1888 in this return.

APPENDIX VIII.

RETURN of the Total Amount paid for Wages on the different Branches of the Railways during the years ended 30th June, 1898 and 1897.

Branches.	1898.	1897.
RAILWAYS:—		
Maintenance Branch	£ 364,656	£ 362,611
Locomotive "	502,279	493,267
Traffic "	246,265	236,633
TOTAL	£ 1,113,190	1,092,511

NOTE.—Includes all wages paid by the Department, whether on Maintenance or New Works.

APPENDIX IX.

STATEMENT of the Staff employed on the Railways and Tramways of New South Wales in June, 1898, as compared with October, 1888.

Branch.	June, 1898.			October, 1888.		
	No. of Salaried Staff.	No. of Wages Staff.	Total Staff.	No. of Salaried Staff.	No. of Wages Staff.	Total Staff.
RAILWAYS.						
Commissioners' and Secretary's Office	15	4	19	40	8	48
Chief Accountant	39	1	40	46	2	48
Traffic Audit	59	1	60	66	1	67
Stores	25	46	71	29	79	108
Permanent-way	105	2,823	2,928	156	3,140	3,296
Locomotive	140 ^a	3,600	3,830	146	3,218	3,364
Traffic	750 ^b	2,533	3,283	773	2,341	3,114
Electrical	53 ^c	57	110	54	24	78
Interlocking	14	199	213	17	188	205
General	13	7	20	5	.....	5
	1,213	9,361	10,574	1,332	9,001	10,333
TRAMWAYS.						
Permanent-way	6	237	243	1	200	201
Locomotive	23	725	748	24	590	614
Traffic	22	300	412	14	201	215
Do Plattsburg	2	26	28	.....	19	19
Stores	3	1	4	4	7	11
General .....	.....	13	13	.....	.....	.....
	56	1,302	1,448	43	1,017	1,060
TOTAL, RAILWAYS AND TRAMWAYS ...	1,269	10,733	12,022	1,375	10,018	11,393

^a Includes 47 officers in charge of locomotive running sheds, and timekeepers.

^b Includes 79 officers for additional stations and crossing places, 23 night-officers transferred from wages to salary list. Of the remaining 648, 355 are officers and night-officers in charge of stations and sidings, and 164 are clerks employed at stations.

^c Includes 35 telegraph operators.

The Wages Staff does not include gatekeepers with free house only, as the information was not kept in 1888.

APPENDIX X.

RETURN of the Mileage of Suburban Passengers on All Lines of Railway during the years ended 30th June, 1898, 1897, and 1888.

DESCRIPTION.	1898.	1897.	1888.
NUMBER OF ORDINARY PASSENGERS	11,392,304	11,323,539	7,413,868
NUMBER OF WORKMEN'S JOURNEYS	4,293,168	4,000,248	1,738,284
NUMBER OF SEASON TICKET HOLDERS' JOURNEYS	4,973,572	4,827,560	3,227,760
TOTAL NUMBER OF PASSENGERS' JOURNEYS	20,659,044	20,151,347	12,379,912
NUMBER OF MILES TRAVELLED	118,653,210	115,059,631	70,172,793
AVERAGE MILEAGE PER PASSENGER	5'74	5'71	5'67
AMOUNT RECEIVED FROM PASSENGERS	£261,333	£264,392	£186,393
AVERAGE RECEIPT PER MILE PER PASSENGER	0'53	0'55	0'64

NOTE.—Suburban Lines include only distances within 22 miles of Sydney and Newcastle, Liverpool and Morpeth included.

APPENDIX XI.

STATEMENT showing cost of Additions to Stations, Buildings, Siding Accommodation, &c., Machinery and Rolling Stock, the cost of which was charged to Capital Account, during the year ended 30th June, 1898.

Additions to Stations, Buildings, &c.	Amount, £ 36,399
Rolling Stock and additional appliances, including continuous brakes.....	66,784
	£103,183

APPENDIX XII.

STATEMENT showing the length in miles of the different sections of the Railways of New South Wales to 30th June, 1898.

Date of opening.	From where opened.	To where opened.	Distance.	Date of opening.	From where opened.	To where opened.	Distance.
			m. c.				m. c.
25 Sept., 1855..	Sydney	Parramatta	14 22½	10 Mar., 1892..	Campbelltown ..	Camden	7 65
25 ,, 1855..	Redfern	Darling Harbour ..	1 42½	15 May, 1882..	Wallerawang	Capertee	22 35
26 ,, 1856..	Granville	Liverpool	8 64½	4 July, 1892..	Carrathool	Hay	34 57½
6 April, 1857..	Near Newcastle..	East Maitland	17 8	11 ,, 1892..	Gunnedah	Boggabri	24 36½
9 Mar., 1858..	Near Newcastle..	Newcastle	1 0	2 Aug., 1892..	Moonbi	Uralla	51 40½
17 May, 1858..	Liverpool	Campbelltown ..	11 66½	1 Oct., 1892..	Boggabri	Narrabri	31 50½
27 July, 1858..	East Maitland ..	West Maitland	10½	20 ,, 1892..	Dubbo	Nevertire	63 4
2 ,, 1860..	West Maitland ..	Lochinvar	6 10½	3 Feb., 1893..	Uralla	Armidale	14 64½
4 ,, 1860..	Parramatta	Blacktown	7 15	9 June, 1893..	Nevertire	Nyngan	36 1
12 Dec., 1861..	Blacktown	Rooty Hill	3 65	14 ,, 1893..	Albury	River Murray ..	1 41
24 Mar., 1862..	Lochinvar	Branxton	8 12½	3 Jan., 1894..	Joppa Junction..	Tarago	23 30
1 May, 1862..	Rooty Hill	South Creek	5 7	9 June, 1894..	Capertee	Kylstone	80 79
7 July, 1862..	South Creek	Penrith	4 11	10 Aug., 1894..	Armidale	Glen Innes	63 51½
1 Sept., 1862..	Campbelltown ..	Menangle	6 67½	2 Sept., 1894..	Nyngan	Byröck	78 10
7 May, 1863..	Branxton	Singleton	14 40½	10 ,, 1894..	Kylstone	Mudgee	31 52
1 July, 1863..	Menangle	Picton	12 10½	16 ,, 1894..	Narrandera	Jerilderie	64 54½
2 May, 1864..	East Maitland ..	Morpeth	3 37½	15 Oct., 1894..	Sydney	Hurstville	15 63½
1 Dec., 1864..	Blacktown	Richmond	16 12	4 Mar., 1895..	Tarego	Bungendore	19 20½
1 Mar., 1867..	Picton	Mittagong	24 6½	26 ,, 1895..	Murrumburrah ..	Young	17 26
11 July, 1867..	Penrith	Weatherboard	27 10	26 ,, 1895..	Murrumburrah—De	mondville fork ..	0 26
2 Dec., 1867..	Mittagong	Sutton Forest	8 64	3 Sept., 1895..	Byröck	Bourke	48 30
1 May, 1868..	Weatherboard ..	Mount Victoria	15 18	21 Dec., 1895..	Orange	Molong	22 60
6 Aug., 1868..	Sutton Forest ..	Marulan	28 65½	26 ,, 1895..	Hurstville	Sutherland	6 8
19 May, 1869..	Singleton	Muswellbrook	30 78	9 Mar., 1896..	Sutherland	Waterfall	8 74½
27 ,, 1869..	Marulan	Coulburn	19 68½	9 ,, 1896..	Loftus Junction ..	National Park ..	1 14½
18 Oct., 1869..	Mount Victoria ..	Bowenfels	10 48	1 June, 1896..	Cootamundra	Gundagai	33 45½
1 Mar., 1870..	Bowenfels	Bowlerawang	7 49	1 Sept., 1896..	Glen Innes	Tenterfield	57 41½
1 July, 1870..	Wallerawang	Rydal	6 5	17 ,, 1896..	Strathfield	Hornsby	14 9½
20 Oct., 1870..	Muswellbrook ..	Aberdeen	7 33½	1 Nov., 1896..	Young	Cowra	46 25
17 April, 1871..	Aberdeen	Scone	9 49	7 April, 1897..	Hornsby	Hawkesbury	14 23½
1 Aug., 1871..	Scone	Wingen	10 34½	21 June, 1897..	Clifton	Wollongong	12 27½
1 Jan., 1872..	Liverpool	Sidings, Colling-wood, &c	0 34	15 Aug., 1897..	Gosford	Waratah	49 65
5 April, 1872..	Wingen	Murrurundi	12 78½	15 ,, 1897..	Woodville and Islin	gton loop	0 23
22 ,, 1872..	Rydal	Locke's Platform ..	15 70	8 Sept., 1897..	Bungendore	Queanbeyan	17 27½
1 July, 1872..	Locke's Platform ..	Macquarie Plains	5 49	10 ,, 1897..	Kogarah	Saus Souci	4 71
4 Mar., 1873..	Macquarie Plains ..	Raglan	5 13	9 Nov., 1897..	Wollongong	North Kiama	21 42½
4 Feb., 1875..	Raglan	Kelso	2 52	7 Dec., 1897..	Queanbeyan	Michelago	39 20½
9 Nov., 1875..	Goulburn	Gunning	39 20	16 Jan., 1898..	Mullet Creek	Gosford	9 63½
4 April, 1876..	Kelso	Bathurst	1 34	16 ,, 1898..	Tenterfield	Wallaugarra	11 29½
3 July, 1876..	Gunning	Bowning	29 31	13 Feb., 1898..	Cowra	Blayney	46 66
1 Nov., 1876..	Bowning	Binalong	14 43	3 Oct., 1898..	Waterfall	Clifton	11 68½
1 ,, 1876..	Bathurst	Blayney	27 70	1 May, 1899..	Brooklyn	Mullet Creek	4 67½
12 Mar., 1877..	Binalong	Murrumburrah	21 0	31 ,, 1899..	Michelago	Cooma	40 21½
19 April, 1877..	Blayney	Orange	19 75	1 Jan., 1899..	Hornsby	St. Leonards	10 29½
13 Aug., 1877..	Murrurundi	Quirindi	24 79	1 July, 1899..	Wollongong	Harbour	0 74
1 Nov., 1877..	Murrumburrah ..	Cootamundra	23 37	1 ,, 1899..	Homebush loop ..	..	0 22½
2 April, 1878..	Newcastle	Bullock Island Branch ..	1 45½	20 April, 1899..	Railway Station ..	Yass	2 73
2 ,, 1878..	Cootamundra	Bethungra	15 21½	1 July, 1899..	Nyngan	Cobar	81 27½
6 July, 1878..	Bethungra	Junee	18 23½	3 Oct., 1899..	Culcairn	Corowa	47 39
Sept., 1878..	Junee	North Wagga Wagga	17 37	1 May, 1899..	St. Leonards	Milsons Point ..	2 78
14 Oct., 1879..	Quirindi	Tamworth	37 24½	2 June, 1899..	Kiama	Nowra	22 43½
25 Mar., 1879..	Werris Creek	Breeza	14 36½	1 Sept., 1899..	Cootamundra	Tomora	38 69
1 Sept., 1879..	North Wagga	South Wagga Wagga	4 49½	18 Dec., 1899..	Molong	Forbes	72 69
11 ,, 1879..	Breeza	Gunnedah	26 4½	15 May, 1894..	Lismore	Mullumbimby	38 57
1 June, 1880..	Orange	Wellington	65 56	24 Dec., 1894..	Mullumbimby	Murwillumbah ..	*25 0
1 Sept., 1880..	South Wagga	Gorogery	59 13½	1 Feb., 1895..	Sydenham	Belmore	5 3½
1 Feb., 1881..	Wellington	Dubbo	30 35	14 Oct., 1896..	Jerilderie	Berrigan	21 65
8 ,, 1881..	Gorogery	Albury	18 39½	15 Dec., 1896..	Parkes	Bogan Gate	23 38
28 ,, 1881..	Junee	Narrandera	60 5	1 April, 1897..	Narrabri	Moree	68 10
23 Feb., 1881..	Junee, north fork ..	..	3	1 Jan., 1898..	Nevertire	Warren	12 33½
1 Sept., 1881..	Narrandera	Darlington	38 13½	1 Mar., 1898..	Bogan Gate	Condobolin	39 22½
9 Jan., 1882..	Tamworth	Moonbi	12 1½				
1 Mar., 1882..	Darlington	Carrathool	34 7½				
						Total	2,691 32½

Single, 2,528m. 23c.; double, 154m. 47c.; quadruple, 8m. 42c.

*Includes the extension to Condong Mills.

APPENDIX XIII.

RETURN of the number of Bales of WOOL forwarded from the following Stations during the years ended 30th June, 1898 and 1897.

Stations.	Number of Bales.		Stations.	Number of Bales.		Stations.	Number of Bales.	
	1898.	1897.		1898.	1897.		1898.	1897.
Darling Harbour	14,159	11,585	Bringagee	2,063	2,725	Cowra	9,227	11,260
Fairfield	476	263	Carrathool	5,383	7,639	Borenore	1,105	1,220
Liverpool	9,010	11,232	Hay	12,909	13,914	Molong	4,580	5,666
Ingleburn	4	4	Morundah	2,653	3,800	Manildra	1,143	1,430
Minto	32	113	Jerilderie	5,445	6,892	Parkes	5,193	10,094
Campbelltown			Berrigan	393	234	Forbes	11,850	22,422
Menangle		2	Walla Walla	565	1,838	Hogan's Gate	8,791	10
Douglas Park	16	9	Brocklesby	1,578	1,823	Coodobolin	89	
Picton	8		Corowa	566	2,129	Warren	1,691	
Mittagong	124	166	Dapto	1		Hermidale	4,087	184
Bowral	10	17	Gorrington	2	1	Cobar	8,004	10,142
Moss Vale	446	469	Parranatta	1		Newbridge	1,130	1,110
Wingello	11	14	St. Mary's	2	1	Hornsby	55	131
Marulan	1,173	893	Penrith	1		Awaba	3	2
Towrang	1,171	1,729	Emu Plains	9,740	7,216	Newcastle	46	72
Goulburn	6,019	5,989	Blackheath	11	18	Thornton	2	
Breadalbane	564	689	Mount Victoria	185	140	Morpeth	103	
Gunning	3,100	3,375	Bowenfels	139	131	West Maitland	928	1,124
Jerrawa	239	131	Wallerawang	745	688	Branxton		88
Yass Junction	1,237	1,744	Rydal	118	67	Whittingham	43	32
Yass Town	2,076	2,099	Tarana	693	585	Singleton	119	111
Bowring	1,990	3,289	Locksley	92	102	Glennie's Creek	4	21
Binalong	3,498	3,931	Brewongle	357	546	Ravensworth	36	24
Galong	2,197	2,361	Raglan	135	157	Muswellbrook	5,315	6,843
Harden	1,637	1,747	Kelso	1,366	1,442	Aberdeen	732	2,817
Murrumburrah	201	261	Bathurst	2,815	2,969	Scone	3,848	4,690
Demondrillo	252	468	Perth	1,261	1,423	Wingen	95	113
Wallendbeen	1,902	2,118	George's Plains	41	67	Blandford	1,622	1,674
Cootamundra	4,389	4,866	Wimbleton	195	293	Murrurundi	231	244
Bethungra	943	767	Blayney	458	519	Ardlen	785	844
Ilabo	1,365	1,287	Millthorpe	113	190	Willow Tree	3,736	4,187
Junee	3,559	3,892	Spring Hill	259	429	Quirindi	7,316	7,652
Harefield	502	621	Orange	1,318	1,174	Werris Creek	567	804
Bomen			Mullion Creek	669	816	Currahubula	2,365	2,411
Wagga Wagga	5,282	6,961	Kerr's Creek	59	148	West Tamworth	12,890	14,488
Uranquinty	807	533	Warne	1,031	1,093	Tamworth	711	711
The Rock	2,631	2,997	Stuart Town	365	361	Moonbi	1,519	1,430
Yerong Creek	2,289	2,641	Mumbil	1,026	1,320	Woolbrook	521	464
Henty	637	655	Dripstone	428	398	Walcha Road	4,600	3,539
Culcairn	3,835	4,030	Wellington	2,871	2,856	Kentucky		1,761
Geogery	613	134	Mary Vale	102	223	Uralla	7,735	7,052
Table Top	953	1,135	Geurie	430	592	Armidale	4,278	4,488
Albury	758	2,317	Murrumbidgee	975	1,768	Black Mountain	203	180
Caunden	38	17	Dubbo	18,039	18,016	Guyra	2,319	2,148
Tarago	814	678	Narromine	6,816	7,422	Ben Lomond	994	673
Bungendore	2,349	2,220	Trangie	10,045	13,488	Glencoe	274	222
Queanbeyan	4,219	3,811	Nevertire	35,327	40,243	Glen Innes	9,847	9,558
Michelago	2,408	2,063	Nyngan	6,349	10,614	Deepwater	1,575	1,394
Cooma	9,758	8,516	Girilambone	7,110	7,671	Tenterfield	196	203
Young	8,805	11,735	Coolabah	2,015	2,294	Jennings	80	86
Koorawatha	1,955	2,556	Byrock	9,740	11,155	Breeza	1,856	1,930
Coolac	3,440	2,225	Bourke	49,669	47,417	Curlewis	936	1,055
Gundagai	5,685	5,378	Riverstone	1		Gunnedah	7,698	7,906
Timora	5,195	7,176	Piper's Flat	36	29	Boggabri	3,382	3,397
Old Junee	528	982	Capertee	817	917	Baan Baa	175	577
Coolamon	1,429	2,551	Rylstone	1,405	1,323	Narrabri West	39,565	77,007
Ganmain	129		Lue	767	609	Narrabri	7,048	
Grong Grong	1,512	2,472	Mudgee	19,164	19,792	Moree	81,649	341
Naranderra	14,040	17,660	Carcoar	1,064	988			
Yanko	1,668	2,023	Mandurama	1,156	1,422			
Whitton	3,713	5,400	Lyndhurst	1,398	1,223			
Darlington	5,100	5,736	Woodstock	1,686	2,019			
						Total	609,910	664,227

APPENDIX XV.

STATEMENT of **COAL, COKE, and SHALE** forwarded from the various Collieries during the years ended 30th June, 1898 and 1897.

Collieries.	1898.		1897.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	Tons.	Freight.	Tons.	Freight.	Tons.	Freight.	Tons.	Freight.
<i>Coal and Coke.</i>								
		£		£		£		£
A.A. Company	2,610	546	4,692	722	.....	.....	2,082	176
Anvil Creek	269	20	202	15	67	5	.....	.....
Anvil Creek New .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Black Jack	588	204	817	240	.....	.....	229	36
Blackwall	2,064	644	2,554	766	.....	.....	490	122
Burwood No. 3	180,139	7,122	152,224	6,072	27,915	1,050	.....	.....
Cardiff	5,003	232	842	51	4,161	181	.....	.....
Cardiff East .....	.....	.....	3,859	234	.....	.....	3,859	234
Co-operative	190,475	10,304	177,247	7,687	13,228	2,617	.....	.....
Curlewis	577	168	1,304	383	.....	.....	727	215
Denton Park .....	.....	.....	1,137	74	.....	.....	1,137	74
Dudley	60,913	3,214	109,227	5,809	.....	.....	48,314	2,595
Dulwich	3,270	715	3,996	764	.....	.....	726	49
East Maitland	491	35	2,948	172	.....	.....	2,457	137
Elamore Vale.....	15,598	684	20,583	808	.....	.....	4,985	124
Elliotts	33	9	31	9	2	.....	.....	.....
Greta	42,579	3,564	53,322	4,395	.....	.....	10,743	831
Greta East	84,205	5,173	64,878	3,847	19,327	1,326	.....	.....
Greta South	2,499	183	4,173	287	.....	.....	1,674	104
Hartley Hill	134	5	155	7	.....	.....	21	2
Hetton	193,558	6,619	228,399	7,499	.....	.....	34,841	880
Hillside .....	.....	.....	251	10	.....	.....	251	10
Lambton.....	91,087	3,279	79,212	2,851	11,875	428	.....	.....
Lambton South New.....	19,350	769	40,735	1,531	.....	.....	21,385	762
Minmi.....	278,065	12,221	274,761	12,038	3,304	183	.....	.....
Muswellbrook.....	45	3	76	8	.....	.....	31	5
Newcastle	361,058	11,917	302,732	10,943	58,326	974	.....	.....
Northern Extended	48,003	2,386	57,227	3,259	.....	.....	9,224	873
Northumberland	10,803	903	8,054	581	2,249	322	.....	.....
Oak Vale	353	46	113	7	240	39	.....	.....
Pacific Co-operative	102,108	5,049	98,079	4,796	4,029	253	.....	.....
Purified	16,136	1,097	9,201	757	6,936	340	.....	.....
Rix's Creek.....	12,839	14,462	9,238	9,812	3,601	4,650	.....	.....
Singleton Coal Siding .....	.....	.....	6	2	.....	.....	6	2
Sneddon's	29,477	1,208	31,388	1,288	.....	.....	1,911	80
West Maitland	36	4	68	14	.....	.....	32	10
Wallsend	212,558	8,658	291,933	11,964	.....	.....	79,380	3,306
Wallsend South.....	4,819	257	5,404	215	.....	42	585	.....
Wallsend West	117,829	5,252	86,037	3,837	31,292	1,415	.....	.....
Seaham	138,070	7,309	113,407	5,782	24,663	1,527	.....	.....
Waratah.....	45,865	1,881	62,614	2,285	.....	.....	16,749	404
Wickham and Bullock Island	181,793	4,334	186,880	4,444	.....	.....	5,087	110
Total	2,454,291	120,476	2,490,036	116,265	211,214	15,352	246,956	11,141
Bellambi	10,948	2,275	9,759	2,024	1,189	251	.....	.....
Bulli	18,631	2,307	26,850	3,900	.....	.....	8,219	1,593
Carson's	4,248	937	4,854	885	.....	52	606	.....
Collins	4,326	683	1,330	202	2,996	481	.....	.....
Corrimal	131,473	2,365	130,960	2,421	513	.....	.....	56
Erith	442	74	3,239	482	.....	.....	2,797	408
Irondale	2,641	612	1,471	323	1,170	289	.....	.....
Lithgow Collieries Association	90,738	23,522	86,916	25,990	3,822	.....	.....	2,477
Metropolitan	117,823	15,713	115,844	15,211	1,979	502	.....	.....
Mount Kembla	9,988	3,169	2,876	800	7,112	2,369	.....	.....
Mount Keira	74,277	463	87,342	365	.....	98	13,065	.....
Mount Pleasant.....	7,199	772	3,664	738	3,535	34	.....	.....
South Clifton.....	73,262	11,294	41,588	7,517	31,674	3,777	.....	.....
Total	545,996	64,186	516,693	60,867	53,990	7,853	24,687	4,534
Total, North	2,454,291	120,476	2,490,036	116,265	211,214	15,352	246,956	11,141
<i>Shale.</i>								
Torbane.....	11,644	5,940	13,650	6,879	.....	.....	2,036	930
Hartley Vale	485	157	3,574	1,194	.....	.....	3,089	1,037
Joadja	4,685	1,534	2,664	959	2,021	575	.....	.....
North's Siding	197	56	1,474	421	.....	.....	1,277	365
Total, Shale	17,011	7,687	21,392	9,453	2,021	575	6,402	2,341
Total, Coal and Coke	3,000,290	184,662	3,006,729	177,132	265,204	23,205	271,643	15,675
Grand Total	3,017,301	192,349	3,028,121	186,585	267,225	23,780	278,045	18,016

APPENDIX XVI.

COAL EXPORTED FROM NEWCASTLE.

RETURN of the quantity of Coal Exported from Newcastle to Foreign and Intercolonial Ports for the year ended 30th June, 1898, compared with the same period in 1897.

Countries.	1897-98.	1896-97.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Victoria	610,203	629,179	.....	18,976
New Zealand	164,719	145,902	18,817	.....
South Australia	331,622	254,714	76,908	.....
Tasmania	59,857	54,786	5,071	.....
Western Australia	170,885	152,528	18,357	.....
Fiji	7,995	7,113	882	.....
Queensland	26,705	23,354	3,351	.....
Total, Intercolonial	1,371,986	1,267,576	104,410	.....
Foreign--				
Peru	35,724	42,126	.....	6,402
New Caledonia	9,500	15,174	.....	5,674
India	51,321	55,381	.....	4,060
United States	237,108	270,401	.....	33,383
Hong Kong	62,031	53,041	.....	1,010
Mauritius	6,193	7,488	.....	1,295
Phillipine Islands	94,210	60,823	33,387	.....
Chili	284,384	320,209	.....	44,825
Sandwich Islands	38,851	57,603	.....	18,752
Java	52,208	55,529	.....	3,321
Mexico	9,506	26,700	.....	17,194
South Sea Islands	1,554	960	594	.....
Singapore	75,881	36,791	39,090	.....
Other Countries	55,102	63,671	.....	8,569
Total, Foreign	1,003,573	1,074,987	.....	71,414
Grand Total (Intercolonial and Foreign)...	2,375,559	2,342,563	32,996	.....

NUMBER of Tons and Value of Coal exported to Foreign and Intercolonial Ports for year ended 30th June, 1898.

1897-98.		1896-97.		Increase.	
Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
	£		£		£
2,375,559	819,752	2,342,563	813,494	32,996	6,258

PORT OF NEWCASTLE.

Foreign and Intercolonial Shipping out of Newcastle, from June to June.

1897-98.		1896-97.		Increase	
No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.
1,370	1,721,430	1,329	1,678,528	41	42,902

APPENDIX XVIII.

REPORT of the Tramway Locomotive Superintendent.

Randwick, 14 July, 1898.

To the Secretary to the Railway Commissioners,—

Sir,

I have the honor to submit, for the information of the Railway Commissioners, the following report on the working of the Locomotive Department of the Tramways for the year ending 30th June, 1898:—

SYDNEY CITY AND SUBURBAN LINES.

The rolling stock, machinery, and plant have been maintained in good order, although some inconvenience was experienced owing to a fire having occurred in the paint-shop, in March last; the requirements of the traffic, however, were fully met. Notwithstanding continued effort to reduce the cost of working, I regret to have to report a slightly increased outlay per train mile run during the past year; but this is solely owing to the higher price paid for coke, the extra expenditure under this head amounting to £7,149.

The rolling stock was overhauled in the following order:—

Motors: 64 received general overhaul; 81 heavy repairs; 615 general repairs, occupying from one to eight days each; and 377 light repairs.

Cars: 132 cars (106 steam, 24 cable, and 2 horse) thoroughly overhauled and repainted; 146 repaired and partially repainted; and 1,540 received minor repairs, occupying about one day each. In addition, 49 trucks and 33 cars for other lines were repaired.

NORTH SHORE CABLE AND ELECTRIC LINES.

Five electric motor cars have been added to the stock to work the extension to Willoughby, opened on the 25th of April last, as well as to cope with the increasing traffic of the Mosman line.

The whole of the rolling stock has been maintained in good order, 13 cable-line cars having been overhauled and repaired, while 3 motor cars received similar attention.

The cable from Milson's Point to the power-house was renewed on 13th April, the rope taken out having run 77,134 train miles, as compared with an average of 85,553 train miles for the two ropes immediately preceding it.

NEWCASTLE CITY AND SUBURBAN LINES.

The rolling stock and plant have been maintained in good order.

KOGARAH TO SANS SOUCI, AND MORPETH TO EAST MATTLAND LINES.

The rolling stock has been maintained in good order, and the traffic requirements fully met.

GEO. DOWNE,
Locomotive Superintendent.

APPENDIX XIX.

Report of Engineer for Tramways.

Office of Engineer for Tramways, 15 July, 1898.

To the Secretary to the Railway Commissioners,—

Sir,

I have the honor to report, for the information of the Railway Commissioners, that the whole of the Permanent-way, Buildings, and Works on the City and Suburban Tramways, for the year ending 30th June, 1898, have been maintained in good working condition.

The only additions during the year to the mileage were the extension from North Sydney Road to Willoughby, 2 miles 45 chains, single track (electric), and the duplication of the Marrickville line, from Enmore to Edinburgh loop, 37½ chains. In connection with the extension to Willoughby, advantage was taken to convert the existing cable track, between the power-house and North Sydney Road, a length of 60 chains, to electrical traction.

A moderate amount of relaying has been carried out during the year on the following sections:— Elizabeth-street, from Hunter-street to Market-street, 28½ chains, double track; Coogee line, Flinders-street, 37 chains, single track; Leichhardt, Australia-street to Nelson-street, 21 chains, double track; Waverley, Ocean-street to Denison-street, 20½ chains, single track. Total length of single track, 1 mile 76½ chains. This, however, includes the expensive work of repaving in Elizabeth-street, and the laying of 80 lb. T rails with specially-prepared non-expansion joints.

The total amount of metal used in ordinary maintenance during the year was 11,800 tons.

The Ocean-street cable line is in good order, the renewal of the crossings at the intersection of the steam and cable lines in King-street having been carried out early in the year.

The re-erection of the paint-shop at Randwick, destroyed by fire in March last, is almost completed.

The power-houses, waiting-sheds, bridges, &c., have been well maintained.

I have, &c.,

G. R. COWDERY,

Engineer for Tramways.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT OF THE EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 1898, WITH COMPARISONS FOR 1897.

DR.

TRAMWAYS.

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EXPENDITURE.	YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1898.	CORRESPONDING PERIOD IN 1897.	REVENUE.	YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1898.	CORRESPONDING PERIOD IN 1897.
CITY AND SUBURBAN.	£	£		£	£
To MAINTENANCE OF WAY, WORKS, AND STATIONS	32,630	34,189			
LOCOMOTIVE POWER	107,495	96,424			
REPAIRS AND RENEWALS OF CARS, &c.	13,613	14,716			
TRAFFIC EXPENSES	41,884	42,437			
COMPENSATION	2,125	1,916			
GENERAL CHARGES	4,157	5,460			
	201,904	195,142			
NORTH SHORE CABLE.					
To MAINTENANCE OF WAY, WORKS, AND STATIONS	983	925			
RUNNING EXPENSES, &c.	4,853	5,541			
REPAIRS AND RENEWALS OF CARS, GRIPPERS, &c.	1,031	1,053			
TRAFFIC EXPENSES	2,686	2,461			
GENERAL CHARGES	192	190			
	9,745	10,170			
NEWCASTLE AND PLATTSBURG. (INCLUDING TIGHE'S HILL AND MEREWETHER.)					
To MAINTENANCE OF WAY, WORKS, AND STATIONS	3,532	2,228			
LOCOMOTIVE POWER	9,592	9,573			
REPAIRS AND RENEWALS OF CARS, &c.	824	920			
TRAFFIC EXPENSES	4,660	4,668			
GENERAL CHARGES	158	158			
	18,766	17,547			
ASHFIELD TO ENFIELD.					
To MAINTENANCE OF WAY, WORKS, AND STATIONS	310	303			
LOCOMOTIVE POWER	937	1,021			
REPAIRS AND RENEWALS OF CARS, &c.	24	60			
TRAFFIC EXPENSES	362	338			
GENERAL CHARGES	27	42			
	1,660	1,764			
NORTH SHORE ELECTRIC.					
To MAINTENANCE OF WAY, WORKS, AND STATIONS	880	532			
RUNNING EXPENSES, &c.	3,144	1,727			
REPAIRS AND RENEWALS OF CARS, &c.	390	385			
TRAFFIC EXPENSES	1,020	645			
	5,434	3,289			
OCEAN-STREET TO KING-STREET.					
To MAINTENANCE OF WAY, WORKS, AND STATIONS	2,182	1,407			
RUNNING EXPENSES, &c.	9,423	9,001			
REPAIRS AND RENEWALS OF CARS AND GRIPPERS	2,461	2,760			
TRAFFIC EXPENSES	7,566	7,801			
	21,632	20,969			
TOTAL WORKING EXPENSES £	259,141	248,881			
BALANCE, NET PROFIT } £	54,730	57,814			
AFTER PAYING WORKING EXPENSES. }					
GRAND TOTAL £	313,871	306,695			
			CITY AND SUBURBAN.		
			PASSENGER FARES.		
			BY PASSENGERS—	1898.	1897.
			FARES, &c.	56,319,743	55,859,740
				239,858	238,023
			NORTH SHORE CABLE.		
			BY PASSENGERS—		
			FARES, &c.	2,961,669	2,962,298
				12,345	12,343
			NEWCASTLE AND PLATTSBURG. (INCLUDING TIGHE'S HILL AND MEREWETHER.)		
			BY PASSENGERS—		
			FARES, &c.	5,457,480	5,150,475
				22,767	21,444
			ASHFIELD TO ENFIELD.		
			BY PASSENGERS—		
			FARES, &c.	265,064	265,776
				1,105	1,107
			NORTH SHORE ELECTRIC.		
			BY PASSENGERS—		
			FARES, &c.	1,610,224	848,782
				6,709	3,537
			OCEAN-STREET TO KING-STREET.		
			BY PASSENGERS—		
			FARES, &c.	7,462,002	7,256,741
				31,097	30,241
			GRAND TOTAL £	313,871	306,695

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APPENDIX XXI.

SCHEDULES under Working Expenses for the Year ending 30th June, 1898, with comparisons for 1897.

CITY AND SUBURBAN TRAMWAYS.

Branches.	Year ended June 30, 1898.	Corresponding period in 1897.	Branches.	Year ended June 30, 1898.	Corresponding period in 1897.
Maintenance of Way and Works.			Traffic Expenses.		
Salaries, office expenses, and general superintendence	£ 1,585	£ 1,583	Traffic Manager's office and staff	£ 1,940	£ 1,852
Maintenance and renewals of permanent way, viz.:	21,972	22,522	Clerks	1,965	1,820
{ Wages	8,700	9,853	Staffmen, pointsmen, and flagmen ..	3,599	3,682
{ Materials	373	231	Conductors	21,976	21,726
Repairs and renewals of buildings, &c.	373	231	Car-cleaners, shunters, and lamp-trimmers ..	3,830	3,951
£	32,680	34,189	Stores	1,730	2,211
Locomotive Power.			Advertising, printing, and stationery	1,771	1,811
Superintendence and clerks	2,233	2,252	Travelling and incidental	290	275
Foremen and Clerks	1,847	1,758	Sundries	4,403	4,719
Drivers and firemen	45,098	43,787	Greasing and oiling { Wages	235	242
Cleaners, coalmen, and labourers	8,583	8,400	{ Materials	136	148
Coal, coke, and wood	19,178	12,026	£	41,884	42,437
Water	1,745	1,753	Compensation.		
Oil, tallow, waste, &c.	2,370	2,511	For personal injury	2,022	1,720
Sundries	1,581	1,506	For damage to vehicles, &c.	103	196
Repairs and renewals of motors	19,860	18,706	£	2,125	1,916
{ Wages	5,000	3,725	Gratuities to widows and children of employees who have met with accident, also gratuities to staff on retirement and payments to the Civil Service Fund on account of pension allowance.....	166	1,173
{ Materials			General Expenses.		
£	107,495	96,424	Commissioners, Secretary, and office staff	1,332	1,332
Cars and Waggons.			Accountant's Branch	1,250	1,250
Car repairs..... { Wages	6,906	7,181	Audit Branch	500	623
{ Materials	6,683	7,514	Stores Branch	473	443
Waggon repairs .. { Wages	14	20	Sundries	436	639
{ Materials	10	1	£	3,991	4,257
£	13,613	14,716	GRAND TOTAL..... £		
				201,904	195,142

APPENDIX XXII. APPENDIX XXIII.
 SCHEDULES under Working Expenses for the Year ended the 30th June, 1898, with comparisons for 1897.

North Shore Cable Tram.			Plattsburg, Tighe's Hill, and Merewether Lines (Steam).		
Branches.	Year ended June 30, 1898.	Corresponding period in 1897.	Branches.	Year ended June 30, 1898.	Corresponding period in 1897.
Permanent Way Branch.			Permanent Way Branch.		
Superintendence and Office Expenses	£ 41	£ 44	Superintendence and Office Expenses	£ 71	£ 38
Repairs and Renewals of Line, Sidings, Buildings, &c.	942	881	Maintenance of Lines, Sidings, Bridges, Buildings, &c.	3,461	2,190
	£ 983	925		£ 3,532	2,228
Locomotive Branch.			Locomotive Branch.		
RUNNING, &c.			Locomotive Superintendent, Foremen, and Clerks		
Superintendence and Office Expenses	230	242	Locomotive Drivers, Firemen, Cleaners, and others	5,336	5,305
Repairs to Machinery, Tools, &c.	105	104	Coal, Coke, Water, Oil, Tallow, Waste, &c.	2,003	2,054
Wages of Drivers, Firemen, Cleaners, Grippers, and others	2,701	2,592	Repairs and Renewals of Engines	1,983	1,952
Cost of Fuel, Running Stores, &c.	712	726		£ 9,592	9,573
Repairs to Stationary Engines, Cables, &c.	1,105	1,877			
	£ 4,853	5,541	Repairs to Cars, &c.	824	920
Repairs to Cars, Grippers, &c.	1,031	1,053			
Traffic Branch.			Traffic Branch.		
Management and Office Expenses	623	363	Traffic Manager and Office Staff	366	685
Wages of Conductors, and others	1,591	1,759	Conductors, Staffmen, Pointsmen, Car-cleaners, &c.	3,061	3,356
Sundry charges, including Stores, &c.	473	384	Sundry charges, including Stores, &c.	633	627
	£ 2,686	2,461		£ 4,660	4,668
General Charges.			General Charges.		
Proportion of General Establishment, &c.	192	190	Proportion of General Establishment, &c.	158	158
GRAND TOTAL	£ 9,745	10,170	GRAND TOTAL	£ 18,766	17,547

APPENDIX XXIV.

The working of the Tram-lines in sections for the year ended 30th June, 1898, as compared with corresponding period in 1897 and 1888, is as under:—

	1898.	1897.	1888.
CITY AND SUBURBAN LINES.			
<i>Length, 40 miles 25 chains.</i>			
Total Cost of Construction and Equipment	£973,419	£968,925	£742,555
Gross Revenue	£239,858	£238,023	£221,060
Working Expenses	£201,904	£195,142	£204,227
Profit on Working	£37,954	£42,881	£16,833
Percentage, Working Cost to Revenue	84.18	81.98	92.38
Passenger Fares collected	56,319,743	55,859,740	51,563,197
PERCENTAGE OF PROFIT TO CAPITAL INVESTED	£3 18 0	£4 8 6	£2 5 4
ASHFIELD TO ENFIELD.			
<i>Length, 1 mile 78 chains.</i>			
Total Cost of Construction and Equipment	£16,371	£16,371	
Gross Revenue	£1,105	£1,107	
Working Expenses	£1,660	£1,764	
Interest on Capital	£573	£573	
Percentage, Working Cost to Revenue	202.08	211.11	Not open.
LOSS ON WORKING	£1,128	£1,230	
NORTH SHORE CABLE.			
<i>Length, 1 mile 31 chains.</i>			
Total Cost of Construction and Equipment	£78,235	£115,471	£71,519
Gross Revenue	£12,345	£12,343	£7,248
Working Expenses	£9,745	£10,170	£6,833
Profit on Working	£2,600	£2,173	£415
Percentage, Working Cost to Revenue	78.94	82.39	94.26
PERCENTAGE OF PROFIT TO CAPITAL INVESTED	£2 9 7	£1 17 8	£0 11 7
OCEAN-STREET CABLE.			
<i>Length, 2 miles 32 chains.</i>			
Total Cost of Construction	£179,174	£177,421	
Gross Revenue	£31,097	£30,241	
Working Expenses	£21,632	£20,969	
Profit on Working	£9,465	£9,272	
Percentage, Working Cost to Revenue	69.56	69.34	
PERCENTAGE OF PROFIT TO CAPITAL INVESTED	£5 5 8	£5 4 6	Not open.
NORTH SHORE—ELECTRIC LINES.			
<i>Length, 6 miles 75 chains.</i>			
Total Cost of Construction and Equipment	£92,848	£36,844	
Gross Revenue	£6,709	£3,537	
Working Expenses	£5,434	£3,289	
Profit on Working	£1,275	£248	
Percentage, Working Cost to Revenue	81.00	92.69	
PERCENTAGE OF PROFIT TO CAPITAL INVESTED	£2 8 2	£0 15 8	Not open.
NEWCASTLE TO PLATTSBURG.			
<i>Morewether and Tighe's Hill Sections.</i>			
<i>Length, 12 miles 1 chain.</i>			
Total Cost of Construction and Equipment	£138,204	£137,638	£63,170
Gross Revenue	£22,757	£21,444	£8,211
Working Expenses	£18,766	£17,547	£8,136
Profit on Working	£3,991	£3,897	£75
Percentage, Working Cost to Revenue	82.46	81.83	99.08
PERCENTAGE OF PROFIT TO CAPITAL INVESTED	£2 17 9	£2 16 8	£0 2 4

APPENDIX XXV.

RETURN showing the Number of City and Suburban Passenger Fares collected, Tram Mileage, Earnings, Working Expenses, Percentage of Working Cost to Earnings, Capital Spent on lines open, and Interest on Capital Invested for each year from 1879 to 1898 inclusive.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.

Year.	Length of Line.	Number of Passenger Fares collected.	Tram mileage.	Total Earnings.	Working Expenses.	Earnings per Tram Mile.	Working Cost per Tram Mile.	Percentage of Working Cost to Gross Earnings.	Net Earnings.	Capital spent on lines open.	Interest on Capital Invested.
	Miles.			£	£				£	£	
1879*	1½	443,341	13,270	4,416	2,278	79.87	41.19	51.59	2,138	22,269	33.00
1880	4	2,086,897	84,074	18,980	13,444	54.18	38.38	70.83	5,536	60,218	12.34
1881	9½	7,090,125	296,906	62,549	52,107	50.56	42.12	83.31	10,442	169,450	6.16
1882	22	15,269,100	670,649	126,202	103,136	45.16	36.91	81.72	23,066	412,561	6.80
1883	25	25,684,285	1,076,096	190,699	173,877	42.53	39.89	93.80	11,822	544,105	2.22
1884	27½	30,202,303	1,242,491	219,942	215,167	42.48	41.56	97.83	4,775	643,111	0.76
1885	27½	39,594,753	1,220,500	223,340	207,095	43.91	40.90	93.13	15,345	708,109	2.17
1886	27½	52,977,578	1,222,943	226,367	201,737	44.42	39.59	89.12	24,630	742,113	3.37
1887	29½	50,103,256	1,220,026	214,125	201,468	42.12	39.63	94.08	12,657	731,582	1.76
1888	29½	51,563,197	1,246,543	221,060	204,227	42.56	39.32	92.38	16,833	742,555	2.22
1889	29½	52,810,026	1,338,386	225,833	206,092	40.49	36.95	91.25	19,741	771,255	2.56
1890	30½	57,463,650	1,474,646	249,508	207,517	40.60	36.46	89.17	41,991	790,555	5.31
1891	33½	62,676,636	1,533,048	270,365	221,505	41.78	31.23	81.92	48,860	857,455	5.74
1892	37	65,299,063	1,613,443	279,321	229,145	41.55	34.09	82.04	50,176	932,907	5.54
1893	38	63,588,855	1,631,232	271,041	214,324	38.69	30.67	79.26	56,217	947,775	5.94
1894	40½	58,773,094	1,737,846	250,809	206,354	34.64	28.53	82.35	44,255	954,035	4.64
1895	40½	54,173,917	1,740,235	230,583	186,081	31.80	25.66	80.70	44,502	962,037	4.62
1896	40½	53,317,979	1,845,626	227,525	187,811	29.59	24.42	82.54	39,714	961,778	4.13
1897	40½	55,859,740	2,121,017	238,023	195,142	26.93	22.08	81.98	42,881	968,925	4.42
1898	40½	56,319,743	2,193,351	239,858	201,904	26.18	22.04	84.18	37,954	973,419	3.90

* The line was opened for three and a half months only in 1879, and for part of this period was worked with horse-power.

† Up to the year 1887, 3d. cash fares and 2d. tickets were counted as single fares; from 1888, inclusive, all tickets issued were at 1d. values, and cash fares paid are in this Return calculated at same rate.

APPENDIX XXVI.

RETURN of the total Amount paid for Wages on the different Branches of the Tramways, year ended 30th June, 1898 and 1897.

Branches.	1898.	1897.
TRAMWAYS:—	£	£
Maintenance Branch	28,306	28,984
Locomotive "	100,977	99,430
Traffic "	47,530	44,894
TOTAL, TRAMWAYS	£ 176,813	173,308

NOTE.—Includes all wages paid by the Department, whether on maintenance or new work.

APPENDIX XXVII.

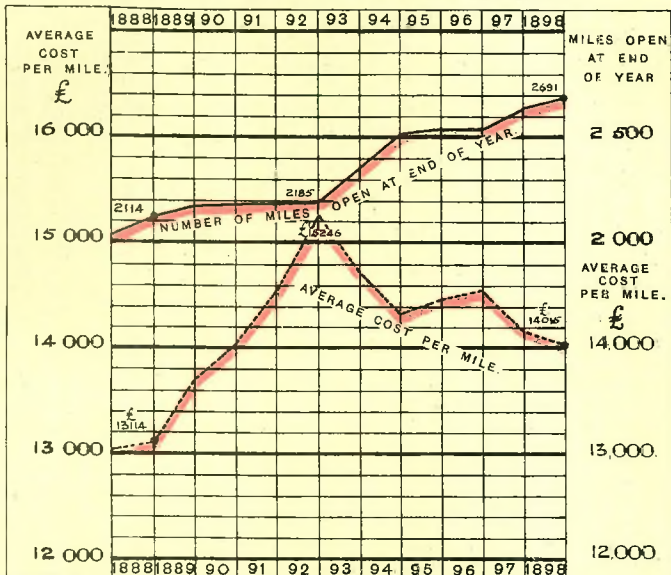
TRAMWAY Rolling Stock, 30 June, 1898.

	Motors.	Dummies.	Cars.	Trucks.	Water Tanks.	Total.
Sydney, City, and Suburban	101	.....	198	14	6	319
Military Road Electric .....	.....	.....	10	.....	.....	10
North Shore Cable .....	.....	13	23	.....	.....	36
Ocean-street Cable .....	.....	.....	54	.....	.....	54
Newcastle District	13	.....	28	3	.....	44
Total	114	13	313	17	6	463

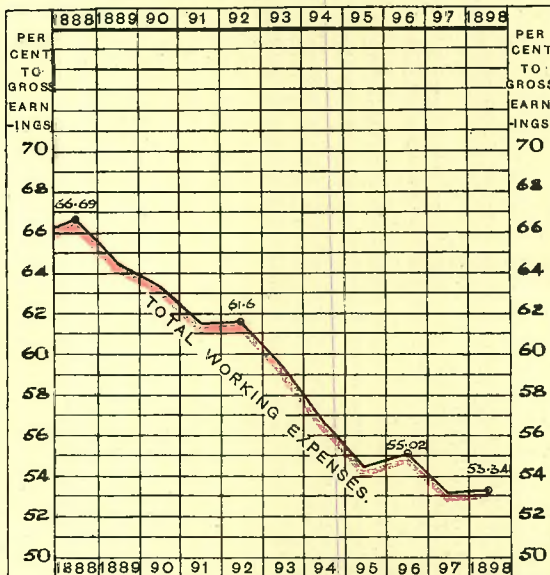
[Two Maps and One Diagram.]

RAILWAYS

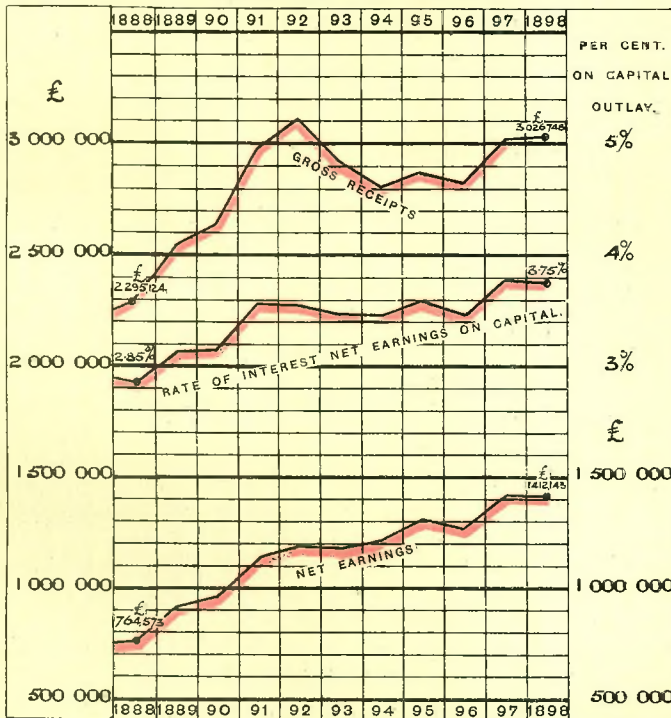
MILES OPEN AND AVERAGE COST PER MILE.



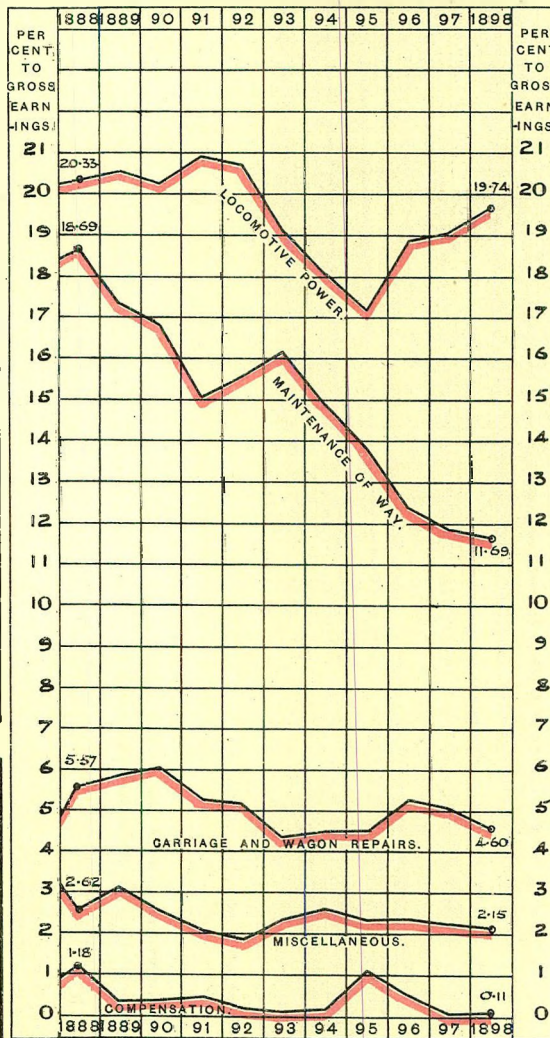
WORKING EXPENSES % OF GROSS EARNINGS.



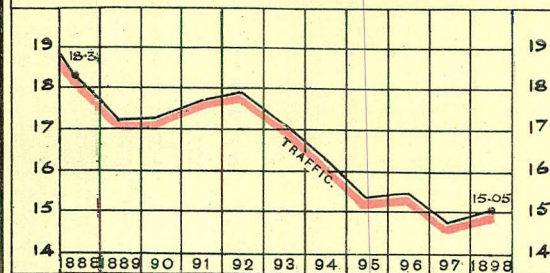
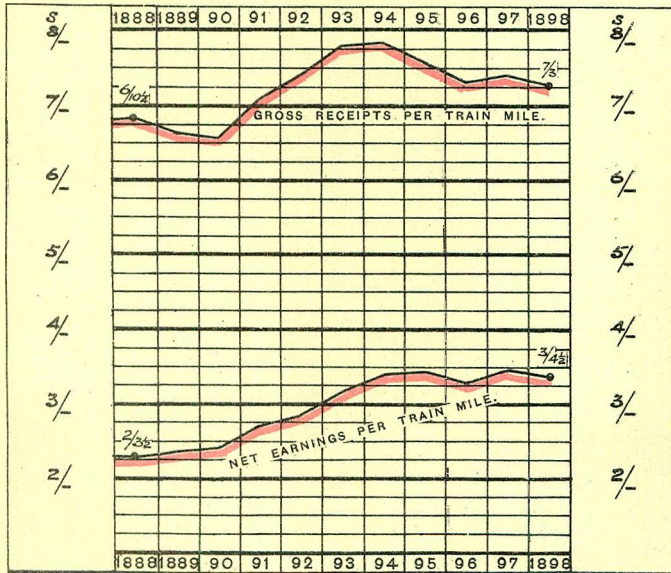
GROSS AND NET EARNINGS



DEPARTMENTAL WORKING EXPENSES.






GROSS AND NET EARNINGS PER TRAIN MILE.



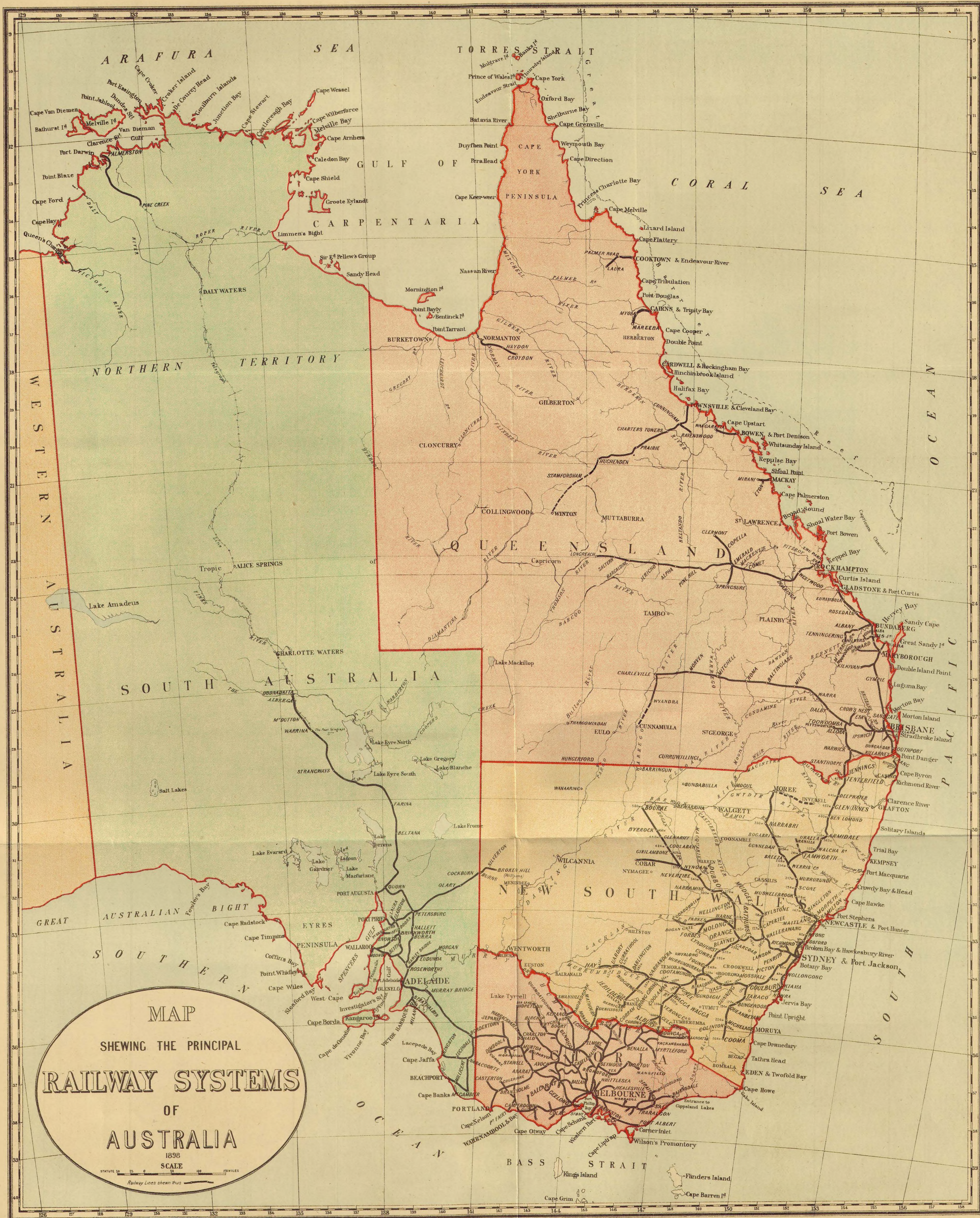


MAP
of
NEW SOUTH WALES RAILWAYS
shewing
COACH AND OTHER ROUTES FROM THE VARIOUS STATIONS

Scale, 60 Miles to an Inch

Explanation
 Railway lines marked thus 
 Coach routes do do 
 Railways under construction do 

1898.



MAP
 SHEWING THE PRINCIPAL
RAILWAY SYSTEMS
 OF
AUSTRALIA
 1896
 SCALE
 STATUTE MILES 0 25 50 75 100
 RAILWAY LINES SHOWN THUS

Printed at the Department of Lands, Sydney N.S.W. No. 61. D. 58-55

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

RAILWAYS AND TRAMWAYS.

(REPORT OF RAILWAY COMMISSIONERS, QUARTER ENDING 30 JUNE, 1898.)

Printed under No. 1 Report from Printing Committee, 6 September, 1898.

Offices of the Railway Commissioners of New South Wales,
Sydney, 16th July, 1898.

TO THE HONORABLE THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS,—

Sir,

In accordance with the provisions of the 44th clause of the Railway Act of 1888, 51 Vic. No. 35, we have the honor to submit, for the information of Parliament, our Report for the quarter ending 30th June, 1898, upon the subjects specified, viz. :—

I.—STATE OF THE TRAFFIC.

RAILWAYS.						Quarter ending 30th June, 1897.	Quarter ending 30th June, 1898.
Miles open	...	...	...	...	...	2,639½	2,691¼
Revenue	...	1897. 1898. { Passenger ... £280,737 £283,221 } { Merchandise ... £395,227 £431,646 }		...	...	£675,964	£714,867
Expenditure	...	...	...	...	...	£392,344	£399,528
Train miles run	...	...	...	...	...	2,030,394	2,131,035
Earnings per train mile	...	...	...	...	...	6/7½	6/8½
Expenditure per train mile	...	...	...	...	...	3/10¼	3/9
Percentage—Expenditure to earnings	...	...	...	...	...	58·04	55·89
Number of passengers	...	...	...	...	...	5,855,284	5,913,045
Tonnage of goods traffic	...	...	...	...	...	1,086,538	1,146,283
Tonnage of live stock traffic	...	...	...	...	...	55,780	52,217

TRAMWAYS.						Quarter ending 30th June, 1897.	Quarter ending 30th June, 1898.
Miles open	...	...	...	...	...	62½	65
Revenue	...	...	...	...	...	£81,002	£81,535
Expenditure	...	...	...	...	...	£68,870	£67,236
Tram miles run	...	...	...	...	...	804,088	820,076
Earnings per tram mile	...	...	...	...	...	2/0¼	1/11¼
Expenditure per tram mile	...	...	...	...	...	1/8½	1/7¼
Percentage—Expenditure to earnings	...	...	...	...	...	85·02	82·46
Number of fares collected	...	...	...	...	...	19,004,820	19,167,438

RAILWAYS.

II.—CONDITION OF THE LINES.

A report as to the condition of the lines will be found as an Appendix, page 3.

III.—SPECIAL RATES.

A statement of the special rates, and the reasons for making the same, will be found as an Appendix, page 3.

IV.—STAFF.

These returns are given as an Appendix, pages 4 to 6.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The earnings are the largest on record, and although the June quarter of last year gave an increase of £80,392 over the corresponding period in 1896 the present quarter shows a further increase of £38,903; the expenditure, however, having only increased £7,184, the net result gives an increase of £31,719.

In the Coaching Department 57,761 additional passenger journeys were made, and the revenue shows an increase of £2,484.

In the Goods Department the increase is £36,419—general merchandise contributed £9,466; hay, straw, and chaff, £3,955; grain, flour, &c., £14,269; coal and coke, £4,722; other minerals, £7,444. Wool and live stock show a decrease of £3,437; 59,745 additional tons were carried.

The working expenses are 55·89 per cent. of the earnings, as compared with 58·04 in the corresponding quarter last year.

CONDITION OF THE LINES AND ACCOMMODATION FOR THE TRAFFIC.

The lines are in good working order; satisfactory progress continues to be made in relaying, resleepering, and reballasting, and the grades have been improved at various places.

TRAMWAYS.

The earnings show an increase of £533, and the expenditure a decrease of £1,634, the result being an improvement of £2,167.

We have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servants,

CHARLES OLIVER,
Chief Commissioner.

DAVID KIRKCALDIE,
Commissioner.

APPENDIX I.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

Report on Condition of Permanent Way and Works for the Quarter ending
30th June, 1898.

Sir,

Office of Engineer-in-Chief for Existing Lines, 7th July, 1898.

I have to report for the information of the Commissioners that the Permanent Way and works have been efficiently maintained during the past quarter.

Satisfactory progress has been made with relaying, resleepering, and reballasting operations.

The grade improvements between Millthorpe and Orange on the Western Line, and at Frampton on the Southern Line, have been completed. Those between Old Junee and Narrandera on the South-Western Line, with the exception of that between 297½ and 300½ miles (near Marrar) have also been finished.

Good progress has been made with similar works between Wyong and Morrisett on the North Coast Line, and between Waratah and East Maitland on the Northern Line.

I have, &c.,

THOMAS R. FIRTH,

Engineer-in-Chief for Existing Lines.

The Secretary to the Railway Commissioners.

APPENDIX II.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

STATEMENT, in accordance with clause No. 44 of the Railway Act, showing the Special Rates which have been made, and the reasons for making such rates, Quarter ending 30th June, 1898.

Article.	Rate.	Reason for rate.
Copper ore	Condobolin to Darling Harbour, in lots of 25 tons, 33s. 6d. per ton.....	To secure traffic.
Animal pitch	"A" rates and conditions	New rate.
Coal.....	The rate of 6s. per ton for coal, on page 34 of the Goods Rate Book, to apply to coal sent to Parramatta from Northern Collieries within the 100-mile radius mentioned.	To encourage traffic.
Horses.	Horses will be conveyed in 4-wheeled boxes by goods train at the rate for cattle waggons, contained on pages 44 and 45 of the Merchandise and Live Stock Rates Book—By-law 141—of 1st June, 1897, if cheaper than Coaching Rates. By mixed trains on branch lines Coaching Rates will be charged.	New rate.
Sausages and butchers' small goods.	By passenger train, from Nowra to Sydney :— Up to 90 lb., 1s. 91 lb. to 112 lb., 1s. 3d. 113 lb. to 140 lb., 1s. 6d.	To secure traffic.
Wool (scoured)	Scoured wool from Emu Plains to Darling Harbour, which has been previously carried from Darling Harbour to Emu Plains in the greasy state, 8s. 9d. per ton, provided that not less than 1,500 bales per annum are forwarded in the greasy state from Darling Harbour to Emu Plains by the one consignor.	To equalise rates.
Coal.....	Coal in Commissioners hoppers for shipment at Darling Harbour to be allowed to stand under load as may be approved by Railway Commissioners.	

APPENDIX III.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS AND TRAMWAYS.

RETURN, in accordance with Clause No. 44 of the Railway Act, showing the Appointments of Employees from the 1st April, to the 30th June, 1898.

Date.	Name.	Position.	Rate.	Remarks.
1898				
ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF FOR EXISTING LINES BRANCH.				
25 Mar.	Lott, James	Labourer	6/6 per day	Vice J. Howard.
12 April	James, George	Boy	2/6 per day	Vice P. Doughan.
19 "	Wilson, Edward	Labourer	6/6 per day	Vice W. Dassell.
25 "	Barnes, Henry	Labourer	6/6 per day	Vice W. Farrell.
2 May	Monaghan, Patrick	Labourer	6/6 per day	Vice R. Collett.
4 "	Fitzgibbon, Michael	Labourer	6/6 per day	Vice J. McVeigh.
16 "	Jeffery, Henry	Labourer	6/6 per day	Vice C. Wallman.
17 "	Thoms, Ernest	Office Boy	2/- per day	
20 "	Bowen, William	Labourer	6/6 per day	Vice J. Bailey.
24 "	Donohue, Thomas	Labourer	6/6 per day	Vice T. Gorst.
24 "	Ryan, James	Fettler	7/6 per day	Vice W. Kelly.
27 "	Egan, Richard	Labourer	6/6 per day	Vice G. Wilson.
31 "	Power, George	Labourer	6/6 per day	Vice J. Johnson.
31 "	Winter Carl	Labourer	6/8 per day	Vice W. Andrews.
24 June	Wallace, John	Labourer	6/6 per day	Vice W. Johnson.
CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER'S BRANCH.				
27 April	Harris, William	Labourer	6/6 per day	Vice J. Nimmo.
1 May	Gillies, Alexander	Cleaner	5/- per day	Vice L. Landers.
20 "	Rodgers, Samuel	Shop boy	2/6 per day	Vice C. Burgess.
24 "	Wallon, Charles	Fuelman	4/8 per day	Vice G. Abbott.
30 "	Prince, Albert	Apprentice	10/- per day	
6 June	Cleary, James	Shop boy	2/6 per day	Vice E. Moses.
6 "	Taylor, Frank	Shop boy	2/6 per day	Vice W. Wight.
27 "	Fegan, Edward	Call-boy	3/8 per day	Vice S. Gray.
28 "	Burley, Frederick	Labourer	6/6 per day	Vice E. Harrison.
30 "	Dickinson, William	Labourer	6/6 per day	Transferred from Extra Staff.
30 "	Sharp, John W. E.	Fuelman	6/6 per day	Transferred from Extra Staff.
30 "	Croft, William	Oiler	6/6 per day	Transferred from Extra Staff.
CHIEF TRAFFIC MANAGER'S BRANCH.				
18 Mar.	Hadley, William	Gatekeeper	15/- per week	Transferred from Extra Staff.
25 "	Fairley, Mrs. Christina	Gatekeeper	7/6 per week and house.	Vice M. Ogle.
1 April	Woolley, Mary	Gatekeeper	7/- per week	Vice V. Slaney.
4 "	Mason, Charles	Junior porter	2/6 per day	
4 "	Baker, Lewis	Telegraph probationer.	2/6 per week	
5 "	Oastus, Rachael	Gatekeeper	Free house	Vice M. Farnsworth.
8 "	Brooks, Edwin Augustus	Telegraph probationer.	2/6 per week	Vice J. Sheehan.
9 "	Turner, Mrs.	Gatekeeper	Free house	Vice Mrs. Crawford.
11 "	Boyd, Frederick	Telephone boy	2/6 per week	Vice R. Bassett.
12 "	Jones, John	Telephone boy	2/6 per week	
13 "	Cunningham, Thos.	Gatekeeper	Free house	Vice J. Purcell.
14 "	Ings, Mary	Gatekeeper	7/- per week	Vice E. Ings.
14 "	Morse, William	Porter	6/- per day	Vice W. Lewis.
15 "	Burrell, Alfred Harold	Gatekeeper	15/- per week	Vice H. Johnston.
15 "	Todd, Sarah	Gatekeeper	Free house	Vice M. Horner.
18 "	Rennett, Thomas	Telegraph probationer.	2/6 per week	
19 "	Kelly, John	Postal assistant.	10/- per week	
20 "	Allport, Rhoda	Gatekeeper	7/- per week	Vice E. Gamfield.
22 "	Parcell, Bridget	Gatekeeper	Free house	Vice C. Rowland.
22 "	Sullivan, Percy	Gatekeeper	15/- per week	Vice J. Taylor.
22 "	Egans, Percy	Gatekeeper	15/- per week	Vice J. Ogle.
23 "	Sherwin, Mary	Gatekeeper	Free house	Vice T. Cunningham.
25 "	Elphick, Minnie	Gatekeeper	7/- per week	Vice E. McKander.
27 "	Tansett, Arthur	Telegraph probationer.	2/6 per week	Vice R. Carpenter.
28 "	Jones, Henry	Telegraph probationer	2/6 per week	Vice A. Rosa.
29 "	Penny, Charles	Gatekeeper	15/- per week	
29 "	Dingle, Vivian	Telegraph probationer.	2/6 per week	Vice A. Morahan.
30 "	Featherstone, Ralph	Junior porter	2/6 per day	Vice T. Stinson.
3 May	Kershaw, Samuel	Probationer	10/- per week	
4 "	Threlkeld, Arthur	Telegraph probationer.	2/6 per week	Vice H. Blomfield.
5 "	Hines, Jane	Gatekeeper	Free house	Vice M. Johnson.
6 "	Fitzpatrick, Josephine	Gatekeeper	7/- per week	Vice M. Henderson.
10 "	Tonkin, Percy	Telegraph probationer	2/6 per week	Vice A. Ball.
13 "	Mowatt, Maria	Gatekeeper	Free house	Vice E. McShee.
13 "	Bennett, Mrs. Sidney	Gatekeeper	7/- per week	Vice E. Hawthorn.
18 "	Hood, John	Telephone boy	2/6 per week	
18 "	Mortlock, Mary	Gatekeeper	7/- per week	Vice E. Crawford.
16 "	Rosch, Arthur	Telegraph probationer.	2/6 per week	
20 "	Crowther, Clement	Gatekeeper	15/- per week	Vice J. Rice.
23 "	Spratt, Ernest	Telegraph probationer.	2/6 per week	Vice H. Roberts.
24 "	Gayleard, William	Telegraph probationer.	2/6 per week	
27 "	Wyke, William	Telephone boy	2/6 per week	Vice C. Moses.
27 "	Drewe, Hilton	Junior porter	2/6 per day	
27 "	Howe, Frederick	Telephone boy	2/6 per week	Vice T. Wood.
30 "	Brown, Henry	Telegraph probationer.	2/6 per week	
3 June	Maudsley, Mary	Gatekeeper	5/- per week and house.	Vice H. Humphreys.
8 "	Butt, Frederick	Telephone boy	2/6 per week	
9 "	Schweinsberg, George	Gatekeeper	10/- per week	
10 "	Ward, Harriet	Gatekeeper	7/- per week	Vice E. Nicholls.
15 "	Hoole, Edie	Ladies' Attendant	4/2 per day	Vice C. Kingcott.
16 "	Jackson, Fanny	Gatekeeper	Free house	Vice M. McCauley.
17 "	Cameron, Percy	Telegraph probationer	2/6 per week	
20 "	Parker, Duncan	Messenger	2/6 per day	Vice J. Hickey.
20 "	Walsh, Richard	Telegraph probationer.	2/6 per week	Vice E. Stokes.
21 "	Sims, Mary	Gatekeeper	Free house	Vice M. Miller.
22 "	Chickens, Thomas	Junior porter	2/6 per day	
22 "	Allen, Edward	Telegraph probationer.	2/6 per week	
23 "	Leahy, Patrick	Telegraph probationer.	2/6 per week	Vice A. McLean.
28 "	Clark, Charles	Telephone boy	10/- per week	
30 "	Connellan, Bernard	Telephone boy	10/- per week	
30 "	Wilbow, Percy	Junior porter	2/6 per day	
ELECTRICAL ENGINEER'S BRANCH.				
1 April	Hartley, Lawrence	Fitter	10/- per day	Transferred from Extra Staff.
12 "	Davis, Hoyten J.	Probationer	2/6 per week	Vice G. Hart.
18 "	Barton, Charles B.	Electrical cadet.	-/10 per day	Vice F. Tidswell.
19 "	Bissett, Percy R.	"	-/10 per day	"
13 May	Huntley, Guy E.	District inspector	5/- per day	Vice J. P. Robertson.
13 June	Martin, George A.	Cleaner	4/- per day	
20 "	Bryden, Robert	Dynamo attendant	10/- per day	

APPENDIX III—continued.

Date.	Name.	Position.	Rate.	Remarks.
TRAMWAYS—LOCOMOTIVE BRANCH.				
6 April	Williams, Leslie H.	Shop boy	2/8 per day	Vice F. McGowan.
15 "	Wakely, William A.	Shop boy	3/- per day	Vice W. Mathews.
21 "	Marr, Thomas D.	Shop boy	2/6 per day	Vice A. Austen.
9 May	M'Farlane, Allan	Labourer	6/6 per day	Vice C. Teasdale.
10 June	Ashton, Thomas	Cleaner	3/- per day	Vice J. Menzies.
16 "	Collins, Charles	Cleaner	4/6 per day	Vice J. W. Smith.
17 "	Cummins, William P.	Shop boy	2/3 per day	Vice E. Edworthy.
TRAMWAYS—TRAFFIC BRANCH.				
4 April	Schouler, William W.	Junior conductor	6/- per day	Vice T. Duckworth.
6 "	Co-tley, Alfred M.	Junior conductor	6/- per day	Vice R. Weidon.
6 "	Gaffney, Andrew F.	Junior conductor	6/- per day	Vice E. Fisk.
7 "	Woolmer, George W.	Conductor	8/6 per day	Vice J. M'Grath.
23 "	Peak, William	Junior conductor	6/- per day	Transferred from Extra Staff.
30 "	Gunn, George W.	Junior conductor	6/- per day	Vice H. Parker.
7 May	Bedcock, Ernest F.	Junior conductor	6/- per day	Vice A. E. Morris.
7 "	Kissell, John	Junior conductor	6/- per day	Vice E. C. Miller.
9 "	Lewis, William R.	Junior conductor	6/- per day	Vice W. Carr.
16 "	Schwerdtmann, Grace	Office cleaner	£1 per week & qrs	Vice Mrs. Aldrich.
29 "	Pratt, Albert J.	Office lad	10/- per week	Vice E. Fisher.
27 "	Godfrey, Alfred	Telephone lad	10/- per week	
3 June	Pitt, Charles W.	Junior conductor	6/- per day	Vice B. Skinner.
11 "	Green, Wesley C.	Conductor	8/6 per day	Vice A. T. Smith.
17 "	Burke, William E.	Junior conductor	6/- per day	Vice J. Antoine.

APPENDIX IV.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS AND TRAMWAYS.

RETURN, in accordance with Clause No. 44 of the Railway Act, showing the Removals of Employees from the 1st April, to the 30th June, 1893.

Date.	Name.	Position.	Rate.	Remarks.
1893.				
ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF FOR EXISTING LINES BRANCH.				
26 Mar.	Howard, James	Labourer	7/6 per day	Retired.
4 April	Hoare, Joseph	Labourer	7/6 per day	Resigned.
4 "	Dassell, William	Ganger	9/- per day	Deceased.
7 "	Wallman, Christopher	Fettler	7/6 per day	Retired.
16 "	Andrews, William	Fettler	7/6 per day	Discharged.
10 "	McVeigh, James	Labourer	6/6 per day	Resigned.
21 "	Johnston, James	Fettler	7/6 per day	Retired.
21 "	Wilson, George	Fettler	7/6 per day	Retired.
23 "	Garst, Thomas	Fettler	7/6 per day	Resigned.
29 "	Farrrell, William	Fettler	7/6 per day	Deceased.
5 May	Bailey, John	Fettler	7/6 per day	Deceased.
7 "	Keils, William	Fettler	7/6 per day	Discharged.
11 "	Swanson, William	Fettler	7/6 per day	Discharged.
20 "	McCann, James	Labourer	7/6 per day	Retired.
21 "	Beavis, Henry	Ganger	9/- per day	Deceased.
24 "	Johnson, William	Labourer	7/6 per day	Retired.
9 June	Hees, Hees	Stationary engine-driver	10/- per day	Written off books.
10 "	Smith, Thomas	Ganger	11/- per day	Retired.
16 "	Bennett, Samuel	Fettler	7/6 per day	Retired.
16 "	Howen, Michael	Fettler	7/6 per day	Retired.
16 "	Sherack, Thomas	Ganger	8/6 per day	Discharged.
17 "	O'Hara, John	Fettler	7/6 per day	Resigned.
17 "	Turner, Sidney	Messenger	7/- per day	Retired.
17 "	Wood, David	Ganger	9/- per day	Written off books.
18 "	James, Thomas	Fettler	7/6 per day	Discharged.
18 "	Gilligan, Charles	Fettler	7/6 per day	Discharged.
27 "	Watters, Patrick	Fettler	7/6 per day	Retired.
CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER'S BRANCH.				
3 April	Burgess, Charles	Labourer	7/6 per day	Deceased.
7 "	Moses, Edgar	Shop-boy	4/- per day	Resigned.
16 "	Harrison, Edward	Car builder	10/- per day	Resigned.
22 "	Gray, Samuel	Fireman	10/- per day	Discharged.
25 "	Landers, Leslie	Cleaner	6/- per day	Deceased.
23 "	Wight, William	Fireman	8/6 per day	Resigned.
30 "	Perryman, Frederick	Fitter	11/0 per day	Deceased.
4 May	Simon, William	Striker	7/6 per day	Deceased.
5 "	Abbott, George	Wagon Examiner	8/- per day	Resigned.
16 "	Watman, Charles	Fireman	9/- per day	Discharged.
19 "	Wrightson, George	Stationary engine-driver	10/- per day	Written off books.
27 "	Brothers, George	Fireman	10/- per day	Discharged.
27 "	Chapman, John	Fireman	9/- per day	Discharged.
28 "	Jessop, Charles	Labourer	7/6 per day	Discharged.
30 "	Graham, John	Driver	15/- per day	Resigned.
9 June	Grithths, Thomas	Oilier	8/- per day	Resigned.
13 "	Green, Edward	Machinist	8/6 per day	Deceased.
15 "	Brown, James	Labourer	7/6 per day	Deceased.
16 "	Hansen James	Shunter	7/- per day	Deceased.
20 "	Hunt, John	Car builder	9/8 per day	Deceased.
29 "	Wardrop, John	Fitter	13/- per day	Deceased.
30 "	Green, Joab	Fitter	10/- per day	Resigned.
30 "	Starkey, William	Head fuelman	8/6 per day	Deceased.
CHIEF TRAFFIC MANAGER'S BRANCH.				
25 Mar.	Stinson, Thomas	Porter	7/6 per day	Discharged.
29 "	Farnsworth, Matilda	Gatekeeper	Free house	Resigned.
31 "	Roberts, Henry	Porter	6/- per day	Resigned.
31 "	Slaney, Victoria	Gatekeeper	7/- per week	Resigned.
31 "	Rothwell, George	Night officer	£150 per annum	Written off books.
2 April	Carpenter, Robert	Night officer	£140 per annum	Deceased.
8 "	Blunfield, Henry	Porter	6/- per day	Discharged.
9 "	Crawford, Mrs.	Gatekeeper	Free house	Resigned.
13 "	Purhill, Josephine	Gatekeeper	Free house	Resigned.
18 "	Jennings, Arthur	Telegraph probationer.	2/6 per week	Discharged.
14 "	Ings, Emma	Gatekeeper	7/- per week	Deceased.
19 "	Hickey, John	Gatekeeper	6/- per day	Discharged.
20 "	Ganfield, Eudly	Gatekeeper	7/- per week	Resigned.

APPENDIX IV—continued.

Date.	Name.	Position.	Rate.	Remarks.
1898.				
CHIEF TRAFFIC MANAGER'S BRANCH—continued.				
22 April	Rowland, Cecilia	Gatekeeper	Free house	Resigned.
23 "	Stokes, Ernest	Junior porter	2 6 per day	Resigned.
23 "	Gunningham, Thos.	Gatekeeper	Free house	Resigned.
25 "	McAnder, Elizabeth	Gatekeeper	7/- per week	Resigned.
27 "	Wood, Thomas	Junior clerk	£110 per annum	Resigned.
28 "	Ball, Alexander	Gatekeeper	30/- per week and house.	Retired.
30 "	Ross, Arthur	Telephone boy	12/0 per week	Resigned.
30 "	Guilfoyle, John	Guard	11/- per day	Retired.
5 May	Johnson, Mary	Gatekeeper	Free house	Resigned.
6 "	Henderson, Mary	Gatekeeper	7/- per week	Resigned.
12 "	Hawthorn, Mrs. Elizabeth	Gatekeeper	7/- per week	Resigned.
12 "	Crawford, Mrs. Elizabeth	Gatekeeper	7/- per week	Resigned.
25 "	Seanton, William	Porter	7/- per day	Discharged.
25 "	Baynes, John	Junior clerk	£120 per annum	Deceased.
31 "	Moses, George	Clerk	£150 per annum	Retired.
31 "	Foley, Thomas	Station-master	£175 per annum	Retired.
2 June	Humphreys, Harriett	Gatekeeper	5/- per week and house.	Resigned.
9 "	Nicholls, Elizabeth	Gatekeeper	7/- per week	Resigned.
10 "	Andrews, William	Porter	7/- per day	Written off books.
14 "	Kingcott, Clara	Ladies' attendant	4/2 per day	Resigned.
16 "	McCauley, Mary	Gatekeeper	Free house	Resigned.
20 "	Roberts, Mrs. Catherine	Gatekeeper	7/- per week	Resigned.
21 "	Milner, Mary	Gatekeeper	Free house	Resigned.
25 "	Mannix, Lot	Clerk and operator	£136 per annum	Discharged.
25 "	Seanton, Mary	Gatekeeper	Free house	Resigned.
30 "	Moore, Catherine	Gatekeeper	10/- per week	Resigned.
30 "	Kennedy, John	Clerk	£140 per annum	Deceased.
ELECTRICAL ENGINEER'S BRANCH.				
28 April	M'Caldon, John	Fitter	10/- per day	Discharged.
TRAMWAYS—LOCOMOTIVE BRANCH.				
13 April	Teasdale, Charles	Fireman	7/6 per day	Resigned.
15 "	M'Farlane, Morrow	Watchman	7/- per day	Discharged.
3 May	Edworthy, Edward	Fitter	10/- per day	Discharged.
12 "	Aldrich, Mrs. C.	Officer cleaner	20/- per wk. & qrs	Retired.
6 June	Menzies, John	Driver	11/- per day	Resigned.
8 "	Smith, Thomas W.	Fireman	7/6 per day	Resigned.
TRAMWAYS—TRAFFIC BRANCH.				
9 April	Weldon, Ralph	Junior conductor	7/- per day	Resigned.
14 "	Morris, Albert E.	Junior conductor	6 6 per day	Resigned.
14 "	Parker, Henry F.	Junior conductor	6/6 per day	Resigned.
20 May	Fisher, Edward A.	Conductor	8/- per day	Resigned.
10 June	Smith, Albert T.	Conductor	7/- per day	Resigned.
TRAMWAYS—MAINTENANCE BRANCH.				
4 April	Chapman, Richard	Labourer	7/- per day	Resigned.
11 "	Crummy, George	Labourer	7/6 per day	Resigned.
12 "	Wills, John	Labourer	7/6 per day	Resigned.
27 "	Slaney, William	Labourer	7/6 per day	Resigned.

1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

RAILWAYS AND TRAMWAYS.

(REPORT OF RAILWAY COMMISSIONERS, QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER, 1898.)

Printed under No. 10 Report from Printing Committee, 3 November, 1898.

Offices of the Railway Commissioners of New South Wales,
27th October, 1898.

TO THE HONORABLE THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS,—

Sir,

In accordance with the provisions of the 44th clause of the Railway Act of 1888, 51 Vic. No. 35, we have the honor to submit, for the information of Parliament, our Report, for the quarter ended 30th September, 1898, upon the subjects specified, viz. :—

I.—STATE OF THE TRAFFIC.

RAILWAYS.								Quarter ended 30th September, 1897.	Quarter ended 30th September, 1898.
Miles open	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,639½	2,705¼
Revenue	...	1897.		1898.		...	...	£699,481	£766,589
		Passenger	£251,186	£260,344	Merchandise					£448,295	£506,245
Expenditure	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£400,276	£436,498
Train miles run	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,990,554	2,092,857
Earnings per train mile	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7s. 0¼d.	7s. 4d.
Expenditure per train mile	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4s. 0¼d.	4s. 2d.
Percentage—Expenditure to earnings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57·22	56·94
Number of passengers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,639,635	5,768,724
Tonnage of goods traffic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,129,304	1,294,452
Tonnage of live stock traffic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34,083	44,173

TRAMWAYS.								Quarter ended 30th September, 1897.	Quarter ended 30th September, 1898.
Miles open	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62½	65
Revenue	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£73,423	£79,476
Expenditure	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£62,431	£66,428
Tram miles run	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	807,330	852,019
Earnings per tram mile	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1s. 9¾d.	1s. 10½d.
Expenditure per tram mile	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1s. 6½d.	1s. 6¾d.
Percentage—Expenditure to earnings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	85·03	83·58
Number of fares collected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17,337,962	18,758,463

RAILWAYS.

II.—CONDITION OF THE LINES.

A report as to the condition of the lines will be found as an Appendix, page 4.

III.—SPECIAL RATES.

A statement of the special rates, and the reasons for making the same, will be found attached. [Appendix, page 4.]

IV.—STAFF.

These returns are given as an Appendix, pages 5 to 8.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The Earnings for the quarter give an increase over the corresponding quarter of last year of £67,108; the Expenditure shows an increase of £36,222; the result being an improvement of £30,886.

In the Passenger department, Second-class passengers show an increase of £9,462; Parcels and other Coaching Traffic, £2,020; First-class passengers show a decrease of £2,324; the net increase being £9,158; 129,089 additional passenger journeys were made.

The increase in the Goods department is £57,950, nearly all classes of traffic having contributed thereto:—General Merchandise, £13,621; Live Stock, £21,940; Wool, £12,953; Coal and Coke, £3,004, and other Minerals, £6,432. For the increased revenue, 175,238 additional tons were hauled.

The Pioneer line from Berrigan to Finley, a distance of 13 miles and 72 chains, was opened for traffic on the 16th of September.

CONDITION OF THE LINES AND ACCOMMODATION FOR THE TRAFFIC.

The lines are in good order. Fair progress has been made with relaying, resleepering, and reballasting, and the reduction of grades. The renewal of the Wagga Wagga Viaduct is being proceeded with, and various improvements and additions continue to be made to meet the increasing traffic.

TRAMWAYS.

The Earnings show an increase of £6,053, and the Expenditure £3,997, the result being an improvement of £2,056.

We have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servants,

CHARLES OLIVER,
Chief Commissioner.

W. M. FEHON,
Commissioner.

DAVID KIRKCALDIE,
Commissioner.

APPENDIX I.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

REPORT on Condition of Way and Works for the quarter ending 30th
September, 1898.

Sir, Office of Engineer-in-Chief for Existing Lines, 6 October, 1898.

I have to report, for the information of the Commissioners, that the permanent way and works have been efficiently maintained during the past quarter.

Relaying, resleepering, and reballasting operations have been steadily carried on.

The grade improvements between Old Junee and Marrar have been completed, and satisfactory progress has been made with those between Wyong and Morrisett, Waratah and East Maitland, and Werris Creek and Gunnedah.

Fair progress is being made with the work of renewing the Wagga Wagga viaduct.

The extension from Berrigau to Finley (pioneer type), 13 miles 72 chains, was opened for traffic on the 16th ultimo.

I have, &c.,

The Secretary to the Railway Commissioners.

THOMAS R. FIRTH,
Engineer-in-Chief for Existing Lines.

APPENDIX II.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

List of Special Rates for quarter ended 30th September, 1898.

Article.	Rate or Particulars.	Reason for alteration.
Fares	When pupils are travelling to school for the first time, or returning home after completing their education, tickets at the following fares will be issued:— Under 16 years of age, half single fare. 16 years and over, half Holiday Excursion fare.	To adjust rates.
Tickets	Holiday Excursion tickets issued from stations in the tourist districts to Sydney and Newcastle will be available for three months.	To accord with currency of tickets issued to tourist districts.
Birds and animals	Birds and animals conveyed from country stations to the Zoological Society of N.S.W. will be carried free on production of a certificate signed by the Superintendent of the Zoological Gardens showing that they will be exhibited at the Gardens.	Special concession.
Refrigerator cars	Special train rate may be levied if load is made up equal to minimum of 10 cars by attaching other traffic.	To meet traffic requirements.
Sand	Glenfield and Liverpool to Darling Harbour, 2s 6d. and 2s. 2d. per ton respectively, and if not less than 5,000 tons are forwarded from each station annually by one consignor, a rebate of 3d. per ton from Glenfield and 2d. per ton from Liverpool will be allowed.	do
Slag.....	Newcastle to Dapto to be charged same rates and conditions as crude ore	New traffic
Kerosene tar	"B" class rates and conditions	} To encourage traffic.
Sausage-skins	Nowra to Darling Harbour, to be charged at the same rate as bacon, 12s per ton.	
Tilestoneite	"B" class rates and conditions	New traffic.
Beer.....	The special rates for ale and beer provided for on page 46 of the Merchandise Rates Book to apply to the Warren line.	To encourage traffic.
Cardboard egg boxes	Cardboard egg boxes, packed in cases, "B" rates and conditions	do
Mining machinery, including diamond drill and gold-crushing plant.	In small lots, 1st class rates and conditions when cheaper than charging it as for 6 tons at "B" class rates.	do
Soil	Bulli to St. Leonards, 5s. 3d. per ton	To secure traffic.
Timber	Consigned to Engineer-in-Chief, Construction Branch, for Moree to Inverell Railway Extension, 1d. per ton per mile.	For railway construction purposes.
Water	Water for Centenary Coal Co.'s engine (Curlewis) from Gunnedah, 1d. per ton per mile in addition to 2s. 6d. per 1,000 gallons for the water, to date from 16/8/98.	Special rate.
Wood and iron hotel.....	Bathurst to Koorawatha, corrugated iron and timber in lots of not less than 6 tons per 4-wheeled truck, "B" rates - furniture and fittings, ordinary rates.	To secure traffic.
Cocoa-nut oil	In 6-ton loads per 4-wheeled waggon, 1st class rates	To encourage traffic.
Milling machinery (old) ..	Mudgee to Sydney, "B" class rate, in 5-ton loads per 4-wheeled waggon..	To secure traffic.
Millstones (old).....	4½ tons, Yass to Portland Siding (sent with 1½ ton milling machinery), "B" class rate.	do
Old rails for Coal Co.'s lines	Glen Innes to Cockle Creek, at the convenience of the Department, 1d. per ton per mile.	do

APPENDIX III.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS AND TRAMWAYS.

RETURNS, in accordance with clause No. 44 of the Railway Act, showing the Appointments of Employees from the 1st July to the 30th September, 1898.

Date.	Name	Position.	Rate.	Remarks.
1898.				
ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF FOR EXISTING LINES BRANCH.				
1 July	Finn, Edward	Fettler	7/6 per day	Vice T. James
1 "	Breckencidge, Charles	Labourer	6/6 per day	New opening, Condobolin.
1 "	Ward, Thomas	Labourer	6/6 per day	
1 "	Hayes, Charles	Labourer	6/6 per day	Vice J. Hoare
1 "	Sainsbury, John	Fettler	7/6 per day	
4 "	Collins, Patrick	Labourer	6/6 per day	Vice Rees Rees.
4 "	Scott, Albert	Labourer	6/6 per day	Vice M. Bowen.
6 "	Bennett, Henry	Labourer	6/6 per day	Vice S. Bennett.
6 "	Engeler, William	Fettler	7/6 per day	Vice D. Ward.
7 "	Stuart, Henry	Labourer	6/6 per day	Vice T. Higgins.
8 "	Jayer, William	Labourer	6/6 per day	Vice H. Beavis.
11 "	Edwards, Henry	Fettler	6/6 per day	Vice J. Castles.
19 "	Wallace, David	Labourer	6/6 per day	Vice W. Swanson.
20 "	Churches, Sidney	Labourer	6/6 per day	Vice J. Duggan.
20 "	Burns, John R.	Fettler	6/6 per day	Vice P. Waters.
21 "	Benson, John D.	Labourer	6/6 per day	Vice T. Smith.
21 "	Watkins, Charles	Painter	8/- per day	Vice J. Taylor.
6 Aug.	Sheedy, Henry	Labourer	6/6 per day	New opening, Condobolin.
6 "	C'an, Michael	Fettler	7/8 per day	
10 "	Taylor, William	Labourer	6/8 per day	Vice J. O'Hara
10 "	Wilkinson, Richard	Labourer	7/6 per day	Vice R. Sorrell.
10 "	Matheson, Kenneth	Office boy	2/- per day	Vice G. Stephenson.
12 "	Hazell, James	Fettler	6/8 per day	Vice J. Higgins.
16 "	Bayle, Archibald	Labourer	6/8 per day	Vice J. McCann
24 "	Furbanks, William	Office boy	2/- per day	Vice F. Raffet.
2 Sept.	Norris, Daniel	Labourer	6/6 per day	New opening, Condobolin.
6 "	Taylor, William	Labourer	6/6 per day	Vice W. Bontor.
22 "	Jeffrey, Thomas	Labourer	6/6 per day	Vice J. Rogan.
20 "	Chapman, Alfred	Shop boy	3/- per day	Vice R. Richards.
CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER'S BRANCH.				
1 July	Munns, Alfred	Fuelman	6/8 per day	Vice C. Watman.
6 "	Huthnance, Samuel	Fuelman	6/- per day	Vice G. Brothers.
7 "	Maskell, Richard	Shop boy	2/6 per day	Vice C. Jessup
7 "	Kelly, Arthur	Cleaner	3/3 per day	Vice G. Wrightson
7 "	Walker, Amos	Cleaner	2/8 per day	
11 "	Ottaway, George	Call and telephone boy	2/6 per day	Vice J. Francis.
12 "	Douglas, Thomas	Shop boy	4/- per day	
14 "	Payne, George	Cleaner	5/- per day	Vice J. Chapman.
15 "	Hamilton, Charles	Cleaner	5/- per day	
15 "	Smith, Arthur	Cleaner	2/6 per day	Vice W. Simon.
15 "	Hill, Percy	Cleaner	2/8 per day	
15 "	Young, James	Call and telephone boy	2/6 per day	Vice J. Brown.
15 "	Doddy, Herbert	Call and telephone boy	2/6 per day	
16 "	Laing, David	Cleaner	5/6 per day	Vice M. Delfendahl.
18 "	Wrightson, Richard	Cleaner	5/6 per day	
18 "	Anderson, Frederick	Cleaner	5/- per day	Vice J. Hansen.
18 "	Wilson, Thomas	Cleaner	5/- per day	
19 "	Mitchell, Ernest	Junior labourer	3/- per day	Vice G. Mason.
19 "	Byrne, Charles	Cleaner	6/8 per day	
19 "	Brooks, George	Cleaner	3/3 per day	Vice E. Green.
20 "	Lashlean, Frederick	Cleaner	5/- per day	
22 "	Knight, James	Cleaner	5/- per day	Vice J. Goodwin.
22 "	Garratt, George	Call and telephone boy	3/3 per day	
22 "	Sullivan, Daniel	Call and telephone boy	2/6 per day	Vice D. Layton.
22 "	Searcy, Thomas	Cleaner	2/8 per day	
22 "	Hunt, Reginald	Cleaner	3/3 per day	Vice F. Perryman.
22 "	Fisher, Richard	Cleaner	2/8 per day	
22 "	Smith, Raymond	Cleaner	2/6 per day	Vice E. Lang.
22 "	Keeley, Harold	Cleaner	3/3 per day	
22 "	Chivers, George	Cleaner	3/3 per day	Vice J. Goodwin.
23 "	Lewis, George	Cleaner	5/- per day	
23 "	Stimpson, Percy	Cleaner	5/- per day	Vice D. Layton.
25 "	Wessler, John	Labourer	6/6 per day	
25 "	Bush, William	Cleaner	5/- per day	Vice E. Green.
25 "	Flood, Joseph	Cleaner	2/6 per day	
25 "	Topham, Walter	Cleaner	2/6 per day	Vice J. Goodwin.
25 "	Bone, Norman	Cleaner	3/3 per day	
25 "	Laxton, Charles	Cleaner	5/6 per day	Vice F. Perryman.
25 "	Jones, Francis	Cleaner	3/3 per day	
28 "	Hesley, William	Cleaner	5/- per day	Vice E. Lang.
28 "	Stephenson, Arthur	Cleaner	3/3 per day	
28 "	Pegg, William	Cleaner	5/- per day	Vice J. Goodwin.
28 "	Wainwright, David	Cleaner	5/- per day	
30 "	Clanidge, William	Cleaner	6/- per day	Vice D. Layton.
1 Aug.	Mitchell, Henry	Cleaner	5/- per day	
3 "	Harvey, William	Cleaner	4/- per day	Vice J. Brown.
3 "	Rodgers, James D.	Labourer	6/6 per day	
3 "	Watson, Morris	Cleaner	5/- per day	Vice M. Delfendahl.
5 "	Tucker, Robert	Blacksmith	10/- per day	
8 "	Haves, John	Labourer	6/6 per day	Vice J. Hansen.
10 "	Golby, Leslie	Shop boy	2/8 per day	
11 "	Muir, William	Labourer	6/8 per day	Vice G. Mason.
15 "	Peterson, John	Labourer	6/6 per day	
15 "	Green, William	Cleaner	2/6 per day	Vice E. Green.
15 "	Gibbs, Stanley	Call and telephone boy	2/6 per day	
15 "	Stade, William	Cleaner	2/6 per day	Vice J. Goodwin.
15 "	Pyott, Edward	Cleaner	3/3 per day	
15 "	Oshorne, Jesse	Cleaner	3/3 per day	Vice D. Layton.
15 "	Burt, Thomas	Cleaner	5/- per day	
19 "	Wooliams, William	Fuelman	6/6 per day	Vice J. Goodwin.
19 "	Wordsworth, Samuel	Fuelman	6/6 per day	
20 "	Cook, Michael	Cleaner	3/3 per day	Vice D. Layton.
20 "	Thurlow, Frederick	Call and telephone boy	2/6 per day	
22 "	Haines, Edward	Call and telephone boy	2/6 per day	Vice F. Perryman.
22 "	Fruetone, William	Cleaner	5/- per day	
22 "	Schubert, Robert	Cleaner	2/6 per day	Vice E. Lang.
22 "	Turner, Edward	Cleaner	5/- per day	
23 "	Pollock, James	Fitter	9/6 per day	Vice F. Perryman.
23 "	Evans, Herbert	Tool Collector	2/6 per day	
25 "	Jenkins, William	Call and telephone boy	3/3 per day	Vice E. Lang.
25 "	Fewkes, Howard	Cleaner	2/6 per day	
25 "	Dickey, Andrew	Cleaner	4/6 per day	

APPENDIX III—continued.

Date.	Name.	Position.		Remarks.
98. CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER'S BRANCH—continued.				
25 Aug.	Gray, William	Assistant storeman	4/- per day	Vice R. Stockdale.
26 "	Balmer, George	Fuelman	6/6 per day	Vice W. Starkey.
30 "	Husselt, Joseph	Messenger	3/3 per day	
31 "	Platt, Joseph	Call and telephone boy	3/3 per day	
1 Sept.	Foster, James	Cleaner	3/3 per day	
1 "	Lee Henry	Fitter	9/6 per day	Vice J. Green.
1 "	Blacker, John	Bricklayer	8/- per day	Transferred from extra staff.
1 "	Robertson, Francis	Labourer	6/6 per day	
2 "	Smith, James	Fuelman	6/6 per day	Vice R. King.
3 "	Daley, William	Cleaner	5/- per day	
3 "	Clarke, Patrick	Cleaner	5/- per day	
5 "	Osmond, Albert	Cleaner	5/- per day	
5 "	Carroll, George	Call and telephone boy	3/3 per day	
9 "	Boyd, Frank N.	Junior labourer	4/- per day	
12 "	Yeomans, Alfred	Call and telephone boy	3/3 per day	
19 "	Potts, Walter	Cleaner	5/- per day	
19 "	Gordon, John C.	Cleaner	5/- per day	Vice R. Stafford.
19 "	Rowley, Arthur	Call and telephone boy	2/6 per day	Vice E. Fegan.
20 "	Sharp, Joseph	Cleaner	5/- per day	
20 "	Watson, Robert	Call and telephone boy	2/6 per day	
27 "	Charlton, William	Cleaner	5/- per day	Vice G. Dent
28 "	Cooper, John P.	Cleaner	5/- per day	
CHIEF TRAFFIC MANAGER'S BRANCH.				
1 July.	Mison, Elizabeth	Gatekeeper	7/- per week	Vice C. Roberts.
1 "	Davies, Ellen	Gatekeeper	Free house	Vice M. Scanlan.
1 "	Collins, William	Probationer	10/- per week	
4 "	Annamd, George	Telegraph probationer	2/6 per week	
6 "	Robley, Arthur	Junior porter	2/6 per day	
7 "	Bland, George	Junior porter	4/2 per day	
8 "	Poll, Annie	Gatekeeper	Free house	Vice A. Bourke.
8 "	Taylor, William	Junior porter	2/6 per day	
9 "	Benton, Elizabeth	Gatekeeper	Free house	Vice E. Jones.
11 "	Phillo, Harry	Telegraph probationer	2/6 per week	
18 "	O'Brien, Margaret	Gatekeeper	7/- per week	
19 "	Croft, Jane	Gatekeeper	Free house	Vice M. Ellis
22 "	Matheson, Ernest	Block lad	10/- per week	Vice J. Newman.
22 "	Warton, Elizabeth	Platform attendant	5/- per week	
22 "	Williams, Harold	Telegraph probationer	2/6 per week	
23 "	Caldwell, Herbert	Telegraph probationer	2/6 per week	Vice W. Scanlon.
24 "	Shepherd, Selma	Gatekeeper	7/- per week	Vice J. Parnwell.
25 "	Bowden, Mrs. Jane	Gatekeeper	7/- per week	
25 "	Harris, Robert	Telegraph probationer	2/6 per week	
29 "	Sadleir, Wilfred	Telephone boy	10/- per week	
1 Aug.	Walsh, Patrick	Gatekeeper	15/- per week	Vice H. Rose.
2 "	Finn, Ellen	Gatekeeper	7/- per week	Vice M. James.
5 "	Barrett, Frederick	Junior porter	2/6 per day	
5 "	Maxwell, Margaret	Gatekeeper	7/- per week	
5 "	Waterson, Robert	Telegraph probationer	2/6 per week	
5 "	Topham, Cecil	Telegraph probationer	2/6 per week	
13 "	Sorrell, Anne	Gatekeeper	Free house	Vice C. Davidson.
15 "	Baker, John	Telegraph probationer	2/6 per week	
15 "	M'Lean, Angus	Gatekeeper	15/- per week	
16 "	Hatley, Annie	Gatekeeper	Free house	Vice J. Fisher
19 "	Buchanan, Charles	Gatekeeper	15/- per week	
23 "	Jenkins, Thomas	Telephone boy	10/- per week	
24 "	McCallloch, John	Telegraph probationer	2/6 per week	
24 "	Cheekets, Catherine	Gatekeeper	7/- per week	Vice C. Monroe.
24 "	Nash, Catharine	Gatekeeper	10/- per week	Vice E. Grimes
			and house.	
25 "	Thompson, Ernest	Telegraph probationer	2/6 per week	
26 "	Ward, Reuben	Telegraph probationer	2/6 per week	
26 "	Campbell, Kate	Station-mistress	10/- per week	Vice B. Campbell.
			and house.	
30 "	Doyle, Caroline	Gatekeeper	7/- per week	
2 Sept.	Lannas, Jesse	Telephone boy	10/- per week	Vice J. Cavillon.
2 "	Roderick, Thomas	Telephone boy	10/- per week	
2 "	Burns, Frederick	Junior porter	2/6 per day	Transferred from Extra staff.
3 "	Maher, Patrick	Office lad	10/- per week	Vice M. Roche.
5 "	Fryar, Ralph	Telegraph probationer	2/6 per week	
7 "	Murdoch, Robert	Telegraph probationer	2/6 per week	Vice J. Roberts.
7 "	Beach, John	Telegraph probationer	2/6 per week	Vice A. Dickey.
9 "	Killen, Mary	Gatekeeper	7/- per week	Vice M. Stophan.
9 "	Davidson, Francis	Telegraph probationer	2/6 per week	
12 "	Whitfield, John	Telegraph probationer	2/6 per week	
12 "	Horner, Alfred	Telegraph probationer	2/6 per week	
13 "	Wright, Edmund	Telegraph probationer	2/6 per week	
14 "	Tunks, Francis	Telephone boy	10/- per week	
14 "	Magennis, Alfred	Telephone boy	10/- per week	
15 "	Maunsell, William	Telephone boy	10/- per week	
16 "	Fleming, Arthur	Telephone boy	10/- per week	
16 "	Alsop, Spence	Telegraph probationer	2/6 per week	
16 "	Shintley, William	Porter	6/- per day	Vice G. Movham.
19 "	Connell, Peter	Telegraph probationer	2/6 per week	
19 "	Lattner, Mary	Gatekeeper	7/- per week	Vice C. Gately.
21 "	Long, William	Telegraph probationer	2/6 per week	
26 "	Sinclair, Maria	Gatekeeper	Free house	Vice M. Dowling.
26 "	Hurd, Jane	Office-cleaner	20/- per week	Vice C. Griffiths.
27 "	Beze, John	Telephone boy	10/- per week	
28 "	Smith, Cecil	Telegraph probationer	2/6 per week	
30 "	Gilney, Charles	Telegraph probationer	2/6 per week	Vice H. Hollinshead.
30 "	Crossland, Robert	Porter	6/- per day	Transferred from Extra staff
1898				
SIGNAL AND INTERLOCKING ENGINEER'S BRANCH.				
20 July	Black, John	Labourer	7/- per day	Transferred from extra staff.
ELECTRICAL ENGINEER'S BRANCH.				
2 July	Bray, Robert C.	Electrical cadet	7/10 per day	
21 "	Bartlett, Alfred P.	Fitter	10/- per day	Vice J. M'Caldon.
1 Aug	Knopp, Otto J.	Probationer	2/6 per week	Vice H. P. Harris.
CONTROLLER OF STORES BRANCH.				
19 July	Anderson, Crawford L.	Messenger	10/- per week	Vice D. M'Callum

APPENDIX III—continued.

Date.	Name.	Position.	Rate.	Remarks.
1898. TRAMWAYS—LOCOMOTIVE BRANCH.				
1 July	Buchanan, John M.	Cleaner	4/6 per day	
1 "	Woods, William H.	Cleaner	3/9 per day	
1 "	White, James W.	Cleaner	4/6 per day	
1 "	Brown, Cecil C.	Cleaner	4/6 per day	
1 "	Hamblyn, Percy E.	Cleaner	3/9 per day	
1 "	Ryan, Roy E.	Cleaner	4/6 per day	
1 "	Murphy, Thomas W.	Cleaner	4/6 per day	
1 "	Stephens, John H.	Cleaner	5/- per day	Transferred from extra staff.
16 "	Powell, George P.	Cleaner	4/6 per day	Vice Charles Collins.
26 "	Barrett, Arthur A.	Cleaner	4/6 per day	
19 Aug.	Hodgson, Harold H.	Apprentice	1/10 per day	Vice W. Walker.
25 "	Pendleton, William	Shop boy	2/3 per day	Vice J. Bellerby.
26 "	McGinley, Charles J.	Shop boy	5/- per day	
31 "	O'Connor, Daniel	Cleaner	5/- per day	Transferred from extra staff.
1 Sept.	Pearce, Albert H.	Shop boy	2/6 per day	Vice E. Ashe.
6 "	Smith, Thomas G.	Boy Labourer	3/- per day	Vice H. Pegler.
12 "	Newman, Stephen	Shop Boy	2/6 per day	Vice L. Mole.
16 "	Wootton, Frederick	Fuelman	6/6 per day	Vice T. Williams.
30 "	Russett, William C.	Shop boy	2/3 per day	Vice F. Helm.
TRAMWAYS—TRAFFIC BRANCH.				
1 July	Strachan, Walter	Junior conductor	6/- per day	Transferred from extra staff.
1 "	Thompson, Samuel	Junior conductor	6/- per day	
15 "	Dowsett, Frederick P.	Office boy	10/- per week	Vice A. E. Godfrey.
28 Aug.	Walter, William	Junior conductor	6/- per day	
9 Sept.	Moore, Harry	Junior conductor	6/- per day	Transferred from extra staff.
9 "	George, Francois E.	Junior conductor	6/- per day	
TRAMWAYS—MAINTENANCE BRANCH.				
26 Aug.	Branagan, Stephen	Labourer	6/6 per day	Transferred from extra staff.
26 "	Fehan, Luke	Labourer	6/6 per day	
26 "	Berry, James	Labourer	6/6 per day	
26 "	Deans, George	Labourer	6/6 per day	
26 "	Johnston, Samuel	Labourer	6/6 per day	

APPENDIX IV.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS AND TRAMWAYS.

RETURN, in accordance with clause No. 44 of the Railway Act, showing the Removals of Employees from the 1st July to the 30th September, 1898.

Date.	Name.	Position.	Rate.	Remarks.
1898. TRAFFIC AUDITORS BRANCH.				
9 Sept.	Knox, James	Clerk	£220 per annum	Retired.
ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF FOR EXISTING LINES BRANCH.				
16 July	Sorrell, Richard	Ganger	9/- per day	Deceased.
18 "	Duggan, John	Fettler	7/6 per day	Discharged.
19 "	Taylor, James	Fettler	7/6 per day	Deceased.
26 "	Rogan, John	Labourer	5/6 per day	Retired.
30 "	Higgins, John	Fettler	7/6 per day	Resigned.
13 Aug.	Boumer, William	Ganger	9/- per day	Retired.
28 "	Kewin, Thomas	Labourer	7/6 per day	Deceased.
1 Sept.	Morris, John	Fettler	7/6 per day	Resigned.
15 "	Wilson, Francis	Fettler	7/6 per day	Retired.
16 "	Fallon, Timothy	Fettler	7/6 per day	Discharged.
22 "	Watson, John	Ganger	9/- per day	Retired.
24 "	Pollock, Robert	Fettler	7/6 per day	Retired.
24 "	Cole, Charles	Fettler	7/6 per day	Retired.
24 "	Jameson, James	Ganger	9/- per day	Retired.
24 "	Leahy, Thomas	Ganger	9/- per day	Retired.
24 "	Kerrigan, James	Fettler	7/6 per day	Retired.
24 "	Donovan, Michael	Fettler	7/6 per day	Retired.
CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER'S BRANCH.				
1 July	Hall, Joseph	Fireman	10/- per day	Deceased.
1 "	Duff, David	Driver	12/- per day	Discharged.
7 "	Mason, George	Labourer	7/6 per day	Resigned.
7 "	Goodwin, John	Fuelman	7/- per day	Discharged.
10 "	Stine, Mathew	Striker	7/6 per day	Resigned.
18 "	King, Robert	Labourer	7/- per day	Discharged.
6 Aug.	Delfendahl, William	Blacksmith	10/2 per day	Discharged.
8 "	Layton, David	Fuelman	6/6 per day	Written off books.
8 "	Lang, Edward	Fireman	9/- per day	Left the service.
10 "	Harding, William	Labourer	7/6 per day	Deceased.
18 "	Stafford, Robert	Cleaner	7/- per day	Deceased.
1 Sept.	Kercher, Walter	Fireman	10/- per day	Written off books.
2 "	Francis, John	Fuelman	7/6 per day	Retired.
7 "	Adlington, Herbert	Wagon builder	10/- per day	Discharged.
7 "	Hapgood, George	Fuelman	7/6 per day	Written off books.
8 "	Dwyer, John	Cleaner	7/- per day	Discharged.
19 "	McFadzean, Thomas	Fireman	10/- per day	Retired.
19 "	Bryson, Alexander	Driver	15/- per day	Retired.
29 "	Inglis, William	Watchman	7/6 per day	Retired.
30 "	Peary, Thomas	Fitter	9/4 per day	Retired.
CHIEF TRAFFIC MANAGER'S BRANCH.				
2 July	Wilkinson, William	Apprentice clerk	£40 per annum	Resigned.
6 "	Hartacre, John	Guard	11/- per day	Deceased.
7 "	Bourke, Annie	Gatekeeper	Free house	Discharged.
9 "	Jones, Elizabeth	Gatekeeper	Free house	Resigned.
13 "	M'Innes, Alexander	Porter	8/- per day	Deceased.
14 "	Sayle, William	Guard	11/- per day	Retired.
18 "	Ellis, Mary	Gatekeeper	Free house	Resigned.
22 "	M'Ewen, Nestor	Junior porter	4/2 per day	Resigned.
23 "	Parnwell, Jane	Gatekeeper	7/- per week	Discharged.
26 "	Wood, Alfred	Signalman	11/- per day	Retired.

APPENDIX IV—continued.

Date.	Name.	Position.	Rate.	Remarks.
1898.				
CHIEF TRAFFIC MANAGER'S BRANCH—continued.				
29 July	Moore, Rachael	Gatekeeper	7/- per week	Position abolished.
31 "	Crawford, Alexander	District Superintendent	£500 per annum	Retired.
1 Aug.	James, Maria	Gatekeeper	7/- per week	Resigned.
4 "	Roche, Mathew	Office lad	10/- per week	Resigned.
6 "	Ballantyne, Charles	Operator	£100 per annum	Resigned.
10 "	Fisher, Jane	Gatekeeper	Free house	Resigned.
12 "	Davidson, Clara	Gatekeeper	Free house	Resigned.
17 "	Hooper, John	Junior porter	5/- per day	Written off books.
24 "	Grimes, Emily	Gatekeeper	15/- per week and house.	Resigned.
26 "	Campbell, Bella	Station mistress	10/- per week and house.	Resigned.
29 "	Keys, Michael	Shunter	7 6 per day	Discharged.
31 "	Cavillon, Joseph	Platform inspector	12/- per day	Retired.
1 Sept.	Rose, Henry	Signalman	8 6 per day	Written off books.
2 "	Carlon, James	Porter	7/- per day	Resigned.
5 "	King, Patrick	Shunter	7/- per day	Resigned.
8 "	Hollinshead, Herbert	Junior porter	4 2 per day	Resigned.
9 "	Stophan, Margaret	Gatekeeper	7/- per week	Resigned.
12 "	Gafely, Catherine	Gatekeeper	7/- per week	Resigned.
17 "	D'Arcy, David	Porter	6/- per day	Discharged.
19 "	Watts, George	Porter	6 6 per day	Discharged.
23 "	Cavanough, James	Porter	8/- per day	Deceased.
24 "	Murphy, James	Shunter	8/- per day	Written off books.
26 "	Dovling, Margaret	Gatekeeper	Free house	Resigned.
26 "	Birrell, Randolph	Junior porter	5/- per day	Discharged.
ELECTRICAL ENGINEER'S BRANCH.				
30 July	Thurston, James	Chief operator	£200 per annum	Resigned.
10 Aug.	Knopp, Otto J.	Probationer	2 0 per week	Resigned.
15 Sept.	McCaun, Charles F.	Operator	£140 per annum	Retired.
GENERAL BRANCH.				
6 Aug.	Ward, John D.	General appeals clerk	£300 per annum	Left the Service.
TRAMWAYS—LOCOMOTIVE BRANCH.				
8 July	Magnay, Martin	Storeman	8/- per day	Resigned.
8 "	Williams, Thomas	Fuelman	7/- per day	Deceased.
12 "	Willegoose, Herbert	Driver	11/- per day	Resigned.
15 "	Gollins, Charles H.	Cleaner	4 6 per day	Discharged.
20 "	Walker, Walter	Tinsmith	10 8 per day	Deceased.
TRAMWAYS—TRAFFIC BRANCH.				
3 July	McDonnell, John	Junior conductor	6/- per day	Resigned.
13 "	Bevan, John	Point cleaner	7/- per day	Retired.
13 "	Dearman, Nathaniel	Car cleaner	7/- per day	Retired.
14 "	James, Samuel	Pointsman	7/- per day	Retired.
26 "	Johnson, George	Junior conductor	7/- per day	Resigned.
9 Aug.	Wight, Douglas	Junior conductor	7/- per day	Discharged.
23 "	Blackstone, Frank E.	Junior conductor	7/- per day	Discharged.

[6d.]

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

EXTENSION OF THE RAILWAY INTO THE CITY OF SYDNEY.

(PETITION FROM CERTAIN CITIZENS OF SYDNEY AND SUBURBS IN FAVOUR OF.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 25 October, 1898.

To the Honorable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the undersigned Citizens of Sydney and Suburbs,—

HUMBLY SHOWETH:—

1. That in consequence of the large and increasing traffic on the railways it is found that the present terminus is wholly inadequate, so much so as to be a continuous source of danger to every railway passenger to or from Redfern Station.

2. That this danger has been pointed out by the Railway Commissioners in such manner as to practically relieve themselves of all moral responsibility in regard to future risks.

3. That it is now admitted on all hands that some provision must be made to bring the great bulk of the railway passengers nearer to the business part of the city.

4. That two Royal Commissions and the Public Works Committee have made inquiry as to the expediency and best methods of extending the railway system of the Colony into the City of Sydney. The Royal Commission appointed in 1896, after most extensive and careful inquiries, and after full consideration of various routes and schemes, and the relative costs thereof, recommended the extension by what is known as the St. James' Road scheme. This recommendation was subsequently endorsed by the Public Works Committee, and a full report of the evidence on which the same was based was laid before your Honorable House.

5. This scheme would afford facilities for an extension to the Circular Quay, to the Eastern Suburbs, and to North Sydney.

6. That in view of the foregoing, and particularly of the imminent danger to which the travelling public are daily exposed at the present terminus, it is most respectfully submitted that the work of extending the railway into the city should not be delayed a day longer than is absolutely unavoidable.

Your Petitioners, therefore, humbly pray that your Honorable House will take immediate steps to give effect to the recommendation of the Royal Commission and the Public Works Committee, by providing the necessary Legislative authority for the carrying out of the aforesaid railway extension to St. James' Road.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[Here follow 840 signatures.]

Similar Petitions were received,—

On 26th October, 1898, from certain Residents of Sydney and Suburbs; 878 signatures.

“ “ from certain Residents of Sydney and Suburbs; 839 signatures.

“ “ from certain Residents of Sydney and Suburbs; 816 signatures.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

EXTENSION OF THE RAILWAY INTO THE CITY OF SYDNEY.

(PETITION FROM CITIZENS OF SYDNEY AND SUBURBS, IN FAVOUR OF.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 7 September, 1898.

To the Honorable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the undersigned Citizens of Sydney and Suburbs,—

HUMBLY SHOWETH:—

1. That in consequence of the large and increasing traffic on the railways it is found that the present terminus is wholly inadequate, so much so as to be a continuous source of danger to every railway passenger to or from Redfern Station.

2. That this danger has been pointed out by the Railway Commissioners in such manner as to practically relieve themselves of all moral responsibility in regard to future risks.

3. That it is now admitted on all hands that some provision must be made to bring the great bulk of the railway passengers nearer to the business part of the city.

4. That two Royal Commissions and the Public Works Committee have made inquiry as to the expediency and best methods of extending the railway system of the Colony into the City of Sydney. The Royal Commission appointed in 1896, after most extensive and careful inquiries, and after full consideration of various routes and schemes, and the relative costs thereof, recommended the extension by what is known as the St. James' Road scheme. This recommendation was subsequently endorsed by the Public Works Committee, and a full report of the evidence on which the same was based was laid before your Honorable House.

5. This scheme would afford facilities for an extension to the Circular Quay, to the Eastern Suburbs, and to North Sydney.

6. That in view of the foregoing, and particularly of the imminent danger to which the travelling public are daily exposed at the present terminus, it is most respectfully submitted that the work of extending the railway into the city should not be delayed a day longer than is absolutely unavoidable.

Your Petitioners, therefore, humbly pray that your Honorable House will take immediate steps to give effect to the recommendation of the Royal Commission and the Public Works Committee, by providing the necessary Legislative authority for the carrying out of the aforesaid Railway Extension to St. James' Road.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[Here follow 897 signatures.]

Similar Petitions were received,—

On 7th September, 1898,	from certain residents of Sydney and Suburbs ;	825 signatures.
Do do	from certain residents of Sydney and Suburbs ;	765 signatures.
Do do	from certain residents of Sydney and Suburbs ;	876 signatures.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

EXTENSION OF THE RAILWAY INTO THE CITY OF SYDNEY.

(PETITION FROM CERTAIN CITIZENS OF SYDNEY AND SUBURBS, IN FAVOUR OF.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 20 September, 1898.

To the Honorable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the undersigned Citizens of Sydney and Suburbs,—

HUMBLY SHOWETH:—

1. That in consequence of the large and increasing traffic on the railways it is found that the present terminus is wholly inadequate, so much so as to be a continuous source of danger to every railway passenger to or from Redfern Station.

2. This danger has been pointed out by the Railway Commissioners in such manner as to practically relieve themselves of all moral responsibility in regard to future risks.

3. That it is now admitted on all hands that some provision must be made to bring the great bulk of the railway passengers nearer to the business part of the city.

4. That two Royal Commissions and the Public Works Committee have made inquiry as to the expediency and best methods of extending the railway system of the Colony into the City of Sydney. The Royal Commission appointed in 1896, after most extensive and careful inquiries, and after full consideration of various routes and schemes, and the relative costs thereof, recommended the extension by what is known as the St. James' Road scheme. This recommendation was subsequently endorsed by the Public Works Committee, and a full report of the evidence on which the same was based was laid before your Honorable House.

5. This scheme would afford facilities for an extension to the Circular Quay, to the Eastern Suburbs, and to North Sydney.

6. That in view of the foregoing, and particularly of the imminent danger to which the travelling public are daily exposed at the present terminus, it is most respectfully submitted that the work of extending the railway into the city should not be delayed a day longer than is absolutely unavoidable.

Your Petitioners, therefore, humbly pray that your Honorable House will take immediate steps to give effect to the recommendation of the Royal Commission and the Public Works Committee, by providing the necessary Legislative authority for the carrying out of the aforesaid Railway Extension to St. James' Road.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[Here follow 843 signatures.]

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

EXTENSION OF THE RAILWAY INTO THE CITY OF SYDNEY.

(PETITION FROM CERTAIN CITIZENS OF SYDNEY AND SUBURBS IN FAVOUR OF.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 27 September, 1898.

To the Honorable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the undersigned Citizens of Sydney and Suburbs,—

HUMBLY SHOWETH:—

1. That in consequence of the large and increasing traffic on the railways it is found that the present terminus is wholly inadequate, so much so as to be a continuous source of danger to every railway passenger to or from Redfern Station.

2. That this danger has been pointed out by the Railway Commissioners in such manner as to practically relieve themselves of all moral responsibility in regard to future risks.

3. That it is now admitted on all hands that some provision must be made to bring the great bulk of the railway passengers nearer to the business part of the city.

4. That two Royal Commissions and the Public Works Committee have made inquiry as to the expediency and best methods of extending the railway system of the Colony into the City of Sydney. The Royal Commission appointed in 1896, after most extensive and careful inquiries, and after full consideration of various routes and schemes, and the relative costs thereof, recommended the extension by what is known as the St. James' Road scheme. This recommendation was subsequently endorsed by the Public Works Committee, and a full report of the evidence on which the same was based was laid before your Honorable House.

5. This scheme would afford facilities for an extension to the Circular Quay, to the Eastern Suburbs, and to North Sydney.

6. That in view of the foregoing, and particularly of the imminent danger to which the travelling public are daily exposed at the present terminus, it is most respectfully submitted that the work of extending the railway into the city should not be delayed a day longer than is absolutely unavoidable.

Your Petitioners, therefore, humbly pray that your Honorable House will take immediate steps to give effect to the recommendation of the Royal Commission and the Public Works Committee, by providing the necessary Legislative authority for the carrying out of the aforesaid railway extension to St. James' Road.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[Here follow 856 signatures.]

A similar Petition was received on 28th September, 1898, from certain Residents of Sydney and Suburbs; 902 signatures.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

EXTENSION OF THE RAILWAY INTO THE CITY OF SYDNEY.

(PETITION FROM CERTAIN CITIZENS OF SYDNEY AND SUBURBS IN FAVOUR OF.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 13 October, 1898.

To the Honorable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the undersigned Citizens of Sydney and Suburbs,—

HUMBLY SHOWETH:—

1. That in consequence of the large and increasing traffic on the railways it is found that the present terminus is wholly inadequate, so much so as to be a continuous source of danger to every railway passenger to or from Redfern Station.

2. That this danger has been pointed out by the Railway Commissioners in such manner as to practically relieve themselves of all moral responsibility in regard to future risks.

3. That it is now admitted on all hands that some provision must be made to bring the great bulk of the railway passengers nearer to the business part of the city.

4. That two Royal Commissions and the Public Works Committee have made inquiry as to the expediency and best methods of extending the railway system of the Colony into the City of Sydney. The Royal Commission appointed in 1896, after most extensive and careful inquiries, and after full consideration of various routes and schemes, and the relative costs thereof, recommended the extension by what is known as the St. James' Road scheme. This recommendation was subsequently endorsed by the Public Works Committee, and a full report of the evidence on which the same was based was laid before your Honorable House.

5. This scheme would afford facilities for an extension to the Circular Quay, to the Eastern Suburbs, and to North Sydney.

6. That in view of the foregoing, and particularly of the imminent danger to which the travelling public are daily exposed at the present terminus, it is most respectfully submitted that the work of extending the railway into the city should not be delayed a day longer than is absolutely unavoidable.

Your Petitioners, therefore, humbly pray that your Honorable House will take immediate steps to give effect to the recommendation of the Royal Commission and the Public Works Committee, by providing the necessary Legislative authority for the carrying out of the aforesaid railway extension to St. James' Road.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[Here follow 806 signatures.]

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

EXTENSION OF THE RAILWAY INTO THE CITY OF SYDNEY.

(PETITION FROM CERTAIN CITIZENS OF SYDNEY AGAINST OCCUPATION OF HYDE PARK FOR.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 28 September, 1898.

To the Honorable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, in
Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Citizens of Sydney and Residents of New South Wales,—

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:—

That, while approving of the extension of the railway system of the Colony further into the city, your Petitioners have the strongest objection to the occupation of any portion of Hyde Park for such purposes, and respectfully pray that your Honorable House will not assent to any proposal having that effect.

And your Petitioners will, as in duty bound, for ever pray.

[Here follow 5,333 signatures]

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

McSHARRY v. THE RAILWAY COMMISSIONERS.

(LETTER FROM THE CROWN SOLICITOR, DATED 6 MAY, 1898, *IN RE.*)

Printed under No. 6 Report from Printing Committee, 13 October, 1898.

The Crown Solicitor to The Under Secretary for Public Works.

McSharry v. The Railway Commissioners.

Dear Mr. Hickson,

Crown Solicitor's Office, Sydney, 6 May, 1898.

Referring to the conversation with the Minister this morning relative to the leader in yesterday's *Daily Telegraph*, I understand that Mr. Young is inclined to have an answer published; if he should do so, the two points discussed can be very easily disposed of. In the first place, there is no known method by which either the Railway Construction Branch of the Works Department, or the Railway Commissioners themselves, could have shortened the arbitration, except at the expense of making McSharry a present of the verdict. The plaintiff, by his counsel, sets before the Arbitrator the whole of his claims, and enters upon the evidence in support of them, and the defendant, when his turn comes, must go over the same ground, and follow the plaintiff, wheresoever he leads; that is to say, if his object is to make a successful defence. It is a matter for the presiding Arbitrator, who has the conduct of the arrangements in Court, to prevent the proceedings being unduly protracted. I should mention that if this were a trial at *nisi prius* the jury fees would have to be taken into account, and you would have to consider whether a jury of four or twelve men could sit continuously for months.

The Department really had no voice in the matter when the case was sent to arbitration by the Judge's order, of date the 18th December, 1895; for it was compulsory. Under the present system such a case as this cannot be tried before a Judge and jury. There would require to be an extra Judge appointed, and special provision made for the trial of lengthy cases; whereas there may be no similar action brought again. The McSharry case is unique.

The following is a copy of the section of the Arbitration Act under which the above-mentioned order was made:—

"12. In any cause . . . if it requires any prolonged examination of documents or any scientific or local investigation which cannot, in the opinion of a Court or a Judge, be conveniently made before a jury, or conducted by the Court through its other ordinary officers, or, if the question in dispute consists wholly or in part of matters of account, the Court or a Judge may, at any time, order the whole cause . . . to be tried before an Arbitrator agreed on by the parties."

Yours, &c.,

GEO. COLQUHOUN,
Crown Solicitor.

P.S.—The *Telegraph's* leader could not but be incorrect and misleading, for it deals with a subject of which the Pressman is entirely ignorant.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

MCSHARRY v. THE RAILWAY COMMISSIONERS.

(STATEMENT OF THE VARIOUS STEPS IN THE CASE OF (COOTAMUNDRA-GUNDAGAI CONTRACT),
RESPECTING THE APPOINTMENT OF ARBITRATORS.)

Printed under No. 6 Report from Printing Committee, 13 October, 1898.

Statement of the various steps in the case of McSharry v. the Railway Commissioners (Cootamundra-Gundagai Contract) in regard to the appointment of Arbitrators.

AFTER issue had been joined it was conceded by both parties that the case would have to go to arbitration, more especially as section 12 of the Arbitration Act of 1892 now enables the Judges to decline to enter upon the trial of intricate cases such as this, involving a protracted examination of accounts.

In the previous case, although briefs had been delivered for the trial, the case was sent to arbitration at the last moment, when the parties assembled in Court, and after some remarks by the presiding Judge.

Mr. McSharry, on the 8th August, 1895, had an interview with the Crown Solicitor, and next day, by letter, nominated certain gentlemen for the appointment of Arbitrator. The first three were Messrs. Barton, Thornloc Smith (Brisbane), and C. G. Heydon.

After hesitating for some time the Government desired plaintiff to accept Dr. Sly. (Letter, 6th September, 1895.)

Eventually Mr. Heydon was agreed upon, and an order was made by the Court, by consent, on the 18th December, 1895, appointing him sole Arbitrator. [*Copy appended.*]

No arrangement at all was made between the parties and Mr. Heydon as to his fees, mainly because his time was occupied in clearing off interlocutory applications for discovery, particulars, &c., and, in fact, he never entered upon the hearing of evidence in the arbitration proper.

Mr. Heydon resigned his position on the 4th May, 1896, the reason stated by him being that he had received a message from the plaintiff intimating that he was dissatisfied with Mr. Heydon. Mr. Heydon estimated his fees at 60 guineas for about four months work hearing Chamber applications two or three times a week, generally after 4 o'clock, sometimes till late at night. We paid him 30 guineas apiece.

Another correspondence then ensued, the Government naturally being disinclined to go out of their way to suit Mr. McSharry's fancies in regard to Arbitrators. Plaintiff again refused to accept Dr. Sly.

On the 10th June, 1896, the Crown Solicitor invited plaintiff to make application to the Court to select and appoint an Arbitrator, as we had failed to agree.

There were then numerous interviews, and finally the Premier instructed the Crown Solicitor to agree to Mr. Barton. [*See letter herewith of 12th June, 1896.*]

The order was drawn up and signed on the 19th June. [*Copy herewith.*]

On the 22nd June, 1896, when we were about to go before Mr. Barton to fix a day for the hearing, Mr. McLaughlin told me that he had talked over the matter of fees informally with Mr. Barton, who wished to know what he would receive for his work, and that he had told Mr. Barton that he was of opinion that the rate should be fixed at 25 guineas per diem; and I have a note in my diary that Mr. Barton, on the same day when the conference was over, referred to this matter of fees, which had been mooted between himself and Mr. McLaughlin, and told me that he thought the Court, if referred to, would be inclined to sanction 25 guineas per diem. At this appointment Mr. Barton asked Mr. McLaughlin and myself to give him an estimate of the length of time the arbitration would occupy. Mr. McLaughlin reckoned sixty days—the same as the previous similar hearing before laymen, whilst I set it down at fifty days. In the event, it ran for 323 days, spread over twenty-three months. [*See Memo. annexed.*]

Then followed the two letters to the Department (*herewith*), and the rate above mentioned was agreed upon. It was calculated at that time that the Government share of the total payments to Mr. Barton for fifty days would be £687 10s.

It will thus be seen that the question of fees had been discussed between Mr. Barton and Mr. McLaughlin at or before the appointment; for Mr. Barton, properly enough, wished to know whether it would pay him to devote his time for two or three months exclusively to this case; but the rate of pay was not definitely decided until after the date of the order. It was fixed, however, before Mr. Barton entered upon the arbitration, which commenced 20th July, 1896.

A statement of the circumstances surrounding the claim for fees subsequent to the hearing is contained in the two letters herewith, dated 22nd August and 8th September last—and the last document in the matter is the telegram of 19th September, 1898.

H. P. CURTIS,
Managing Common-Law Clerk.

Appointment

Appointment of The Honorable C. G. Heydon, as Sole Arbitrator.

In the Supreme Court of New South Wales.

No. 524, A.D. 1894.

Between James McSharry, plaintiff, and the Railway Commissioners of New South Wales, defendants.
The 18th day of December, in the year 1895.

UPON reading the summons, dated the 30th day of November last, to refer this action to arbitration and the affidavit of the abovenamed plaintiff, James McSharry, sworn on the 30th day of November last with the annexure thereto filed in support of the said summons, and the affidavit of George Colquhoun, sworn on the 3rd day of December instant with the annexures thereto, and filed in opposition to the said summons, and upon hearing Mr. O'Connor, of counsel for the abovenamed plaintiff, and Mr. Bruce Smith, of counsel for the abovenamed defendants, and in pursuance of the arbitration Act of 1892, I do order that this action and the issues joined therein, and all matters therein in dispute between the parties thereto, subject to the reservations hereinafter provided by, and they are hereby referred to the Honorable Charles Gilbert Heydon, barrister-at-law, in the Colony of New South Wales as Arbitrator, to be tried by him under and in accordance with the said Act and the regulations thereunder. The said Arbitrator in his award to find specially for plaintiff or defendants as the case may be, on each count of the declaration, or part of such count where in the opinion of the Arbitrator the same is divisible, and on each item of the thirteen several particulars under the fifth count respectively, such award to be made and published in writing within one calendar month from the close of the said arbitration, and to be transmitted to the Prothonotary, and afterwards entered as the verdict in this cause, under, and in accordance with the said Act and the regulations thereunder; and I do further order that the said Arbitrator shall be at liberty to employ from time to time, and at such times as he shall think fit, a shorthand writer or shorthand writers for the purpose of taking down in shorthand and transcribing the evidence taken before him the said Arbitrator, and I do further order that the costs of this action so far as it has proceeded, and the costs of the arbitration hereby ordered, and the award thereon and incidental to the said action, arbitration, and award shall follow the verdict to be entered as aforesaid, such costs to be taxed in the ordinary way according to the practice of the Supreme Court provided that in the taxation of witnesses expenses the Prothonotary shall not allow more than seven days subsistence in each, of each witness examined once only during the said arbitration, and not more than fourteen days subsistence in the case of any witness examined more than once, unless in cases where the Arbitrator certifies under his hand that the detention of the witness for a longer period than seven or fourteen days as the case may be was necessary; and I do further order, that in the event of the said Arbitrator declining to act, or dying before he shall have made his award the said parties may, or if they cannot agree, this Honorable Court may upon application by either party, appoint a new Arbitrator; and I further order that the costs of and incidental to this application and order shall be costs in the cause to both parties.

FREDK. M. DARLEY, C.J.

John McLaughlin, plaintiff's attorney, 118, Pitt-street.

The Crown Solicitor to The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade.

McSharry v. The Railway Commissioners.

Sir,

Crown Solicitor's Office, Sydney, 12 June, 1896.

Referring to the interview with you this afternoon, I have the honor to inform you that I am now of opinion that it would not be expedient for the Government to continue to oppose the appointment of Mr. Barton as Arbitrator in place of Mr. Heydon in this case.

On the 9th instant, in a letter to the Minister for Works, I mentioned that I did not think any local barrister should be appointed; but since that time, and after having had an interview with Mr. Barton himself, and upon further deliberation, I have come to the conclusion that the only course now open to the Government is to concur in his appointment. There are a number of reasons that I cannot express within the limits of a letter, but I may say that it would be better to have Mr. Barton appointed now *by consent* than for the Court to select him on plaintiff's nomination. I have no doubt this is what would happen, and there is nothing to be gained by further opposition.

I should be glad if the Premier and the Minister for Works could instruct me hereon by Monday next, as Mr. McLaughlin is anxious to get a final answer immediately.

I have, &c.,

GEO. COLQUHOUN,
Solicitor.

The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade.

The Hon. The Secretary for Public Works.—G.H.R., 15. I concur in Mr. Barton's appointment.—G.H.R., 15. The Under Secretary for Public Works.—F.H., 15/6/96. Submitted for approval. Approved.—J.H.Y., 15/6/96. The Crown Solicitor.—J.No.P., 15/6/96. For Under Secretary for Public Works and Commissioner for Roads.

Appointment of Mr. Edmund Barton, Q.C., as Sole Arbitrator.

No. 524, A.D. 1894.

In the Supreme Court of New South Wales.

Between James McSharry, plaintiff, and The Railway Commissioners of New South Wales, defendants.

Friday, the 19th day of June, in the year of our Lord 1896.

UPON reading the order of reference made herein on the 18th day of December, 1895, and the affidavit of Albert Johnston Williams sworn herein on the 19th day of June instant, and the consent of the defendants' attorney endorsed hereon; and upon hearing Mr. John McLaughlin, the attorney for the plaintiff, I do order that Mr. Edmund Barton, Queen's Counsel, be and is hereby appointed Arbitrator under the above-mentioned order of Reference in the place or stead of the Honorable Charles Gilbert Heydon.

FREDK. M. DARLEY, C.J.

John McLaughlin, plaintiff's attorney, 118, Pitt-street, Sydney.

I consent to this order.—GEO. COLQUHOUN, Crown Solicitor, defendant's attorney.

Time

Memo.
The opposition
was to enable us
to make amend-
ments in the
reposed order.

Time-table.

Mr. O'Connor's opening speech--From 20th to 27th July, 1896	...	...	5 days.
McSharry's case--From 27th July, 1896, to 11th February, 1897	...	...	113 "
Defendant's case--From 15th February to 16th August, 1897	...	...	92 "
McSharry's case, in reply--From 16th August to 1st November, 1897	...	...	30 "
Mr. Bruce Smith's address--From 4th November to 24th December, 1897	...	...	35 "
Mr. O'Connor's address--Between 3rd January, 1898, and 10th June, 1898	...	...	48 "
Total	...	...	323 "

The Crown Solicitor to The Under Secretary for Public Works.

McSharry v. the Railway Commissioners.

Sir,

Crown Solicitor's Office, Sydney, 24 June, 1896.

I have the honor to report that an order has been made by the Court, appointing Mr. Barton Arbitrator herein in the place of Mr. Heydon, and we are engaged arranging the preliminaries for the hearing.

During the last few days the matter of the fees to be paid to the Arbitrator has been informally discussed, and it seems to be recognised that the parties should give Mr. Barton some idea of the amount to be ultimately decided upon when the award is made. The Arbitration Act requires the remuneration to be determined by the Court, but it is not likely that any decision would be come to in this heavy arbitration without the parties being consulted by the Chamber Judge who deals with the matter.

Mr. McLaughlin has intimated that he thinks Mr. Barton should receive 25 guineas per diem, bearing in mind that he intends to set aside the whole of his practice during the time this arbitration lasts.

I am desirous of taking the Government's instructions on this subject, and perhaps the Minister can confer with the Premier and let me know shortly whether I am at liberty to concur in Mr. McLaughlin's proposal. It may be that we shall be under some small disadvantage if we remain silent after plaintiff's attorney has suggested a liberal fee. The Government, however, may prefer to leave the matter entirely to the Court, and it is open to them to do so.

I have, &c.,

GEO. COLQUHOUN,

Crown Solicitor.

Submitted.—R.H., 24/6/96.
Solicitor.—R.H., 24/6/96.

May be left entirely to the Court.—J.H.Y., 24/6/96. Crown

The Crown Solicitor to The Under Secretary for Public Works.

McSharry v. Railway Commissioners.

Sir,

Crown Solicitor's Office, Sydney, 6 July, 1896.

I have the honor to inform you that the date has been fixed for the hearing of this arbitration, viz., 20th instant, and at a meeting before the Arbitrator on the 2nd instant the question of the amount of his fees cropped up again for discussion. Mr. Barton plainly intimated that in a case of this kind the parties ought to let him know at once what amount of remuneration they were prepared to pay him for devoting many weeks to this case, instead of allowing the whole question to stand over until the making of the award. It was conceded by plaintiff's attorney and the three counsel present, that some understanding ought to be come to before the case commences; but I had to ask to be permitted to communicate again with the Department before agreeing to any fixed amount for fees.

If you so instruct me, I shall, at the opening of the arbitration, announce that the Government will agree to no stated sum for fees until the hearing is over; but this is a step that I respectfully submit should not be taken without grave consideration, especially in view of the fact that payments may have to be made to the Arbitrator in the course of the proceedings, as it can hardly be expected he should have to wait until the termination of the arbitration before he receives any fees at all.

Of course such fees would have, in the first instance, to be borne equally between the parties, leaving the final adjustment until after an award is made.

It will also be necessary to provide for all regular disbursements in the case, to be halved with the plaintiff, but every care will be taken to keep down such payments to those which are usual and proper and absolutely necessary.

To conduct the case otherwise may result in a loss of many thousands of pounds.

I have, &c.,

GEO. COLQUHOUN,

Crown Solicitor.

96-1,640-260. Crown Solicitor, 25/6. May be left entirely to the Court. Submitted.

I saw the Crown Solicitor this morning in connection with this matter, and he informed me that to leave the question of fees to the Court would mean that nothing could be done until the inquiry was closed, and, as it is likely to last for some time, this would not be fair to the Arbitrator, Mr. Barton. Mr. Colquhoun stated that the other side had agreed to a fee of 25 guineas per day, and he recommends the Minister to approve of this on the part of the Crown. He said he was quite satisfied that if the matter was left to the Court a less sum than this would not be allowed.—R.H., Under Secretary for Public Works and Commissioner for Roads, 8/7/96.

I shall be glad if the Crown Solicitor will make a definite written recommendation to the above effect, and also a statement that the day to be paid for as such will consist of six hours work.—J.H.Y., 8/7/96. Crown Solicitor.—R.H., 8/7/96.

I beg to confirm the recommendations made verbally to Mr. Hickson yesterday, and as to the fees per diem, they will be calculated in the same manner as counsel's refreshers—that is to say, a working day is regarded as six hours, including the half-hour or so for luncheon.—Geo. Colquhoun, Crown Solicitor, 9/7/96. The Under Secretary, Department of Works.

Submitted.—R.H., Under Secretary for Public Works and Commissioner for Roads, 9/7/96.
Approved.—J.H.Y., 9/7/96. The Crown Solicitor.—R.H., 9/7/96.

The Crown Solicitor to The Under Secretary for Public Works.

McSharry—Cootamundra—Gundagai

Sir,

Crown Solicitor's Office, Sydney, 22 August, 1898.

I have the honor to forward attached memo. of Mr. Barton's fees, with minute signed by the Attorney-General. I am anxious to obtain instructions with as little further delay as possible.

We are in this position with regard to this matter of the fees: By the regulations under the Act no fees are payable until the award is ready; they are then assessed by a Judge; therefore Mr. Barton and Mr. McLaughlin in discussing the question at the outlet saw that it would be impracticable to follow the rules. Mr. Barton would have declined to act on these terms, as he would have been kept without any payment for over two years. That being so, we arranged to pay at intervals of a month while the hearing lasted. When the evidence concluded, Mr. Barton asked if we were agreeable to his being paid while preparing the award—that plaintiff's party had consented—and I replied through my clerk that defendants would pay their share. The rate and period were not then stated.

Since that time no fees have been paid to Mr. Barton by the Government, although Mr. McSharry has on two or three occasions sent the Arbitrator a cheque for his half without raising any objection whatever.

It is not for me to say that the action of the Government regarding the fees will have any effect on Mr. Barton's mind in making the award, but I should mention that he sends his clerk across three or four times a week for a cheque, and he returns to Mr. Barton empty-handed. I know, of course, that the amount of money the Government have been driven to spend already is outrageous—although small as compared with McSharry's expenditure—but it is unfortunate that we should seem to be running counter to the Arbitrator on the eve of the publication of the award.

With regard to the Attorney-General's minute and the suggestion to consult Sir Julian Salomons, I should have mentioned to Mr. Want that Sir Julian has been consulted—while preparing an opinion for us on the law points in the contract—and has repeatedly discussed the question of fees with my clerk during the last two months. Sir Julian, however, I am sure will refuse to advise definitely, for his mind is so impressed with the figures of the expenditure on both sides that the only consideration with him is how it should be stopped, and he cannot be brought to view the subject from any other aspect; in fact, he directed my clerk to send a notice immediately to Mr. Barton—that was at end of June—intimating that no fees whatever would be payable after 10th June, the last day of sittings in the arbitration. I could not see my way to do that, although it would have afforded pleasure to Mr. McLaughlin and all McSharry's friends:

I am only anxious that both sides of the question should be considered, and I would like to urge an early decision on the part of the Government, for until some specific answer can be sent to Mr. Barton we may possibly be making leeway in the arbitration. I do not say that we are, but a private individual might think so, and would endeavour to avoid it.

I have, &c.,

GEO. COLQUHOUN,

Crown Solicitor.

Submitted.—R.H., 24/8/98. I shall be glad if the Crown Solicitor will ask Sir Julian Salomons to advise me on this matter, as suggested by the Attorney-General—J.H.Y., 25/8/98. The Crown Solicitor.—R.H., 25/8/98. Under Secretary for Public Works and Commissioner for Roads. Memorandum by way of reply herewith.—JULIAN SALOMONS, 26/8/98. The Minister told us to-day he consulted Mr. Reid again.—5/9/98.

Under the circumstances now disclosed, I shall be glad to know what the Crown Solicitor himself advises me to do. If he definitely expresses his opinion that these fees should be paid, I am prepared to accept that opinion and authorise the payment. Early attention will, I hope, be given to this.—J. H. YOUNG, Sydney, 7/9/98.

Crown Solicitor.—R.H., 7/9/98.

The Crown Solicitor to The Under Secretary for Public Works.

Sir,

Crown Solicitor's Office, Sydney, 8 September, 1898.

Having carefully considered the Honorable the Minister for Works' minute of the 7th inst., and also the papers thereto attached (all of which are returned herewith), as well as the circumstances in connection with Mr. Barton's memo. of fees of the 20th August last, in relation to his considering award in the McSharry case, and bearing in mind that the plaintiff has recognised and paid his half of a similar amount, I have now the honor to advise that this account be passed and paid, and shall be glad to have instructions in the matter.

I have, &c.,

GEO. COLQUHOUN,

Crown Solicitor.

Submitted.—R.H., 8/9/98.

May be paid.—J.H.Y., 8/9/98.

The Crown Solicitor.—Jno.P.,

for U.S., 8/9/98.

Telegram from Port Macquarie, addressed to Crown Solicitor, Macquarie-street, Sydney.

19 September.

McSHARRY *versus* Railway Commissioners. Take notice that in consequence gross aspersions cast on me by Minister Public Works, your client, I decline receive any further fees as Arbitrator in this case.

EDMUND BARTON.

1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

TARRAWINGEE RAILWAY LINE AT BROKEN HILL.

(RETURN RESPECTING PROPOSED PURCHASE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF.)

Printed under No. 7 Report from Printing Committee, 13 October, 1898.

RETURN to an *Order* of the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 11th October, 1898, That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

“(1.) All correspondence between any person and the Government in reference to the purchase by the Government of the Tarrawingee Railway Line at Broken Hill.

“(2.) Also all reports by the Railway Commissioners, or any other persons, thereon, with a plan and estimate of the value of such line, and the probable cost of making this line secure for traffic.”

(*Mr. Perry.*)

SCHEDULE.

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2. Minutes of the Railway Commissioners on the same subject. 7 July, 1898.	3
2a. Statement of cost of providing requisite accommodation for Traffic and Loco. purposes and carrying out the special renewals on Tramway Line, with estimate of revenue and expenditure	3
3. Report of Mr. W. H. Colquhoun to the Secretary to the Railway Commissioners on the subject of the Tarrawingee Flux Co.'s Tramway. 5 July, 1898.	3
4. Report of Mr. James Fraser on Tramway. 4 July, 1898	8
5. Letter from the Secretary of the Silverton Tramway Co. (Limited) to the Under Secretary for Public Works. 3 June, 1898	9
6. Letter from the Secretary to the Railway Commissioners to the Under Secretary for Public Works, with minutes thereon. 27 May, 1898	10
7. Letter from the Secretary to the Tarrawingee Flux and Tramway Co. (Limited) to the Under Secretary for Public Works (with minutes thereon). 5 May, 1898.	10
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11. Telegram from the Secretary to the Tarrawingee Flux and Tramway Co. (Limited) to Under Secretary for Public Works (with minutes and letters thereon). 3 May, 1898	13
12. Report by Mr. Stanley Alexander on Tarrawingee Line. 18 May, 1898	13
13. Telegram from Secretary to Tarrawingee Flux and Tramway Co. (Limited) to the Under Secretary for Public Works. 14 June, 1898	15
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16. Estimate of cost of putting Tramway Line in working order of Mr. Stanley Alexander. 13 June, 1898	15
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18. Letters re By-laws of Tarrawingee Flux and Tramway Co. (Limited), with copy of By-laws	18
19. Letters re Expenses incurred by Engineer of Public Works Department in visiting and reporting on the proposed Tramway Line.	23
*20. Minutes, letters, plans, &c., with Parliamentary proceedings in connection with passage through Parliament of the Tarrawingee Tramway Act and Tarrawingee Tramway Act Amendment Act	—

* Omitted by the Printing Committee.

TARRAWINGEE RAILWAY LINE AT BROKEN HILL.

No. 1.

Minute Paper.

Subject:—Tram-line from Broken Hill to Tarrawingee.—Proposal that the Government shall purchase line; with all reports by Railway Commissioners and other persons, &c.

Department of Public Works, Sydney, 13 June, 1898.

THIS line, which was constructed by a private company (the Tarrawingee Flux and Tramway Co., Limited), was completed in 1891, and forms an extension of the Silverton tramway through Broken Hill. The distance from Broken Hill to Tarrawingee is under 39 miles; but from a report by Mr. Alexander in May, 1892, it appears that the total length of rails laid, including sidings, was 40 miles 4 chains 16 yards, the general direction of the line being nearly due north from Broken Hill.

In May last, Mr. Ferguson, M.P., represented to the Minister that the Tarrawingee Flux Company had called tenders for taking up this line, and as it was considered that it afforded considerable advantages to the Mount Browne people, and it was probable the company would sell at a very low figure, he suggested that it might be advantageous for the Government to purchase, and allow it to be worked under arrangement with the Silverton Tram Company.

A telegram was accordingly sent to the Secretary of the Flux Company in Melbourne, inquiring what amount would be accepted for the line as it stood, and a reply was received stating that they would take £15,000 for the works, including two large tank-dams, which had hitherto given an unfailing water-supply. It was also stated that the total first cost of line and tanks was £126,000.

A further telegram was then sent to the Secretary on 4th May, 1898, stating that if the company would put the line under offer to the Department for one month for purposes of inspection, &c., the matter would be considered, and a reply, dated 5th May, 1898, was received, agreeing to this course, and urging an early decision.

Mr. Alexander, who had inspected the line just after its completion, visited the locality and furnished a report on 18th May, 1898, in which he stated that the maintenance of the line had been very well attended to generally, the greatest deterioration being in the sleepers, which are chiefly of jarrah and karri timber, and as the result of his observation and inquiries he came to the conclusion that the limit of life had been nearly reached so far as the karri sleepers were concerned; the workmanship and construction of the line generally appeared to have been satisfactory; the rails (steel, 41 lb. to the yard) were in good order; the timber in the bridges was in fairly good condition; and he believed the revenue that may fairly be expected from the line would exceed the working expenses, apart altogether from the cost of renewals and additions of all kinds.

All the plant had been removed, and the bare line, with the two dams above mentioned, were left.

The arrangement which had existed between the Flux Company and the Silverton Tram Company as to the working of the line by the latter, are detailed in Mr. Alexander's report, and that officer estimates that to put the line in thorough working order there would be required—

Sleeper renewal	...	...	...	...	...	...	£14,000
Bridge timber renewal	...	...	...	...	...	...	500
Water-supply plant	...	...	...	...	...	...	500
Sheds and shelter	...	...	...	...	...	...	500
							£15,500

After perusing Mr. Alexander's report, the Minister asked the Railway Commissioners to furnish any information they might have as to the condition of the line and probable traffic to be expected if it were taken over, and in reply a letter was received stating that they had no information on either point. It was further pointed out that while there was no doubt the line was of considerable benefit to the residents of that part of the Colony who make use of it, the Commissioners could not recommend it be taken over and incorporated with the Government railway system.

In order to arrive at some idea as to the probable cost of working the line, communication was opened with the Silverton Tramway Company, and a reply has been received (see letter of 3rd instant 93/183, R.C.B.), in which that company expressed their willingness to undertake the working, maintenance, &c., on the terms set forth therein.

The Minister thereupon asked the Railway Commissioners to say whether the terms offered were reasonable, on the assumption that the Government decided to purchase, and in reply the following minute has been written by them:—

“From the limited information now before the Commissioners it would appear that the purchase of the line would result in considerable loss. The matter, however, could only be satisfactorily dealt with after having the line inspected and its condition reported upon, and the probable traffic ascertained.

“If the Minister for Works desires it the Commissioners will send reliable officers to investigate both matters.”

I shall be glad if the Railway Commissioners will send reliable officers to investigate these matters as early as possible. The Premier concurs with me in desiring that this should be done.—J.H.Y., 22/6/98.

The Secretary, Railway Commissioners.—R.H., Under Secretary for Public Works and Commissioner for Roads, 22/6/98. I enclose minute by Railway Commissioners and reports.—H.M.C.L., 7/7/98. Under Secretary for Public Works.

No. 2.

No. 2.

Minutes of The Railway Commissioners.

Tram-line from Broken Hill to Tarrawingee.

Office of the Railway Commissioners of New South Wales, Sydney, 7 July, 1898.

The Hon. the Minister for Public Works,—

FOLLOWING our previous minutes on the subject of the purchase of the Tarrawingee tramway, we now forward reports submitted by the two officers who were sent to the district to inquire into the condition of the line and the prospects of traffic.

These reports confirm the opinions we have already expressed—that the line would not be a remunerative one, and that it would not be desirable to purchase with a view to considering it as part of the general railway system of the Colony.

We recognise that the working of the line would be of material advantage to pastoralists and others in the surrounding country, and also for recreation purposes to the people of Broken Hill; and if the Silvertown Tramway Company would consent to lease it for a term of years, paying the Government a fair rental, and keeping the line in order, it might, no doubt, assist a more favourable consideration of the matter; but under the exorbitant terms they have submitted the purchase of the line must involve loss.

It may be added that, if the line is taken up, the material will not realise more than one-half the sum now asked for.

CHARLES OLIVER,
Chief Commissioner.
DAVID KIRKCALDIE,
Commissioner.

Forwarded for the information the Honorable the Treasurer.—R.H., Under Secretary for Public Works and Commissioner for Roads, 7/7/98. The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade. Already promised to submit to Parliament.—G.H.R.

No. 2a.

Statement of the Cost of Providing Requisite Accommodation, &c.

Tarrawingee Flux Company's Tramway.

Cost of providing requisite accommodation for traffic and loco. purposes, and carrying out the special renewals required:—

	£	£
1. Booking, passenger, and goods-shed accommodation at Tarrawingee...	500	
2. Loop for local traffic at McCulloch Park	120	
3. Sheep-trucking yards, Tarrawingee	150	
4. Engine tanks, pumping appliances, &c.	700	
5. Signals, McCulloch Park and Tarrawingee	300	
6. Renewal of sleepers—expenditure to be spread over five years ...	17,000	
7. Renewal of bridge-girders, &c.	2,800	
8. Equipment of fettling gangs	150	
	<u>£21,720</u>	
Add sale price of line at Tarrawingee Company's offer	15,000	
	<u>£36,720</u>	
Or about £900 per mile.		
Revenue—		
From passenger and goods traffic	2,000	
From excursion traffic	1,000	
	<u>3,000</u>	
Expenditure—		
For working ordinary traffic	3,120	
For working excursion traffic	500	
Interest, at 3 per cent., on £36,720	1,101	
	<u>4,721</u>	
Loss		<u>£1,721</u>

No. 3.

Report of Mr. W. H. Colquhoun to the Secretary to The Railway Commissioners.

Tarrawingee Flux Company's Tramway.

Sydney, 5 July, 1898.

I BEG to report that, as directed, I proceeded to Broken Hill with Mr. Fraser on Thursday, 23rd June, to look into the revenue and working arrangements of the Tarrawingee tramway.

Revenue.

Revenue.

According to the Tarrawingee Company's statements, the revenue for the last three years from traffic carried for the public has been as follows:—

	Years ended 31st December,		
	1897.	1896.	1895.
Passengers, parcels, &c.	£1,293	£1,577	£1,843
Mails	267	267	275
Special trams	962	178	262
Goods	751	785	1,614
Wool	274	425	516
Live stock	83	140	16
Total	£3,630	£3,372	£4,526

These figures include the revenue from traffic for and from the township of Tarrawingee, where about 200 men, employed in the quarries, resided. Now that the quarries are closed the township has almost disappeared, only an hotel, police barrack, and a few cottages remaining.

I went through the traffic for the year 1897, with a view to determine the revenue that was not dependent on the township, and found it to be about as follows:—

Passengers, parcels, &c.	£725
Mails	267
Special trams (McCulloch Park traffic)	1,124
Goods—Outwards, £354; inwards, £236	590
Wool	274
Live stock	83
Total	£3,063

It was, of course, impossible to distinguish the passenger traffic belonging to the district, and it is also difficult to estimate what it would yield. It is at present carried by a coach, which runs twice a week; but it is stated that many people who would use the tramway now drive their own vehicles. The passenger revenue would not, I consider, exceed £600, and the receipts from parcels, &c., would probably be about £125.

The Postal Department paid £400 per annum for the conveyance of mails three times per week, and one-third of this amount was allowed by the Tramway Company to the former coach proprietor. At present only £130 per annum is being paid by the Postal Department for two trips per week by coach.

The revenue from special trams was chiefly earned in carrying passengers to and from McCulloch Park, a recreation ground about 10 miles from Broken Hill, where the athletic and other organisations hold meetings. During the year the park was used on twenty-one occasions (*Return A*); but four of these were band picnics, held on Sundays. The McCulloch Park Co., who have spent about £1,200 in improvements, recently issued a prospectus (copy attached) for the purchase of the tramway as far as Stephens' Creek (9 miles), which, it appears, had been offered to them for £2,500 only.

The outwards goods traffic consisted chiefly of station stores, and included a considerable quantity of fencing wire. These goods were all charged at the rate of 10s. per ton, and, as they were weighed together, it was not possible to obtain the weight of each class. Among the outwards traffic was 123 tons of chaff, chiefly required on account of the drought.

In the inwards goods traffic the largest item was firewood, which was, however, nearly all carried during the last four months of the year, being part of a contract for a supply to the mines. The inwards sundries include some heavy machinery from Corona station, which was an exceptional consignment.

Returns enclosed (B) showing the tonnage of goods traffic for each month, and the revenue under the various headings.

The wool traffic was, owing to the drought, lighter in 1897 than in either of the preceding years. The number of bales was 3,861, and the weight 606 tons. Return enclosed (C) showing the stations from which it was received, and also a list, furnished by Mr. Brougham, of stations whose wool, he considers, could be brought over the line.

The live-stock traffic is light, and consists principally of stud sheep and a few consignments of fat stock for the Broken Hill and Adelaide markets.

The line as it stands at present would serve a district almost exclusively devoted to pastoral pursuits, which, owing to the limited rainfall, is not suitable for agriculture. The increasing of the wool traffic by securing additional clips is uncertain. When the Flux Company was in operation, teamsters had difficulty in obtaining water at Tarrawingee, but it is stated that this has now been overcome. It is to be feared, however, that many teamsters would, after a long trip, prefer to come to Broken Hill to remaining at a small township only 40 miles away, and some of them would probably compete with the railway rates for the short additional distance. There is also the river competition to be taken into account.

Some stress was laid on the mineral wealth of the district, and it is of course impossible to say what developments may occur, but the scarcity of water has also been a hindrance in this direction.

The passenger and goods traffic on the line would naturally fluctuate according to the seasons; but, supposing the present rates to be maintained, I do not think it could be relied on to yield more than £2,000 per annum, and an additional £1,000 could probably be earned from the traffic to McCulloch Park, provided no counter attraction arises.

Fares and Rates.

A return is enclosed (D) showing the comparison between the tramway rates and those for a similar distance (40 miles) on the New South Wales railways. The former are generally higher, except those for wool, which are, however, part of a through rate. In the petition from Broken Hill it is stated that prohibitive rates were charged which were three times as much as on any Government railway, and the petitioner's estimate of the probable traffic is based on the assumption that "reasonable" rates will be charged.

Working

Working arrangements.

The line is a continuation of the Silverton tramway, and commences about a mile north of that company's goods station at Broken Hill; there is no terminus or siding accommodation of any kind at Broken Hill.

If the line were worked by the Commissioners it would be necessary either to equip it with rolling stock (3 ft. 6 in. gauge), which would add to the capital cost, or to hire stock from the Silverton tramway or the South Australian railways, and passenger stock could hardly be provided or obtained to deal with the excursion traffic, which would be one of the chief sources of revenue. This traffic has usually been carried in ordinary goods waggons, fitted with forms or sleeper seats.

It would also be necessary either to provide a terminus at Broken Hill or to pay the Silverton Tramway Company for the use of their line and terminus. I spoke to Mr. McNicol, secretary to the company, with regard to using their line, but he could not state the terms without consulting his Directors.

In view of these disadvantages and the small ordinary traffic, it appears to me that the question of the Commissioners working the line could not be entertained.

The Silverton Tramway Company have offered to work the ordinary traffic by two trains per week for 7s. 6d. per train mile, not including cost of permanent-way material or damage by floods. The annual cost would be—8,320 train miles at 7s. 6d. = £3,120.

When in Melbourne I spoke to Mr. McNicol respecting the charge of 7s. 6d. per train mile, which he admitted was a high one, and he said he would consult his Directors, and as he expects to be in Sydney on or about Monday, 11th instant, he will call upon the Commissioners and say whether any other proposal can be made.

The Tramway Company ask 15s. per tram mile, equal to £15 per tram, for working the McCulloch Park traffic. This would, in some cases, exceed the receipts, and generally, so far as I am able to judge, the charge would amount to about half the revenue.

Under these arrangements the result of working would probably be:—

Revenue:—From passenger and goods traffic	... ..	£2,000
From excursion traffic	... ..	1,000
		£3,000
Expenditure:—For working ordinary traffic	... ..	3,120
For working excursion traffic	... ..	500
Interest at 3 per cent. on £36,720	... ..	1,101
		4,721
Loss	... ..	£1,720

It may be mentioned that under the Silverton Tramway Company's arrangement with the Flux Company they worked the ordinary traffic for half the revenue, and they also received half the revenue from excursion traffic after deducting their charge for the special trams, but they also worked the flux traffic, of which 7,000 or 8,000 tons per month was forwarded.

Mr. McNicol stated that his company would not entertain any proposal to lease the line unless they were secured against loss by a guarantee on a train-mileage basis.

W. H. COLQUHOUN.

A.

TARRAWINGEE TRAMWAY.

SPECIAL PASSENGER TRAMS, &C. (McCULLOCH PARK TRAFFIC).—YEAR 1897.

Date.	Particulars.	Number of passengers.	Gross earnings.	
			£ s. d.	
Jan. 29...	Hired special .....	.....	10 0 0
Feb. 10...	Salvation Army .....	.....	15 0 0
Mar. 21...	Band picnic	408	25 10 8	
May 7...	Druids' picnic .....	.....	12 0 0
" 19...	Amalgamated Miners' Association	447	26 6 2	
" 25...	Queen's Birthday .....	.....	93 10 0
June 11...	Special carriage .....	.....	2 10 0
" 24...	Congregational Church	118	12 11 0	
" 21...	Bicycle sports	1,159	47 11 3	
" 22...	Jubilee celebrations	{ Adults..... Children.....	2,505 4,000	270 17 0
Aug. 8...	Band picnic	176	9 2 0	
Sept. 11...	Football match	1,409	65 7 6	
" 15...	Bicycle sports	123	10 15 0	
" 18...	Football match .....	.....	35 8 0
" 25...	"	863	40 3 6	
Oct. 7...	Eight Hour Day	6,357	295 1 6	
" 24...	Band picnic	112	5 7 0	
" 31...	"	330	19 1 6	
Nov. 9...	Catholic sports	505	21 10 0	
" 22...	Pastoral show .....	.....	30 0 0
Dec. 8...	Moonlight "orgie"	514	29 9 0	
" 27...	Church of England picnic	536	20 2 3	
" 27...	Bicycle sports	663	27 0 9	
	Total .....	.....	£1124 4 1

6

B.

TARRAWINGEE TRAMWAY.
 TONNAGE OF MERCHANDISE TRAFFIC.—YEAR 1897.

	Outwards.	Inwards.		Total.	Grand Total.
	Goods.	Goods.	Wool.		
1897.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
January	25	1	.....	1	26
February	43	7	8	15	58
March	47	13	42	55	102
April	51	21	24	45	96
May	77	15	8	23	100
June	108	47	.....	47	155
July	123	45	.....	45	168
August	74	3	90	93	167
September	28	49	169	218	246
October	21	170	110	280	301
November	29	83	68	151	180
December	46	90	87	177	223
Total	672	544	606	1,150	1,822

REVENUE.—1897.

	£	s.	d.	Amount.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Passengers (approximate)	600	0	0			
Parcels, dogs, excess fares (approximate)	125	0	0			
				725	0	0
Mails				266	13	4
Special trains				1,124	4	1
Outward Goods--						
Station stores, &c. tons.	520	260	0			
Chaff	123	61	10			
Sundries (including minimum)	29	32	17			
	672			354	7	6
Inward Goods--						
Pirowood	369	111	6			
Skins	20	22	0			
Ore	53	18	11			
Sand	36	6	0			
Sundries (including minimum)	66	77	14			
	544			235	11	0
Wool	606			273	13	0
Live Stock				83	10	0
Total				£3,062	18	11

C.

TARRAWINGEE TRAMWAY.

RETURN showing the number of Bales and the weight of each Station's clip of Wool carried during the year 1897.

Station.	No. of Bales.	Weight.
		l. cwt. qr.
Poolamacca	274	48 15 3
Corona	1,138	204 3 0
Sturt's Meadows	146	25 9 1
Wonnaminta	929	109 5 2
Morden	50	6 1 2
Mount Poole	294	52 9 1
Mount Sturt	39	4 12 1
Mount Wood	109	12 10 2
Whittabrinah	38	4 11 2
Fort Grey	215	30 16 0
Quinyambi	125	24 9 1
Narylico Downs	458	75 3 3
R. McF	44	7 7 2
A. W.	2	0 3 1
Total	3,861	605 18 1

LIST of Stations whose wool might be brought over the Tarrawingee Tramway. (Supplied by Mr. Brougham.)

Station	Bales.	Station.	Bales.
Morden	1,100	Woodburn	250
Yancannia	2,000	Sturt's Meadows	800
Cobham	900	Langawaira	800
Mount Sturt	500	Gnalta	600
Withabrenah	800	Nundora	500
Yandama	900	Kayrunera	200
Yantara	1,000	Quinyambi	600
Olive Downs	400	Mount Stuart	150
Yanko	300	Onepar	500
Tickalara	1,000		
		Total	13,300

D.

D.

TARRAWINGEE TRAMWAY—40 MILES.

COMPARISON between the Tramway Fares and Rates and those charged for a similar distance on the N.S.W. Lines.

Passenger Fares—					
	Tarrawingee Tramway.	N.S.W. Railways.		Tarrawingee Tramway.	N.S.W. Railways.
	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
First-class	Single	10 0	Second-class	Single	7 6
	Return	16 0		Return	12 0
	Holiday Ex'n.	10 6		Holiday Ex'n.	7 3
Parcels Rates—					
lb.	s. d.	s. d.	lb.	s. d.	s. d.
7	1 0	0 3	70	3 6	1 6
14	1 0	0 6	84	3 6	2 0
28	1 9	0 9	98	4 6	2 6
42	2 6	1 0	112	4 6	3 0
56	2 6	1 3	Every additional 28 lb.	1 0	1 0
Goods Rates—					
			Tarrawingee Tramway.	N.S.W. Railways.	
			s. d.	£ s. d.	
Sand, in 6-ton lots, per ton			3 4		
Firewood, per ton			7 0	0 4 0	M class.
Ore, per ton			7 0		
All other goods				0 5 0	A ,,
Broken Hill to Tarrawingee, per ton ..			10 0	0 7 2	B ,,
			(minimum 2s. 6d.)		
Tarrawingee to Broken Hill, per ton ..			1 2 0	0 15 3	1st ,,
			(minimum. 5s.)		
				0 18 6	2nd ,,
				1 4 10	3rd ,,
Wool—					
			s. d.	s. d.	
Greasy	Undumped		9 3	10 0	
	Dumped		8 6	9 6	
Scoured	Undumped		12 6	13 4	
	Dumped		10 6	12 0	

Live Stock—Special arrangements—£1 16s. to £2 per truck. New South Wales Railways, £1 6s. 8d. per truck.

PROSPECTUS of the McCulloch Park and Tramway Company (Limited). To be registered under "The Companies' Act.")

Capital—£5,000, in 5,000 shares of £1 each.

1,500 shares fully paid up are to be issued to the Vendors (The McCulloch Park Association) for the purchase of their interest in the McCulloch Park and their rights, who also guarantee to take 1,000 of the contributing shares.

3,500 shares are to be issued to the public on the following terms:—5s. on application and 5s. on allotment, and the balance by calls of 1s. per share every second month (if required.)

If the company be fully formed the Directors for the ensuing year will be appointed by the new company.

Provisional Directors:—A. Stenhouse, Esq.; Geo. Strachan, Esq.; W. F. DuRieu, Esq.; J. Sully, Esq.; W. J. Biggs, Esq.; G. W. Simpson, Esq.; A. E. Nott, Esq.

Bankers:—The Bank of Australasia.

Secretary:—Herbert T. F. Sayers, Esq.

OBJECTS.

The company is being formed for the purpose of—

First.—Taking over from the "McCulloch Park Association" all their right and interest in and to a Special Lease from the Crown for twenty-eight years of 18 acres of land, situated at Stephens' Creek, distant 9 miles from Broken Hill—the land is fully fenced with a substantial ring fence, and is subdivided—together with grand stand, with luncheon and dance rooms and necessary appointments, booths, running track, bicycle course, and other improvements,—the whole of which have been recently completed, at a cost of £1,200.

Secondly.—To purchase from the "Tarrawingee Flux and Tramway Company," the railway line laid down from Broken Hill to a point on Stephens' Creek, close to the Park, the whole of which is at present in good repair; and to acquire all the rights of the company to carry passengers and freight over the line, and all other rights relating thereto conferred upon the company by its Act of Incorporation.

The McCulloch Park Association (the vendors) have entered into an agreement with the Tarrawingee Company, which, having ceased operations and going into liquidation, had determined either to sell or take up the whole of the railway line from Broken Hill to Tarrawingee, for the sale of the section of the line to Stephens' Creek, and its rights in respect thereto, to the company now to be formed for the sum of £2,500, which sum is to be paid out of the capital.

The line has only been laid down for upwards of seven years, and is reported by experts to be fit for traffic with but little repair for some years to come. Its original cost was £2,000 per mile, or upwards of £18,000 for the 9 miles. The line is laid with the best steel rails, 40 lb. to the yard, and the present value of the rails as second-hand is computed at £2,500—the amount of the purchase money for the line; in other words, the company is afforded the chance of securing the line in good working order for the value of the rails alone.

The "McCulloch Park Association" during the last twelve months, under an agreement with the Silverton Tramway Company (Limited), arranged with it to carry passengers to and from the Park at the following rates:—Adults, 1s., and children, 6d. return. The gross receipts by the tramway to the creek for twelve months under this agreement amounted to no less a sum than £1,866 14s., as certified by the tramway books.

If the present company forms, arrangements have been made with the Tramway Company to supply engines, carriages, and rolling-stock, as before, and to run trains as required at the following rates:—Return, adults, 6d., and children, 3d.

It is proposed to issue return tickets for the Park, with right of admission to the grounds, as follows:—Adults, 2s.; children, 1s., the company receiving of these amounts 1s. 6d. and 9d. respectively.

The want of pleasant recreation grounds within easy distance is felt by all classes of the community. In nowhere in the colonies is there a town of the size and importance of Broken Hill without its park and recreation reserves, provided at the expense of the Government, such adjuncts being looked upon as the lungs of the city to which they belong, and as absolute necessities for the public health, Broken Hill with its trying climate and dust being the one exception; and there is no room for doubt that such a place of enjoyment as "The McCulloch Park" provides will be even more liberally patronised in the future than in the past.

The business of the company will be to run trains as occasion arises on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday afternoons, and during the hot summer months special moonlight excursion trains; to provide racing tracks for foot-racing and bicycles; grounds for cricket and football, and other athletic sports, with pavilions for dancing, &c., and to promote those sports and pastimes; to provide continental concerts and open-air musical entertainments. The

The Park contains a practically never-failing supply of good water, and the intention is to plant the land with ornamental shade trees and flowering shrubs, and make it in reality a park and pleasure ground. In addition to the above the company retain the right to carry passengers to the Broken Hill Show Grounds, which in itself will be a source of profit, and at a small cost a loop or branch line can be laid down connecting with the Broken Hill Racecourse.

Apart from the fact that the company will be conferring a great boon upon the community by providing a place of healthy recreation within at the most an hour's journey by rail, and at charges which will be within the reach of all, the object is to make it a sound paying investment, and as such it is confidently recommended to the public for the following reason: Basing the income of the year upon the Tramway Company's receipt of £1,866 for twelve months at 1s. and 6d. respectively, the return to the McCulloch Park Company at 1s. 6d. and 9d. will amount to upwards of £2,488, or a return of 100 per cent. upon its capital, and after deducting all costs of management, repairs, and other expenses, should leave a splendid return, far in excess of any mining speculation, and without any of the latter's attendant risks.

Application for shares are to be made in the form attached, to the Secretary, who will furnish any further particulars or information desired.

In the event of the company not floating, all deposits paid on application will be returned in full.

Immediate application for shares is necessary, as the time for completion of the contract with the Tarrawingee Flux and Tramway Company is limited.

THE McCULLOCH PARK AND TRAMWAY COY. (LTD.)

APPLICATION FOR SHARES.

To the Secretary,—
Please allot me
the allotment fee of

shares in the above company, in terms of the prospectus, and enclosed please find
, at the rate of 5s. per share.

(Signature of applicant).

(Name in full).

(Occupation).

(Address).

Date,

In the event of the company not being floated application money returned in full.

No. 4.

Report of Mr. James Fraser upon the Railway Line between Broken Hill
and Tarrawingee.

Sydney, 4 July, 1898.

THIS line starts from a junction with the Silverton Tramway Co.'s line at a point about 1 mile from the main Broken Hill Station, and runs northward to Tarrawingee, a distance of 39 miles 50 chains. The gauge is 3 ft. 6 in., maximum curvature, 15 chains; maximum gradient against up-loading 1 in 70, and against down traffic 1 in 50.

The line is practically unfenced throughout, though within the town boundaries a little fencing has been done to prevent stray animals gaining access to it. Elsewhere no fencing is provided, though where run or paddock boundary fences cross the line, cattle stops of good design are provided to preserve the continuity of these fences.

The line has been well constructed, being for the most part on low embankment, which ensures good drainage of the road-bed, and a sufficient area of waterway has been provided for all but exceptionally heavy rainfalls. The waterways are practically all of one type, abutments and piers being of cement concrete with hardwood girders on timber bed-plates and open sleeper deck.

The permanent-way consists of 41 lb. steel T rails laid on sleepers 6 ft. 6 in. x 8 in. x 4 in. spaced 1 ft. 11 in. at the joints, and 2 ft. 9 in. centre to centre through the rail length bedded upon sand ballast, which has an average depth of 4 inches under the sleepers, and is also filled in between and over their surfaces.

The line, though unused for some six weeks past, is in very good running order, having been kept to good line and level; and it is clear that, with a light traffic, maintenance in good running order could be economically continued. The rails are in very good order, but heavy renewals of sleepers would be necessary during the next four or five years. The sleepers generally are of karri timber, with a few of jarrah and South Australian gum. The two latter timbers are standing well, but a heavy percentage of the karri show signs of decay, and the whole of these would require renewal within five years.

The bridge timber, also of karri, is generally in fair order, though I found several girders and planks badly infested with and damaged by white ants, and immediate renewal of these would be necessary.

If the material in the permanent-way and bridges were all perfect, I consider the line could be maintained in good running order to carry a traffic of two trains each way weekly by two gangs of three men each with a foreman in charge of the whole length; but seeing that resleeping must be commenced at once, it would be necessary to ensure this work being carried on with sufficient expedition to appoint three gangs of four men each, with a foreman in charge, and a supply of about 60,000 sleepers would be necessary to replace those that are defective.

The bridge timbers should be replaced gradually by steel girders which would cost no more than timber, and would be practically everlasting in this dry climate.

Accommodation for Traffic.

Loop sidings, each capable of holding about sixty waggons, are provided at Maybell (14 miles from Broken Hill), and at Thompson's Dam (26 miles from Broken Hill), while at Tarrawingee, three loops are provided in the yard, and the sidings to the limestone quarries have been left in. As the yard loops would accommodate over 150 waggons, there is at Tarrawingee a sufficient length of sidings for a considerable traffic; but no sheds are provided for either passengers or goods, nor are signals erected. In addition to the traffic sidings mentioned, a dead-end road has been laid into Stephens' Creek (9 miles from Broken Hill) for ballasting purposes.

Accommodation for Loco.

Water supplies have been provided by the construction of large dams at Maybell and Thompson's sidings, each dam now holding about 4,000,000 gallons of water; and at Stephens' Creek a well has been sunk, which I am informed gives throughout the year a daily supply of about 9,000 gallons; but all tanks and pumping machinery have been removed.

No

No engine-shed or ash-pits are provided for locomotive purposes, nor is there a turn-table at the terminus; but in lieu of this a triangle has been laid-in on which engines can be reversed.

If this line were taken over by the Railway Commissioners it would be necessary to spend a considerable sum of money in providing necessary accommodation for traffic and locomotive purposes, and in putting the line in such order that the maintenance might be economically carried out; for though the sleepers would not require complete renewal in a less time than five years, the debit for the work should not be one to working expenses. The bridge timbers, too, though now in generally fair order should be replaced early by steel girders and bed-plates to ensure economical maintenance. Timber in bridges would cost about 7s. 6d. per cubic foot, and steel would cost no more per lin. foot of bridge; and while the latter would ensure a minimum of expenditure for maintenance and a perfect running top, the timber used, viz., karri, is liable to warp and twist, and a good top is maintained with some difficulty, the cross-sleepers to which the rails over the bridges are fastened being now packed on the girders with thin wedges of pine and old bagging. The sand ballast used on the line is of a very loamy nature, and a considerable proportion of it should be removed to give drainage from the sleeper ends, thus securing their better preservation, while the ballast removed should be stacked alongside the line for future use.

The cost of providing requisite accommodation for traffic and locomotive purposes, and carrying out the special renewals required, would be as under:—

1. Booking, passenger, and goods shed accommodation at Tarrawingee	...	500
2. Loop for local traffic at McCulloch Park	... ..	120
3. Sheep-trucking yards, Tarrawingee	... ..	150
4. Engine-tanks, pumping appliances, &c.	... ..	700
5. Signals, McCulloch Park and Tarrawingee	... ..	300
6. Renewal of sleepers—expenditure to be spread over five years	... ..	17,000
7. Renewal of bridge-girders, &c.	... ..	2,800
8. Equipment of fetting gangs	... ..	150
		21,720
Add sale price of line at Tarrawingee Company's offer	... ..	15,000
		36,720
Total capital cost	... ..	36,720
		Or about £900 per mile.

If made perfect as above-shown, the permanent-way maintenance cost would for many years be one of labour only, and would cost about £950 per annum, or at the rate of about £24 per mile, and pumping for locomotive purposes would add very little to this sum. £1,000 per annum would probably cover all but running expenditure, unless exceptional floods caused damage, which would at such periods add something additional. With regard to the latter point, I am assured by several local people that one of the heaviest registered rainfalls occurred since the Tarrawingee line was completed, and caused no damage.

JAMES FRASER.

No. 5.

The Secretary of the Silverton Tramway Company (Limited) to The Under Secretary for Public Works.

The Silverton Tramway Company (Limited), Equitable Building, 320 Collins-street,
Melbourne, 3 June, 1898.

Sir,
With reference to your telegram of 30th May, asking if my company would be prepared either to lease the Tarrawingee Company's line, if purchased by the New South Wales Government, or to work it at a cost per annum, or per train mile, I am directed to say that my Board, after the fullest consideration, are prepared to undertake the working of the line on the distinct understanding that the line is put in thorough repair and re-sleepered where necessary to the satisfaction of the company's engineer.

We would propose to run two trains per week between Broken Hill and Tarrawingee, on such days as might be fixed, each train to consist of not more than seven vehicles, viz., one carriage with accommodation for first and second class passengers, one brake-van and five trucks. For this service the price we require is 7s. 6d. per train mile, which would include the maintenance of the line (labour only), the supply of rolling stock, and the collection of revenue. Between Broken Hill and McCulloch Park, the traffic will be a purely holiday passenger traffic, and will require to be dealt with on a different basis. For this service we would propose to run trains as often as required, each train to consist of not more than thirty vehicles (trucks, brake-van, and carriages) at 15s. per train mile.

In connection with these rates, it must be distinctly understood that my company will assume no responsibility for flood damages; and in case of an agreement being made to work the line, we would submit the following schedule of rates at which we would be prepared to supply the various items enumerated below:—

	s.	d.
Sleepers, laid in road, each	6	10
Bridge timber, fixed, per cubic foot	7	6
Ballast, laid in road, per cubic yard	3	6
Labourers, including use of tools, per day	8	6
Gangers	9	6

In the event of extra trucks or carriages being required, we would supply the former (trucks) at 5s. each per day, and the latter (carriages) at 15s. each per day.

Our officers would collect in the usual way all fares and freights, and hand them over as often as might be arranged to any officer appointed by the Government to receive them.

The goods shed, office, and house for officer-in-charge at Tarrawingee, having been removed by the Tarrawingee Company, other buildings would have to be erected in lieu of them.

I am, &c.,

W. MACNICOL,

Secretary.

Submitted.

Submitted.—R.H., Under Secretary Public Works and Commissioner for Roads, 7/6/98. Perhaps the Railway Commissioners will say whether these terms are reasonable, on the assumption that the Government decides to purchase the line.—J.H.Y., 7/6/98. The Secretary.—J.No.P., 7/6/98.

From the limited information now before the Commissioners, it would appear that the purchase of the line would result in considerable loss. The matter, however, could only be satisfactorily dealt with after having the line inspected, and its condition reported upon, and the probable traffic ascertained. If the Minister for Works desires it, the Commissioners will send reliable officers to investigate both matters.—C.O., W.M.F., D.K., 10/6/98. Under Secretary for Public Works.—H. McL., 10/6/98.

No. 6.

The Secretary to the Railway Commissioners to The Under Secretary for Public Works.

Sir, Office of the Railway Commissioners, Sydney, 27 May, 1898.

With reference to your endorsement of the 25th instant, forwarding a minute from the Minister for Works asking the Railway Commissioners to favour him with any information in their possession as to the condition of the Tarrawingee tramway and the probable traffic to be expected if the line were taken over by the Government of New South Wales, I am directed to inform you that the Railway Commissioners have no information in their possession as to the condition of the line referred to, nor are they aware of the present or probable traffic.

The line is no doubt of considerable benefit to the residents of that part of the Colony who make use of it; but the Commissioners could not recommend that the line should be taken over and incorporated with the Government railway system of the Colony.

I have, &c.,

H. McLACHLAN,

Secretary.

Submitted for the consideration of the Minister. It would appear to me, before any determination can be come to upon this matter, that it will be necessary to know what the cost of working the line will be; and as the Silverton Tramway Company worked it in the past, I think it would be well to communicate with them. If the Minister so approves, I would suggest that a telegram, as follows, be sent:—"An offer has been made to the Government to purchase the Tarrawingee Flux and Tramway Company's Line. Before the Secretary for Works can come to a decision, it would be necessary for him to know what the cost of working the line would be. Is your company prepared either to lease it or to work it at a cost per annum or train mile, the line being in the first instance put in thorough repair? Any other information which you can give which would assist the Minister in coming to a decision, he will be much obliged for. Please consider the matter as urgent and let me have a reply as early as possible.—R.H., 30/5/98, Under Secretary Public Works and Commissioner for Roads.

Approved.—J.H.Y., 30/5/98. Telegraph at once.—J.P., 30/5/98. Wire,—Manager, Silverton Tramway Company, Equitable Buildings, Melbourne, 30/5/98. Await reply.

No. 7.

The Secretary to the Tarrawingee Flux and Tramway Co. (Limited) to The Under Secretary for Public Works.

Dear Sir, Tarrawingee Flux and Tramway Company (Limited), Prell's Building,
Corner Collins and Queen Streets, Melbourne, 5 May, 1898.

I have to acknowledge receipt of your telegram of 2nd instant as follows:—"What sum will your company accept for Broken Hill to Tarrawingee Tram-line as it stands?"

To which I replied on the same date as under:—"Your wire received; will take £15,000, including two capacious tank dams at Thompson and Maybell Sidings which have hitherto given unfailing water supply. Total first cost of line and tanks, £126,000. Tenders for taking up line are now before the Board. Immediate reply therefore necessary."

I have also to acknowledge your further telegram of 4th instant, reading as follows:—"If you will place tram-line under offer to this Department for one month for purposes of inspection, &c., matter will receive consideration."

The above telegram was considered by my Directors at a meeting held to-day; and, in reply, it was decided to place the line under offer to your Department for one month as desired by you, to enable you to have the necessary inspection, &c., made.

As intimated in my telegram to you of the 3rd instant, the price at which the line and two tank dams, respectively at Maybell and Thompson's Sidings, are offered is £15,000.

I might add that, to enable you to inspect the line, my Directors are holding back tenders which they have received for lifting the whole of the line, and also for the purchase of the rails, and we shall therefore esteem it a favour if you will oblige us with your early decision in respect of the above offer.

Yours truly,

ALFRED MELLOR,

Secretary.

Submitted.—R.H., Under Secretary for Public Works and Commissioner for Roads, 9/5/98. I have seen Mr. Deane, who agrees with me that Mr. Alexander would be the best man to send. He could leave to-morrow.—R.H., Under Secretary Public Works and Commissioner for Roads, 9/5/98. Send him.—J.H.Y., 9/5/98. Report herewith.—S.H.A., 23/5/98.

No. 8.

Extract from *Barrier Miner*, Saturday, May 14, 1898.

THE TARRAWINGEE LINE.

If Mr. Ferguson can induce the Government to take over the Tarrawingee line he will deserve the thanks of a great many, not only in Broken Hill and his own Sturt electorate, but in more outlying parts. For 45 miles of almost new line, £15,000 is asked—that is, only a little over £300 per mile. The line could not

not, of course, be put down for six times that sum. The value of a railway depends, however, upon the traffic to be secured; and it goes without saying that in ordinary circumstances the construction of a line between Broken Hill and Tarrawingee would not be justified. But if it were justified, it goes without saying, too, that the purchase money would be more than a trifle beyond £300 per mile.

The probability is that the Department, if left to itself, will draw up a statement of probable receipts and expenditure, and will purchase the line if it can be thus shown that, in addition to working expenses and maintenance charges, something like £1,000 per annum can be realised to cover interest and provide a sinking fund. Whether that can be done we do not pretend to know, nor do we pretend to know whether £15,000 is the lowest the company would accept. But we do know that, whether such a balance can be struck or not, a very liberal allowance ought to be made for other circumstances. From the Lands Department especially a strong support of the proposal might reasonably be expected; indeed every consideration of justice demands it. Practically every pastoral lease and selection to the north of Broken Hill right up to the Queensland Border has been reassessed during the past two or three years; and in every case the Crown has put forward the existence of the line to Tarrawingee as a thing to be considered in the fixing of rent. Sweep away that line, and the carriage of wool to the seaboard and of stores to the holdings is increased considerably; and *pari passu*, the equitable rent comes down. If the Government continues to draw the rents recently fixed when the line no longer exists an injustice will be done to all the settlers; and, moreover, on the next statutory reappraisal of rents, other things being equal, rents must fall.

There are a score of less considerations. The firewood supply of Broken Hill is most uncertain. What timber is left on leaseholds within 20 miles of Broken Hill has been specially reserved. There is necessity therefore, on account of this Government reservation, to go far afield; and the Tarrawingee line has permitted this to be done. If the line is removed—and there are still very fair supplies towards Tarrawingee—the wood must be drawn from South Australia; and, besides the loss of revenue from licenses, &c., still more industry would be driven out of the Colony. The development of the whole district must also be allowed for. No man can tell the future of the Broken Hill mines. The metallurgists are hourly at work upon experiments; and it is not at all unlikely that in the future it will be found preferable, in consequence of some development, to smelt at Broken Hill. It is therefore desirable, from that point of view alone, to maintain connection with the limestone-flux quarries. Thousands of acres of the country served by the line has been under mineral lease, returning considerable revenue to the Crown. Most of the shows are richer in lead than in silver; and as there is every likelihood of the lead market still further hardening, there is a better prospect of these mines being worked. At any rate, tear up this line and the prospect of successfully working the leases disappears; and with that disappears also the rent which the Crown now derives. Moreover, the future of the auriferous country in the north-west is still in doubt; it is hopeful, nevertheless, as that of any district is which yields such nuggets as those lately exhibited in Broken Hill. The Government itself has recognised the possibilities of the district. Thus, an application for the attachment of the resumed area of a large holding in that district was recently refused, on the Minister's own motion, on the ground that the land was not unlikely to be wanted for settlement in the neighbourhood of the goldfields. While there is this possibility, a line which runs out in that direction so far should certainly not be pulled up when it can be got for £300 a mile. Nearer at home there are other possibilities. The frontage to Stephens' Creek ought to be far more closely settled than it is. That it is not is due simply to an adverse but easily amended tenure. Mount Gipps Station has on its own account asked for a certain change; and it ought to be possible to make such arrangements as would permit the whole of the frontage to be settled. And this is apart altogether from the value of the Creek to Broken Hill as a pleasure resort. It has few beauties, perhaps; but as among the blind the one-eyed man is king, so to those on the Barrier Stephens' Creek, with its long line of gums relieving the wilderness in which Broken Hill is set, is almost what the mountains are to Sydney. Yet without railway communication this pleasure must be for the few; and that is not in accord with the policy which the present Government is credited with favouring.

Mr. Ferguson left this for the Minister to see.—R.H., 21/5/98. Under Secretary Public Works and Commissioner for Roads. Seen.—J.H.Y., 23/5/98. Put with Mr. Alexander's report.—J.N.O.P., 23/5/98.

No. 9.

Telegram from The Secretary Silvertown Tramway Company (Limited) to The Under Secretary for Public Works.

Melbourne, 3 June, 1898.

LETTER for you by to-day's mail.

W. MACNICOL.

No. 10.

J. R. Edwards, Esq., to The Secretary for Public Works.

The Tarrawingee Tram-line.

Sir,

Broken Hill, 26 May, 1898.

Owing to the absence of the Members of our district from Sydney, I am instructed and have the honor to hand you herewith a memorial, signed by some of the principal residents of Broken Hill, urging your Government to take over the Tarrawingee line. On their behalf, requesting that the memorial may receive favourable consideration,

I have, &c.,

JOHN R. EDWARDS.

[Enclosure.]

[Enclosure.]

PETITION FROM RESIDENTS OF BROKEN HILL.

To the Hon. the Minister for Works, Sydney.

The Memorial of the undersigned, residents of the town of Broken Hill and the district lying to the north and west, bounded by the river Darling on the north, and the Queensland and South Australian Borders on the north and north-west,—

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:—

1. That owing to the silver-mining companies having ceased smelting operations at Broken Hill the Tarrawingee Flux and Tramway Company (Limited) has gone, or is about to go, into liquidation; and tenders have been invited either for the purchase of the steel rails laid down upon its tramway-line from Broken Hill to Tarrawingee, or for the taking up and delivery of the rails at Port Pirie, in South Australia.

2. That the rail to Tarrawingee, a distance of 41 miles or thereabouts, was completed in the year 189 , at a cost of about £2,800 per mile, or equalling £114,800.

3. That the line, which your Petitioners are informed is at present in fair working order, can be purchased from the company at the present value of the rails alone as second-hand steel rails, or for about £15,000.

4. That the line is laid with the best steel rails 41 lb. to the yard, which for all practical purposes in their present position are as good as new.

5. That all the culverts and bridges on the line are in fair order and repair, the only parts of the way requiring renewing being the sleepers in places.

6. That the line, notwithstanding the almost prohibitive rates for passengers and freight charged by the Tarrawingee Company, has been of the greatest service to the residents of the back country, extending some 300 miles north to the Queensland Border, and lying between the Darling and the Paroo Rivers and the South Australian Border, including the towns of Warri Warri, Tibooburra, Milperinka, Eurowie, and Tarrawingee, and also including the gold-fields of Tibooburra, Warratta, Little Bendigo, and Mount Browne.

7. That, although the company charged for passengers and freight three times as much as on any Government railway in the Colonies, the line was largely used, and the district will sustain a very great loss if it is now torn up, and the residents compelled to revert to bullock drays for means of carriage.

8. That, as an instance of the freight that at reasonable rates can be carried upon the rail, the following are the Customs returns for wool alone received in Broken Hill during the last year, namely, 10,650 bales.

9. That the average annual outward freight of Broken Hill, consisting of station and storekeepers' supplies, amounts on a low estimate to 1,000 tons.

10. That the whole of this could be served by the railway to Tarrawingee if carried at reasonable rates.

11. That the greater part of the country to the north of Tarrawingee extending to Tibooburra and the Stanley Ranges has been proved to be mineral-bearing, and the destruction of the railway-line will in a great measure close this district against development.

12. That, owing to the fact that timber-getters supplying Broken Hill have been permitted by the Government under licenses to cut down and destroy for miles in every direction all the Mulga, almost the only natural feed in ordinary seasons for working bullocks, it is practically impossible for bullock waggons to travel the 40 miles between Tarrawingee and Broken Hill and draw ordinary loads.

13. That, with suitable trucking-yards at Tarrawingee, the line would be largely used by pastoralists in the district for the removal of their stock to pastures in South Australia, and thus save a repetition of the ruinous losses they are compelled to bear in years of drought and scarcity of feed, such as have been experienced almost without intermission during the last four years.

14. That, if the Government will take over the railway, satisfactory arrangements can, your memorialists are informed, be made with the Silverton Tramway Company (Limited), to supply all necessary steam power and rolling stock, and with care and maintenance of the line and use of stations and sidings.

15. That the only outlay the Government will be called upon to make is the cost of the line valued as that of the rails as second-hand, and the putting in repair of the permanent-way as regards sleepers.

16. That the earnings of the railway during the last twelve months on that portion of the line from Broken Hill to Stephens' Creek, a distance of 10 miles, under an arrangement with the McCulloch Park Association, amounted to no less a sum than £900 in merely carrying the residents of Broken Hill to this picnic ground at Stephens' Creek at the rate of 1s. adults, and 6d. children, return.

17. That taking into account, on the one hand, the enormous sums of money, running into millions of pounds sterling, received by the Crown from this district in the way of pastoral rents, rents from mineral leases, customs duties (in the past), income and land taxation (in the present), and other sources of revenue exceeding in amount very many times over that of any of the most favoured districts in the Colony, and, on the other hand, taking into the account the almost total absence of any Government expenditure in any public works of utility, or in the direction of in any way assisting in the development of this district, your memorialists consider that they have a right to ask that this railway may be secured to them.

18. Owing to the geographical position, the trade of the district has always and must necessarily flow towards the South Australian seaboard, and in taking over the railway the Government will not assist in diverting any trade from Sydney; at most it will give to the residents the privilege of carrying their produce and their supplies a part of the way by the train instead of by bullock teams.

Your memorialists respectfully ask that you will take the matters above set forth into your earnest consideration, and will advise your Government to accede to your memorialists' request to take over at once, whilst the opportunity offers, the railway to Tarrawingee on the present favourable terms.

And your memorialists, &c.

[Here follow 165 signatures.]

Acknowledged, 31/5/98. Submitted for approval. To reply that the matter is now under consideration.—R.H., Under Secretary for Public Works and Commissioner for Roads, 2/6/98. Approved.—J.H.Y., 2/6/98. Inform.—Jno.P., 2/6/98. J. R. Edwards, Esq., 6/6/98. Put with papers.

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No. 10a.

The Under Secretary for Public Works to J. R. Edwards, Esq., Broken Hill.

Sir,

6 June, 1898.

With reference to your letter of the 26th ultimo, forwarding a petition from residents of Broken Hill and districts, urging the purchase of the tramway constructed by the Tarrawingee Flux and Tramway Company (Limited) from Broken Hill to Tarrawingee, I have the honor to inform you that the matter is now under consideration.

I have, &c.,

R. R. P. HICKSON,
Under Secretary and Commissioner for Roads.

No. 11.

Telegram from The Secretary to The Tarrawingee Flux and Tramway Co. (Limited) to The Under Secretary for Public Works.

Stock Exchange, Melbourne, 3 May, 1898.

Your wire received. Will take £15,000, including two capacious tank dams at Thompson's and Maybell Sidings, which have hitherto given unfailing water supply. Total first cost of line and tanks, £126,000. Tenders for taking up line are now before the Board. Immediate reply, therefore, necessary.

ALFRED MELLOR,

Secretary, Tarrawingee Co.

Submitted.—R.H., Under Secretary Public Works and Commissioner for Roads, 4/5/98. Say, if they will put it under offer to us for a month for purposes of inspection, &c., matter will receive consideration.—J.H.Y., 4/5/98. Inform.—Jno.P., 4/5/98. Wire sent, A. Mellor, Secretary, 4/5/98. Await reply.

J. Ferguson, Esq., M.L.A., Sydney.

Dear Sir,

Poolamucca, 11 April, 1898.

The Tamzie tender for taking up the line have to be in by the 16th instant. Instructions have gone to Melbourne to alter the conditions, and provide the Company have the right to take up only from Tarrawingee and Stephens' Creek.

Would it not be possible to get the Government to purchase the line? It could be got, I think, for £12,000, possibly less. This price is based on 42 miles at 70 tons of rails, fish-plates, bolts, and nuts per mile. The sleepers would above pay for taking up the line, and at (say) £4 10s. to £5 per ton at Broken Hill £12,000 would be a fair approximate.

Then, if possible, arrange with the Silvertown Tram Company to take the line, and run (say) one train a week at present tariff, or, if need be, a slight increase by getting the neighbouring stations with myself to guarantee the interest on the purchase at 3 per cent. (say) £360 per annum for five or seven years.

Should the river Darling cease being navigable, as it does at times, it means a serious loss to Mount Browne and station-holders not being able to get their stores and wool to market. In haste,

Yours, &c,

JOHN W. BROUGHAM.

Mr. Ferguson, M.P., represents the Tarrawingee Flux Company have called for tenders for taking up their tram-line from Broken Hill to Tarrawingee, a distance of about 42 miles. He suggests that as the line has considerable advantage for the Mount Browne people, and that probably the Company would sell at a very low price, it might be advantageous to purchase it, and allow it to remain to be worked under arrangement with the Silvertown Tram Company. Send wire to Tarrawingee Flux Company at Melbourne, asking what they will take for the line as it stands.—J.H.Y., 2/5/98.

Secretary, Tarrawingee Flux Company, 2/5/98. (Wire). Await reply.

No. 12.

Report by Mr. Stanley Alexander on the Railway from Broken Hill to Tarrawingee.

Department of Public Works, Sydney, 18 May, 1898.

This line was reported on by me on 20th May, 1892 (M.P. 92-2,839). The description of the line given in that report applies to it accurately in every respect to-day. The interval of six years has not produced any apparent depreciation except in materials subject to decay.

The maintenance has been very well attended to—the sleepers being still covered with ballast and the road well kept to line and level. Those points on which I remarked as being deficient in design and workmanship (paras. 17, 24, 25) are still in the same condition. The packing between the transoms and girders on the timber bridges has not been improved. Signals have not been provided—points have not been locked.

Waterways.

As to the remarks in para. 28 on the sufficiency of the waterways, experience has shown that the provision made has been sufficient hitherto, though it seems to have been tested to its full capacity.

Sleepers.

The material used in which deterioration has been marked is the timber of the sleepers. I reported (para. 14) that these sleepers are of Jarrah and Karri with a few Victorian Boxwood. As to the proportion or the number of each kind used, and as to their actual condition to-day, nothing less than a complete removal

removal of all the ballast above them and at their ends would suffice—even then the timbers are so alike in appearance that any distinction between them in the position in which they stand may be said to be subject to considerable difference of opinion. One point only of difference might be indisputable, that is, that the interval of seven years since they were laid down will probably not have affected the Jarrah sleepers to nearly the same extent as the Karri.

From all I hear on the matter I am inclined to believe that the number of Karri sleepers used exceeds very largely those of Jarrah, and in fact practically the line may be said to have been sleepersed with Karri timber.

There have been extensive renewals of these sleepers. I uncovered a number in the road and bored auger holes, and found the condition in all stages, but such a process of examination is limited in every way and not conclusive at all, as I could not tell whether it was a Jarrah or a Karri sleeper on which I was operating.

Referring to Karri timber underground.

By all I hear and by the precautions taken in running traffic (the speed has been limited by circular order to 10 miles per hour for the last few months), I am bound to believe that the limits of the life of the Karri sleepers has been nearly reached. I would place this life at ten years, of which seven (or eight) have elapsed. The line was opened for traffic in May, 1891.

Bridge timbers.

The bridge timbers were also reported to be of Jarrah and Karri—some renewals of these have been made, and there are still some faulty timbers in place, but in such situations the objection to use of first-class Karri timber is merely that better timber (with longer life) might have been used. As pointed out in paragraph 18 of my Report of 1892, there is considerable surplus strength in all the timber work.

I carefully examined a number of the bridges in detail, and I believe that the timbers are in fairly good condition with a few exceptions where splits, sun cracks, or large knots have weakened the baulks, and that their full life for the timber (which for Karri in such situations may be taken at twenty-five years) will be realised. The timber work above ground has been tarred every year, so its class is now almost undistinguishable (as between Jarrah and Karri).

Bridge foundations.

In paragraph 27 I remarked favourably on the foundations of piers and abutments. This opinion has, I believe, been fully borne out in the interval. For a first-class railway I think we should go deeper in the larger works. In one pier on which the scour has been concentrated it had cut down below the bottom of the concrete, but not to an extent to peril the stability of the pier, and this could be remedied at small cost. The clay bottom has been reached at least, if not sunk into deep enough. I believe that the works are trustworthy in respect of foundations.

Permanent-way.

(See para. 14 of report of 1892).

The rails are of steel 41 lb. per yard, branded N.E.S. Co. (Ltd.), 1890, Mbro. They show no wear at all.

Traffic.

The main dependence for revenue of this line must be on the wool from the stations to the north for 250 miles, as far as the Queensland Border. This loading is again contingent on the route being open—that is on the rainfall. It is now as nearly as possible impassable. The Darling River would probably under such conditions be low also, so in such seasons a large proportion of this loading would be taken to the railway at Bourke. The outward traffic in stores for stations is also a substantial quantity, and the mails will help to swell the revenue.

The McCulloch Park—an area on Stephens' Creek used for recreation purposes 9 miles out from Broken Hill—is certainly to be depended upon for supplying a traffic of a highly payable character in passengers on holidays especially. This traffic, which is independent of season, will largely compensate for deficiency in the through loading, and the necessity for securing the line as far as Stephens' Creek is very keenly felt in Broken Hill.

I conclude that the revenue that may fairly be expected from this line will exceed the working expenses apart altogether from the cost of renewals and additions of all kinds.

Additional plant.

In regard to additions, it is necessary to point out that the Tarrawingee Company has, since regular running ceased, removed all their plant from the line, the weigh-bridge at Tarrawingee and the pumping and watering appliances from all points. The bare line alone with the two dams (in which there is now a good supply of water, are left on the ground. In the event of the line being purchased by the Government, some appliances must certainly be provided.

Working.

The arrangement heretofore in force between the Tarrawingee Company and the Silverton Company as supplied me by Mr. Eloy, the Manager for the latter, given in a few words was as follows:—

The traffic has been worked by the Silverton Company.

The Tarrawingee Company have maintained the line in all respects at their own cost.

The Silverton Company supplied and worked all rolling stock including all staff and repairs.

Flux was carried at a charge to the Tarrawingee Company at 2s. 9d. per ton. The balance of receipts from this traffic was taken by the Tarrawingee Company.

For special traffic, such as excursion trains to Stephens' Creek, the cost of working the trains was deducted from the gross receipts, and the balance was divided equally between the two companies.

Proceeds from all other traffic of all kinds was divided equally between the two companies without any deduction being made.

The

15

The secretary to the Tarrawingee Company has supplied me with the lengths of line as in existence to day as follows:—

	miles.	chains.	feet.
Length of main line	38	51	61
Tarrawingee Siding	1	33	57
Maybell „	0	18	54
Ballast Pit „	0	6	27
Thompson's „	0	15	34
	40	46	45

STANLEY ALEXANDER.

The Railway Commissioners may be asked to favour me with any information in their possession as to the condition of this line, and probable traffic to be expected if taken over.—J.H.Y., 25/5/98. Will the Secretary to the Railway Commissioners please furnish the required information.—Jno. P. (for U.S.), 25/5/98.

No. 13.

Telegram from The Secretary to the Tarrawingee Flux and Tramway Co. (Limited), to The Under Secretary for Public Works.

Melbourne, 14 June, 1898.

UNDERSTAND your telegram as being a refusal our offer of Tarrawingee line—the Board of Directors decline to reduce the price as suggested by you.

ALFRED MELLOR.

Submitted.—R.H., Under Secretary for Public Works and Commissioner for Roads, 15/6/98. Seen.—J.H.Y., 16/6/98. File.

No. 14.

Telegram from Public Works Department to The Secretary of the Tarrawingee Flux and Tramway Co. (Limited).

Public Works, 13 June, 1898.

SEND wire to Tarrawingee Flux Co. to following effect:—“The large cost of re-sleeping and other necessary works makes it impossible to purchase at the price asked; they may be invited, however, to reduce this price to about that of the value of the rails after deducting cost of removal, when perhaps business may be done.”

J.H.Y.

Telegraph.—Jno.P., 13/6/98.
Await reply.

Wire Secretary, Tarrawingee Flux and Tramway Co., 13/6/98.

No. 15.

Telegram from The Secretary of the Tarrawingee Flux and Tramway Co. (Limited), to The Under Secretary for Public Works.

Melbourne, 31 May, 1898.

Re Tarrawingee line—we have sent for our traffic manager to come down to consult with Board, and you may, therefore, expect reply to your telegram on Friday next—we will give matter fullest consideration.

W. MACNICOL,

302, Collins-street.

Secretary Silverton Tramway Co.

For the information of the Minister.—R.H., Under Secretary for Public Works and Commissioner for Roads, 31/5/98. Seen.—J.H.Y., 31/5/98. Await reply.

No. 16.

Estimate of Mr. Stanley Alexander.—Tarrawingee Flux Tramway, Broken Hill.

I ESTIMATE the cost of putting the line in thorough working order as follows:—

Sleeper renewal	£	14,000
Bridge timber renewal		500
Water-supply plant		500
Sheds and shelter		500
		15,500

13 June, 1898.

STANLEY ALEXANDER.

No. 17.

Report by Mr. Stanley Alexander on the Railway Line from Broken Hill to Tarrawingee, the property of the Tarrawingee Flux and Tramway Company (Ltd.)

Sydney, 20 May, 1892.

1. This line of railway is an extension of the Silverton tramway through Broken Hill. The length from Broken Hill to Tarrawingee is under 39 miles; but the total length of rails laid, including the sidings, is 70,504 lineal yards—40 miles 4 chains 16 yards. The general direction of the line is nearly due north from Broken Hill. It is designed to carry limestone from Tarrawingee as flux for the smelting operations of the mines at Broken Hill.

2. The sharpest curve on the line has a radius of 15 chains.

3. The steepest gradient, rising northwards—that is, in the direction on which the empty return trains travel—is 1 in 50, and the longest of these measures 17 chains.

4. The steepest gradient against the road, viz., rising southwards in the direction of Broken Hill, is 1 in 70, and the longest of these is 25 chains.

5. The formation of the line is nearly all in low embankment obtained from side cutting. The land provided by the Act is fixed at a width of 16 feet within the limits of private lands, which lie practically within the Municipality of Broken Hill only, and a width of 1 chain on public lands.

6. The surface of the surrounding country, and of that passed over by the line, is undulating, and broken by sharp ridges and outcrops of rock. These undulations are very extensive.

7. There are some combinations of gradients on the line, rising against the roads, that make up a severe tax on the engine power available; but still the load actually taken into Broken Hill when the smelting furnaces are in full work, and require full supplies of flux, is 186 tons of paying load per train. This line has delivered 122,000 tons of limestone into Broken Hill since opening for this traffic in May of 1891.

8. The line will be supplied with rolling-stock, and worked by the Silverton Tramway Co., in all respects in accordance with the Rules and Regulations in force upon the South Australian Government railways.

9. There are about 200 employees of the Tarrawingee Company resident about Tarrawingee. The Poolamaca head station is about 3 miles thence.

10. The following gives the quantities of work done in construction of the line in some of the more important items, taken from the contractor's final certificate:—

Excavation from cuttings	13,539 cubic yards.
„ side cuttings	104,382 „
Surface-forming	1,840 chains.
Grade-posts at principal grades	43
Mile and half-mile posts	81

In construction of three reservoirs for storage of water, a total of 87,483 cubic yards of excavation has been done.

11. *Earthworks*.—Top width of embankment, 14 feet; bottom width of cutting, 12 ft. 6 in. The surface drainage has been carefully attended to by cutting of side drains, which are properly located and graded to carry off water. In accordance with the practice in force on South Australian Government railways of the narrow (3 ft. 6 in.) gauge, platforms have been dispensed with for passenger accommodation.

12. *Fencing*.—Fences have been erected within the municipal limits of Broken Hill only. The posts are of mulga-wood, from 4 to 6 inches in diameter, round, with bark attached, carrying seven wires of No. 8 gauge. The top wire is 4 feet above the ground surface. There are eight panels to the chain.

13. *Level Crossings*.—Outside the town of Broken Hill there are very few of these, and here, as the line is not fenced, they have not been protected. All, however, are provided with proper guards, inside of ordinary rails and outside of timber. At the street-crossings these guards extend the full width of the carriage-way, which is metalled with broken stone metal. Gates have not been used. Cattle-pits of good design and construction are built on each side of all crossings of streets, and also one at the crossing of all station fences. In these the rails are carried under the pits on longitudinal 12 in. x 12 in. beams—no sleepers—which rest on concrete abutments. The fencing is properly carried up to and across these pits. There are seven of these cattle-pits.

14. *Permanent-way and Ballasting*.—The rails are flat-footed, 41 lb. per yard, of steel, specially imported from Middlesbrough. The sleepers are of Jarrah and Karri—both West Australian timbers—6 ft. 6 in. in length x 8 in. x 4 in., sawn. A few Victorian boxwood hewn sleepers have been used. There are eight sleepers to the 21 ft. 2 in. rail (the longest length of rail in use). These are spaced 2 ft. 9 in. between the centres and 1 ft. 11 in. at joints. The rail is held down by dog-spikes only throughout. The fishing is effected by a flat, ordinary fish-plate on the outside, and by a deep plate on the inside, having an extra member depending 1½ inch below the rail-bed. The fish-plates are 15 inches in length, joined by four of Ibbotson's patent bolts with steel expansion nuts. The rail bed is inclined 1 in 26. The crossings are built of ordinary steel rails—workmanship very good—all, including tongue and stock rails, having been made in South Australia. These and the switch-handles are of the regular standard pattern in use in the lines of that colony. The sleepers were all adzed and bored by machinery. The crossings on the main line are 1 in 10.

15. The workmanship throughout, in the laying of the permanent-way, appears to have been very good. The ballast is of coarse sand from the bed of Stephens' Creek—a very good material. It is laid 4 inches in depth below the sleepers, and 1½ inch covering them, making a full depth of 9½ inches. The top width is 7 ft. 3 in. and bottom width 9 ft. 7½ in. The sides have been kept well trimmed. The road, as travelled over by me, is in very excellent running order, with properly-proportioned super-elevation at the curves, and fully ballasted. The maintenance-men for the whole length number twenty, and one inspector.

16. *Bridging*.—Three types of bridging have been used, viz.:—Spans of 10 feet, 11 feet, and 15 feet; and, in one case, a special design of 30 feet. The following is a summary of the bridging that has been created:—

5 bridges—single, 10 feet; total lineal feet,	50.
17 " " 11 " "	187.
17 " 2 spans 11 " "	374.
4 " 3 " 11 " "	132.
2 " 4 " 11 " "	88.
13 " single 15 " "	195.
6 " 2 spans 15 " "	180.
11 " 3 " 15 " "	495.
11 " 4 " 15 " "	660.
3 " 5 " 15 " "	225.
3 " 6 " 15 " "	270.
1 " 7 " 15 " "	105.
2 " 8 " 15 " "	240.
1 " 9 " 15 " "	135.
1 " 10 " 15 " "	150.
2 " 13 " 15 " "	390.
1 " 14 " 15 " "	210.
1 " 20 " 15 " "	300.
1 " 25 " 15 " "	375.
(Stephens' Creek)	
1 special 3 spans 30 } feet; "	165.
5 " 15 }	
Total lineal feet	4,926.

Pipe and box drains:—

9 drains of single 18-inch pipes.
2 " double " "
1 box drain.

17. The standard type of 10 and 11 feet spans is composed of two beams of 14 in. x 10 in., spaced 4 ft. 2 in. apart between centres (3 ft. 4 in. in the clear), resting on and bolted down to two timber bed-plates at each end, 9 in. x 6 in. These are carried by concrete abutments having concrete wings. The ballast boards are of 2-inch sawn stuff, spiked to the ends of the girders. There is no strutting or distance piece between the girders. The sleepers rest on the girders, being spiked down to them. The level of the road is obtained by packing between the sleeper and the girder of an inefficient kind, the packing pieces being of thin boards of irregular shape and size. Felt has been used in places, and the manager stated that he intended to substitute felt packing for the timber throughout. It is probable that the expense of attending to these wooden packings will soon necessitate adoption of some other material. The concrete is in most cases of cement, the proportions being 3, 2, and 1. The foundations are said to have been sunk into the clay, that is—that the surface sand and soil has been sunk through down to the compact clay bottom. Lime concrete was used in the foundations. The lime is from concretions found in the soil of these parts. By the analysis of this it is probably slightly hydraulic, and, if so, it is a suitable material for such work. In the superstructure the concrete was in most cases of cement. The piers in the bridges of more than one span are also of concrete.

18. The timber work is all sawn square of jarrah or karrj, tarred, and in good condition. The workmanship is rough but efficient, and in all respects faithfully done. The design is, if anything, in error on the side of superfluous strength having been provided.

19. The 15 feet spans are similar in design to the former, excepting that the girders are 16 in. x 12 in.—4 ft. 4 in. between centres—the spacing being the same, viz., 3 ft. 4 in. apart, and the bed-plates are 12 in. x 6 in. There are no struts or distance pieces between the girders.

20. The special 30-foot span at Tarrawingee Creek is similar in every respect to the design of the 15-foot spans, but, in addition, the girders are understrutted to the piers and abutments with 12 in. x 12 in. struts, and horizontally between the girders with 9 in. x 4 in. crossed struts, the girders being tied together with 1½-in. bolts. This strutting is well designed and executed. The concrete abutments and piers are of extra thickness in this bridge. The clear space underneath the girders is greater than in any other bridge, but even here it does not exceed 7 feet.

21. The locomotives in use are by Beyer and Peacock—they are tender engines—45 tons total weight, but no one was able to quote the weights on the driving wheels. Cow-catchers are carried by all locomotives.

22. The trucks in use are in all respects such as are admissible on first-class lines.

23. The line is forked at Tarrawingee, each arm being a quarter mile or more in length. This admits of a loop being put in between the forks, and thus a Y is formed, which is useful for reversing locomotives.

24. Two sidings or passing-places have been formed on this line, viz., at Maybell, 14½ miles from Broken Hill, and at Thompson's, 27 miles. These are each 20 chains in length between points. Watering arrangements and reservoirs are ready, but they are dry. There is no shed, platform, or signal or any other provision for traffic. There is also a ballast siding into Stephens' Creek, which requires protection. The fork at Tarrawingee should also be protected by signals. The junction station at Sulphide-street in Broken Hill, being on the Silverton Company's property, need not be noticed here.

25. I noticed that at every point locking arrangements, less the padlocks, were ready. There is no resident staff at the sidings to attend to signals.

26. The speed within municipal limits of Broken Hill is limited to 4 miles per hour, and a bell is kept ringing on the engine while traversing the town.

27. In conclusion it is necessary that, having inspected the line, I should express an opinion on its quality. I have already said in a telegram to the Engineer-in-Chief that the works of construction are good enough in every respect. It is not possible to be decided as to the sufficiency of the foundations from an inspection of this kind; but I am able to infer, from the general evidence of care and forethought shown by all the works above ground, that these have not been less carefully treated. The materials used are all of good quality in all the works. They were designed and supervised by Mr. E. J. Horwood, M.C.E., and carried out by Messrs. Baxter and Saddler, contractors, who are now engaged upon the Molong-Parkes line. I also examined all the plans in accordance with which the works were carried out, and I am satisfied that they have been faithfully executed with the intention of making as permanent a line of railway as the character of the requirements demand.

28. With regard to the sufficiency of the water-ways, the list given in para. No. 16 gives an average of about 126 feet (lineal) per mile, showing that all the local drainage has been amply provided for. The last four on the list represent the bridging of the main drains of the country. They are all capable of passing a very large body of water, and the character of the area drained is very highly absorbent. Considerable investigation is needed before it can be said positively that these bridges are not large enough for all requirements; but, judging from the position of the reputed flood line and the shape of the cross-section of the water-ways at the points bridged, I am bound to consider that as soon as the soil of the area drained has become saturated, there will be a danger of these openings being insufficient to pass the surplus water should the rainfall continue. I am, however, also of opinion that judgment has been used in fixing on these water-ways, as explained by Mr. Horwood. In such a district, all the information obtainable being imperfect and unreliable, and the traffic being confined to the hours of daylight, he did not consider that the company would be justified in incurring greater expense than seemed absolutely necessary at the present time.

29. On the matter of signals and such like, I do consider that their absence in this case is important to the subject under investigation. The traffic authority, whoever he may be, must be responsible for the safety of the working arrangements.

The Engineer-in-Chief, Railway Department.

STANLEY ALEXANDER.

No. 18.

The Secretary to the Tarrawingee Flux and Tramway Company (Limited) to
Wyman Brown, Esq., Castlereagh-street, Sydney.

Prell's Building, Corner Collins and Queen Streets,

Dear Sir,

Melbourne, 5 July, 1892.

I am in receipt of your favour of the 4th instant, covering letter from the Under Secretary, *re* By-laws, and note that he is not prepared to pass them in the form submitted.

I shall be glad if you will kindly see the Department, however, and request that they allow us to have the copy already sent for their approval, as we have unfortunately mislaid the rough draft; and as soon as we have gone through the form now sent by you we can return the former copy now in the Department's possession, together with the By-laws in the form required by the Railway Commissioners.

Yours faithfully,

ALFRED MELLOR,

Secretary.

The Secretary to the Railway Commissioners to The Under Secretary for Public
Works.

Government Railways of New South Wales, Secretary's Office,

Sir,

Sydney, 21 June, 1892.

I am directed to return herein the draft By-laws for the Tarrawingee tramway.

The Commissioners desire me to say that they consider the clauses in many instances too stringent, and suggest that the By-laws adopted by the Railway Commissioners might be extended to the tramway, modified where the Companies' Act renders such a course desirable.

I have, &c.,

H. McLACHLAN,

Secretary.

List to so inform.—R.L., 23/6/92.
25/6/92. Inform.—27/6/92.

Approved by Minister; with order No. 2,383.—D.McL.,
Wyman Brown, Esq., 29/6/92.

THE TARRAWINGEE FLUX AND TRAMWAY CO. (LTD.)

GOODS CLASSIFICATION.

The Tarrawingee Flux and Tramway Company (Limited), by virtue of the powers and authorities vested in it by an Act to amend the "Tarrawingee Tramway Act of 1890," doth hereby make the following charges and classification of goods to be carried by the tramway vested in the company, to take effect on and after the 1st May, 1892.

BY-LAWS.

1. Any person (unless having a free pass) taking a seat or remaining in or upon any carriage used on the tramway as a passenger, or travelling therein upon the tramway, without first having paid his or her fare and obtained a ticket, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5.

2. Each passenger on paying his or her fare will be furnished with a ticket, which he or she is to show whenever required by a station-master or authorised porter, or by the guard in charge of the train; and if it be a journey or return ticket he or she must allow it to be marked when required; and every ticket (whether single, or return, or periodical) must be delivered up upon demand of any porter or other servant of the company who may be authorised to collect tickets. Any person guilty of a breach of this By-law shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5.

3. Tickets are not transferable. A ticket can only be used by the person for whom it may be issued. Any person using or attempting to use a transferred single, return, or periodical ticket, after being once used or travelled with, or a ticket the time for proper use of which has expired, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5.

4. No passenger shall be entitled to re-book or to take a ticket at any intermediate station for the purpose of continuing his journey in the same train as that in which he shall have arrived at such station.

5. Any person knowingly attempting to defraud the company by travelling upon the tramway in or upon a carriage of a superior class to that for which he or she is provided with a ticket, or altering a return or other ticket, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5.

6. Tickets, whether single or return, shall be available, and shall be used by passengers only to convey them to the stations named thereon, or to any station short of that destination. In no case, however, shall "cheap" or "excursion" tickets be used at or for any other station than those named thereon. Any person using, or attempting to use, a ticket in violation of this by-law shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5.

7. No ticket will be recognised by any collector or servant of the company authorised to collect or examine tickets unless the number, date, and names of the stations printed on such ticket be perfectly legible. The holder of any ticket which may be defaced or rendered illegible in any of the above particulars will be regarded as not having paid his fare, and will be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5.

8. Any person not duly authorised by the company who shall sell or offer for sale, any free pass, ticket, or portion of a return ticket, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5.

9. No male passenger will be allowed to enter or to remain in any waiting-room or carriage set apart for the accommodation of females, and any person persisting in remaining in any such room or carriage after being warned to leave the same shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5.

10. Any person not being a servant of the company who shall open any carriage for the purpose of entering same with a key or other instrument after the tickets have been examined and the carriage-doors locked by the station-master, guard, or other person appointed for that purpose, or any person who shall let himself or herself out of any carriage on arrival at any station, or at any time during the journey, by use of a private key or other instrument, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5.

11. No person shall be allowed to travel outside a carriage or vehicle on the tramway under any circumstances whatever, or to get into or upon, or quit any carriage or vehicle when the train is in motion; and any person doing so, or attempting to do so, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5.

12. Smoking is strictly prohibited in any tramway sheds, yards, offices, platforms, or waiting-rooms; and any person found smoking in any goods or other shed, yards, platforms, offices, or premises, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £2.

13. Smoking is strictly prohibited in any tramway carriages, except those set apart for the purpose; and any person found smoking in a carriage not set apart for the purpose shall forfeit a penalty not exceeding £2, and may be removed from the carriage by any tramway servant.

14. Dogs will be conveyed and charged for according to printed conditions, but they will not on any account be allowed to accompany passengers in the carriages. Any person persisting in taking a dog into any passenger carriage, in breach of this by-law, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5.

15. No gratuity is under any circumstances allowed to be received by any servant of the company, on pain of instant dismissal. Any person giving or offering a gratuity to any such servant shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5.

16. Any person making use of insulting or abusive language to any officer or servant of the company while in the execution of his duty, or any person making use of obscene or blasphemous language in any carriage, or upon any platform or premises of the company, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5.

17. Any person driving or attempting to drive sheep or cattle, or attempting to ride or drive any horse across the line, either at an authorised crossing-place or elsewhere, when a train is in sight, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5.

18. No carman, hackney-coachman, drayman, porter, carter, or other person, unless licensed by the company in that behalf, will be allowed to come into or upon the station, lands, or premises of the company for the purpose of plying for hire, or touting, or soliciting custom or hire, or removing passengers or luggage, either with or without a cab, car, dray, hand-cart, or truck, unless by permission of the station-master in charge of such station, lands, or premises, and any carman, hackney-coachman, drayman, carter, porter, or other person evading, or attempting to evade, or being guilty of a breach of this by-law, or refusing or neglecting to quit the premises of the company, when thereto requested by the station-master or other servant of the said company, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5.

19. Any person found bathing, swimming dogs, or otherwise polluting the water in any of the tramway tanks or reservoirs, shall be subject to a penalty not exceeding £5.

20. Any person or persons, unless those duly authorised by the company, who shall be found posting or sticking bills, or other printed matter, within or upon any of the tramway property or premises, shall be subject to a penalty not exceeding £5.

21. All goods and merchandise (whether bonded or free), and all luggage arriving by train at any station, shall be removed from the platform, shed, or premises of the company within twenty-four hours of arrival, or such less time as may be fixed; and any free goods, merchandise, or luggage not removed by that time may be stored, or allowed to remain in the sheds or premises of the company at the risk and expense of the consignees or owners, and shall then become subject to the payment of the sum of 1s. per ton or portion of a ton per diem; and any bonded goods or merchandise which shall not be removed within the period aforesaid shall be subject to the payment of the sum of 1s. per ton per diem until the removal of the same from the premises of the company. And all goods, merchandise, and luggage unclaimed by the owner for the space of six weeks after arrival, may be sold by the company, and the company, after deducting what may be due to it for its tramway carriage, storage, and charges (including expense of sale), shall pay over the surplus, if any, to the owner on demand.

22. If any goods, produce, timber, or other merchandise shall be brought into any station either by the owner or consignee, or in the waggons or vehicles of the company, and which goods or merchandise, in accordance with the conditions of the published tariffs, it shall be the business of the owner, consignor, or consignee to load into or discharge from the tramway waggons or vehicles; and in case the owner, consignor, or consignee refuses or neglects to load into, or discharge from the tramway waggons or vehicles such goods within twelve working hours of their arrival at the station, they shall be subject to the payment of the sum of 30s. per truck per diem until loaded or unloaded as the case may be; or the company, by its officers and servants, may forthwith proceed to load into or discharge from the tramway trucks such goods at the risk of the owner, consignor, or consignee, and such goods shall be subject to the costs of such loading or unloading, in addition to the freight, and to such other costs or charges as may become due under the last preceding by-law.

23. Upon every parcel or package containing any of the articles mentioned beneath, brought or delivered, either to be carried for hire or to accompany the person of any passenger, and its value and contents declared, and where such value shall exceed the sum of £10, there shall be paid an increased rate of charge—that is to say, double parcels or excess luggage rate if the declared value be over £10 and under £50, and quadruple parcel or excess luggage rate if the value exceeds £50, as a compensation for the greater risk and care to be taken for the safe custody and conveyance, as the case may be, of such valuable articles, or any precious stones, jewellery, watches, clocks, or time-pieces of any description, trinkets, bills, notes of any bank in her Majesty's dominions, or of any foreign banks, order notes or securities for payment of money (whether foreign or otherwise), stamps, maps, writings, title-deeds, paintings, engravings, pictures, gold or silver plate, or plated articles, glass, china, silks in a manufactured or unmanufactured state, and whether wrought up or not wrought up with other materials, furs or lace, or any of them, contained in any parcel or package delivered either to be carried for hire or to accompany the person of any passenger.

24. Any horse declared to be above the value of £50, any neat-cattle above the value of £20 per head, any sheep, pig, or other small animal above the value of £1 per head, will only be carried by the company by special agreement, and at an increase over the published rates according to the value of such animal.

25. No claim for loss will be allowed or recognised unless the particulars of such claim be lodged with the secretary within fourteen days after such loss shall have arisen, and no claim for damage will be recognised or allowed after the removal from the tramway premises of the goods or merchandise alleged to have been damaged. And the delivery of such goods shall be considered complete when notice of the arrival has been given to the consignee, or where the address of the consignee is not known, the company will accept no liability for loss or damage after the goods shall have been at the receiving station twenty-four hours. All goods and live-stock to be carried subject to the printed conditions of carriage.

26. The company will not be responsible for articles left by passengers at any station unless the same be duly registered, for which a charge per article will be made, and a ticket given in exchange, and no article will be given up without the production of the ticket, or satisfactory evidence of the ownership being adduced, and any article will be delivered up to the bearer of the ticket unless previously delivered up to the owner. The company will not be responsible for any package exceeding the value of £10.

27. Every person writing, drawing, scratching, or cutting any letter, word, or figure, upon any of the stations or premises, or any part thereof, of the company, shall, on conviction, be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5. 28.

28. Any person in or upon any tramway carriage or station being in a state of intoxication, or committing any nuisance or gambling, or wilfully interfering with the comfort of any passenger, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5, and to removal from such carriage or station as soon as shall be practicable.

29. The company will not be responsible for any luggage unless it be specially booked and paid for, and the name of the owner and its destination distinctly marked thereon.

30. No person shall be entitled to require any single article or goods to be conveyed by tramway exceeding the weight of 5 tons, or which, from its excessive bulk, would be inconvenient to transport, or any aquafortis, oil of vitriol, gunpowder, or other goods which, in the judgment of the company's officers, may be of a dangerous nature; and any such officer may refuse to take any parcel suspected to contain goods of a dangerous nature, or require the same to be opened to ascertain the fact; but nothing herein shall prevent the company or its officers from carrying any such goods if they think fit.

31. Any person who shall wilfully injure, wholly or in part, any of the linings, straps, cushions, or blinds, or break or deface any of the windows, or remove or injure any number, plate, advertisement, or notice, or remove or extinguish any of the lamps, or otherwise damage any tramway carriage, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5, in addition to the payment of the amount of damage done.

32. No article shall be sold on any tramway premises without the consent of the company through their traffic manager, and every person offending against this by-law shall forfeit a sum not exceeding £5.

33. The owners of horses or other live stock will have to take all risks of conveyance. The company will not be responsible for any damage, however caused, occurring to horses or other live stock upon the tramway, or at any of the stations. No horse or live stock will be carried unless the contract form be issued by the company be previously signed by the owner or consignor. All live stock must be loaded by the sender and unloaded by the consignor or owners, at their risk respectively.

34. The authorised charge upon all goods or parcels must be paid on demand, and in default of payment being made, such goods or parcels may be sold by the company, and the freight and charges deducted from the proceeds thereof, and no credit will be given unless under special arrangement.

35. The company will not be liable for any damage to goods not delivered or misdelivered, in consequence of the same not being properly directed, described, or packed, or for damage or loss sustained through improper packing, leaking, fermentation, or fire.

36. Fresh meat, fish, poultry, dairy produce, eggs, fruit, vegetables, and other perishable articles will be conveyed, when practicable by the next train, but in all cases at the owner's risk, and if not promptly removed from the tramway premises (should they become offensive), will be disposed of or destroyed by the tramway servants.

37. All live stock must be removed from the tramway premises immediately after the arrival of the train, or, if left, they will remain at the owner's risk and expense, and may be sent to agistment or livery, the cost of which shall be paid by the owner, and such cost must be paid on demand as part of the authorised charges. And such stock, if not removed within seven days, may be sold by auction by the company, within the tramway premises, and the proceeds thereof applied in payment of all expenses incurred, and the balance thereof handed over to the owner on demand.

38. All goods, whether free or dutiable, brought to any tramway station for conveyance by the company, must be accompanied by invoices showing the contents and value of each case or package, otherwise the tramway servants may refuse to take delivery. From these documents a transire will be prepared, which will be in lieu of entries hitherto prepared and passed by licensed Customs agents. The rates charged for transires and payment of Customs duties will be as follows:— For each consignment entered on a transire, 1s.; for each payment of duties, 1 per cent. on the amount paid; minimum charge, 6d.

In testimony whereof the common seal of the Tarrawingee Flux and Tramway Company was affixed hereto by Alfred Mellor, Secretary of the said company, and such affixing was attested by the undersigned Directors of the said company, and by the said Alfred Mellor, Secretary.

DUNCAN GRANT, } Directors.
J. W. BYRON MOORE, }
ALFRED MELLOR, Secretary.

GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR CONVEYANCE OF GOODS AT CLASS RATES.

1. The Tramway Company are carriers only from and to the various stations on the said tramway, and goods addressed to other destinations are received only to be carried to the nearest or most convenient goods station on the tramway and there delivered; or they will be allowed to remain on the tramway premises, or be placed in a shed or warehouse, if there is convenience for receiving same, pending communication with the consignees. Advice given or sent to the consignee of the goods remaining on the tramway premises, or that such goods are placed in the shed or warehouse, will be deemed to be delivery of such goods, so as to relieve the company from all responsibility in respect thereof.

2. Every consignment of goods, when delivered for transmission by tramway, must be accompanied by a consignment note signed by the sender, or some person on his behalf. The goods must be plainly and legibly addressed with the name of the consignee and the place of destination. A charge of 2s. 6d. per ton, or part of a ton, per day, will be made on all trucks not loaded within six hours after they are engaged for carriage of goods.

3. The carriage of all goods must be either paid for previously to or on delivery; but in cases of persons who are under bond for payment of tramway charges, the company may allow time for payment.

4. No claim for loss or damage will be allowed unless made within twenty-four hours after the arrival of the goods, and the delivery of such goods will be considered as complete when the notice of the arrival is rendered to the consignee; or, if carted out by the company, when the goods are at the door of the consignee, ready to be delivered to him upon his signing the formal receipt adopted by the company, or when the goods are suspended to the consignee's crane, chain, or tackle; the cellaring or warehousing afterwards being at the owner's risk. The company hereby give notice that all charges for freight, &c., must be paid in cash on delivery or tender of the goods, &c., but the time may be given as in the case aforesaid.

5. The company will not guarantee to despatch goods by any particular train; nor will they agree to send a truck from one station to another with less freight than 2 tons.

6. The company will not be accountable for any articles or goods unless the same are signed for as received by their authorised officers, clerks, or agents; nor for the loss or damage arising from fire, the act of God, or civil commotion, nor for the loss of, or damage to, the following articles, namely:—Gold, silver, or any article composed, or partly composed, of those metals; precious stones or jewellery, watches, clocks, or time-pieces, Bank notes or bills, bills of exchange or promissory notes, securities for payment of money, stamps or stamped paper; title or other deeds, writings, paintings, engravings, plated articles, glass, china, silks, or articles composed of silk, shawls, lace, or other articles of a like nature, unless the nature and value of such articles shall have been declared by the sender, and an insurance rate of 1 per cent. over and above the tramway charge for carriage shall have been paid to, and accepted by some person duly authorised to receive the same on behalf of the company.

7. Neither will the company be liable for any loss or damages arising from goods being improperly or insufficiently packed, marked, directed, or described, or for packages containing a variety of articles liable by breakage to damage each other or other articles, or from leakage or loss caused by bad packages, or bad vessels or cooerage, or from fermentation.

8. Nor for the loss or damage to any goods put into returned wrappers, or boxes, or packages, described as empties, nor for the loss or damage to or for any goods or parcels left till called for, or to order, or warehoused for the convenience of parties to whom they belong, or by or to whom they are consigned.

9. Nor for any loss or damage to any goods whatsoever by reason of any accidental or unavoidable delay in transit or otherwise.

10. If sheets are supplied by the company for the covering of goods, the following charges will be made, namely:— For any distance not exceeding 25 miles, 9d. each sheet; for any distance exceeding 25 miles, 1s. 6d. each sheet; and an additional charge of 1s. each per day or part of a day will be made for each sheet detained more than twenty-four hours after arrival at receiving-station; but the company will not be responsible for damage arising from any alleged defects in the sheets thus supplied, nor will the company undertake to supply sheets in all cases.

11. Senders of any dangerous articles will be held accountable for any damage arising therefrom or thereto, unless the contents are described as such upon the direction, that due care may be observed in the loading; and in no case will the company be liable for the loss of, or damage to, any such article.

12. The company may correct any undercharges in any railway receipt or invoice.

13. All live stock, herbs, fish, fruit, meat, poultry, or other perishable articles will be conveyed at the owner's risk, and may be immediately sold to secure the freight, unless it be prepaid at the station from which they are forwarded, or if it be not paid on their arrival at the railway terminus, or when offered for delivery. If for shipment, charges must in all cases be prepaid.

14. The company may immediately upon, or at any time after their arrival at their destination, remove any goods from the trucks or carriages. Owners or consignees must remove all goods from the station or terminus of their destination within six hours after their arrival there, unless such arrival shall be between the hours of 6 in the evening and 7 in the morning; and, in that case, every such removal must be made within six hours after such hour in the morning; and, in default of such removal, the goods will be liable to demurrage at and after the rate of 2s. 6d. per ton; and, further, if not removed after the expiration of twenty-four hours, at and after the rate of 1s. per ton for each twenty-four hours or part thereof. And if such goods be not removed from such station or terminus of their destination before the end of one week after their arrival there, the sum of 2s. 6d. per ton for each subsequent week will be charged in respect of such goods for the warehouse room thereof.

15. All goods, from whomsoever received, or to whomsoever belonging, shall be subject to a lien, not only for the freight of the particular goods, but also for any general balance that may be due by the owners, consignors, or consignees.

16. If any person on demand fail to pay the charges due by him to the company, for or in respect of the freight or carriage of any goods then or at any time theretofore carried, the company may detain and sell all or any part of the goods from time to time, within the tramway premises, belonging to or consigned by or to the party so indebted as aforesaid; and out of the money arising from such sale the company may retain all the charges then due and payable to him as aforesaid; and all charges and expenses of such detention and sale, rendering the overplus, if any, of the moneys arising from such sale, and such of the goods as shall remain unsold, to the person entitled thereto; or the company may recover such charges and moneys by action at law.

17. In all rates calculated under the tariff any fractional part of a day will be charged as one day, and any fractional part of a mile as one mile.

18. All goods are conveyed at the owner's risk only.

19. Special arrangements may be made for the conveyance of exceptional traffic.

20. No person will be allowed to remove goods from any tramway station unless he presents an order from the consignee.

21. Mineral acids, gunpowder, naphtha, and other compounds of an explosive and highly inflammable nature, can only be carried at special rates and under special conditions, to be ascertained on application to the traffic manager.

WOOL RATES.

(Including loading and unloading and sheeting.)

TARRAWINGEE TO BROKEN HILL.

	s.	d.
Bales not exceeding 300 lb. each.....	3	0
Bales dumped, not exceeding 4 cwt. each.....	3	0
Bales undumped, not exceeding 4 cwt.	3	6

Each bale over 4 cwt. will be charged 25 per cent. per bale additional upon the rate for a 4-cwt. bale upon every hundredweight or portion of a hundredweight in excess.

All wool is carried at owner's risk as to condition, and will be signed for accordingly.

GOODS TARIFF.

All goods will be carried at 6d. per ton per mile (minimum charge, 5s.), with a terminal charge of 1s. per ton added.

Weight or measurement at company's option.

GUNPOWDER AND OTHER EXPLOSIVES, O.R.

As per arrangement (see clause 11 of General Regulations). Minimum charge for a consignment, 5s.

NOTE.—The weight of the whole package will be charged for. Station-masters and others interested are instructed not to accept for carriage by tramway to any station any package of explosives unless it is accompanied by the sender's written guarantee that consignee will take delivery of the same immediately on its arrival at the station to which consigned. In the event of consignees not complying with this guarantee, the package must be returned by first train to the sending station, from whence it must be promptly delivered to consignor, carriage being charged both ways.

1.—PARCEL AND LIVE STOCK RATES AND PARCEL REGULATIONS.

PARCEL RATES.

(Under £10 in value.)

	s.	d.
Any distance, weight not exceeding 14 lb.	1	0
" " 28 "	1	9
" " 56 "	2	6
" " 84 "	3	6
" " 112 "	4	6
For every additional 14 lb. or part thereof	1	0

2.—NEWSPAPER RATES.

	s.	d.
Any distance, not over 7 lb.	0	3
" " 14 "	0	6
" " 28 "	0	9
" " 56 "	1	3
" " 112 "	2	6
For every 28 lb. or portion thereof additional.....	0	6

Periodicals published at intervals exceeding one month will be charged ordinary parcel rates when sent by passenger train.

3. Dairy produce, eggs, fresh fruit, fresh meat, fresh fish, dewl poultry and game will be carried at a reduction of one-fifth on parcel rates when sent (in consignments not exceeding 300 lb.) by passenger trains. Minimum charge 1s.

All fish, fruit, meat, poultry, and other perishable articles are conveyed at owner's risk, and are liable to immediate sale if not claimed and charges paid on arrival.

4. Packed parcels in hampers, crates, bags, cases, or other packages are charged quadruple parcel rates, and the onus of proving that the parcels are not packed rests with the consignee or consignor.

5. The company will not be accountable for any parcel above the value of £10, unless the nature and value of the articles or property contained in such parcel shall have been declared by the sender, and an insurance rate equal to 1 per centum upon such declared value shall have been paid, in addition to the amount chargeable by the foregoing scale of rates.

6. Returned empties actual weight must be prepaid.

7. Double rates will be charged on furniture, musical instruments, fragile articles, and large packages weighing less than 10 lb. to each per cubic foot.

8. Parcels weighing more than 336 lb. cannot be forwarded by passenger trains.

9. In all cases it will be at the option of the company to proceed either against the sender or consignee to recover the amount due for the carriage of parcels.

10. All parcels to be delivered at the forwarding stations fifteen minutes previous to the departure of the train, for which they are intended, otherwise the company will not be liable for any loss, miscarriage, or detention of same.

11. PASSENGERS' LUGGAGE.

Luggage.—First-class passengers allowed 112 lb. ; second-class, 84 lb. Any excess and articles of merchandise will be charged at excess luggage rates.

12. No luggage will be allowed to be placed in the carriages, unless it is of such a size to admit of its being put under a seat or in the rack without inconvenience to other passengers.

13. Excess luggage should be in the booking office fifteen minutes before the starting of the train, so as to give sufficient time to have it weighed and stowed.

14. Passengers must have their names, and the station to which they are proceeding, distinctly marked on their luggage, and should see that it is properly labelled. If left behind and forwarded by a subsequent train through neglect of these precautions, ordinary parcels rates will be charged. To prevent mistakes they should have all old labels removed.

15. The company will not be responsible for any luggage, unless it is specially booked and paid for, and the name of the owner and its destination be distinctly marked thereon.

16. All unclaimed luggage kept at a station twelve hours after its carriage by tramway will be charged the usual cloak-room rates for each package, and the company reserve the right to sell the same, if unclaimed after three months.

17. EXCESS LUGGAGE RATES.

For every 28 lb. or part of 28 lb., 1s. additional.

18. COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS' LUGGAGE AND SAMPLES BY PASSENGER TRAIN.

Commercial travellers' samples will be conveyed at half excess luggage rates, with a minimum charge as for 1 cwt., and a maximum weight of 15 cwt. If more than 15 cwt., a truck must be engaged at 1s. per truck per mile; the maximum weight of the load on the truck being 50 cwt.

Travellers intending to avail themselves of these reduced charges must be furnished with an authority from the firms they represent.

Travellers may forward the samples by any ordinary train at these rates, unaccompanied by themselves, on first signing (in person) a risk-note, a supply of which is kept at each station.

Charges must be prepaid at the station of original departure. Samples must be contained in tins or leather packages of handy size, and must have the firm's name or initials legibly painted on them. They must be booked at the parcels office at least fifteen minutes before train departure time.

19. CLOAK-ROOM CHARGES.

Every parcel 6d., for twenty-four hours; over that time an extra charge of 1d. per diem to be made. These charges to be strictly enforced on all parcels arriving at station addressed "to be called for" if such parcels are not taken delivery of in forty-eight hours after arrival at a station.

20. RATES FOR CORPSES.

The rate for a corpse is 1s. per mile.

Corpses will not be forwarded unless a certificate is produced from the medical attendant at the time of decease, setting forth that death was not caused by any contagious or infectious disease.

21. LIVE STOCK RATES.

In quantities not less than one truck load a sum not exceeding 6d. per head per mile, or for large numbers as per arrangement.

All horses, cattle, or other animals are carried by the company entirely at the owner's risk, except from any gross neglect on the part of the company or their officers. And the company are to be held free from all risk and responsibility in respect of any loss or damage arising on the loading or unloading, or from suffocation, or from being trampled on, bruised, or otherwise injured in transit, or from fire, or from any other cause whatsoever, not arising from such gross negligence as aforesaid, or where the loss or injury arises wholly or partially from fear or restiveness, and all fastening in either horse-boxes or trucks must be done by consignor, who will take all responsibility. Horses, cattle, or other animals to be carried must be at the stations one hour before the departure of the train by which they are intended to be forwarded, and the company do not undertake to forward any animals by any particular trains. Not less than thirty-six hours' notice must be given when a horse-box or cattle-truck is required, and 50 per cent. of the fare must be deposited when making the requisition.

22. DOGS AND GOATS.

Dogs and goats will be charged as follows:—Not exceeding 20 miles, 1s. ; exceeding 20 miles, 1s. 6d. They must be provided with chains or other means of securing them.

In all the above rates, part of a mile to be charged as a mile.

LOCAL FARES.

	Broken Hill.				Maybell.			
	Single.		Return.		Single.		Return.	
	1st.	2nd.	1st.	2nd.	1st.	2nd.	1st.	2nd.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Broken Hill .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 6	2 6	6 0	4 3
Maybell	3 6	2 6	6 0	4 3	.....	.....	.....	.....
Thompson's	6 6	5 0	11 0	8 0	3 0	2 6	5 0	3 9
Tarrawingee	10 0	7 6	16 0	12 0	6 6	5 0	10 0	7 9

	Thompson's.				Tarrawingee.			
	Single.		Return.		Single.		Return.	
	1st.	2nd.	1st.	2nd.	1st.	2nd.	1st.	2nd.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Broken Hill	6 6	5 0	11 0	8 0	10 0	7 6	16 0	12 0
Maybell	3 0	2 6	5 0	3 9	6 6	5 0	10 0	7 9
Thompson's .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 6	2 6	5 0	4 0
Tarrawingee	3 6	2 6	5 0	4 0	.....	.....	.....	.....

In testimony whereof the common seal of the Tarrawingee Flux and Tramway Company (Limited) was affixed hereto by Alfred Mellor, Secretary of the said company, and such affixing was attested by the undersigned directors of the said company, and by the said Alfred Mellor, Secretary.

JOHN GRICE,
J. W. BYRON MOORE, } Directors.
ALFRED MELLOR, Secretary.

Wyman

Wyman Brown, Esq., to The Under Secretary for Public Works, Sydney.

Sir, 4, Victoria Chambers, Castlereagh-street, Sydney, 25 April, 1892.

I have the honor to hand you herewith a copy of By-laws and General Regulations for the working of the Tarrawingee Tramway, under the provisions of the Co.'s Amended Act.

I would respectfully ask that you will be good enough to take the necessary steps to obtain the assent of the Governor in Council, as provided in the second section of such Act.

I have, &c.,

WYMAN BROWN.

The Railway Commissioners should, I think, say whether these By-laws are sufficient.—D.C.McL., 26/4/92. Mr. Deane for report in the first instance.—B.S., B.C., 29/4/92. I have made arrangements for Mr. Alexander to inspect this tramway.—W.D., 10/5/92. Under Sec., B.C. Inform.—D.C.McL. (*pro* U.S.), 11/5/92. W. Brown, Esq., 11/5/92. Mr. Deane.—D.C.McL. (*pro* U.S.), B.C., 11/5/92.

Mr. Secretary Lyne will be obliged if the Minister for Railways will kindly submit these By-laws to the Railway Commissioners with a view of eliciting their opinion as to whether they can with safety be submitted by Mr. Lyne to the Executive Council for approval.

Seen.—W.D., 16/5/92. B.S., 19/5/92. F.K., Under Secretary for Finance and Trade. The Railway Commissioners. Approved.—J.S., 27/5/92. The Secretary for Railways.—F.K., 27/5/92. Please report on separate paper relative to the proposed By-laws attached hereto.—H. McLACHLAN (*pro* U.S.), 28/5/92. C. T. Manager.

Thomas Brown, Esq., to The Under Secretary for Public Works.

Sir, 4, Victoria Chambers, Castlereagh-street, Sydney, 15 June, 1892.

On behalf of the Tarrawingee Tramway and Flux Co., I have the honor to draw your attention to the great inconvenience the company is under in respect of their By-laws, and to ask you if anything can possibly be done to expedite the passing of the same as soon as possible.

I have, &c.,

THOMAS BROWN.

Inquire at Railways when these By-laws are likely to be returned.—D.C.McL., 16/6/92. Urgent. This matter has not been dealt with by Commissioners yet, but it is expected that the By-laws will be considered to-morrow.—T.D., 16/6/92. In three days, 17/6/92.

The Under Secretary for Public Works to Wyman Brown, Esq.

Sir, 30 June, 1892.

With further reference to your letter of the 25th of April last, enclosing a draft of the proposed By-laws for the working of the Tarrawingee tramway, I am directed by the Secretary for Public Works to inform you that the Railway Commissioners, to whom the matter was referred, report that in their opinion the clauses are, in many instances, too stringent. I am therefore to suggest that the By-laws adopted by the Commissioners for Railways might be extended to the Tarrawingee tramway, modified where the Companies Act renders such a course desirable.

I have, &c.,

J. BARRING,

Under Secretary.

No. 19.

The Secretary to the Tarrawingee Flux and Tramway Company (Limited) to The Under Secretary for Public Works.

Prell's Building, corner Collins and Queen Streets,

Melbourne, 10 August, 1892.

Dear Sir, Referring to your favour of 21st July, I now have much pleasure in handing you the company's cheque for £51 16s. 9d., to cover expenses incurred in the recent inspection of the company's line by your engineer.

Yours truly,

ALFRED MELLOR,

Secretary.

The Chief Accountant, with cheque.—D.C.McL. (*pro* U.S.), 12/8/92. Cheque for £51 16s. 9d. paid into credit of Salaries and Contingencies, Department of Public Works.—A.R.M., 12/8/92. Receipt forwarded to company. Under Secretary.—W.H.Q., 12/8/92. Place with the other papers.—D.C.McL., 12/8/92. Seen.—W.D., 15/8/92. Accountant.—W.H.Q., 25/8/92. Seen. Bookkeeper to please note.—H.C., 25/8/92. Entered; journal folio, 358; Treasury Receipt, No. 23,086.—W.N., 1/9/92. Seen; put by.

The Under Secretary for Public Works to The Secretary, Tarrawingee Flux and Tramway Company (Limited).

Sir,

Public Works Department, Sydney, 20 July, 1892.

With reference to the inspection recently made by Mr. Alexander, of this Department, of your tramway, in connection with granting the certificate required by the first clause of the Tarrawingee Tramway Act of 1890, I am directed by the Secretary for Public Works to request that you will be so good as to forward, without delay, a cheque to cover expenses incurred in the matter, which were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Travelling expenses	30	11	0
Salary of Mr. Alexander for eleven days	21	5	9
	<hr/>		
	£51	16	9

I have, &c.,
J. BARLING,
Under Secretary
(per D.C.McL.)

Passed for payment.— Chairman.

Mr. Stanley Alexander to The Engineer-in-Chief, Railway Department.

Sydney, 7 June, 1892.

In compliance with your request, I beg to submit a statement showing expenses incurred by the Department on the inspection of the Tarrawingee Flux and Tramway Company's railway by me during last month:—

	£	s.	d.
Amount of voucher for travelling expenses	30	11	0
Proportion of my salary chargeable to this duty—(Left Sydney on evening of 10th May; arrived Sydney mid-day of 20th May)—			
11 days of £60, monthly salary	21	5	9
<u>31</u>	<hr/>		
	£51	16	9

STANLEY ALEXANDER.

Will you please have the account forwarded to the company for payment.—W.D., 11/6/92. Under Secretary. List, to demand payment.—B.T., 23/6/92. Approved by Minister; with order No. 2,549.—D.C.McL., 8/7/92. B.T. Write, 9/7/92. Expenses paid temporarily from Railway Construction Branch Advance.—W.H.Q., 16/7/92. Alfred Mellor, Esq., 20/7/92. In two weeks, 20/7/92. End of month, 2/8/92.

The Under Secretary for Public Works to The Secretary, Tarrawingee Flux and Tramway Co. (Limited).

Sir,

21 July, 1892.

With reference to the inspection recently made by Mr. Alexander of this Department of your tramway, in connection with granting the certificate required by the first clause of the Tarrawingee Tramway Act of 1890, I am directed by the Secretary for Public Works to request that you will be so good as to forward without delay a cheque to cover expenses incurred in the matter, which were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Travelling expenses	30	11	0
Salary of Mr. Alexander for eleven days... ..	21	5	9
	<hr/>		
Total... ..	£51	16	9

I have, &c.,
J. BARLING,
Under Secretary
(Per D.C.McL.)

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

EXTENSION OF RAILWAY FROM LISMORE TO CASINO.

(PETITION FROM THE RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN AND DISTRICT OF CASINO, IN FAVOUR OF.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 10 November, 1898.

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the undersigned Residents of the Town and District of Casino,—

HUMBLY SHOWETH:—

1. That in the year 1890, upon the question of the construction of a line of railway from The Tweed to Grafton being referred to the Public Works Committee, the Sectional Committee of that body reported that, after due consideration of the evidence before them, and of the information obtained by personally visiting the districts, they were favourable to the construction of the proposed line as far as Casino.

2. That the carrying out of the said railway was subsequently authorised only as far as Lismore; but the extension to Grafton was again referred to the Public Works Committee in 1892, when another Sectional Committee visited the locality, and also reported in favour of the extension of the line to Casino.

3. That the following among other reasons were given by the Sectional Committee for arriving at their conclusions, and that such reasons apply with far greater force to the conditions existing at the present time:—

- (a) That whatever decision might be subsequently arrived at with regard either to the construction of the North Coast railway, or the adoption of one of the lines proposed for connecting the coast with New England, this connection must be made, and therefore its construction would not be money misspent. It would form portion of the North Coast line, a portion of the Grafton-Glen Innes line, or a portion of the Tenterfield connection, should any one of them be chosen.
- (b) That it would promote the cultivation of belts of excellent land between Lismore and Casino, and would develop the agricultural resources of the Upper Richmond—the lands in which district they testified from personal observation to be of superior character.
- (c) That if a railway were taken from Lismore to Casino it was more than probable that there would be a considerable settlement of farmers, as well as a better utilisation of the forests to the west and north-west of the last-mentioned town.

4. That the resolution adopted by the Public Works Committee, as reported to the Legislative Assembly on the 28th September, 1892, was in accordance with the opinion of such Sectional Committee, and in favour of the construction of the line to Casino, but no steps have been taken to give effect to their recommendations.

5. That recent estimates show that the proposed line could be constructed at considerably less cost than that at which it was estimated when the report above referred to was made in favour of the route.

6. That the district which would be served by the proposed line contains large areas of valuable Crown lands, partly locked up in reserves, which could be thrown open for profitable settlement, and the revenue derived from this source would be so considerable that the actual expense of the line to the Colony would be reduced to a minimum.

7. That within the last three years considerable impetus has been given to the trade of the district by the rapid growth of the dairying industry, for which the land is particularly adapted, as well as for agriculture, while the construction of the line would inevitably result in considerable areas of land being made available for occupation in small holdings, and a consequent large increase in trade and population.

8. That at the present time the further development of this rich and important district is materially retarded for the want of sufficient means of communication with outside markets, and such communication will be afforded by the construction of the proposed line, the traffic accruing to which should almost from the first be sufficient to pay the working expenses and interest on the cost of the work, while it is confidently anticipated that the line would very shortly return a profit.

Your Petitioners, therefore, humbly pray that your House will take the premises into your favourable consideration, and will take such steps as will ensure the construction of the said line of railway from Lismore to Casino with the least possible delay.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

[Here follow 407 signatures.]

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

PROPOSED RAILWAY FROM KOORAWATHA TO GRENFELL.

(PETITION FROM CERTAIN RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN OF COWRA AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS IN FAVOUR OF.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 24 November, 1898.

To the Honorable the Members of the Legislative Assembly.

The Petition of the Residents of the town of Cowra and surrounding districts,—

HUMBLY SHOWETH:—

That your Petitioners, being deeply impressed with the existing necessity for the construction of a railway line from Koorawatha, a part of the Harden-Blayney line, to the important town of Grenfell, as approved by the Public Works Committee, the Secretary for Works, and the Railway Commissioners, would respectfully urge you to sanction the proposal when submitted for your consideration, for the following reasons:—

1. That the proposed route is the nearest and best that could be selected in the interests of the people of Grenfell and west thereof, seeing that it is thirty-three miles shorter than the proposed extension from Young per the "White line"; hence the freighting for all time would be considerably less than by the latter route.
2. That there are no engineering difficulties in the route favoured by your Petitioners, and the cost of construction would as a consequence be proportionately low.
3. That the proposed line would connect the fertile districts within reach of the Great Western Railway system with the large tract of pastoral country west of Grenfell.
4. That Koorawatha, being nearly midway between our two great railway systems, would give the people of Grenfell the great additional advantage of easy access to the Southern line, thereby making their commercial position stronger and better.
5. That in consequence of the large increase of agriculture on the route between Koorawatha and Grenfell, if the line is not constructed that way, a road would have to be made for the farmers and others to bring their produce to market at a cost of £14,000, which would afterwards take £9 per mile to keep in repair (see Superintendent Osborn's evidence, page 19, Public Works Committee's Report).

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will take the foregoing facts into consideration for the reasons mentioned.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

[Here follow 141 signatures.]

1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

PROPOSED RAILWAY FROM TEMORA TO WYALONG.

(PETITION FROM CERTAIN RESIDENTS OF WYALONG AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS, IN FAVOUR OF.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 30 November, 1898.

To the Speaker and the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned residents of the districts of Wyalong, Barmedman, Reefton, Kildary, Yalgogrin, Ungarie, Bena, Lake Cowal, Billy's Lookout, Marsden, Wollongough, Merringreen, Hiawatha, and Buddigower, in the Colony of New South Wales,—

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:—

That it is necessary for the immediate construction of the railway from Temora to Wyalong on the following grounds, viz.:—

That the route from Temora to Wyalong is the most direct and cheapest, and the most advantageous to the population of the surrounding districts.

That this district has become a large farming centre by the reason of there being under cultivation at the present time 11,000 acres of land, and which area would be increased tenfold by the construction of the railway to Wyalong.

That the permanency of the Wyalong goldfield is now undoubtedly assured, it having for the past four years and is at the present time supporting a population of 4,000 (four thousand) persons, and is on the increase.

That the output of gold for the past twelve months, ending December, 1897, was 34,370 oz., and the latest developments of the mines at the deep levels is showing a return of 20 oz. per ton at a depth of 400 feet, being 300 feet in the native rock.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honorable House will be pleased to recommend the construction of the railway to Wyalong from Temora forthwith.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[Here follow 683 signatures.]

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

CLAIM OF SAMUEL AND MARY LEMON;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

AND

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Printed under No. 5 Report from Printing Committee, 6 October, 1898.

SYDNEY: WILLIAM APPLGATE GULLICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1898.

1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

EXTRACTS FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VOTES No. 7. TUESDAY, 30 AUGUST, 1898.

24. CLAIM OF SAMUEL AND MARY LEMON:—Dr. Ross moved, pursuant to Notice,—
(1.) That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into and report upon the claim of Samuel Lemon and Mary Lemon, regarding compensation for land resumed for railway purposes on Molong, Parkes, and Forbes railway.
(2.) That such Committee consist of Mr. Young, Mr. Hawthorne, Mr. Affleck, Mr. E. M. Clark, Mr. Perry, Mr. Gormly, Mr. Edden, Mr. Hurley, Mr. Rose, and the Moyer.
Debate ensued.
Question put and passed.
-

VOTES No. 8. WEDNESDAY, 31 AUGUST, 1898.

3. CLAIM OF SAMUEL AND MARY LEMON:—Dr. Ross (*by consent*) moved, without Notice, That the Return to Order,—“Application of Samuel and Mary Lemon for compensation,” of Session 1889, be referred to the Select Committee now sitting on “Claim of Samuel and Mary Lemon.”
Question put and passed.
-

VOTES No. 21. TUESDAY, 4 OCTOBER, 1898.

5. CLAIM OF SAMUEL AND MARY LEMON:—Dr. Ross, as Chairman, brought up the Report from, and laid upon the Table the Minutes of Proceedings of, and Evidence taken before the Select Committee for whose consideration and report this subject was referred on 30th August, 1898.
Referred by Sessional Order to the Printing Committee.
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1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

CLAIM OF SAMUEL AND MARY LEMON.

REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly appointed on the 30th August, 1898,—“to inquire into and report upon the claim of Samuel Lemon and Mary Lemon regarding compensation for land resumed for railway purposes on Molong, Parkes, and Forbes Railway,” and to whom was referred on 31st August, 1898, the Return to Order, “Application of Samuel and Mary Lemon for compensation,” of Session, 1889,—have agreed to the following Report:—

Your Committee having examined the witnesses named in the list* (whose evidence will be found appended hereto) find:—

*See list, page 4

1. That in 1881 Samuel Lemon was the holder of additional conditional purchases Nos. 135 and 137, and Mary Lemon the holder of a 40-acre selection, No. 133, in the Land District of Molong.
2. That on the 5th of May, 1884, certain portions of the aforesaid additional conditional purchases and selection were resumed in connection with the construction of the Orange to Molong Railway.
3. That Samuel Lemon was offered £7 1s. 7d. for the 5a. 22p. resumed, together with improvements thereon, which amount he refused, on the ground that the compensation was inadequate.
4. That Mary Jane Lemon was offered £2 16s. 3d. for the 5a. 2r. 21p. resumed, which amount she refused, on the ground that the railway line cut diagonally through the selection, thereby rendering it useless.
5. That the Railway Land Resumption Act of 1874 did not allow compensation for severance, which undoubtedly occurred, as shown on the plans (Appendices A and B to the papers referred to the Committee).
6. That the land belonging to Samuel Lemon, at the time of the resumption was improved to the extent of £10 per acre.
7. That the amount of compensation offered to Samuel and Mary Lemon has never been applied for.
8. That Thomas and Mary Keenan were allowed at the rate of £24 per acre and £40 per acre respectively for land resumed for railway purposes at Borenore, which land adjoined that belonging to the Lemons.

Your Committee, under the circumstances, beg to recommend the claim of Samuel and Mary Lemon to the favourable consideration of the Government.

ANDREW ROSS,
Chairman.

No. 1 Committee Room,
Legislative Assembly,
4th October, 1898.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

THURSDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Affleck,	|	Mr. Hurley,
Mr. E. M. Clark,	|	Dr. Ross.

Dr. Ross called to the Chair.
 Entries from Votes and Proceedings appointing the Committee, and referring the Return to Order of Session 1889, read by the Clerk.
 Papers referred before the Committee.
 Reassembling of the Committee to be arranged by the Chairman.
 Adjourned.

THURSDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Dr. Ross in the Chair.

Mr. Affleck,		Mr. Hurley.
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Alfred Brown (*Clerk, Valuation Branch, Department of Public Works*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

[Adjourned till Wednesday next at 10·30 o'clock.]

WEDNESDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Dr. Ross in the Chair.

Mr. Affleck,	|	Mr. Edden,
	|	Mr. Gormly.

Mrs. Catherine Lemon called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Charles Lemon called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

John Roche Ardill called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

George Tilling called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next at 10·30 o'clock.]

TUESDAY, 4 OCTOBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Dr. Ross in the Chair.

Mr. Affleck,	|	Mr. Hurley,
	|	Mr. Perry.

Chairman submitted Draft Report.

Same read, amended, and agreed to.

Chairman to report to the House.

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1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE

THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

CLAIM OF SAMUEL AND MARY LEMON.

THURSDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER, 1898.

Present:—
MR. AFFLECK, | MR. HURLEY,
|
DR. ROSS.
DR. ROSS IN THE CHAIR.

Alfred Brown sworn and examined:—

1. *Chairman.*] In what department of the Public Works are you engaged? In the Valuation Branch. A. Brown.
2. Have you the papers in the case of Samuel and Mary Lemon? Yes.
3. Can you tell the amount of valuation or appraisal and the area of the land resumed in connection with the Orange to Molong railway? Yes; the area resumed from Mary Jane Lemon was 5 acres 2 roods 21 perches. 22 Sept., 1898.
4. What was the appraised value put on that area? £2 16s. 3d.
5. That was all the compensation allowed for the resumption of that area? Yes.
6. Did the extension of the railway interfere in any way with the 40-acre conditional purchase? Yes; it cut it diagonally through the middle.
7. Would that lessen its value for agricultural purposes? Certainly; it would be more difficult—very much harder—to work.
8. Was any allowance made for severance? No; no severance was allowed under the 1874 Railways Land Resumption Act.
9. Do you know the number of the conditional purchase of Mary Jane Lemon? The parish number is 256.
10. Do you know when it was taken up? C.P. 82/117, selected at Molong, 13th April, 1882.
11. Will you refer to the claim of Samuel Lemon, who has two selections of 60 acres and 40 acres;—when were they taken up? The 60 acres 1 rood is part of portion 246, A.C.P. 81/39, selected at Molong, 10th February. The 40 acres is part of portion 231, A.C.P. 79/265, selected at Molong, 20th November, 1879.
12. How much land has been resumed for railway purposes from those two selections? 4 acres 2 roods 5 perches out of the 60 acres 1 rood, and 2 roods 17 perches out of the 40 acres, making a total of 5 acres and 22 perches.
13. Do the papers show what compensation was allowed for the 5 acres 22 perches? Yes; £2 14s. 4d. was allowed for the 4 acres 2 roods 5 perches, and 7s. 3d. was allowed in both instances; and 7s. 3d. for the 2 roods 17 perches.
14. What was allowed for the improvements? £4; that makes a total of £7 1s. 7d. I may mention that Mary Jane Lemon's improvements were valued at nil.
15. I suppose the railway extended through this conditional purchase in the same way as it did through the other? There would be severance in the 60 acres 1 rood block. It cuts partly through the side of it. The 40-acre block was severed very little—only a little at the corner. A large strip was cut off from the 60 acres 1 rood block by severance.
16. Do you know much of the area was cut off? No, there is nothing on the papers to show.
17. Do the papers show what the £4 worth of improvements consisted of? There is nothing to show that—only Mr. Byrnes' report.
18. Is it a fact that both Samuel Lemon and his daughter have repeatedly refused to take the compensation, on the ground that it was not sufficient for the improvements they had put on the land? Yes.
19. In what year did the resumptions take place? They were gazetted on the 15th May, 1884.
20. And since then there has been no settlement of the case? No. 21.

- A. Brown. 21. And neither Samuel nor Mary Lemon have ever lifted the money? No.
22. Do you know how much has been lying in the Treasury for them? In the case of Mary Jane Lemon the amount would be £2 16s. 3d.; and in the case of Samuel Lemon, £7 1s. 7d.
23. That amount has been lying unclaimed since 1834? From the 14th November, 1834—the date of the appraisement.
24. Have they put in any claim for an increased amount of compensation for the land, thinking that the amount allowed for resumption and severance was inadequate? I have a *précis* showing that Samuel Lemon claims £131 for compensation, and Mary Lemon £25 an acre—that is, for the 5 acres 2 roods 21 perches.
25. The papers do not show that there were any buildings or improvements in Mary Lemon's case? No.
26. Are you aware whether she erected a two-roomed hut at a cost of £20? No; the papers do not show it.
27. Do they show whether there was any clearing or grubbing? They claim for clearing and grubbing.
28. Are you aware from the papers that, in another case—a land resumption—Mr. Lemon accepted £26 an acre for the resumption of 2 acres 1 rood and a few perches and it was allowed? I believe that is so. That was under the Act of 1858.
29. *Mr. Affleck.*] Was that resumption at the same time? Yes.
30. *Chairman.*] How much deposit money was paid on the land under the Land Act of Sir John Robertson—1861? £10 by Mary Jane Lemon for the 40-acre block, and £30 by Samuel Lemon for the 60-acre and 40-acre blocks.
31. Do you know whether any interest was paid on the conditional purchase? No.
32. Are you aware whether the selectors who have taken up land on the Orange and Molong railway were paid a higher sum for compensation for the resumption of the land? They would be paid the same if it were taken under the same Act. They would be paid double what they paid on their selections, together with the value of the improvements, but they would not be allowed for severance.
33. Are you aware that they have not been allowed for severance in former cases? Yes; if the land were taken under the same Act.
34. Will you look at the return laid before Parliament on the 10th September, 1885, in connection with land resumed for railway purposes; you will see there several cases in which the award has been very high for a small area; there is the case of Astill, who had 4 acres 1 rood 24 perches;—how much compensation was allowed in that case? I could not say. There may have been buildings on that land.
35. Have you any further information? No; I think Mary Jane sent a claim in under the Act of 1858 for £222 19s. 6d. Of course, we could not receive it, because the land was resumed under the 1874 Railways Resumption Act.
36. And that is the sole reason why this case has not been settled? Yes.
37. Is it customary in appraising land to allow anything for severance? Decidedly, under the 1858 Act; but not under the 1874 Act. I may mention that Mr. J. B. Thompson, the Land Valuer, reported—
- I have carefully inspected this land, and beg to report that no improvements were taken, and that the award made by Mr. Byrnes is correct.
38. *Mr. Affleck.*] What were his instructions on the matter? I have a minute here of Mr. Thompson, which says:—
- If authorised by the Commissioner, I would submit a report in this matter, which I would have an opportunity of doing so, as I must visit Molong to attend an arbitration in two or three weeks.
- That was approved by Mr. Goodchap, and then he visited the land. The date of that is 2nd September, 1887.

WEDNESDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER, 1898.

Present:—
MR. AFFLECK, MR. GORMLY,
MR. EDDEN.

DR. ROSS IN THE CHAIR.

Catherine Lemon, wife of the late Samuel Lemon, farmer, Amaroo, Molong, sworn and examined:—

- Mrs. C. Lemon. 39. *Chairman.*] Are you aware whether your husband owned any selections at Amaroo through which the railway line passes? Yes.
40. Are you aware whether your husband ever came to Sydney about the land through which the line passes? Yes; twice.
41. I believe that in consequence of the compensation offered for the resumption of the land being inadequate there has been no transfer of the land? No.

Charles Lemon, son of Catherine Lemon, Amaroo, Molong, sworn and examined:—

- C. Lemon. 42. *Chairman.*] Did your father take up land under the Selection Act? Yes.
43. Was any part of that land resumed for railway purposes when the line from Orange to Molong was constructed? Yes.
44. How many blocks did the line pass through? Six, I think.
45. Did your father get paid for them? Yes; for one or two blocks.
46. Do you know what he received for one block? £54.
47. How many acres were resumed? Two.
48. The amount of £54 was accepted by your father? Yes.
49. Does the paper produced refer to the resumption of 2 acres in one block? Yes.
50. And the amount paid was £54 1s. 8d.? Yes.
51. What is the date of that paper? October, 1887.
52. *Mr. Gormly.*] Does that block adjoin those in regard to which compensation has not been accepted? I think so.
53. How many acres are there in regard to which compensation has not been accepted? About 5½.
54. *Chairman.*] Do you know how much was offered as compensation for the resumption of the two blocks? £7 1s. 7d.

55. You are now referring to Samuel Lemon's land? Yes.
56. *Mr. Affleck.*] What amount of land was resumed for railway purposes out of the two blocks? 5 acres 22 perches.
57. *Chairman.*] And only £5 was allowed for the value of that land and improvements? Yes.
58. Did you assist anyone in preparing the land for cultivation? Yes; I assisted George Tilling and two others.
59. How much did you receive per acre for clearing it? It came to about £7 for clearing 12 acres in the 60-acre block.
60. Was it heavily timbered? Yes.
61. *Mr. Affleck.*] Which was the resumed land—the cleared or the uncleared? The land which was cleared; at any rate, the biggest part of it was cleared.
62. *Chairman.*] How long were you at work clearing it? About six weeks.
63. *Mr. Affleck.*] How many of you were employed? Sometimes five, and at other times three and four.
64. *Chairman.*] What became of the timber after it was grubbed? We made a fence of it.
65. Did you hire teams to put it together? Yes; my father hired a bullock team at 15s. a day, including rations.
66. How long was the team employed? About a fortnight.
67. *Mr. Affleck.*] Was the fence put on the boundary? Yes; on the boundary of the block which was cleared.
68. Then the resumption would only affect about 2 chains of it? Thereabouts.
69. *Chairman.*] Did you ever hear your father object to taking the compensation which was allowed? Yes; he thought it was not enough.
70. How often did your father go to Sydney about the land? Two or three times.
71. How far is Amaroo from Sydney by rail? 207 miles.
72. And he was put to expense travelling to and fro? Yes; it costs you over £2 to come down now.
73. Do you know how much deposit your father paid on the land? Five shillings an acre.
74. Do you know how much the person named George Tilling was paid? He received about 30s. a week.
75. What do you really think the cost of clearing the land would amount to? £9 or £10 an acre.
76. *Mr. Affleck.*] You stated a short time ago that the 12 acres only cost £7? That was for myself.
77. And there were four or five of you? Yes.
78. That would make about £35 for the 12 acres if you were all paid at the same rate? Yes; but I was not paid as much as the others.
79. *Chairman.*] For what would you have undertaken to do the work by contract? We gave £2 an acre to grub some of it.
80. What do you really think the clearing was worth per acre? £9 or £10; it was heavily timbered.
81. I suppose that all the timber which was grubbed had to be cross-cut and fixed up in the shape of a log fence, and that, of course, would cost money? Yes.
82. *Mr. Affleck.*] Did you make a fence of the timber? Yes.
83. *Chairman.*] Was the land, after it was cleared, grubbed and the fence erected? Yes.
84. Was any crop put in? No.
85. Naturally your father would lose a year's crop from it? Yes.
86. *Mr. Edden.*] Do you remember when the Government resumed the land? Yes; about fourteen years ago.
87. *Mr. Affleck.*] Was anyone sent from Sydney to appraise the value of the land? Yes; Mr. Thompson.
88. Did your father agree that he should be his valuer as well as the Government valuer? That I could not say.
89. *Chairman.*] Do you know whether the other selectors in the locality through which the line passes were allowed good compensation for the resumption of their land? Yes, they were.
90. More than your father? Yes.
91. *Mr. Affleck.*] Was the land belonging to the other people freehold or selection? Selection.
92. Are you positive it was selections? To the best of my knowledge Mr. Keenan got more than we got, and there were no improvements at all on his land.
93. Was his land a selection? Yes.
94. *Chairman.*] Have you heard your father say that the reason he refused to take the compensation was because it was inadequate to the loss sustained through the severance? Yes.
95. How does the line pass through your sister's 40-acre block? Diagonally.
96. *Mr. Affleck.*] How does it run through your father's selection? It cuts through as shown on the plan. [*Appendix A to the printed papers.*]
97. *Chairman.*] Have you any idea whether there were any improvements on your sister's block of 40 acres at the time it was resumed? I know a bit of grubbing was done.

John Roche Ardill sworn and examined:—

98. *Chairman.*] I believe you are at present an invalid in the Asylum? Yes.
99. Were you ever a resident in the district of Molong? Yes; since 1865 up to about twelve months ago.
100. Are you a licensed surveyor? Yes.
101. Did you know Samuel and Mary Jane Lemon? Yes.
102. Do you remember the time of the extension of the railway from Orange to Molong? Yes.
103. Did the line pass through any land belonging to Samuel and Mary Jane Lemon? Yes.
104. Can you explain from memory the blocks through which the extension took place? The plans show how the line went through the blocks. [*Appendices A and B to the printed papers.*]
105. I believe you did a large amount of Lemon's correspondence with regard to the land? Yes; I had valued two portions before for Lemon.
106. Do you know whether he ever received any money for any portion of the land which was resumed? Yes, for two portions. He received £54 1s. 8d. in regard to one block and £186 10s. 9d. in regard to another.
107. *Mr. Affleck.*] Had that land for which compensation was paid anything to do with the land under the consideration of the Committee? No; it adjoins it.
108. What was he offered for the land under the consideration of the Committee? Five shillings an acre, and £1 an acre for improvements.

C. Lemon.
28 Sept., 1898.

J. R. Ardill.
28 Sept., 1898.

- J. R. Ardill. 109. Can you tell us the reason for the difference between the compensation allowed for the land adjoining and the land under the consideration of the Committee? I think it arose out of some blunder by the late Mr. Byrnes, the valuator. I think he gave Mrs. Lemon the wrong papers. He gave her the papers belonging to Mrs. Keenan. According to what she says he was never at the place more than once. I never saw him at the place myself. After Mr. Byrnes died Mr. Thompson was appointed, and he valued the land on the ground. I met him there by appointment. We agreed to a compensation of £26 an acre, and that is the amount Mr. Lemon was paid for the other portions of the land through which the line has passed.
- 28 Sept., 1898. 110. *Mr. Gormly.*] That land adjoins the land at present in dispute? Yes.
111. Was it much the same quality of land? About the same. The best of the land is at present in dispute.
112. Do you consider the land under consideration of equal value with the other? Of better value. Upon the other land there were no improvements.
113. How much would you consider it worth to grub and clear the land on the two blocks under consideration? The grubbing, clearing, and fencing would be worth £10 an acre.
114. What would the grubbing and clearing alone be worth? £8 an acre.
115. *Chairman.*] Were there any improvements on Mary Jane Lemon's selection? Only the grubbing.
116. You do not know of your own knowledge how far the land was improved at the time the railway line was extended? It was not improved at all, excepting as regards the grubbing.
117. *Mr. Affleck.*] Was the whole of the 5 acres cleared? I think so.
118. And you value the clearing at £8 an acre? Yes.
119. The railway, of course, had to pass through other land? Yes.
120. Do you know any freeholders or conditional purchasers who were paid compensation for resumption? Yes; there were the Keenans, for instance.
121. *Chairman.*] How much did Mrs. Keenan get? £40 an acre for her land at Borenore.
122. Was it the same quality of land? About the same.
123. Do you know what Tom Keenan, of Amaroo, got? About £24 an acre. That was selected land.
124. *Mr. Affleck.*] Can you give us any idea why he should get £24, and the Government should only allow Lemon 5s.? Because of the Act passed by Sir James Martin in 1874, to the effect that people were only to be paid according to the deposit paid, and 10 per cent. added.
125. *Mr. Gormly.*] Referring to the plan produced [*Appendix A to the printed papers*—do you consider the severance of a portion of that land would be detrimental to it? Yes.
126. What injury would the severance cause? It cuts off a piece of land, and makes it of no earthly use at all.
127. How much was severed? About 5 acres.
128. With regard to Mary Jane Lemon's land—does the line run from corner to corner through the block [*Appendix B to the printed papers*]? Yes.
129. What damage would that do the 40 acres? It almost destroys it.
130. Is the land suitable for agriculture? Yes.
131. Would the severance mean additional cost in cultivation? Yes.
132. Thereby depreciating the value of the land? Yes.
133. Would the severance reduce the value of the 40 acres by one-fourth? It would reduce it by one-half.
134. *Mr. Affleck.*] Do you know where the residence is? It is on the cultivation portion of the land.
135. *Chairman.*] Had you occasion to come to Sydney with Mr. Lemon to try to get matters settled? Yes; twice.
136. And you obtained no satisfaction? No; some mistake occurred. We came to meet Mr. Thompson on the Wednesday, and the meeting was put off until the Thursday, but we did not see him.
137. Do you think the compensation offered to Lemon was inadequate? Certainly.
138. *Mr. Affleck.*] Did you ever receive from the authorities a decision of the Supreme Court Judge with regard to the question of severance? Yes; they said that the Supreme Court had ruled that people were not to be paid for severance. I said at the time that another Judge might say it should be paid. The Supreme Court Judges are not always to be relied upon.
139. Do you know that Mr. Byrnes was sent by the Government to value the land? Yes.
140. Did Mr. Lemon also accept him as his valuer? Yes.

George Tilling, farmer, Amaroo, Molong, sworn and examined:—

- G. Tilling. 141. *Chairman.*] How long have you resided at Amaroo? About four years.
- 28 Sept., 1898. 142. Did you know Samuel and Mary Jane Lemon? Yes.
143. Did you ever assist Charles Lemon to clear and grub the land through which the railway line passes? Yes.
144. What do you consider the land which was cleared worth per acre to clear it? I could not do it for less than £9, £10, or £11 an acre.
145. Was it very thickly timbered? Yes; a portion of it.
146. *Mr. Gormly.*] I suppose some of the timber was difficult to burn? Yes; it was apple-tree and gum.
147. And you cannot get the stumps out without grubbing? No.
148. *Mr. Affleck.*] Did you burn it off or make a fence with it? We made a fence.
149. Did you help to make any improvements upon Mary Jane Lemon's land? No; but there were some improvements upon it. There was a two-roomed hut; but that was not on the line—it was at the side.
150. *Mr. Gormly.*] Was there any grubbing where the railway line ran through? No.
151. *Mr. Affleck.*] Do you know where the line runs through Samuel Lemon's property? Yes.
152. Was that particular portion cleared? Yes.
153. How much land would be taken up for railway purposes? About 5 acres.
154. How much of that was cleared and stumped? Fully three-fourths at the time the line was pegged out.
155. *Mr. Gormly.*] Was it entirely cleared before the line was constructed? I cannot say, because I went away.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

GEORGE-STREET AND HARRIS-STREET ELECTRIC
TRAMWAY.

(RETURN RESPECTING.)

(Printed under No. 13 Report from Printing Committee, 24 November, 1898.)

RETURN to an *Order* of the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated the 2nd November, 1898, That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

“ All papers relating to the calling for tenders for the circulating pumps
“ and feed pumps for the George-street and Harris-street Electric Tramway,
“ Contract No. 17, and the acceptance of the tender of H. P. Gregory & Co. ;
“ together with particulars of the names and amounts of all other tenders
“ in connection therewith.”

(Mr. Cann.)

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GEORGE-STREET

GEORGE-STREET AND HARRIS-STREET ELECTRIC TRAMWAY.

No. 1.

The Electrical Engineer, Railway Department, Sydney, to The Engineer-in-Chief for Railways.

Electric Pumps.

21 February, 1898.

BEFORE making any recommendation regarding the use of electric motors for feed-water and circulating pumps at the new power station, I should much like to discuss the matter with you. The adoption of electric feed-water pumps by the West End Company, of Boston, is quite a new departure in American practice, and appears to confirm the reported economy of electric pumps in English stations.

P. B. BLWELL,
Electrical Engineer.

H.D., 22/2/98. Mr. Fischer.

Acting under your verbal instructions, I beg to report as follows, on circulating and feed pumps for the power-plant for the George-street and Harris-street Electric Tramway:—

Circulating Pumps.—The quantity of cooling water required for the condensers when the plant is working at full load, *i.e.*, 4,800 I horse-power, and assuming a consumption of 16 lb. steam per I horse-power per hour, and the temperature of injection water 65 degrees Fah., will be about 4,000 British gallons per minute.

Considering the small load we shall have at the start, I would suggest putting in three electrically-driven centrifugal pumps, each capable of delivering 2,000 British gallons per minute, at a speed of about 550 revolutions per minute.

It will be far more economical to work one of the pumps at full load than to put in a large unit, capable of delivering 4,000 gallons per minute, and only working it at half load. Economy is also further ensured by having a small unit standing idle as a "stand by" than a large one of double the power.

Each pump would be driven by a 50 horse-power motor coupled direct, and I would suggest the motors be controlled by hand rheostats, as automatic control necessitates complicated gear. Estimated cost, £1,000 each.

Feed Pumps.—The quantity of feed-water required, assuming a consumption of 16 lb. per I horse-power per hour, will be about 130 British gallons per minute.

To do the work efficiently, I would suggest putting in two (one as a stand by) triplex electrically-driven feed pumps, each having three single-acting plungers 7 in. diameter by 8 in. stroke, to run at forty-five revolutions per minute. Each pump would be geared to a 25 horse-power motor.

With regard to controlling the speed of motors, it is possible to do this with rheostats worked by means of a float in the hot well, but as the pumps will be fixed in a very convenient position close by the boilers, I would recommend working the rheostats by hand, thus obviating unnecessary and complicated gear.

Vertical pumps will be preferable to horizontal, on account of the small space taken up by the former as compared with the latter. Estimated cost, £600 each.

Specification for these pumps is attached, and I would suggest that Messrs. Simpson Bros. (for Worthington Company) and Messrs. H. P. Gregory & Co. (for Blake Company) be asked to give a quotation, at the same time inviting them to submit alternative proposals if they desire to do so.—G.F., 29/6/98. Engineer-in-Chief.

Total, £3,200.—H.D., 30/7/98. Place with the tenders.—E.H. (for Engineer-in-Chief), 2/8/98.

Electric Pumps.

13 April, 1898.

I BEG to draw your attention to the description of a Worthington triple electric feed pump, illustrated in the *Street Railway Journal* for February last, as being an excellent arrangement for boiler supply. The raw hide pinion is a specially good point, as it insures silent working, and we have very satisfactory evidence of the durability of these pinions.

P. B. BLWELL,
Electrical Engineer.

Mr. Fischer.—H.D., 14/4/98.

No. 2.

The Electrical Engineer, Railway Department, Sydney, to The Engineer-in-Chief for Railways.

George and Harris Streets Electric Tramway Circulating Pumps and Feed Pumps.

4 July, 1898.

IN accordance with your verbal request of 1st instant, I have perused the proposed specification, and am of opinion that smaller pumps, both for circulating and feed, would prove more economical for the plant now being put down; but, as it is proposed to largely extend it, perhaps the adoption of comparatively large pumps in the first instance is a wise step. I would, however, draw attention to the following important points in connection with the general arrangement and regulation.

It is most desirable to standardise the motors used for various purposes in this power-station, and it can be conveniently done in the case of the pumps by adopting the G.E. "1,000" armature, which is to be used on the cars and for other purposes. This armature is capable of running continuously under any load up to about 20 horse-power at the specified speed of 550 revolutions, and will deliver a much greater power

power for short intervals. This is amply sufficient for the feed pumps, and if a pair of of these armature^s be used for each of the circulating pumps it will meet all requirements. The field-frames and bed-plates may be of any suitable form.

The proposed insulation of the pinion in the case of the feed pumps would be inconvenient and is quite unnecessary, as it is not proposed to insulate the motor-frame from the frame of the pump. For the same reason the insulated coupling between the motor and centrifugal pump is unnecessary. The gear-wheels and pinions should be accurately machine-cut, and the gear-wheels should be of steel or charcoal iron. I would prefer the raw hide pinion.

As regards regulation, it would be cumbersome and wasteful to use rheostats for regulating the work done, and I would propose using only a small starting rheostat for the armature circuit, to be cut out as soon as the normal speed is attained. The field might also be made adjustable within about 10 per cent. by the usual rheostat. It would be much better to make the speed of the motors approximately constant under all loads, and to adjust the flow of water by cutting off one or two of the cylinders in the case of the feed pumps, so that either one, two, or all three of them could be used at will. It would also be advisable to fit the delivery-pipe from the pumps, with an escape-valve, so that any excess of water pumped beyond requirements could flow back to the hot well. In the case of the circulating pumps I would also propose the motors running at a constant speed and the delivery of water regulated mechanically. Perhaps the best way would be by admitting air into the suction of the pipe by means of a carefully adjustable valve, but no doubt the makers provide for such requirements.

The adoption of standard railway armatures should considerably decrease the cost of this machinery.

In paragraph 23 the makers might be requested to give a list of the power-plants (not roads) where their pumps are used similarly.

I note the feed pumps are specified to be of the vertical type. If there is no special reason for this I would prefer the horizontal arrangement, as shown in *The Street Railway Journal* of February last.

P. B. ELWELL,
Electrical Engineer.

No. 3.

The Electrical Engineer, Railway Department, Sydney, to The Engineer-in-Chief for Railways.

Feed and Circulating Pumps, George and Harris Streets.

7 July, 1898.

REFERRING to our conversation on this subject, it would be a great convenience if these pumps were arranged so that the electric motor shafts were in line and short coupling pieces provided, so that either motor could be used for either pump or both motors for one pump; in the case of the feed pumps more especially. As regards the circulating pumps, it would not much matter.

The principal advantage of such an arrangement would be that we could drive the feed pumps at half the normal speed by means of two motors running in series, and this would not only be highly economical in power, but would also effect a saving in wear and tear.

P. B. ELWELL,
Electrical Engineer.

No. 4.

The Engineer-in-Chief for Railways to The Under Secretary for Public Works.

Subject:—Power-house, Ultimo, Feed and Circulating Pumps.

Railway Construction Branch, Engineer-in-Chief's Office, Sydney, 14 July, 1898.

HEREWITH is forwarded for insertion in the *Government Gazette* and daily papers a notification inviting tenders for the manufacture, supply, and delivery of feed and circulating pumps (electrically driven) for the power-house at Ultimo.

H. DEANE,
Engineer-in-Chief.

Submitted for approval.—R.H., Under Secretary for Public Works and Commissioner for Roads, 14/7/98. Appd.—J.N.B., 14/7/98. Insert.—Jno. P., 15/7/98. Notice to *Gazette*, 15/7/98. Tenders for, 2/8/98.

No. 5.

Messrs. H. H. Kingsbury & Co. to The Engineer-in-Chief for Railways.

Manufacture, Supply, and Delivery of Circulating Pumps and Feed Pumps for the George-street and Harris-street Electric Tramway.—Contract No. 17.

Sir, 54, Margaret-street, Wynyard Square, Sydney. 26 July, 1898.

We have the honor to apply for an extension of time till the 23rd August for receipt of tenders for the above plant.

We are arranging with our company to fit the armatures and pumps together, so that they can be thoroughly tested before they leave the factory. It will be necessary to wait till the abovementioned date, in order to give them time to receive and peruse the specifications.

We have, &c.,
H. H. KINGSBURY & CO.

Mr. Allan, of this firm, was here to-day, and I informed him that the Engineer-in-Chief could not see his way to recommend an extension of time.—E.H., 28/7/98. H. H. Kingsbury & Co., 30/7/98. File.

Gentlemen,

Gentlemen,

30 July, 1898.

Referring to your letter of the 26th inst., I beg to confirm my verbal statement to your Mr. Allan that the Engineer-in-Chief could not see his way to extend the time for receipt of tenders for pumps. Mr. Deane desires me to say that if a general wish had been expressed for an extension of time when the notice inviting tenders was first issued he would have considered it, but, much as he would like to oblige you, he cannot now take an action which might be unfair to other persons ready to tender on the advertised date.

Yours, &c.,

E. HUNGERFORD.

H. H. Kingsbury & Co., 54, Margaret-street, Wynyard Square.

No. 6.

A. Brittain, Esq., to The President of the Tender Board, Department of Public Works.

Tenders for Supply of Feed and Circulating Pumps for Power-house.

Sir,

Vickery's Chambers, Pitt-street, Sydney, 27 July, 1898.

Re the above subject, I wrote you yesterday, on behalf of my principals as above, making application that the time for receipt of tenders might be extended sufficiently to permit of specifications being sent to England and cable tender received, say, five weeks.

I think this letter cannot have come before you, for it was returned by my clerk with a merely verbal answer that the time allowed till 2nd August was sufficient for those firms having houses here.

If this means that those firms having merely representatives here are to be shut out from all opportunity of tendering for public supplies, even though they have in the past performed such considerable work for the Colony as the caisson at Cockatoo Dock, the sheerlegs at Garden Island, &c., &c., and are moreover able to give far more prompt delivery than most of the firms having houses here, I venture to think that the Public Service will suffer by such a regulation.

A case in point occurred with the lifts for the market buildings, the contract for which my principals were most anxious to secure, and would have taken at a very considerable reduction on the price of the accepted tender, but they were absolutely debarred from competing by the absurdly short time allowed for tenders to be sent in.

I hope that in future contracts this matter will receive your attention, for it is manifestly not in the public interest that competition should be restricted.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR BRITTAİN.

File.—R.H., Under Secretary, Public Works, and Commissioner for Roads, 29/7/98.

No. 7.

Minute by The Under Secretary for Public Works.

Subject :—Manufacture, Supply, and Delivery of Feed and Circulating Pumps, Power-house, Ultimo.

Department of Public Works, Sydney, 2 August, 1898.

TENDERS were advertised to be received at 2 o'clock to-day, but Mr. Deane asked to have the receipt of tenders postponed, as he expected some further information from England by cable in the course of the week. Four tenders were in the tender-box, but these were not opened, and I informed the contractors present that the receipt of tenders for this work was postponed for one week.

Submitted for the approval of the Minister.

ROBT. HICKSON.

Approved.—J.H.Y., 2/8/98. Insert notice.—Jno. P., 2/8/98. Time for receiving tenders extended to 8th August, 1898. Await tenders.

No. 8.

Schedule of Tenders.

8 August, 1898.

List of Tenders received for Manufacture, Supply, and Delivery of Feed and Circulating Pumps for the Power-house, Ultimo.

Number of tenders received, 3; amount of lowest tender, £3,800; names of lowest tenderers, Morris Brothers.

Initials of Members present.	No.	Name.	Amount of Tender.	Deposit.	Nature of Deposit.
Geo. McR.	1	Morris Bros.	£ 3,800 0 0	£ 38 0 0	Cheque H.
W. J. M.	2	H. P. Gregory & Coy.	4,680 0 0	50 0 0	Cheque R.
	3	H. H. Kingsbury & Coy.	4,923 0 0	50 0 0	Cheque R.

ROBT. HICKSON, J

Vice-President of Tender Board.

The Engineer-in-Chief for Railway Construction.—Jno.P., 8/8/98.

Department

Department of Public Works.

LUMP SUM TENDER FORM.

Manufacture, Supply, and Delivery of Circulating Pumps and Feed Pumps.

IN pursuance of advertisement in the *Government Gazette*, we, the undersigned, do hereby tender to provide the material and perform the various works required in and about the full and proper construction and completion of circulating pumps and feed pumps for the George-street and Harris-street Electric Tramway, agreeably to the Specification, Schedule to Specification, Special Conditions, and General Conditions, which have been inspected by us, for the lump sum of £3,800, and to complete the same within the time stated in the said General Conditions; and we do hereby agree that any additions to or deductions from the said works shall be paid or allowed for, as the case may be, at and after the rates or prices mentioned in the Schedule of Prices annexed hereto, or if not in Schedule, at a price to be agreed upon at the time, and added to or deducted from the above lump sum, as the case may be; and we hereby undertake that we will within fourteen days from the date of notification of the acceptance of the said Tender, execute and deliver to the Minister for Public Works, a valid legal contract with Her Majesty the Queen, embodying the terms and conditions above mentioned, and to provide the security required by clause 29 of the General Conditions; and we enclose herewith our cheque for the sum of £38; and we agree that such sum shall be absolutely forfeited if we at any time within thirty days after the said Tender is opened withdraw same, or if in the event of this tender being accepted we fail to complete the abovementioned contract document within fourteen days thereafter; and further, that this tender is made subject to the conditions contained in the Tender Board Regulations printed on the back hereof, and by which we agree to be bound.

Dated this 8th day of August, 1898.

MORRIS BROS.,
Sydney Engineering Works, Wattle-street, Sydney
(John, Benjn., and Wm. H. Morris).

Witness—LEONARD MORRIS.

This is the Tender marked " " referred to in annexed Agreement with Her Majesty the Queen,
dated the day of A.D. 189 .
Witness—

REGULATIONS REFERRED TO.

1. The Tender Board shall meet every Monday, at 2 p.m., unless otherwise arranged.
2. Two members of the Board shall form a quorum. The senior member present shall preside in the absence of the President or Vice-President.
3. In no case shall tenders be opened except in the presence of a quorum of the Board.
4. No tender shall be received after 2 p.m. on the day named for the receipt of such tender, unless there are circumstances which, in the opinion of the members of the Board then sitting, render it desirable to do so. In the event, however, of a late tender being received, the question of its formality or otherwise shall be reported on by the Board of Reference for the decision of the Minister.
5. Each member of the Board must attend personally when called upon, but in the event of circumstances precluding his attendance at any time, the authority of the Vice-President must be obtained for another officer of the Department to act in his place.
6. The tender-box shall be secured with two locks, each lock to have wards diverse from the other, one key to be in the possession of the Under Secretary and Commissioner for Roads, and the other in that of another member of the Board, who shall be selected by the President.
7. It shall be the duty of the President, Vice-President, or the senior member present, as the case may be, as soon as the tenders shall have been opened and the necessary particulars ascertained, to publicly announce the number of tenders received for each work and the name of the lowest tenderer; but such publication shall not be taken as an acceptance of such tender.
8. The Secretary shall, as soon as practicable after the Board has adjourned, exhibit in a conspicuous position in the Public Works Office a full statement of the tenders received, showing the work, the names of the tenderers, and the amount of each tender.
9. All envelopes containing tenders must be addressed to the President of the Board, and have legibly endorsed upon them the name of the work for which the tender is submitted.
10. Every tender, except tenders for the construction of roads, for which special regulations have been framed, must, as of a guarantee good faith, be accompanied by a preliminary deposit, calculated according to the following scale, viz. :—

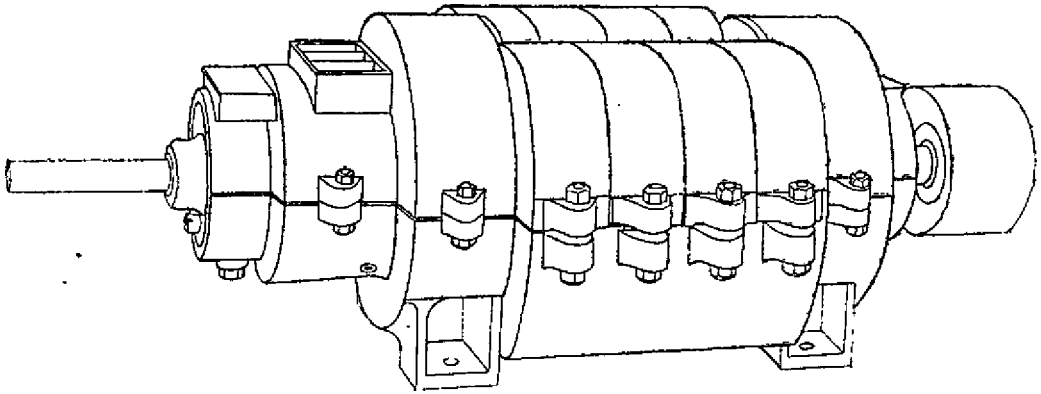
	£	s.	d.
For amounts up to £50 inclusive.....	2	0	0
For amounts exceeding £50 and not exceeding £150 ..	3	10	0
For amounts exceeding £150 and not exceeding £500	5	0	0
For amounts exceeding £500 and not exceeding £1,000	10	0	0

For all sums over £1,000, 1 per cent. on the amount of tender up to a maximum deposit of £500. Such deposit to be in the form of a cheque in favour of the President of the Board, endorsed by the Manager of the Bank upon which it is drawn, or a Bank draft.

11. All deposits, with the exception of that of the person announced as the lowest tenderer as per clause 7, shall be returned by the Secretary to the persons entitled thereto, as soon as possible after the Board shall have adjourned, and the required deposit made by the successful tenderer shall be returned to him on his executing the contract documents for the fulfilment of the contract.
12. Any tender which may be received without the required preliminary deposit shall, unless otherwise directed by the Board of Reference, be deemed to be informal, and rejected accordingly.
13. In the event of any tenderer failing to take up his tender, complete the necessary contract documents, and proceed with the contract, within the time specified in the General Conditions relating to the works, or withdrawing his tender after it shall have been opened, whether such tender shall have been accepted or not, all moneys deposited by him on account thereof or in connection therewith shall be forfeited to the Crown, and in such case be paid to the credit of the Consolidated Revenue of the Colony.
14. Whenever a tenderer shall fail to proceed with a contract as aforesaid, fresh tenders may be invited at short notice for the work, unless in the opinion of the President there are circumstances which make it desirable for another tender in the same series to be accepted; but the tenderer by whose default such a course has been rendered necessary shall be excluded from the competition, and from any competition for other works, at the pleasure of the President.
15. In the event of any contract being tendered for at a schedule of rates, the approximate quantities as given of each item must be worked out and a total sum shown.
16. In submitting a tender the full Christian name and surname and address of the tenderer must be given, or when the offer is in the name of a firm, the names in full of each member. The omission of this information will render the tender liable to be declared informal.
17. If the tender declared to be the lowest, as per clause 7, shall be declared informal by the Board of Reference for non-compliance with any of the preceding clauses or any clause in the Specification or General Conditions, the preliminary deposit sent in with such tender shall be forfeited to the Crown, and be paid to the credit of the Consolidated Revenue of the Colony.
18. The Minister shall not be bound to accept the lowest or any tender.
19. The Board-room shall be open for the admission of the public while the tenders are being opened and declared.

EDISWAN "ENCLOSED" MOTOR (PATENT) FOR CONTINUOUS CURRENT.

Manufactured at the Company's Works, Broadheath, near Manchester.



THIS motor has been designed to meet the demand for a motor which could be placed in situations where it would be subjected to damp or dirt.

The machine is entirely enclosed and proof against atmospheric or other influences.

The working parts being thus enclosed, are also completely protected against mechanical injury; at the same time, all the parts are readily accessible, and the armature can be removed in a few minutes.

The motor is reversible, and runs sparklessly at all loads without any movement of the brushes.

It can also be used as a dynamo. A list of the number of 60-Watts lamps that can be run from each size machine is given in the following table.

The bearings are provided with automatic continuous oiling arrangements.

The compact and special design of the Magnet, which has been patented, enables the upper half to be removed in sections, each section being easily lifted by one man.

The field winding is also removable, and thus the great advantage of the enclosed type of motor is obtained, without sacrificing accessibility for inspecting and cleaning.

All motors are sent out complete, with brushes and pulley, &c.

The Company will be pleased to quote for dynamos and motors for special purposes, on receipt of application with full particulars.

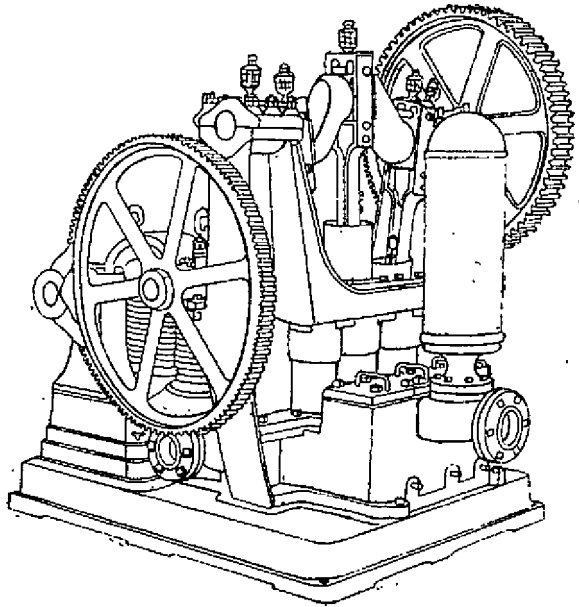
MORRIS BROS.,
Wattle-street, Sydney.

S/S/9S.

Sydney, 8 August, 1898.

MEMORANDUM from Morris Brothers, Engineers, Ironfounders, Blacksmiths, Boilermakers, &c., Sydney Engineering Works, Wattle-street, Ultimo, to The President, Public Tender Board, Sydney.

FEED PUMPS FOR POWER-HOUSE, HARRIS-STREET.



Electric Power Pump, with Motor Base and Intermediate Gearing. Raw Hide Pinions provided where required. Built in eleven sizes.

MORRIS BROS.

This

This is the Schedule of Prices hereinbefore referred to.

Items.	Description of Work.	Unit.	Rate.
1	Circulating pumps, as specified	No. 3	£ 2,600 0 0
2	" " spare parts	Lump sum	90 0 0
3	Feed pumps, as specified	No. 2	1,042 0 0
4	" " spare parts	Lump sum	68 0 0
<p>The circulating pumps by John and Henry Gwynne, of London, or Drysdale & Co., of Glasgow, both celebrated pump-makers. The triplex feed pumps to be the "Gould's" well-known pumps, and as per woodcut enclosed. The motors to be supplied by the Edison and Swan Electric Light Co., of their "Enclosed" type, as per woodcut enclosed. If motors as specified they can be supplied for an extra sum of £480. Time required—16 to 18 weeks. Space required—about 10 ft. x 4 ft. and 7 ft. x 5 ft.</p>			

This is the Schedule of Prices marked " " referred to in annexed Agreement with Her Majesty the Queen, dated the _____ day of _____, A.D. 189 .
 Witness—

Dear Sir,

54, Margaret-street, Wynyard Square, Sydney, 2 August, 1898.

Herewith we beg to enclose you our tender for the manufacture, supply, and delivery of circulating and feed pumps, as per specification Contract No. 17. This plant will be supplied by the General Electric Company, who, having supplied the machinery for the engine-house, will meet your specification with every knowledge of your requirements.

We are prepared to undertake to supply this plant in four and a half months.

We have, &c.,

H. H. KINGSBURY & CO.

To the President, Tender Board, New South Wales.

Department of Public Works.

LUMP SUM TENDER FORM.

Manufacture, Supply, and Delivery of Circulating Pumps and Feed Pumps.

In pursuance of advertisement in the *Government Gazette*, we, the undersigned, do hereby tender to provide the material and perform the various works required in and about the full and proper construction, erection, and completion of circulating pumps and feed pumps for the George-street and Harris-street electric tramway, agreeably to the plan, Specification, Schedule to Specification, Special Conditions, and General Conditions, which have been inspected by us, for the lump sum of £4,923, and to complete the same within the time stated in the said General Conditions; and we do hereby agree that any additions to or deductions from the said works shall be paid or allowed for, as the case may be, at and after the rates or prices mentioned in the Schedule of Prices annexed hereto, or if not in Schedule, at a price to be agreed upon at the time, and added to or deducted from the above lump sum, as the case may be; and we hereby undertake that we will, within fourteen days from the date of notification of the acceptance of the said tender, execute and deliver to the Minister for Public Works, a valid legal contract with Her Majesty the Queen, embodying the terms and conditions abovementioned, and to provide the security required by clause 29 of the General Conditions; and we enclose herewith our cheque for the sum of £50; and we agree that such sum shall be absolutely forfeited if we at any time within thirty days after the said tender is opened withdraw same, or if in the event of this tender being accepted we fail to complete the abovementioned contract document within fourteen days thereafter; and further, that this tender is made subject to the conditions contained in the Tender Board Regulations printed on the back hereof, and by which we agree to be bound.

Dated this 2nd day of August, 1898.

H. H. KINGSBURY & CO.

(Harry Hyde Kingsbury and John Allan, trading as H. H. Kingsbury & Co.)

Witness—J. DURHAM.

This is the tender marked " " referred to in annexed Agreement with Her Majesty the Queen, dated the _____ day of _____, A.D. 189 .
 Witness—

REGULATIONS REFERRED TO.

(See Annex to Morris Brothers' tender, page 5.)

This is the Schedule of Prices hereinbefore referred to.

Item.	Description of Work.	Unit.	Total
1	Circulating pumps, as specified	No. 3.....	£ 3,343
2	" " spare parts	Lump sum	30
3	Feed pumps, as specified	No. 2.....	1,510
4	" " spare parts	Lump sum	40
			£4,923

This is the Schedule of Prices marked " " referred to in annexed Agreement with Her Majesty the Queen, dated the _____ day of _____, A.D. 189 .
 Witness—

Report by Electrical Engineer, Railway Department.
 Feed and Circulating Pumps for Power-house, Ultimo.

10 August, 1898

In accordance with your verbal request, I have examined the attached tenders and considered the various points in favour of each.

Although the tender of Messrs. Morris Bros. is the lowest, it does not include the motors as specified, and they state that their price to include these would be £480 additional, making their tender £4,280 in all.

The next lowest tender, that of Messrs. H. P. Gregory & Co., includes the motors as specified, together with perhaps the highest class of pump in the market, and they state that if single motors are to be used instead of two motors for each of the circulating pumps, it would reduce their tender by £450, making it £4,230 in all.

I would, therefore, recommend that the tender of Messrs. Gregory & Co. be accepted, but that before deciding the matter, Messrs. Gregory & Co. be asked what further reduction they would make if the circulating pumps be only required for a total lift of (say) 15 feet, requiring only one G.E. 1,000 motor to give the required power. I feel quite sure that it would be very much better to lay out more capital on reducing the lift of these pumps than on increasing their power. The cost of lifting circulating water anything like 30 feet would constitute a very heavy annual charge on the working expenses of the station.

P. B. ELWELL,
Electrical Engineer.

Mr. Finlayson called on me, and we discussed the matter suggested in Mr. Elwell's last paragraph. Mr. Finlayson does not think that any reduction could be made below the £4,230 mentioned.

I was convinced that it would be most unwise not to have the full power that might be required, in case of any emergency, such as air getting into the siphon-pipe, and so on. There is no objection to try and obtain the advantage in working due to the siphon, and I intend, if possible, to arrange for it, but the saving would be in the working, not in the primary cost. If less power were provided on the assumption that the siphon would always work, and it failed even once, it would be a most serious matter.

In view of the limited space, I think single motors should be used instead of two motors of the railway type. I may say that Mr. Finlayson is also strongly of this opinion.

Engineer-in-Chief for Railway Construction.

15 August, 1898.

The lowest tender provides for pumps which would not, in my opinion, be up to the work. The feed pumps shown in their sketch is, according to the makers' catalogue, only fit to work against 130 lb. pressure, while 140 lb. is specified. The motors also are not suitable, and a sum of £480 would have to be added to their tender to bring it up to specified requirements, making it £4,280. The next lowest is for Blake pumps, and is in every respect according to specification. Our experience with pumps of this make is such that perfect confidence can be placed in the manufacturers to supply a first-class job. I would, however, suggest that the circulating pumps be ordered with only one motor of 50 horse-power, instead of two G.E. 1,000, thereby reducing the cost of plant to £4,230. The spare parts are not included in this price, but they offer to supply them at nominal cost, which I estimate should be about £125.—G.F., 15/8/98. Engineer-in-Chief.

MEMORANDUM to P. B. Elwell, Esq., Electrical Engineer.

Power-house, Ultimo.—Feed and Circulating Pumps.

Department of Public Works, Railway Construction Branch, Engineer-in-Chief's Office,

Sydney, 19 August, 1898.

In consequence of suggestions made the other day, I have obtained prices from H. P. Gregory & Co. and Messrs. Morris Brothers for pumps without motors, but with the bed-plates arranged to take motors supplied by the Department.

I append comparative tables of the original and modified tenders, and shall be glad if you will let me have your opinion in the matter.

H. DEANE,

Engineer-in-Chief for Railway Construction (per E.H.)

[Enclosures.]

Tenders and papers.

CONSIDERING the very small difference now shown between the lowest and next tenders, I have no hesitation in recommending that of H. P. Gregory & Co., and as likely to prove more satisfactory than that of Morris Bros. Messrs. Gregory's tender shows better value for the money, and you would have a substantial guarantee of the faithful completion of the work in due time.—P. B. ELWELL, 20/8/98. H. Deane, Esq.

Morris Brothers to The Engineer-in-Chief for Railways.

Re Tender for Circulating and Feed Pumps for Power-house, Ultimo.

Dear Sir,

Sydney, 18 August, 1898.

We have pleasure, in compliance with your request, to submit to a deduction of one hundred pounds (£100) for each of the eight (8) motors required for the above plant, which your Department has offered to supply, thus reducing our tender to three thousand four hundred and eighty pounds (£3,480).

We remain, &c.,

MORRIS BROS.

H. P. Gregory & Co. to The Engineer-in-Chief for Railways.

Sir,

Sydney, 19 August, 1898.

Following on the conversation held yesterday with Mr. Fischer and Mr. Elwell, and in response to their request, we now beg to submit a price for circulating also boiler-feed pumps for power-house without electric motors or any electrical gear whatever.

That is to say, we are prepared to supply your Department with three (3) Blake centrifugal circulating pumps exactly similar in design to photograph sent with our previous tender, and which you have complete with base-plate, but without motor, for the sum of £2,589. Please note pumps would be made entirely of composition and mounted on cast-iron bed-plate extended to take motor.

Also two (2) Blake triplex feed pumps, single-acting, 7 inch x 8 inch, similar to photograph sent you. Connecting rods of forged steel and brass bushed of the locomotive type, gear wheel carefully cut, composition water-valves working on composition seats, valve springs of phosphor bronze, and valve bolts arranged so as to be put in from outside; in short, the highest type of this class of pump the Blake Company can produce. Price, £1,035.

We might mention that in the cablegram just received by us from the Blake Company in reply to ours for amended prices they again impress on us the high excellence of the pumps they would supply in the event of us securing the order.

Trusting we may be so favoured.

We are, &c.,

H. P. GREGORY & CO.

Original

Original Tenders.		£
Morris Bros.—		
Three circulating pumps with Ediswan motors	... ..	2,600
Two feed pumps...	... ..	1,042
Spare parts	... ..	158
		3,800
Extra for G.E. motors as specified	... ..	480
		£4,280
H. P. Gregory & Co.—		
Three circulating pumps with specified motors	... ..	3,450
Two feed pumps with specified motors	... ..	1,230
		4,680
Spare parts (say)	... ..	150
		£4,830
Modified Tenders, without Motors.		
Morris Bros.—		
Previous tender	... ..	4,280
Deduct for motors	... ..	800
		£3,480
H. P. Gregory & Co.—		
Three circulating pumps without motors	... ..	2,589
Two feed pumps without motors	... ..	1,035
		3,624
Spare parts now required (say)	... ..	36
		£3,660

With reference to the modified tenders, leaving out the motors, which are to be supplied separately by making use of portions of the standard G.E. 1,000 railway motors already in stock, the field frames, &c., to be made locally, it appears from the attached statement that the difference between the two tenders amounts now only to £180. In the case of H. P. Gregory & Co., the spare parts are estimated to cost £36, and they are quite prepared to supply them for this sum; also, they will undertake to make a reduction if they are found to cost less. Considering the excellent results obtained with pumps of the Blake type in our other power-stations; also bearing in mind the fact that the air-pumps of the new main engines in this station are "Blake," and were selected by the Atlas Company as being the most reliable, likely to give the best results, and certain to comply with the tests they have to guarantee under the specification, I am strongly of opinion that it would be most advantageous to the Department to accept H. P. Gregory & Co.'s tender, amounting to £3,660. I might also point out that the Blake Company will be fully responsible for the satisfactory working of the plant.—G.F., 22/8/98. Engineer-in-Chief.

After very careful consideration of the matter, I recommend the acceptance of H. P. Gregory & Co.'s modified tender for the pumps, without motors.—H.D., 23/8/98. Submitted to the Board of Reference, 23/8/98.

The Board very carefully considered the reports submitted, and the further details given verbally by Mr. Deane at the meeting held to-day, and decided that the most favourable tender was the modified one submitted by H. P. Gregory & Co. This offer, which is for the pumps without motors, amounts to £3,660—including about £36 for spare parts—is recommended by Mr. Elwell of the Railway Department, and Mr. Fischer of this Department. The pumps to be of the "Blake" manufacture.—W. F. MITCHELL, Secretary. Submitted for approval.—R.H., Under Secretary, Public Works, and Commissioner for Roads, 24/8/98.

Approved.—J.H.Y., 24/8/98. Accept.—Jno. P., 24/8/98. Plans, &c., required.—HAROLD F. NORRIE, Clerk-in-charge of Bonds and Contracts, 25/8/98. Mr. Deane. Mr. Fischer,—Very urgent; the Engineer-in-Chief is anxious for the letter of acceptance to go out in time for the contractors to write by the outgoing American mail.—E.H., 25/8/98. No plans; specifications herewith.—G.F., 25/8/98. Engineer-in-Chief. Mr. Norrie.—H.D. (per E.H.), 25/8/98.

Pumps for George-street and Harris-street Tram.—Contract No. 17.

H. P. Gregory & Co. Accountant, 29/8/98. Auditor-General.

Please note acceptance; then to Records.—HAROLD F. NORRIE, Clerk-in-charge of Bonds and Contracts, 29/8/98. Mr. Deane. Noted.—H.D. (per E.H.), 31/8/98. The Accountant to note.—H.D. (per J.P.), 31/8/98. Refund Morris Bros. deposit, and resubmit as to Vote to which this is to be charged.—T.R.S., 31/8/98. Morris Bros., D 313, £38.—O.C.

Acceptance of Tender.

MEMO.

Department of Public Works, Bonds and Contracts Branch,

Sydney, 29 August, 1898.

THE tender of Messrs. H. P. Gregory & Co., of Sydney, has been accepted for circulating pumps, feed pumps, and spare parts, Contract No. 17, George-street and Harris-street electric tramway, Sydney, for the sum of £3,660, to be completed in twenty weeks from date.

The security deposit required is the sum of £185.

HAROLD F. NORRIE,

Clerk-in-charge of Bonds and Contracts.

NOTE.—If the nominal cost of the said spare parts, delivered in Sydney, be any less sum than £36, the difference is to be deducted from the contract sum.

Paymaster

Paymaster to note, and refund all other preliminary deposits, unless otherwise instructed.—T.R.S., 31/8/98. Mr. Norrie, Assistant Accountant and Examiner. Refunded.—G.R. F.D.—Receipt for £185 received.—D.H.M., 13/9/98. Mr. Norrie.—O.C., 13/9. Seen.—H.F.N., 13/9/98. Contract papers required.—J.C., 20/10/98. Records. 98/2761-181, Papers herewith, Acct.—H.P. (per U.S.), 21/10/98. Noted, 22/10/98. J.C., 24/10/98. Seen.—J.F., 24/10/98.

No. 9.

Simpson Brothers to The Chairman of the Tender Board.

Sir, 32, Clarence-street, Sydney, 8 August, 1898.
The alteration in form of tender made is to suit the Worthington type of electrical pumps, and does not include spares. Delivery to be at power-station, Harris-street.

The accompanying tracings show the general arrangements of Worthington electrical pumps tendered for, but any alteration made to suit the service as may be deemed necessary by the Worthington Pumping Engine Co. is not to invalidate the contract.

The Worthington Pumping Engine Co. will guarantee that the pumps quoted will perform the duties mentioned in the specification.

We have, &c.,
SIMPSON BROTHERS.

Department of Public Works.
LUMP SUM TENDER FORM.

Manufacture, Supply, and Delivery of Circulating Pumps and Feed Pumps.

IN pursuance of advertisement in the *Government Gazette*, we, the undersigned, do hereby tender to provide the material and perform the various works required in and about the full and proper construction of circulating pumps and feed pumps for the George-street and Harris-street electric tramway, for the lump sum of £1,349, and to deliver the same in twenty weeks; and we do hereby agree that any additions to or deductions from the said works shall be paid or allowed for, as the case may be, at and after the rates or prices mentioned in the Schedule of Prices annexed hereto, or, if not in Schedule, at a price to be agreed upon at the time, and added to or deducted from the above lump sum, as the case may be; and we hereby undertake that we will, within fourteen days from the date of notification of the acceptance of the said tender, execute and deliver to the Minister for Public Works a valid legal contract with Her Majesty the Queen, embodying the terms and conditions abovementioned, and to provide the security required by clause 29 of the General Conditions; and we enclose herewith our cheque for the sum of £14; and we agree that such sum shall be absolutely forfeited if we at any time within thirty days after the said tender is opened withdraw same, or if in the event of this tender being accepted we fail to complete the abovementioned contract document within fourteen days thereafter; and further, that this tender is made subject to the conditions contained in the Tender Board Regulations printed on the back hereof, and by which we agree to be bound.
Dated this 8th day of August, 1898.

SIMPSON BROTHERS,
By their Attorneys—THOS. DALE, W. C. FRASER.

THIS is the tender marked " " referred to in annexed agreement with Her Majesty the Queen,
dated the day of A.D. 189 .
Witness—

REGULATIONS REFERRED TO.

(See Annex to Morris Brothers' tender, page 5.)

This is the Schedule of Prices hereinbefore referred to.

Items.	Description of Work.	Unit.	Rate.
1	Circulating pumps	No. 3.....	£ 1,016
3	Feed pumps.....	No. 2.....	333
			£1,349

THIS is the Schedule of Prices marked " " referred to in annexed agreement with Her Majesty
the Queen, dated the day of A.D. 189 .
Witness—

This was handed in at noon to-day by Mr. Fraser, of the Worthington Co.—E.H., 9/8/98.

No. 10.

Morris Brothers to The Under Secretary for Public Works.

Re Tender for Circulating and Feed Pumps for Power-house, Ultimo.

Sir, Sydney, 30 August, 1898.

Referring to our tender for the above, of the 8th instant, amounting to £4,280, we respectfully draw your attention to the fact that for this amount we tendered to supply the whole of the machinery, as per your printed specification, and subsequently offered to supply pumps of the "Blake" pattern for feed pumps, and "Gwynne's" for circulating pumps, or any other of the best pumps of English or American make.

The general electric motors, as specified, were included in our tender as above.

Understanding from the printed reports that we were the lowest tenderers, we trust that we will not be passed, as we propose to supply the best possible machinery.

At an interview with Mr. Fischer, by appointment from the Department, he suggested that we should reduce our tender £300, as the Department wanted to supply the eight motors for the pumps.

If, by this means, the Department has allowed anyone to come below us by amending their price, we consider that the integrity of the tender-box has been violated and degraded.

Trusting to your fairness in this matter.

We are, &c.,
MORRIS BROS.
Would

Would Mr. Deane please see me when he comes back.—R.H., 31/8/98. Mr. Fischer for report. 3/9/98.

With regard to the statement of Messrs. Morris Bros., that I suggested that they should reduce their tender by £800, I wish to say that on Mr. Morris suggesting a reduction of £800, I said in reply that if that sum represented the value of the motors, the reduction would be a proper one.—G.N., 5/9/98. Engineer-in-Chief.

Mr. Benjamin Morris stated verbally that his firm would supply a Blake pump, or any other kind, if so desired, but did not confirm his offer in writing. As the Blake pump offered by H. P. Gregory & Co. is evidently most suitable, and there is an undoubted advantage in ordering from the acknowledged representatives of the manufacturers, not to speak of the doubt as to whether any other firm would be allowed to step in, I recommended the acceptance of Messrs. Gregory & Co.'s tender.—H.D., Engineer-in-Chief, 6/9/98. The Under Secretary.

No. 10A.

H. P. Gregory & Co. to The Engineer-in-Chief for Railways.

Sir,

Sydney, 1 September, 1898.

We are in receipt of a notification from the Under Secretary for Public Works to the effect that our tender for the supply of circulating and boiler-feed pumps for electric power-house at Ultimo has been accepted.

The notification specifies, amongst other things, that the "contract must be performed within twenty weeks from date" (29th ultimo), but as that period of time is manifestly taken from our first tender, which was in accordance with your original specification for these pumps, we would like to point out that the amended tender we submitted—and which has been accepted—cannot unfortunately be completed in same time, for the reason that we had forwarded a cable code to the manufacturers, designed on the basis of the original specification, and which we intended to make use of should our first tender have been accepted.

Unfortunately we cannot now use this code, nor any modification of same, in consequence of the alterations made from original specification, and we have therefore to rely on mail leaving here on 10th instant so as to transmit the order, and we would therefore like to have the time mentioned by us in our first tender extended to (say) twenty-five weeks.

Should this alteration in the acceptance of our tender be agreeable to you we shall be obliged if you kindly advise the Tender Department to that effect, so as we can complete the necessary sureties and bonds with them at the earliest opportunity.

Waiting your acknowledgment,

We are, &c,

H. P. GREGORY & CO.

Ack., 1/9/98. Urgent.—Mr. Fischer for immediate report.—H.D., Engineer-in-Chief (per E.H.), 1/9/98. See preceding sheet.—E.H. I recommend that this extra time be given.—H.D., 5/9/98. The Under Secretary. Submitted for approval.—R.H., Under Secretary, Public Works, and Commissioner for Roads, 6/9/98. Approved.—J.H.Y., 6/9/98. Inform.—Jno. P., 6/9/98. H. P. Gregory & Co., 7/10/98. Mr. Norrie to note in bond.—Jno. P., 8/10/98.

Gentlemen,

7 October, 1898.

I have the honor to inform you that Mr. Secretary Young has approved of the time for the completion of your contract for the supply of circulating and boiler-feed pumps for electric power-house, Ultimo, being extended from twenty weeks from date of acceptance of tender to twenty-five weeks, as requested in your letter of 1st ultimo.

I have, &c.,

Under Secretary and Commissioner for Roads.

Messrs. H. P. Gregory & Co., Clarence-street, Sydney.

No. 11.

Morris Brothers to The Secretary for Public Works.

Re Tender for Circulating and Feed Pumps for Power-house, Ultimo.—Contract No. 17.

Sir,

Sydney, 9 September, 1898.

We have the honor, in compliance with your request, to furnish herewith a statement relative to our position in connection with the above contract.

About the end of July last, when copying the specification for this contract at the Public Works Office, Mr. Fischer volunteered the statement to our Mr. B. Morris that he (Mr. Fischer) "would not have any of your cheap pumps," when he was informed "that we would tender for the best."

Subsequently again at his office he informed us "that contractors consider that I am very severe," to which we replied "that we were never afraid to meet any one requiring a good job."

On the 2nd ultimo we enclosed our tender to the Public Tender Board.

The President announced that four (4) tenders were received, but were not opened, and tenderers could have their tenders back if they desired.

We elected to apply for our tender, and received it from the Chief Clerk.

On the 5th ultimo we again tendered, and the President announced that three (3) tenders had been received, and our firm was announced as the lowest.

In our tender of £3,800 we did not offer to supply motors as specified, but our tender £4,280 was for eight (8) motors, as specified; three (3) circulating pumps by "John and Henry Gwynne," and the two (2) triplex feed pumps to be the "Gould's" well-known pumps.

All the pumps were to be equal to the specification, and in every respect in full compliance with it.

The first time after tenders had been opened, when Mr. Fischer met our Mr. B. Morris, he (Mr. Fischer) asked if we knew that the circulating pumps were entirely made of gun-metal, to which we replied, "Yes."

On the 17th ultimo we received a memo. for our Mr. B. Morris to call and see the Engineer-in-Chief for Railway Construction Branch, and at once our Mr. B. Morris waited on the Engineer-in-Chief at his office, Messrs. Fischer and Elwell being also present.

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An illustration of a triplex feed pump of the Gould's type, which we were prepared to supply, was exhibited by us, which is in every way equal to the specification, and registered to work against a pressure of 150 lb. per square inch, being 10 lb. over and above the specification required.

Mr. Deane distinctly asked us if we would supply "Blake's" pumps, and we as distinctly stated, "Yes."

Mr. Fischer was present when this was asked and replied to, and we affirm that he must have heard it.

Mr. Deane finally asked both Mr. Fischer and Mr. Elwell if they wanted to ask Mr. Morris any further questions, and they replied, "No."

On the following day, 18th ultimo, we secured a verbal message that Mr. Fischer wanted to see us, and our Mr. B. Morris again waited upon him.

At this interview Mr. Fischer suggested that we should reduce our tender by £100 each for the eight motors required, as he stated the Department could supply them for £80 each, but (say) £100 to be deducted for the total cost.

Naturally thinking that this suggestion was sincere we agreed to it, and concluded that this was a settlement of the affair, and accordingly, in compliance with his suggestion, the same day we wrote the following letter:—

"Re Tender for Circulating and Feed Pumps for Power-house, Ultimo.

"Dear Sir,

Sydney, 18 August, 1898.

"We have pleasure in compliance with your request to submit to a deduction of £100 for each of the eight motors required for the above plant, which your Department has offered to supply, thus reducing our tender to £3,480.

"We remain, &c.,

"The Engineer-in-Chief for Railway Construction."

"MORRIS BROS.

On the 30th ultimo, learning that we were not likely to receive this contract, we wrote to the Under Secretary for Public Works upon the subject.

As it was suggested to us by Mr. Fischer, that we should submit to a deduction of £800, and now observing that the firm to which this contract has been given made a deduction of £1,020 from their original tender, which thus brings their amount very near to ours, we cannot but infer a thorough design, otherwise the whole affair is most inexplicable.

We would here respectfully draw your attention to the fact that we have since learned that owing to an alteration being made for driving the three circulating pumps by one motor each, instead of two as specified, the contractors will thereby secure a great saving in cost of manufacture.

Mr. Fischer never even asked us if we would make allowance for this deviation from specification.

The contractors' price being £3,660, which still leaves them £180 above our tender, and had we been informed of the alterations being required from double to single motors, our price would have been still further reduced by a considerable amount.

We regret that we are compelled to think that there existed all through this contract the full design to thwart us of our own just and legal right, and though we tendered to supply pumps to deliver British gallons of water as specified, we cannot but presume that no one but non-British could have meted out the justice as exhibited in this affair.

We have been honorable tenderers in all branches of the Public Service for the last twenty years, and must take this opportunity of stating that on all occasions we have received the greatest fairness, and we have pleasure in stating that our contracts speak for themselves; but we consider that on this occasion the greatest injustice has been done us.

We take the opportunity of thanking you sincerely for the courtesy of the interview which you granted to us yesterday, and the patient hearing you gave us, and we have pleasure in the assurance of your spirit of fairness which gives us the confidence in submitting our case to you.

We have, &c.,

MORRIS BROS.

At the interview alluded to in this letter, M. Harris, Esq., M.P., being present, I asked these gentlemen to put their complaint in writing—read to them the minutes of the Engineer on which the decision of the Board of Reference was arrived at, and stated that, as the matter came before me, I had no knowledge whatever of their having offered to supply a "Blake pump"; that, if any such offer had been made, I could only say I had been misled, and that I would promise to have the whole affair again considered by the Board of Reference with a view of arriving at the whole facts. Mr. Deane will remember that before the report of that Board, I specially mentioned to him that Mr. M. Harris, M.P., had asked me to look into the matter personally, as he had heard that some steps were to be taken by some one to ensure the contract going into other hands.—J.H.Y., 9/9/98.

Board of Reference.—R.H., 9/9/98. Mr. Deane to see.—R.H., 9/9/98.

No. 12.

The Assistant Engineer, Tramway Construction, to The Engineer-in-Chief for Railways.

Memorandum to the Engineer-in-Chief.

George-street and Harris-street Electric Tramway.—Tenders for Circulating and Feed Pumps.

Department of Public Works, Railway Construction Branch.

Engineer-in-Chief's Office, Sydney, 15 September, 1898.

WITH regard to the statement of Messrs Morris Bros. in their letter of the 9th instant, about a conversation between Mr. B. Morris and myself at the end of July, I find that I cannot at this distance of time remember all that was said, but am certain that my remarks were never intended to bear the construction now being put upon them.

It is a fact that, as a rule, contractors who have not previously carried out work under my supervision complain at first that I am very severe, and as Messrs. Morris Bros. have never worked under me, I may very likely have said something about it, but not with any intention of intimidating them, but rather in a friendly way.

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As regards the interview of the 18th ultimo, I would refer you to my memo. on M.P. 98-2,289, to which I would add that on Mr. B. Morris asking me the value of the motors, I told him that the motors used on the cars cost £80 each. I made no suggestion whatever as to what they ought to do.

At this same interview I informed Mr. B. Morris that it was proposed by the Department to drive the circulating pumps by one G.E. 1,000 motor each. If he did not allow for a reduction of his price on account of the bed-plate being shortened, this is no fault of mine. At any rate, the value of it is very small.

G. FISCHER,

Assistant Engineer for Tramway Construction.

No. 13.

Minute by The Engineer-in-Chief for Railways.

Minute Paper.

Subject :—Feed and Circulating Pumps at the Power-house, Ultimo.—Messrs. Morris Brothers' statements.

Department of Public Works, Railway Construction Branch,

Engineer-in-Chief's Office, Sydney, 21 September, 1898.

At the interview referred to Mr. Elwell and Mr. Fischer were present. Mr. Morris made some explanations with regard to his tender. The Gould pump offered, as judged by the illustration given with the tender, worked against a pressure of 130 lb.—not 150 lb., as now stated—or 10 lb. under the specified amount.

The question of class of pump came up, and comparisons were made between Gwynne's, Blake, Gould's, and other pumps of repute. Mr. Morris stated that if the Department wished he would supply Blake or any other pump. It was all the same to him, as the prices of first-class pumps were practically the same, whatever the make. This was demurred to, I think, by both Mr. Elwell and Mr. Fischer, and I much doubt the correctness of the insertion. I distinctly deny that I asked Mr. Morris in the first place if he would supply Blake pumps. This he offered himself, as he found during the conversation that the preference was given to Blake or Worthington. When asked how he could undertake to supply a Blake pump when H. P. Gregory & Co. were the sole agents, he said he would do it without the agents, and described how he would purchase in England through his own agent and ship out direct.

It has been recognised as a principle in the Department that when once a party has sent in a tender he has no right to amend it, either as to price or material, and Morris Brothers in verbally offering to supply at a lower figure an article which another firm had tendered for were distinctly attempting to undercut and get the contract unfairly.

I submit that it would be most unfair to accept an order sought for in this way, unless the recognised agents were palpably overcharging. In any case it would be an unsafe proceeding, probably leading to lawsuits and delays if the recognised agents offered obstruction.

Mr. Finlayson, of H. P. Gregory & Co., had assured me that his firm were the only agents for the Blake pumps, and no order except through them could be carried out. There had been some trouble about some Blake pumps for the water supply at Chatswood, North Shore, where Morris Brothers went behind their backs and got the machinery in England, but the Blake Company, he said, had guaranteed to them that such a thing should not occur again. Under the circumstances it is highly unlikely that Morris Brothers would be able to get the pumps, either direct or through H. P. Gregory & Co.

Talking the matter of the pumps over with Mr. Elwell afterwards, he suggested that a saving could probably be effected by leaving out the motors altogether, as the Railway Commissioners would have a stock of the railway motors which could be fitted up here to work the pumps if the frames were made the same. I therefore took the opportunity of getting Morris Brothers and H. P. Gregory & Co. to tender under the new conditions, which they both did. It is noticeable that Morris Brothers, although they had an opportunity, did not confirm their verbal offer to supply the Blake pumps. I therefore paid little regard to their former verbal offer, but as after further discussion with Mr. Elwell the Blake pumps were considered the best, I recommended that the order should be given to H. P. Gregory & Co., who were recognised agents, and who could best undertake the responsibility of carrying out the order.

It will be seen by referring to Morris Brothers' letter of the 30th August that what they then proposed to supply was Blake feed pumps, and Gwynne's circulating pumps or any other of the best pumps, whereas the purchase recommended by me was for Blake feed pumps and Blake circulating pumps.

When reporting on this matter to the Board of Reference, I omitted to mention Morris Brothers' verbal offer to supply Blake or any other kind of pump. In consequence of this it is evident that the Board had no knowledge of the fact. This, I very much regret, but I submit that the recommendation must necessarily have been the same.

With reference to Mr. Morris' insinuations against Mr. Fischer, I must refer to that officer's own minutes of the 5th and 15th September, 1898.

The meaning of some of the paragraphs on pages 7 and 8 of Messrs. Morris Brothers letter is obscure. Messrs. Morris Brothers and Messrs. H. P. Gregory had precisely the same information given them. The alteration referred to would only be a reduction of the size of the bed-plate, the least costly part of the pump.

H.D.,

Engineer-in-Chief.

To be submitted to the Board of Reference in reply to the Minister's minute of 9th instant.

No. 14.

Minute by The Engineer-in-Chief for Railways.

Minute Paper.

Subject :—Feed and Circulating Pumps for the Power-house, Ultimo.—Morris Brothers' complaints.

Department of Public Works, Railway Construction Branch,

Engineer-in-Chief's Office, Sydney, 26 September, 1898.

In further reference to the subject of my minute of the 21st instant, I wish to point out that Messrs. Morris Brothers cannot truly claim that an injustice has been meted out to them. If

If the tenders had been dealt with by me without previous interview with the tenderers, the tender of Morris Brothers, which did not provide for the most approved pumps, would have been put on one side in favour of that of H. P. Gregory & Co., and had no modification, such as the leaving out of the motors, been suggested, the latter firm's alternative tender, which under the specification they were allowed to make, would have been the one to be recommended for acceptance. See my minute on M.P. 98/2,074-180. This is the one mentioned in Mr. Fischer's minute of the 15th ultimo, providing for a combination of motor and pump, which the firm strongly recommend as having been proved by actual use to be of undoubted efficiency.

It is very unfortunate that any hint of injustice should have been brought forward. Personally, I have always endeavoured to do what is right and just, and in this matter my chief object has been to secure the best interests of the Department—to adopt what is known to be good, and avoid experimenting.

The Under Secretary.

H. DEANE.

No. 15.

Minute by Board of Reference.

Minute Paper.

Subject :—Acceptance of Messrs. H. P. Gregory & Co.'s Tender for Manufacture, Supply, and Delivery of Feed and Circulating Pumps for the Power-house, Ultimo.

Board of Reference, Department of Public Works, Sydney, 26 September, 1898.

THE tender of Messrs. H. P. Gregory & Co. was accepted for the above service upon a recommendation made by the Board of Reference on the 23rd ultimo.

Messrs. Morris Bros., who also tendered, deeming that the contract should have been given to them, laid a statement of their claims before the Minister, and Mr. Young directed the Board to report upon the whole matter.

The following is a statement of the facts of the case :—

Tenders were originally invited for the 2nd August, but at the Tender Board meeting the Vice-President stated that the opening of tenders had been postponed, and that any tenderer could have his offer returned. Morris Brothers elected to take their tender, which was returned to them unopened.

The following tenders were received on the 8th August, 1898 :—

	Tender for specified Motors.	Alternative.
	£	£
1. Morris Bros.	4,280	3,800
2. H. P. Gregory & Co.	4,680	4,230
3. H. H. Kingsbury & Co.	4,923	...

A tender was received on the 9th August from Simpson Bros., representing the Worthington Pumping Engine Company, at £1,349, but the circulating pumps were not according to specification, consequently the offer had to be put aside.

Messrs. Morris Bros.' offer at £3,800 did not include the specified motors, but they submitted an alternative tender to supply these, adding £480 to their tender, making a total of £4,280. The circulating pumps were to be by John and Henry Gwynne, of London, or Drysdale & Co., of Glasgow, and the "Triplex" feed pumps, "Gould's."

The opinion of Mr. Deane, supported by Messrs. Elwell and Fischer, being that the "Blake" pumps, both feed and circulating, are the best for the work, and this opinion being confirmed by the experience already gained in the Department, it was decided that this type should be recommended. Messrs. H. P. Gregory & Co. are the local agents of the Blake Company.

Mr. Finlayson, partner in H. P. Gregory & Co., and Mr. B. Morris were asked to call on Mr. Deane to further explain their tenders.

Mr. B. Morris called on Mr. Deane on the 17th August, and had an interview with him, Messrs. Elwell and Fischer being present. The merits of the motors and the pumps offered were discussed. Opinions were strongly in favour of the Blake and Worthington types of pumps. Mr. Morris stated that if the Department wished he would supply Blake or any other pump—it was all the same to him, as the prices of first-class pumps were practically the same whatever the make. It was pointed out that this is not correct. When asked how he could undertake to supply a "Blake" pump when H. P. Gregory & Co. were the sole agents, he said he would do it without the agents, and described how he would purchase in England through his own agent and ship out direct.

Mr. Deane subsequently conferred with Mr. Elwell in regard to the question of the pumps, &c., and the latter gentleman suggested that a saving could probably be effected by leaving out the motors altogether, as the Railway Commissioners would have a stock of the railway motors which could be fitted up here to work the pumps if the frames were made the same as before—that is, large enough to take the motors. Mr. Fischer was instructed to ask Messrs. Morris Bros. and Messrs. H. P. Gregory & Co. to tender under the new conditions, which they both did. Morris Bros., in a letter of 18th August, reduced their offer by £800, making it £3,480, but made no offer to supply "Blake" pumps, while Messrs. H. P. Gregory & Co. deducted £1,020, making their offer for "Blake" pumps stand at £3,660, which also included about £36 for spare parts.

The Board of Reference had the matter before them on the 23rd August, and having considered the written offers and the verbal explanations of Mr. Deane as to the merits of the various makes of pumps (who, however, by an oversight omitted to mention that Morris Bros. had made a verbal offer to supply Blake or any other kind of pumps), it was resolved to recommend the acceptance of H. P. Gregory and Company's offer for Blake pumps, although £180 in excess of Messrs. Morris Bros.' written offer for the other types. The Board's recommendation was approved by the Minister on the 24th August.

The Board to-day considered the foregoing statement, and decided that it should be submitted to the Minister, and at the request of the Engineer-in-Chief for Railways desired to direct Mr. Young's attention to Mr. Deane's minutes of the 21st instant and to-day's date, which are with the papers.

ROBT. HICKSON,

Chairman.
The

The Board have no doubt given me the facts, as asked for by me. I now ask them to give me their advice as to the best means of avoiding such a mistake (or apparent mistake) occurring again.—J.H.Y., 29/9/98.

The Board of Reference.—J.No. P., 29/9/98. Submitted to the Board of Reference, 13/10/98.

The Board having considered the Minister's minute of the 29th September, 1898, decided to recommend, with a view of avoiding a recurrence of complications of the nature shown in the accompanying papers, that during the period between the opening of tenders and the submission of same to the Minister no departure shall be made in the specifications or conditions of tendering, nor in the tenders submitted, without the approval of the Minister on the recommendation of the Board.—W. F. MITCHELL, Secretary,

Submitted for approval.—R.H., Under Secretary for Public Works and Commissioner for Roads, 14/10/98. Approved.—J.H.Y., 17/10/98. Send a copy of the Board's minute to heads of Branches.—J.No. P., 17/10/98.

Herewith.—E.H., 20/10/98. Engineer-in-Chief, Public Works; Engineer-in-Chief, Railway Construction; Government Architect; Engineer for Sewerage Construction; P.A.E., Roads.—20/10/98.

Acct. as to any further action required. See 98-2,023. Noted.—N.N., 22/10/98. J.C., 24/10/98. Seen.—J.F., 24/10/98. File.

No. 16.

H. H. Kingsbury & Co. to The Engineer-in-Chief for Railways.

Sir,

54, Margaret-street, Wynyard Square, Sydney, 4 October, 1898.

We have the honor to inform you that we have received from the General Electric Company (in reply to our inquiry), particulars and quotations *re* the motors that are required to be fitted to the bed-plates of the pumps for the George and Harris Streets electric tramway.

For this description of work the G. E. Co. advise us that the tramway type of motor is not suitable. They recommend that their ordinary slow-speed type (which is universally used) would be far preferable for work of this description.

Since the Department is erecting this plant, it appears to us advisable that it should be thoroughly tested and proven in perfect working order before shipment. Upon this point we have already advised our firm, and are now in a position to furnish you quotations upon receipt of schedule of your requirements.

We have, &c.,

H. H. KINGSBURY & CO.

H. H. Kingsbury & Co. to The Engineer-in-Chief for Railways.

Sir,

54, Margaret-street, Wynyard Square, Sydney, 8 October, 1898.

We have the honor to inform you that we have received from the General Electric Company, in reply to our various inquiries, particulars and quotations for the motors which are required to be fitted to the bed-plates of the pumps for the George and Harris Streets electric tramway.

For this description of work the G. E. Company advise us that the tramway type of armature is not suitable.

They state in their letter of 24th August:—

"We enclose quotation confirming our telegram. We understand that the specifications call for pumps complete with motors. They also specify motors of the G.E. 1,000 railway type. These railway motors are designed for special conditions, and as shunt motors for continuous running their operation is unsatisfactory, even when a small fraction of their output is required. For pumping purposes, where continuous running is desired, therefore, we always use our slow or moderate speed motors. In this case we have quoted on slow-speed motors.

"Net weight of each pump will be 3,500 lb., and it will be geared to a 60-horse-power slow-speed motor type, M.P. 4-60 horse-power—550 shunt, wound for 500 volts.

"*Feed Pumps.*—These pumps will comply with your specifications, and will be complete with bed-plate, each pump being driven by a G.E. 25 horse-power slow-speed motor, mounted on the same bed-plate by means of gearing. The motor will be type M.P. 4-25 horse-power—650 shunt, wound for 500 volts."

And in their letter of 31st August, they also state:—

"We have your letter of 1st August, regarding circulating and feed pumps for George and Harris streets electric tramway. We await with interest your further advices as to the final awarding of the contract. We sincerely hope that nobody has contracted for the supply of our G.E. 1,000 motors for continuous operation, such as the driving of feed pumps, for we would not care to supply them for such work. By the time this letter reaches you, you will be in receipt of our previous advices on the subject, and they will doubtless serve to enable you to take the matter up with the authorities, and arrange for pumps to be driven by our slow or moderate speed type of motor. We have as yet received no inquiries from others regarding these motors for this purpose, though, we presume, if the contract has now been awarded that we shall receive such inquiries by next mail. If so, we will keep you fully posted."

In reply to a letter sent by us from Mr. Elwell, making inquiries on this matter, we received the following cablegram on 7th instant:—

"Please refer to your letter of 29th August. Blake requests drawings motors. We will not guarantee if you cannot make use of standard slow-speed motors. Telegram immediately by A1 code."

Knowing well that the plant will be thoroughly proven and tested by the G.E. Co. before shipment to us, we are quite ready to guarantee its most perfect working, if the type of motor as advised by them be accepted.

We are, however, willing to quote you for the railway type of motor; but under the circumstances we cannot guarantee their perfect working for this work.

We shall be glad to hear from you as soon as possible, to enable our replying to the General Electric Company's cablegram.

We have, &c.,

H. H. KINGSBURY & CO.

Minute

Minute by Engineer-in-Chief for Railways.

Minute Paper.

Subject :—Feed and Circulating Pumps at the Power-house, Ultimo.

Department of Public Works, Railway Construction Branch,
Engineer-in-Chief's Office, Sydney, 13 October, 1898.

I HAVE again discussed this matter with Mr. Elwell, as it appears that the General Electric Company do not approve of the use of the G.E. 1,000 motors for the purpose, as will be seen by the accompanying letters, and Messrs. H. P. Gregory & Co have expressed themselves somewhat to the same effect.

Mr. Elwell now agrees with me that it would be a mistake to have any divided responsibility in the matter, and I therefore recommend that H. P. Gregory & Co.'s order be extended to the supply of motors, as contained in their alternative tender of the 2nd August—that is to say, the amount will be £4,230 for the supply of electric pumps, including motors, as offered by them, the motors being of slow-speed type.

H. DEANE,

Engineer-in-Chief for Railway Construction.

Minute by Board of Reference.

Subject :—Manufacture, Supply, and Delivery of Feed and Circulating Pumps for the Power-house, Ultimo.

Department of Public Works, Sydney, 13 October, 1898.

IN accordance with a recommendation made by the Board on the 23rd August last, the modified tender of H. P. Gregory & Co., at £3,660 for pumps, exclusive of motors, was accepted, it being then considered that G.E. 1,000 railway motors already in stock might be utilised with advantage.

In view of the accompanying letter, dated the 4th and 8th instant, submitted by H. H. Kingsbury & Co., in which they give extracts from correspondence received from the General Electric Company of America, in which it is stated by the Company that their G.E. 1,000 motors are unsuitable for the continuous running involved in working pumping machinery, the Board concur in Mr. Deane's recommendation, viz. :—

“That H. P. Gregory & Co.'s order be extended to the supply of motors, as contained in their alternative tender of the 2nd August—that is to say, the amount will be £4,230 for the supply of electric pumps, including motors, as offered by them, the motors being of slow-speed type.”

W. F. MITCHELL,

Secretary.

Submitted for approval.—R.H., Under Secretary, Public Works, and Commissioner for Roads, 14/10/98. Approved.—J.H.V., 14/10/98. Inform at once.—Jno. P., 14/10/98.

Will Mr. Deane please peruse the engrossment letter of acceptance to be sent to contractors, in lieu of that forwarded to them on 29th August last, and, if he approve, initial? It will be seen that I have inserted the extended time of twenty-five weeks for completion. I have assumed, also, that the contractors' letter of date 19th August last does not apply under the altered conditions.—HAROLD F. NORRIS, Clerk-in-charge of Bonds and Contracts, 20/10/98. Mr. Deane.

H. P. Gregory & Co., 21/10/98; Auditor-General, 21/10/98; Accountant, 21/10/98. Please note acceptance, then to Records.—HAROLD F. NORRIS, Clerk-in-charge of Bonds and Contracts, 28/10/98. Mr. Deane. Mr. Fischer to note.—H.D., 29/10/98. Noted.—G.E., 31/10/98. The Accountant to note.—Jno. P. (per F.P.), 1/11/98. No preliminary deposit held.—H.C., 1/11/98. O.C. Paymaster, Assistant Accountant, Examiner.—T.R.S., 1/11/98. Noted.—J.C., 2/11/98. Noted.—N.N., 3/11. J.C., 3/11/98. Seen.—J.F., 4/11/98.

[Cancelled by mutual agreement this day, 21st October, 1898.—H. P. Gregory & Co.]

Gentlemen,

Public Works Department, Sydney, 29 August, 1898.

I have the honor, by direction of the Secretary for Public Works, to inform you that your tender, dated the 2nd instant, as amplified by your letter of the same date and as modified by your letter of the 19th instant, is accepted for manufacture, supply, and delivery of “Blake” circulating pumps and feed pumps (complete with base-plate, but without motors) and spare parts, Contract No. 17, George-street and Harris-street Electric Tramway, Sydney, at the sum of three thousand six hundred and sixty pounds (£3,660), upon the condition that if the nominal cost, delivered in Sydney, of the spare parts—consisting of 1 fan, complete, for circulating pumps and 12 valve springs for feed pumps—shall be any less sum than thirty-six pounds, the difference shall be deducted from the said Contract sum.

The work is to be carried out in strict accordance with the several Contract exhibits relating to this Contract, and to be completed within twenty weeks from this date.

The security required on this Contract is a fixed deposit receipt, in favour of the Secretary for Public Works, for the sum of one hundred and eighty-five pounds.

I have to refer you to the Engineer-in-Chief for Railway Construction for further information, and to request that you will call upon the Officer-in-charge of Bonds and Contracts at this office for the purpose of executing the necessary documents for the due observance of your Contract.

I am, &c,

ROBT. HICKSON,

Under Secretary and Commissioner for Roads.

Messrs. R. W. Finlayson, H. Shaw Smith, and J. O. Smith,
trading as “H. P. Gregory & Co.,” Contractors,
74, Clarence-street, Sydney.

Received, 31/8/98.—H. P. GREGORY & Co.

[Cancelled.]

Gentlemen,

29 August, 1898.

I have the honor, by direction of the Secretary for Public Works, to inform you that your tender, dated the 2nd instant, as amplified by your letter of the same date and as modified by your letter of the 19th instant, is accepted for manufacture, supply, and delivery of “Blake” circulating pumps and

17.

and feed pumps (complete with base-plate, but without motors) and spare parts, Contract No. 17 George-street and Harris-street Electric Tramway, Sydney, at the sum of three thousand six hundred and sixty pounds (£3,660), upon the condition that if the nominal cost, delivered in Sydney, of the spare parts—consisting of 1 fan, complete, for circulating pumps and 12 valve springs for feed pumps—shall be any less sum than thirty-six pounds, the difference shall be deducted from the said Contract sum.

The work is to be carried out in strict accordance with the several Contract exhibits relating to this Contract, and to be completed within twenty weeks from this date.

The security required on this Contract is a fixed deposit receipt, in favour of the Secretary for Public Works, for the sum of one hundred and eighty-five pounds.

I have to refer you to the Engineer-in-Chief for Railway Construction for further information, and to request that you will call upon the Officer-in-charge of Bonds and Contracts at this office for the purpose of executing the necessary documents for the due observance of your Contract.

I am, &c.,

ROBT. HICKSON,
Under Secretary and Commissioner for Roads,

Messrs. R. W. Finlayson, H. Shaw Smith, and J. O. Smith,
trading as "H. P. Gregory & Co.," Contractors,
74, Clarence-street, Sydney.

Minute by Board of Reference.

MEMO.

Department of Public Works, Bonds and Contracts Branch, Sydney, 21 October, 1898.

THE tender of Messrs. H. P. Gregory & Co., of Sydney, has been accepted for manufacture, supply, and delivery of three "Blake" circulating pumps, with motors and rheostats, and two feed pumps complete, with base-plate, motors, and rheostats, and spare parts complete, Contract No. 17, George-street and Harris-street electric tramway, at the sum of £4,266, to be completed in twenty-five weeks from date.

The security deposit required is the sum of £215.

This notice is in lieu of one sent on 29th August last.

HAROLD F. NORRIE,

Clerk-in-charge of Bonds and Contracts.

NOTE.—If the actual cost delivered in Sydney of spare parts, consisting of one fan for circulating pumps, twelve valve springs for feed pumps, shall be any less sum than £36, the difference shall be deducted from the contract sum.

Paymaster to note, and refund all other preliminary deposits until otherwise instructed.—T.R.S. 24/10/98. Mr. Norrie, Assistant Accountant and Examiner. Refunded D. 313. F. D. receipt for £215 received, 27/10/98. F. D. receipt for £185 returned this day.—D.H.M., 28/10/98. Mr. Norrie.—O.C., 28/10. Seen.—H.F.N., 28/10/98. Contract papers required.—J.C., 29/10/98. Records. See papers herewith.—H.G., 31/10/98. Asst. Accountant. Noted.—N.N., 31/10. J.C., 31/10/98. Seen.—J.F., 31/10/98.

The Under Secretary for Public Works to H. P. Gregory & Co.

Gentlemen,

Department of Public Works, Sydney, 21 October, 1898.

I have the honor, by direction of the Secretary for Public Works, to inform you that your tender, dated the 2nd August last, as amplified by your letter of the same date, is accepted for manufacture, supply, and delivery of three "Blake" circulating pumps, with motors and rheostats and two feed pumps complete, with base-plate, motors, and rheostats, and spare parts, Contract No. 17, George-street and Harris-street electric tramway, Sydney, at the sum of £4,266, upon the condition that if the actual cost delivered in Sydney of the spare parts, consisting of one fan complete for circulating pumps, and twelve valve springs for feed pumps, shall be any less sum than £36, the difference shall be deducted from the said contract sum.

The work is to be carried out in strict accordance with the several contract exhibits relating to this contract, and to be completed within twenty-five weeks from this date.

The security required on this contract is a fixed deposit receipt in favour of the Secretary for Public Works for the sum of £215.

I have to refer you to the Engineer-in-Chief for Railway Construction for further information, and to request that you will call upon the Officer-in-charge of Bonds and Contracts at this office, for the purpose of executing the necessary documents for the due observance of your contract.

This letter is to be read in lieu of my letter of date 29th August last, which said letter is to be delivered up for cancellation, as mutually agreed.

I am, &c.,

ROBT. HICKSON,
Under Secretary and Commissioner for Roads.

Messrs. R. W. Finlayson, H. Shaw Smith, and J. O. Smith,
trading as H. P. Gregory & Co., Contractors,
74, Clarence-street, Sydney.

This is the copy letter of acceptance, marked " " referred to in our annexed agreement
with Her Majesty the Queen, dated the day of A.D. 189 .
Witness—

[Two diagrams.]

1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Printed under No. 15 Report from Printing Committee, 8 December, 1898.

RETURN (*in completion*) to Order of the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated the 2nd November, 1898, That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

“ All papers relating to the calling for tenders for the circulating pumps and feed pumps for the George-street and Harris-street Electric Tramway, Contract No. 17, and the acceptance of the tender of H. P. Gregory & Co., together with particulars of the names and amounts of all other tenders in connection therewith.”

(*Mr. Cann.*)

Copy of Contract Agreement with copies of Annexures.

AGREEMENT made this thirty-first day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight, between Richard Wilson Finlayson, Henry Shaw Smith, and James Oliver Smith, all of Sydney, in the Colony of New South Wales, contractors, carrying on business together under the name, style, or firm of “H. P. Gregory & Co.” (hereinafter styled or referred to as “The Contractors”), of the one part, and Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, of the other part.

WHEREAS the Minister for Public Works of the said Colony (hereinafter called the said Minister) recently called for tenders by notice published in the *Government Gazette* (of which notice a copy is hereunto annexed marked “A”) for the manufacture, supply, and delivery of feed and circulating pumps for the Power-house, Ultimo, Contract No. 17, George and Harris-street Electric Tramway, Sydney, aforesaid, according to the Specification and under and subject to the General Conditions which are hereunto annexed and marked respectively “B” and “C.” And whereas the contractors made the Tender hereunto annexed marked “D,” amplified by their letter hereunto annexed marked “E,” to provide the material and perform the various works required in and about the full and proper manufacture, supply, and delivery of the said pumps, agreeably to the said Specification and General Conditions, and at or for the price or sum in the said Tender mentioned, and within the time in the said letter set out, any additions or deductions to be paid or allowed for at the rates or prices mentioned in the Schedule of Prices annexed thereto and also hereunto annexed and marked “E.” And whereas the said tender, as amplified by the said letter, was accepted by the said Minister for the manufacture, supply, and delivery of three “Blake” circulating pumps, with motors and rheostats, and two feed pumps, complete, with base-plate motors and rheostats and spare parts, Contract No. 17, George-street and Harris-street Electric Tramway, Sydney, at the sum of four thousand two hundred and sixty-six pounds, upon the condition that if the actual cost delivered in Sydney, aforesaid, of the spare parts, consisting of one fan complete for circulating pumps, and twelve valve springs for feed-pumps, should be any less sum than thirty-six pounds, the difference should be deducted from the said contract sum, and such acceptance (a copy whereof is hereunto annexed and marked “G”) was duly notified to the contractors on the twenty-first day of October now instant, to the conditions of which acceptance the contractors have assented, as they do hereby admit and acknowledge. And whereas the contractors have deposited the sum of two hundred and fifteen pounds with the Union Bank of Australia, Limited, at Sydney, aforesaid, in the name of the said Minister, at interest upon fixed deposit, No. 79,702, dated the twenty-seventh day of October, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight, for twelve months, and have handed the receipt for same to the said Minister, to be held by him as such Minister, or the Minister for Public Works for the time being of the said Colony, on behalf of Her Majesty, as security for the due performance of this contract and all other matters and things herein contained, and which on the part of the contractors are to be done and performed. Now this agreement witnesseth that in consideration of the premises the contractors do hereby, for themselves, their heirs, executors, and administrators, covenant with and to Her said Majesty the Queen, Her Heirs and Successors, that they, the contractors, shall and will perform the various works required in and about the full and proper manufacture, supply, and delivery of three “Blake” circulating pumps, with motors and rheostats, and two feed pumps complete, with base-plate motors and rheostats, and spare parts, Contract No. 17, George-street and Harris-street Electric Tramway, Sydney, aforesaid, in accordance in all things with the said several annexures hereto within the time and at or for the price or sum in the said acceptance of tender mentioned. It being also hereby declared that if the actual cost delivered in Sydney aforesaid of the spare parts, consisting of one fan complete for circulating pumps, and twelve valve springs for feed pumps, shall be any less sum than thirty-six pounds, the difference shall be deducted from the said contract sum, and that any other additions to or deductions from the said works mentioned or

set

set out in the said Specification are to be paid or allowed for, as the case may be, at and according to the rates or prices in the said Schedule of Prices, as modified by the said letter, or if not in Schedule at a price to be agreed upon at the time, and added to or deducted from the bulk sum in the said acceptance of tender, as the case may be. And it is hereby agreed and declared between and by the said parties hereto, that the said several annexures hereto, all being marked as aforesaid, shall be read as incorporated in and forming part and parcel of these presents, in like manner as if the same had been herein written and set forth at length, and that the said annexures hereto and these presents shall together be taken to be the contract between the said parties in respect of the said works.

In witness whereof the said parties to these presents have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first before written.

Signed, sealed, and delivered by the said Richard Wilson } Finlayson in the presence of,— GEO. CHAPMAN.	R. W. FINLAYSON.
Signed, sealed, and delivered by the said Henry Shaw } Smith, in the presence of,— GEO. CHAPMAN.	H. SHAW SMITH.
Signed, sealed, and delivered by the said James Oliver } Smith in the presence of,— JAMES L. BOLGER.	J. O. SMITH.

" A. "

Extract from *Government Gazette*, 22nd July, 1898.

TENDERS FOR PUBLIC WORKS.

Department of Public Works, 22 July, 1898.

Description of Work or Supplies to be Tendered for.	Dates up to which Tenders will be received.	Where Plan, Specification, Special Conditions, General Conditions, and Form of Tender may be seen.	Remarks.
RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION.			
Manufacture, Supply, and Delivery of Feed and Circulating Pumps for the Power-house, Ultimo.	2 Aug., 1898.	Office of the Engineer-in-Chief for Railway Construction, Sydney.	

This is the copy Notice marked " A " referred to in our annexed agreement with Her Majesty the Queen, dated the thirty-first day of October, A.D. 1898.

Witness,—
GEO. CHAPMAN,
JAMES L. BOLGER.

R. W. FINLAYSON,
H. SHAW SMITH,
J. O. SMITH.

" B. "

New South Wales Government Tramways.

GEORGE-STREET AND HARRIS-STREET ELECTRIC TRAMWAY.

MANUFACTURE, SUPPLY, AND DELIVERY OF CIRCULATING PUMPS AND FEED PUMPS.

Contract No. 17.

SPECIFICATION.

Nature of Contract.

1. The work for which tenders are invited and to which this Specification refers, embraces the manufacture, supply, and delivery of three circulating pumps and two feed pumps, with spare parts, at the Power Station, William Henry street, Ultimo, near Sydney.

2. The contract comprises the supply of all materials, tools, plant, carriage, labour, and everything which shall be necessary for the full and proper completion of the work embraced under the same, and the whole of the work to be constructed in a good, substantial, and workmanlike manner, in accordance with this Specification, to the full extent and meaning of the same and to the entire satisfaction, approval, and acceptance of the Engineer-in-Chief for Railway Construction and under the supervision and direction of such assistant or assistants as he shall appoint.

Materials, Workmanship.

3. The whole of the materials and workmanship under this contract shall be of the best quality and description of their respective kinds. All materials intended to be used in the work shall be subject to the approval of the Engineer, and if not approved of shall be removed from the neighbourhood of the works without delay.

4. All castings are to be of the first quality iron or steel, sound and free from blow-holes; surfaces of same to be smooth and free from scabs, sinks, or other defects. All pieces at joints to be dressed fair with each other and joints well finished; nuts and heads of bolts to be hexagonal and case-hardened. All unfinished surfaces of castings to be well filled and rubbed down to an even surface, and to receive two coats of lead paint in the shop. All unpolished planed work to be finished free from heavy tool-marks. All finished surfaces to have a good polish. All parts of a similar nature to be made and finished to true templates, and to be absolutely interchangeable.

Inspection.

5. The whole of the work under this contract shall be subject to the inspection and testing by the Engineer during all the stages of manufacture; and the said Engineer shall have full power at any time to select any of the materials to be used, and have cut from same specimen pieces of such size and form as shall be directed and subject them to any reasonable test. Should the pieces so tested fail to bear the same, or the work found to be defective in any way, and not in compliance with the requirements and intention

intention of this Specification, the same shall be absolutely rejected. The cost of applying the test as to labour, plant, and material shall be borne by the contractor, who will also be required to forward samples to such public testing works as shall be nominated by the Engineer, and have them tested at his own expense.

Pumps.

6. Circulating Pumps.—Three electrically-driven centrifugal pumps, each capable of delivering not less than 2,000 (two thousand) British gallons per minute when driven at about 550 revolutions per minute.

7. Each pump to be mounted on the same bed-plate as, and coupled direct to, two general electric motors. The motor armatures to be of the standard G.E. 1,000 railway motor type. The bed-plate to be of cast-iron.

8. The motors to be shunt wound, and designed to work on a 550-volt circuit. Motors to be complete with hand-starting rheostat, and also rheostat for regulating the fields within 10 per cent.

9. The discharge and suction nozzles to be 12 inches in diameter, and the flanges made and drilled to the departmental standard templates. The pumps to be made entirely of gun-metal or salt water-resisting composition. All bearings to be self-lubricating.

10. The maximum suction lift will be about $14\frac{1}{2}$ feet, but the pumps must be capable to do the work on the basis of a total head of about 36 feet.

11. As it is proposed to run the pumps at practically constant speed, each pump must be fitted with adjustable air-valve on suction pipe, or other means for regulating the delivery of water.

12. The necessary holding-down bolts and sole-plates to be supplied, together with a complete set of spanners to fit all bolts and nuts, and fitted in a polished wrought-iron rack.

13. Spare parts.—The following spare parts to be supplied:—Six brush-holders, 10 complete sets of brushes, 1 fan complete.

14. Feed pumps.—Two electrically-driven triplex pumps, each capable of delivering one hundred and thirty-five (135) British gallons per minute against a boiler pressure of 140 lb. per square inch.

15. Each pump to have three single-acting plungers, 7 in. diameter by 8 in. stroke, and to be mounted on same bed-plate as, and geared to, one general electric motor. The motor armature to be of the standard G.E. 1,000 railway motor type. The bed-plate to be of cast-iron.

16. The discharge and suction nozzles of pump to be 4 in. and 5 in. respectively, and the flanges made and drilled to the departmental standard. The plungers to be made of hard, close-grained cast-iron, and to be externally guided to relieve them of excessive strain.

17. The connecting rods to be of forged steel, brass bushed, with adjustment at either end to take up wear. The shafts to work in babbitted boxes, well hammered and bored out to an exact fit.

18. The gear wheels and pinions to be accurately machine-cut and to run noiselessly. The pinions to be made of raw hide and the gear wheels of steel or charcoal-iron.

19. The water valves and valve seats to be of gun-metal or composition; valve springs to be of phosphor bronze. All bolts which hold the valves and seats in position to be put in from the outside.

20. The motor to be shunt-wound and designed to work on a 550-volt circuit. The motor to be complete with hand-starting rheostat and also rheostat for regulating the fields within 10 per cent.

21. The necessary holding-down bolts and sole-plates to be supplied, together with a complete set of spanners to fit all bolts and nuts, and fitted in a polished wrought-iron rack.

22. Spare parts.—The following spare parts to be supplied:—

- 6 brush holders,
- 10 complete sets of brushes,
- 1 set of pinions,
- 12 valve springs.

Conditions of Tendering.

23. Tenderers must state in their tender within how short a time they are prepared to complete the work.

24. Tenderers are requested to submit with their tender a list of power-stations where plants of similar nature to that specified, which have been designed and manufactured by them, are working.

25. Tenderers are invited to submit, if they desire to do so, alternative suggestions and prices for the above requirements.

26. The overall dimensions in all cases to be furnished as space is somewhat limited, and tenderers are requested to submit such drawings and photographs as they have available.

H. DEANE,

Engineer-in-Chief for Railway Construction.

This is the Specification marked "B," referred to in our annexed agreement with Her Majesty the Queen, dated the thirty-first day of October, A.D. 1898.

Witness,—

GEO. CHAPMAN,
JAMES L. BOLGER.

R. W. FINLAYSON,
H. SHAW SMITH,
J. O. SMITH.

"C."

GENERAL CONDITIONS.

Interpretation of Terms.

1. Whenever the terms hereafter explained in the present clause occur in these or any Special Conditions, or in the Contract or Specification, or Schedule to Specification, they shall be held to mean, and shall mean, as follows:—

"Government" shall mean the Government of New South Wales promoting this undertaking.

"Minister" shall mean the Secretary for Public Works of the Colony of New South Wales for the time being.

"Engineer" shall mean the Commissioner for Roads or the Engineer-in-Chief having the principal charge of the works, as the case may be, or the person acting as such for the time being respectively.

"Superintending Officer" shall mean any person or persons who may from time to time be entrusted with the superintendence of the works on behalf of the Government.

"Contractor" shall mean the person or persons who contracted to execute the works.

"Special

"Special Conditions" shall mean any "Special Conditions" hereto attached and forming part of the Contract; and such Special Conditions shall be read with the General Conditions as part and parcel of the Contract.

"Schedule of Prices" shall mean the rates at which the Contractor has offered or agreed to execute the Contract, where the same is based on a Schedule of Prices, and be the basis on which the value of any extra works or of any deductions shall be calculated, and progress payments made, whether the Contract be one of a Schedule of Prices or a bulk sum.

"Plans" shall mean and include all drawings referring to the works and explanatory of, or supplementary to, the Specification and Schedule to Specification.

"Works" shall mean the works set out in the Specification, Schedule to Specification, and Plans, or, in the event of there being no Plans, in the Specification or Schedule to Specification only.

"Net Claim" shall mean the sum claimed by the Contractor after deducting therefrom the sum acknowledged by the Department to be due.

"Board" shall mean the Board of Reference for the Department of Public Works, consisting of the Under Secretary for Public Works and Commissioner for Roads, the Engineer-in-Chief for Public Works, the Engineer-in-Chief for Railway Construction, the Government Architect, and the Engineer for Sewerage Construction; provided that any member of the Board who may give his decision in the first instance shall not be qualified to vote on the Board upon the matter referred to it for decision.

Supply of Labour, Materials, and Plant.

2. The Contractor shall, except in so far as the Specification may expressly state to the contrary, provide at his own cost and expense all labour, materials, and plant, and everything which the Engineer may consider necessary for the proper and complete performance of this Contract. No materials or plant placed on the site of the works shall be removed therefrom, or otherwise disposed of, without the consent of the Engineer.

Plans, Specifications, &c.

3. The Plans, Specifications, and Schedules to Specifications represent generally the forms, dimensions, and description of the several works. Where any discrepancy exists between the dimension, as indicated by the scale and those marked in figures, the figures are to be considered as correct, and are to be taken in all cases in preference to the measurements by scale. Or if there be any discrepancy between the figures or dimensions, or the form of construction, or the material as indicated in the Plans, and the dimensions and materials given in the Specification or the Schedule to Specification, the directions of the Specification or Schedule to Specification shall be adopted; and in all cases of defective description, or any ambiguity, the explanation given by the Engineer shall be binding upon the Contractor. Also, anything contained in the Plans, and not in the Specification or Schedule to Specification, or anything contained in the Specification or Schedule to Specification, and not shown in the Plans, shall be equally binding as if it were contained in both. If neither Specification, Schedule to Specification, nor Plans contain any mention of minor parts, which, in the opinion of the Engineer, are reasonably and obviously necessary for the satisfactory completion of the works, such parts are to be provided by the Contractor without any extra charge, as if they were specially mentioned, and shall be deemed to be, and hereby are included in this Contract.

All works described in, or implied by, the Specification, or Schedule to Specification, shown on any of the Plans, or set forth in any lists or tables thereon, or attached thereto, as well as those expressly provided for, are to be made and executed in every detail conformably to the several plans already prepared, or which may be prepared hereafter for the purpose of this Contract, in strict accordance with the provisions of the Specification, Schedules to Specification, and Conditions, and to the entire satisfaction of the Engineer.

Copies of Plans, &c.

4. A copy of all Plans, Specifications, and Schedules to Specifications required by the Contractor for carrying on the works will be provided by the Government, but must be returned before a final certificate for the work can be given. Any additional copies which may be required and are supplied by the Department shall be paid for by the Contractor at a rate to be fixed by the Engineer.

Setting out Works.

5. The works will be set out—that is to say, all necessary centre lines and levels will be given to the Contractor—except in the case of buildings, when, in the absence of setting out, a block plan will be supplied, from which he must work; but the Contractor must satisfy himself of the accuracy of the setting out, as no work incorrectly set out or improperly executed will be paid for.

Protecting and Maintaining Signals and Marks.

6. All bench marks, pegs, and signals on the surface, and all alignments, and level marks underground put in by the Engineer or Superintending Officer for the purpose of checking the Contractor's work, will be confided to the care of the Contractor. He shall, at his own expense, take all proper and reasonable precaution and care to preserve and maintain them in their true position; in the event, however, of their being disturbed or obliterated by accident or from any other cause whatever, they may, if necessary, be replaced by the Engineer or Superintending Officer at the Contractor's expense, and the cost thereof deducted from any moneys then due or thereafter becoming due to the Contractor.

Possession of Ground.

7. In giving the Contractor possession of the site it shall not be deemed that he is to have the exclusive possession, but only a limited possession—that is to say, such possession as will enable him to perform the works comprised in this Contract. The Minister may at any time take possession of any portion of the works or ground or intended site of the works for the purpose of carrying on any other works or for any purpose whatsoever. The Contractor must procure for himself all other land which he may deem requisite for any temporary purposes or for his own convenience.

Access

Access to Works.

8. The Engineer, or any other person authorised by him, shall have free and uninterrupted access at all times to the works, and during working hours to any workshop or premises, not on the site of the works, where materials may be in preparation or stored for the purpose of this Contract. The Contractor shall give the Engineer all particulars as to the mode and place of manufacture of any of the materials proposed to be used in connection with this Contract, and shall facilitate in every way the inspection of the same.

Contractor's risk.

9. The Contractor shall take upon himself the whole risk of executing the works to the satisfaction of the Engineer, and in accordance with the Plans, Specification, and Schedule to Specification.

Contractor to be represented.

10. The Contractor at all times during the progress of the works, when he is not personally superintending them, must have a responsible agent or overseer in charge to receive instructions from the Superintending Officer or Engineer, and to represent the Contractor for all purposes of this Contract.

Any notice or any written instructions to be given or delivered to the Contractor under this Contract shall be deemed to have been so given or delivered when given or delivered to the Contractor or his representative at the work, or left at the Contractor's usual or last known place of abode or business.

Order of Procedure.

11. The Engineer shall have full power to decide in what order in point of time the various parts of the work or works comprised under this Contract shall be carried out.

Power of Entry.

12. The Engineer shall have the power, at his discretion, without vacating this Contract, to enter upon, by himself or his agents, and make use of any part or parts of the work comprised under this Contract, and his doing so shall in nowise be held as a waiver of the responsibility of the Contractor in respect of this Contract, except in so far as any injury may accrue to such work so entered upon, by reason of any proved carelessness, to the satisfaction of the Engineer, of any employee of the Government, in which event the Contractor shall be free from liability on account thereof, but not otherwise.

Instructions to be obeyed.

13. Should the Contractor refuse or neglect to carry out the instructions of the Engineer or the Superintending Officer, the Engineer shall have the power of suspending the usual monthly certificate until such instructions have been complied with.

Power to dismiss men.

14. The Engineer may require the dismissal within twenty-four hours by the Contractor of any agent, overseer, foreman, workman, or other person employed on the works, and in the event of the Contractor refusing or neglecting to comply with such requisitions, all further payments on account of the work may be stopped until such dismissal is effected.

Bad Materials or improper works to be removed.

15. The Contractor shall be bound to remove within twenty-four hours, if written notice from the Engineer or Superintending Officer to that effect be given, any materials or work, whether fixed or not, which may appear to the Engineer to be of an inferior or improper description; and, in case of refusal, the Engineer shall have the power to get such materials or work removed at the Contractor's expense, and to withhold all payments until such instructions have been complied with.

Extra Works—Omissions of Works.

16. If at any time whilst the works are in hand it shall be deemed expedient by the Engineer to order material or work of a different description to that specified, or to increase or diminish the dimensions or extent of any works to be done under this Contract, or to alter their situation or vary the form or dimensions of any of the said works, or of any part thereof, or to make any deviation or to substitute one class of work for another, he shall have full power to do so, and to order and direct any such increase, diminution, alteration, deviation, or substitution, and the works involved in any such increase, alteration, deviation, or substitution, shall be executed by the Contractor if of the class of works provided for in the Schedule of Prices, at such Schedule Prices; and no such increase, diminution, alteration, deviation, or substitution of works shall in any way annul or set aside this Contract, or extend the time for the completion thereof, unless such extension shall have been given as provided for in clause 24; but such additions or alterations shall be measured and paid for, or deducted from the Contractor's account as the case may require, according to the Schedule of Prices. Provided that if any portion of the works so ordered to be done shall not be, in the opinion of the Engineer, of the same value or class of works provided for in the Schedule of Prices, the same shall be executed by the Contractor at such prices as may be agreed upon with the Engineer; but if the Contractor and Engineer cannot agree as to the price to be paid, the Engineer may order and direct the same to be done by such person or persons as he may think fit. Before any extra work, or work of an altered value or class, is undertaken by the Contractor, it shall be imperative for him to procure an order in writing from the Engineer for carrying out such extra or variation of work, and the Contractor shall not be entitled to any payment for such extras or variations unless he produce the written order for the same, as aforesaid, and he shall not be entitled to plead that the Engineer omitted to give such written order, as it is to be distinctly understood that the onus of obtaining such order shall be on the Contractor. The Contractor shall not be entitled to any other rate than the Schedule rate on any plea that the work was in a different position or of a different class from, or in a more difficult position than that shown on Plan or described in Specification or Schedule to Specification, or carried out under circumstances not contemplated in the Specification, unless an agreement entitling him to payment by other than the Schedule rates shall have been previously made and signed by the Engineer and the Contractor.

Valuation

Valuation of Omissions.

17. The Engineer shall have the power to direct the omission of the carrying out of any part or parts of the said works, but not amounting to the omission of the whole; and the value of such work so omitted in such case, calculated at the Schedule rates, or in the event of there being no Schedule rates, calculated on the basis of the proportionate value which such work bears to the lump sum, as ascertained by the Engineer, whose decision on that point shall be final, shall be deducted from the contract sum.

Net Measurements.

18. The whole of the work shall be executed and paid for according to the Contract dimensions, and no allowance will be made for any excess of dimensions above those found on the working plans now exhibited, or which may be afterwards supplied, notwithstanding any general or local custom to the contrary, unless such excess has been expressly ordered. In the case of dressed masonry all cubic measurements will be taken at the extremes, and in the case of rock-faced masonry all measurements will be taken to the draft. With regard to timber, all framed work will be paid to extremes, but in no case will scarfs in hewn or sawn timber or round logs be paid for.

Contractor liable for injury to adjoining Lands, Properties, &c.

19. The Contractor shall not commit any act of trespass, and shall effectually protect all adjoining properties and owners thereof against any loss, damage, or injury that may occur through the carrying on of the works, whether to buildings, goods, property of any kind, or to persons; and in case any such trespass be committed, or any such loss, damage, or injury occur, the Contractor shall make full compensation, and shall make good all or any such loss, damage, or injury; and if any such compensation for trespass, or any such loss, damage, or injury be recovered against the Government in the first instance, it may be deducted from any money due or coming due to the Contractor under this Contract, or may be recoverable from the Contractor as liquidated damages in that respect incurred.

Damages, &c., to be paid for by the Contractor.

20. All damage, injury, or loss that may happen to the works from any cause whatever during their progress must be made good by the Contractor at his own expense; and the whole of the works must be delivered up, complete in every respect, according to this Contract, and the care and maintenance of all works under this Contract shall remain with the Contractor until the Engineer shall, by notice in writing under his hand, inform the Contractor that he has taken charge thereof; and until such notice shall have been given the Contractor shall be responsible for all accidents, from whatever cause arising, and shall make good all damages thereto.

Contractor not to Sublet Works or Assign Moneys.

21. The Contractor shall not assign or underlet this Contract, or any part thereof, or assign or mortgage, charge or encumber, all or any of the moneys payable, or to become payable, under this Contract, or any other benefit whatsoever arising, or which may arise, under this Contract, to any person, without the consent in writing of the Minister being first obtained. The Contractor for each and every breach of this Condition shall be liable to pay to the Government the sum of £50 as and for liquidated damages, and the sum or sums payable as such damages may be deducted from any sum or sums due to the Contractor under this or any other Contract with the Government. And any permission to assign or underlet works to be done under this Contract shall not discharge the Contractor from any liability in respect of this Contract, and shall extend only to the permission actually given, but not so as to prevent any proceedings for any subsequent breach of this Condition; and all rights under these Conditions shall remain in full force, and shall be available as against any such subsequent breach.

Truck System not allowed.

22. The workmen and labourers of every class employed on the works shall be paid their wages in full, in money, current coin of the Colony, at least once in every month, and no ticket or other system of payment by provisions, liquors, or goods will on any pretence be allowed; nor shall the Contractor, or any person or persons employed by him, or in any way connected with him, establish any shop for the supply of provisions, liquor, or goods; nor shall the Contractor oblige his workmen to take provisions, liquors, or goods of any kind from any person in particular. The workmen and labourers of every class shall be paid on the works if it be possible, or in some building in the vicinity; and in no case shall they be paid at a public-house or other place where liquors or refreshments are sold. The Contractor for each and every breach of this Condition shall pay to the Government the sum of £50 as and for liquidated damages; and the sum or sums payable as such damages may be deducted from any sum or sums due to the Contractor under this or any other Contract with the Government.

Power of the Government to pay Workmen and Tradesman.

23. Before the payment of any money to the Contractor, the Engineer may require from him a statutory declaration that the tradesmen supplying materials for or incidental to the works, and the workmen and labourers of every class employed on the works, have been paid their claims of every kind in full, in current coin of the Colony, and to the latest date at which such wages or claims are due; and the Engineer may withhold the payment of any money that may be due or become due to the Contractor until such declaration has been made and delivered to him.

If the Contractor shall fail or omit to pay the claims of any such tradesmen, workmen, or labourers, in the current coin of the Colony, it shall be lawful for the Minister, or the Engineer, as often as the same shall happen upon complaint of such failure or omission made by any such tradesman, workman, or labourer, and upon proof to the satisfaction of the Minister or Engineer of such failure or omission to pay the amount of such claim to such tradesman, workman, or labourer, and to deduct the same amount from any money then due or owing, or thereafter to become due or owing, to the Contractor under this Contract.

Delay.

24. If the Contractor shall not be able to obtain possession of any portion of the ground required for the execution of the works to be done in connection with this Contract, or if from the non-delivery, or any delay in the delivery to the Contractor, of any materials which under this Contract the Minister is to supply,

supply, or from any cause whatever arising out of the acts or defaults of the Minister, or any officers or servants in his employment, or from any accidents happening to the said works during their progress not arising from the neglect or default of the Contractor or his servants or workmen, the Contractor shall be delayed or impeded in the execution of his Contract, the Contractor may from time to time within seven days of the happening or occurring of such act, default, or accident, apply in writing to the Minister for an extension of time on account of such act, default, or accident, setting forth the cause of such application, and the Minister shall, if he think the cause sufficient, but not otherwise, allow by writing under his hand such an extension of time as he shall think adequate; and the penalties, sets-off, and deductions to which under this Contract the Contractor is liable shall not attach until the expiration of such extension of time, but shall attach, and the Contractor shall become liable to the same, from the date of the expiration of such extended time or times. And unless the Contractor shall make such application within the time and in the manner aforesaid, and unless and until the Minister shall allow such extension or extensions of time as aforesaid, the Contractor shall not by reason of any delay arising from the cause or causes aforesaid, or any of them, be relieved in any way or to any extent of his liability to finish and complete the works within the time in this Contract specified; and, in default of his so doing, to pay and be subject to the liquidated damages, deductions, and sets-off as in these Conditions provided; nor shall the Minister be deprived in any way or to any extent of his right to deduct or recover any sum or sums as liquidated damages, and not as or in the nature of a penalty or to make deductions or sets-off which under this Contract he is entitled to make, deduct, set-off, or receive from the Contractor for or by reason or on account of any delay in the completion of the work or any portion of the same, nor shall the rights, powers, and authorities by these Conditions given to or vested in him be in any way affected.

Patent Rights to be included.

25. The Contractor is to include in his Tender the amount of all patent rights and royalties which may be claimed by any patentee or patentees for the manufacture and use of any portion of this work, and must undertake to liquidate the same when required to do so.

Free Passes, &c.

26. No free passes on any of the Government Railways will be granted either to the Contractor or his agents, nor will any materials or articles of any description be conveyed free of charge.

Conditions not to be waived.

27. None of the Conditions of this Contract shall be varied, waived, and discharged, or released either at law or in equity, unless by the express consent of the Minister, testified in writing under his hand.

Progress Payments without Prejudice.

28. No progress payment given to the Contractor shall prevent the Engineer from at any future time before the final settlement rejecting all unsound materials and improper workmanship discovered subsequently to the giving of any previous payment; and notwithstanding any approval given or made by the Superintending Officer that portions or the whole of the works have been satisfactorily performed, the Engineer may require the Contractor to remove or amend at any future time previously to the final payment on account of the work, any work that may be found not in accordance with this Contract; and the Contractor must remove and amend at his own cost all such work when so required; and if he refuse or neglect to do so, the Engineer shall have the power to carry out such work, and to deduct the whole cost thereof from any moneys that may be due, or that may become due to the Contractor.

If, in the opinion of the Engineer, further inquiry is necessary or desirable before any progress payment is made, he shall have the power to withhold the certificate on which such payment would have been made, for any period which he may consider necessary for the purpose of such inquiry.

Security.

29. Within fourteen days after the notice of the acceptance of his Tender shall have been given to the Contractor, or posted to the address of his last-known place of business or residence, he shall deposit with the Minister, or at the option of the Minister in some bank or banks in Sydney, upon fixed deposit in the name of the Minister, a minimum deposit of £2 if his Tender be £40 or under, or a sum representing £5 per cent. on the pounds if his tender be over £40 and under £200; but if £200 or over then a sum calculated at the rate of £5 for every £100 or part thereof on the amount of his Tender up to the sum of £100,000, and at the rate of £1 for every £100 or part thereof in addition, for any amount over that sum, to be held by the Minister as security for the due and proper performance and completion of this Contract until the Engineer has certified that the whole of the work in the said Contract has been completed to his satisfaction and the period specified for the maintenance of the said works has expired, or until this Contract has been cancelled by the Minister under the power given to him in that respect under clause 32 of these Conditions, in which last-mentioned event happening the money so deposited shall become forfeited to the Crown, and shall be held by the Colonial Treasurer, for and on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen, as liquidated damages. If, however, this Contract shall not have been cancelled under the said clause, and if the works comprised in this Contract are not completed within the time mentioned in clause 34 of these Conditions, the liquidated damages which, under the last-mentioned clause are made payable to the Minister, may be deducted and taken from the money so deposited.

If the Contractor fail to deposit the sum as hereinbefore provided within fourteen days from the acceptance of the Tender, or if he fail to execute the Contract for the due performance of the works mentioned in the said Tender, the Minister shall have the option of and full power and authority to declare such acceptance to be annulled, in which case the amount of the preliminary deposit will be absolutely forfeited to the Crown, as provided by the Regulations of the Tender Board.

No Tenderer will be authorised to proceed with the work tendered for until he has made the deposit as aforesaid, and has executed the required Contract for the due performance of the said works, it being hereby declared that for all or any work done or materials found and provided by the Contractor before the due execution of the said Contract, or the said moneys being deposited as aforesaid, he shall not have any right of action, claim, or demand against the Minister.

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The Contractor will be entitled to receive any interest that may be payable upon the fixed deposit of the money, if the money be placed in a Bank at fixed deposit, as such interest becomes payable; but it is expressly declared that the Minister is not to be held liable or answerable in any way for any loss on the money so deposited, or for any loss of interest from the fixed deposit not being renewed.

Payments.

30. Progress payments may be made once in every month, unless the same shall become not payable by reason of anything contained in these Conditions, on the certificate of the Engineer, as the work proceeds, in the proportion of 80 per cent. of the value of the work returned, until the sum retained reaches the amount of the deposit provided for in the preceding clause, when no further deductions will be made. The amount of the retention money will be held by the Minister, in addition to the cash security, unless otherwise provided for in the Specification, until the Engineer has certified that the whole of the works have been satisfactorily completed, and the period specified for the maintenance of the said works has expired, and all accounts finally adjusted, when the retention money, in addition to the cash security, will be paid to the Contractor; and it is expressly declared that until a certificate has been given by the Engineer to the Minister that the work done by the Contractor has been executed and completed to his satisfaction, the Contractor shall have no right or claim in respect of any work done or materials provided, nor to the payments from time to time to be made under this Contract, or to the final payment upon the whole of the works being finished.

Delay or Bad Work, Bankruptcy, &c.

31. In case the Engineer shall be at any time dissatisfied with the mode of proceeding, or at the rate of progress of the works or any part thereof, or in case the Contractor shall at any time neglect or omit to carry out the instructions of the Engineer, or to dismiss any person employed when required, or shall neglect or omit to remove any materials or work which he is required to remove under Condition 15, or in case the Contractor shall assign or underlet this Contract, or any part thereof, or assign or mortgage, charge or encumber, or attempt to assign, mortgage, charge or encumber, all or any of the moneys payable or to become payable under this Contract, or any other benefit whatsoever arising or which may arise under this Contract, without the consent in writing of the Minister being first obtained, or in case the Contractor shall make default in insuring and keeping insured, in cases where insurance is specified, and depositing the policies and receipts for premiums in accordance with these Conditions, or in case the Contractor shall become bankrupt, or shall make an assignment of his estate for the benefit of creditors, or shall make an arrangement or composition with his creditors, then and in every such case the Minister shall be at liberty, without vitiating this Contract, and without prejudice to any right that may have accrued to liquidated damages under any of these Conditions, to take the works wholly or partially out of the hands of the Contractor and to employ or contract with any other person or persons to execute the same, and for that purpose to take possession of and use all horses, materials, plant, tools, implements and things on or about the said works, without making any allowances for the same, and all damages and expenses thereby incurred shall be ascertained and certified by the Engineer, and together with any sum payable as liquidated damages under these Conditions shall be deducted from any money that may be then due or may thereafter become due to the Contractor or may have been deposited by him; and if the money then due, or thereafter becoming due to the Contractor, or deposited by him, be not sufficient for that purpose, the balance remaining unpaid shall be a debt due by the Contractor to the Minister, and may be recovered accordingly.

Cancellation of Contract.

32. In any or either of the events mentioned in the last preceding clause of these Conditions, the Minister shall have the option and full power and authority in lieu of proceeding under such clause, and without prejudice to any right that may have accrued to liquidated damages under any of these Conditions, to cancel this Contract whether there are any works remaining to be done or not; and in such case the moneys which shall have been previously paid to the Contractor on account of the works executed shall be taken by him as full payment for all works done under this Contract; and upon notice in writing under the hand of the Minister that he, under the authority of this Condition, cancels this Contract being given to the Contractor, this Contract shall be cancelled, and thereupon all sums of money that may be due to the Contractor, or unpaid, together with all implements in his possession, and all materials provided by him, upon the ground upon which the work is being carried on, or adjacent thereto, shall be forfeited, and all sums of money held as security or named as liquidated damages for the non-fulfilment of this Contract within the time specified shall also be forfeited and become payable to the Government, and the said implements and materials shall become and be the absolute property of the Government, and with the moneys so forfeited and payable as aforesaid shall be considered as ascertained damages for breach of Contract.

Insurance.

33. The Contractor shall from time to time, when required to do so by the terms of the Specification, insure the works against loss or damage by fire, in an office to be approved, in the name of the Minister for the amount of the full value of the work completed, as determined by the Engineer, and shall lodge with the Engineer the policies and receipts for the premiums for such insurance, and shall continue such policies until possession is given up to the Government; in default of which the Minister shall be at liberty to insure and deduct the amount of the premiums paid from any moneys payable to the Contractor, and may refuse payment of any certificate until such policies and receipts are handed in as aforesaid; but this insurance is to be no limit or bar to the liability and obligation of the Contractor to deliver up the works to the Minister completed in all respects according to the Contract. In case of loss or damage by fire the moneys payable under any such insurance shall be received and retained by the Minister until the works are finally completed, and shall then be credited to the Contractor in the final settlement of accounts in the event of the Contract not having been previously cancelled under these Conditions.

Time of Completion, &c.

34. The Contractor shall complete the whole of the works comprised in this Contract within weeks from the date of the acceptance of his Tender, and in the event of their non-completion at the specified times, should the Minister not have proceeded under clauses Nos. 31 and 32 of these Conditions,

or either of them, the Contractor shall pay, by way of liquidated damages, and not as or in the nature of a penalty, the sum of twenty pounds sterling for every week, or for every part of a week that shall elapse after such specified time, until their completion, and which sum or sums may be deducted from any money payable to the Contractor under this or any other Contract. The Contractor shall have no right to a Certificate for payment after the date specified in these Conditions for the completion of this Contract until the whole of the works shall have been properly completed to the satisfaction of the Engineer, unless the time for the completion of this Contract shall have been extended as hereinbefore provided, in which case such extended time shall become the time for the completion of this Contract, and it is to be expressly understood that the fact of the time having been so extended shall not in any way be taken as a waiver of this Contract, or as annulling or setting aside this Contract in any respect, nor be taken as releasing the Contractor from any of the responsibilities or obligations of this Contract, which, in all other respects, shall remain the same as if the time had not been extended.

The like liability also shall hold good as to the obligation of the Contractor in the event of any advance being made to him from the retention money, or on material on the ground and not *in situ*.

Maintenance.

35. The Contractor will be bound to maintain the works for a period of three months after their final completion and use by the Government; and if any part should within that period show signs of weakness, or of giving way, or if any defective workmanship or materials be detected, the Contractor, when called upon to do so, shall make good the same at his own expense, to the satisfaction of the Engineer, before any moneys held by the Government on account of this Contract will be paid. It is also to be distinctly understood that the Government shall have the full, free, and unrestricted use of the said works, without any interference whatever on the part of the Contractor during the currency of this period of maintenance; and such use of the said works on the part of the Government shall not be held as relieving the Contractor of any liabilities or obligations whatever in respect of his Contract.

Settlement of Claims.

36. The following matters shall be decided by the Engineer, whose decision shall be absolute and final, viz. :—

- (1.) All questions and disputes when the net claim shall not amount to the sum of £1,000.
- (2.) All questions and disputes (irrespective of the amount involved), which shall arise respecting the true construction or meaning of the Plans, Specification, or Schedule to Specification; or the quality or sufficiency of the workmanship; or the quantity, quality, or sufficiency of materials necessary for the whole or any part of the Contract; or the true value of any extra works that have not been previously agreed upon; or the value of any works omitted from the works specified to be done under the Contract.

37. Where the amount of any net claim in respect of any matter relating to the said Contract (other than and excepting those mentioned in class 2 of the last preceding clause) shall amount to the sum of £1,000 or upwards, the Contractor shall, within one month from the date of the expiration of the period of maintenance referred to in clause 35, furnish to the Engineer "full particulars" in writing of any such claim, giving distinct and separate items and the amount, if any, claimed under each item, and the same may be accompanied by any such explanatory matter as the Contractor may consider necessary. The Contractor shall be bound by such particulars, and no claim not included in such particulars shall be taken into consideration or become the subject of any action. All such claims amounting to £1,000 or upwards shall in the first instance be referred to and decided by the Engineer, and if the Contractor and the Engineer cannot agree upon the amount to be paid in respect of such claims, the Contractor shall then be allowed to appeal to the Minister, who shall refer the matter for the consideration of and final adjudication by the Board, whose decision shall be final when so expressed by the said Board to be final, and the Contractor shall have no right of action or suit under the contract or these Conditions for or in respect of any such claims, saving for the amounts that may be so certified to be due. Provided always that if, in cases where the said Board shall not arrive at and make a final decision, the Contractor may require the Minister to state, and he shall state, a special case without any pleadings for the opinion and final decision of the Supreme Court, with power to the Judges, upon the hearing thereof, to draw conclusions of fact, and to review and vary or refer back the claim to the Minister; but in case of any such special case being so stated the taxed costs of both parties, incidental thereto shall be borne by and divided between them respectively in the inverse proportion which the amounts actually awarded and disallowed respectively shall bear to the total amount in dispute; and no action, suit, or other proceeding shall be instituted in respect of the premises, except for the purpose of enabling such special case to be stated as aforesaid.

The Minister shall not be called upon or be bound to make any payments out of the retention money or the money deposited as security for the due carrying out of the Contract, or to give up any bond that may have been given or entered into in connection with the Contract, before or until all questions and disputes shall be finally settled; and should the Minister in his discretion make any payments out of the retention or deposit money to the Contractor, the making the same shall not in any way prejudice the Minister's rights under the Contract, or be taken as an admission of any claims made by the Contractor.

J. H. YOUNG,
Secretary for Public Works.

Department of Public Works,
Sydney, New South Wales,
23rd March, 1898.

These are the General Conditions marked "C" referred to in our annexed agreement with Her Majesty the Queen, dated the thirty-first day of October, A.D. 1898.

Witness—

GEO. CHAPMAN.
JAMES L. BOLGER.

R. W. FINLAYSON.
H. SHAW SMITH.
J. O. SMITH.

"D."

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"D."

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.
LUMP SUM TENDER FORM.

Manufacture Supply and Delivery of Circulating Pumps and Feed Pumps.

In pursuant of advertisement in the *Government Gazette* (I or we), the undersigned, do hereby tender to provide the material and perform the various works required in and about the full and proper construction of circulating pumps and feed pumps for the George-street and Harris-street Electric Tramway, agreeably to the Specification and General Conditions, which have been inspected by (me or us), for the lump sum of four thousand six hundred and eighty pounds, and to complete the same within the time stated in the said General Conditions; and (I or we) do hereby agree that any additions to or deductions from the said works shall be paid or allowed for, as the case may be, at and after the rates or prices mentioned in the Schedule of Prices annexed hereto, or if not in Schedule, at a price to be agreed upon at the time, and added to or deducted from the above lump sum, as the case may be; and (I or we) hereby undertake that (I or we) will, within fourteen days from the date of notification of the acceptance of the said tender, execute and deliver to the Minister for Public Works, a valid legal contract with Her Majesty the Queen, embodying the terms and conditions above-mentioned, and to provide the security required by clause 29 of the General Conditions; and (I or we) enclose herewith (my or our) cheque for the sum of fifty pounds; and (I or we) agree that such sum shall be absolutely forfeited if (I or we) at any time within thirty days after the said tender is opened withdraw same, or if in the event of this tender being accepted (I or we) fail to complete the above-mentioned contract document within fourteen days thereafter; and further, that this tender is made subject to the conditions contained in the Tender Board Regulations printed on the back hereof, and by which (I or we) agree to be bound.

Dated this 2nd day of August, 1898.

Witness—HENRY DOBAN.

R. W. FINLAYSON,
H. SHAW SMITH, } Members of Firm.
J. O. SMITH.

H. P. GREGORY & CO.,
74, Clarence-street, Sydney.

This is the Tender marked "D" referred to in our annexed agreement with Her Majesty the Queen, dated the 31st day of October, A.D. 1898.

Witness,—

GEO. CHAPMAN.
JAMES L. BOLGER.

J. O. SMITH.
R. W. FINLAYSON.
H. SHAW SMITH.

REGULATIONS REFERRED TO.

(See annex to *Morris Bros. Tender*, page 5.)

"E."

This is the Schedule of Prices hereinbefore referred to.

Items.	Description of Work.	Unit.	Rate.
1	Circulating Pumps, as specified	No. 3	£ s. d. 1,150 0 0
2	do spare parts	Lump sum.	
3	Feed Pumps, as specified	No. 2	615 0 0
4	do spare parts	Lump sum.	

Nos. 2 and 4 "Spare Parts" not included, see our letter.—H. P. GREGORY & Co.

This is the Schedule of Prices marked "E" referred to in our annexed agreement with Her Majesty the Queen, dated the 31st day of October, A.D. 1898.

Witness,—

GEO. CHAPMAN.
JAMES L. BOLGER.

R. W. FINLAYSON.
H. SHAW SMITH.
J. O. SMITH.

"F."

H. P. Gregory & Co., to The Department of Public Works.

Engineers and General Machinery Merchants, Sydney, 2 August, 1898.

A MEMORANDUM, explanatory of accompanying "Lump Sum Tender Forms," submitted by the Undersigned for three (3) circulating pumps and two (2) boiler feed pumps, with spare parts.

We are prepared to supply the following electric-driven pumps, all to be manufactured by The Geo. F. Blake Manufacturing Company, of New York and Boston, and in general accordance with Specification referred to in said Tender Form, and to deliver same at Electric Power Station, Ultimo, near Sydney, as follows:—

Circulating Pumps.

The three (3) circulating pumps we propose to supply are of the electric-driven centrifugal type, each driven by two (2) motors, as called for in Specification. The required capacity of pumps at speed stated in Specification, we are of course prepared to guarantee. So far as we have data and illustrations beside us, we are unfortunately unable to give particulars of the pumps as we propose to supply, excepting those driven by single electric motors. Of this style of pump we attach photograph, marked No. 531, showing one of a number recently manufactured by our Company for the Edison Electric Companies in America. We are, however, prepared to supply pumps to perform the work specified with two (2) motors, at the price given in accompanying "Lump Sum Tender Form," or, as an alternative, we are prepared to supply pumps arranged, as per photograph, at £150 each less—that is, for £1,000 each.

As

As regards overall dimensions of the pumps we offer to supply, we fear we can only give these approximately, having no scale drawings of similar pumps of required capacity. Each pump, with one (1) motor, however, we would estimate to measure overall 11 feet long by 5 ft. 6 in. wide by 5 feet high, and to weigh about 13,000 lb., while same size pump with two (2) motors would, we should imagine, measure approximately 16 feet long by 5 ft. 6 in. wide by 5 feet high, and weigh about 14,500 lb.

Feed Pumps.

The two (2) feed pumps we propose to supply would also be electric-driven, but of the vertical triplex single acting plunger-type. Plungers would be 7-inch diameter, and of 8-inch stroke, and motor would be of sufficient capacity—say, 25 h.p. Accompanying photograph, No. 533, of a smaller size pump, shows general arrangement, while the details would be strictly in accordance with your Specification throughout, the complete plant representing in every way the result of the latest up-to-date practice. Overall dimensions of these pumps, judging from blue prints of other sizes we have by us, would be about 10 ft. long by 4 ft. 6 in. wide by 7 ft. high, and the weight of each would be, approximately, 10,000 lb.

Unfortunately, we have no data by us from which to get at prices for the "extras" you ask for, but these would be ordered by us as specified, along with the pumps, should we be the successful tenderers, and price of same would be the nominal cost of such articles in this market.

We would be pleased to accept your instructions to supply the work we now tender for, in strict accordance with your Specification in every detail, and we undertake to complete same in, say, twenty (20) weeks from date of your acceptance of our tender.

It must be understood that any duty which might be demanded by the Government, and paid by us in consequence of any alteration in the present tariff, would have to be added to the total amount of
H. P. GREGORY & Co.

This is the letter marked "F," referred to in our annexed agreement with Her Majesty the Queen, dated the thirty-first day of October, A.D. 1898.

Witness,—

GEO. CHAPMAN,
JAMES L. BOLGER.

R. W. FINLAYSON.
H. SHAW SMITH.
J. O. SMITH.

"G."

The Under Secretary for Public Works to Messrs. H. P. Gregory & Co.

Gentlemen,

Department of Public Works, Sydney, 21 October, 1898.

I have the honor, by direction of the Secretary for Public Works, to inform you that your tender, dated the 2nd August last, as amplified by your letter of the same date, is accepted for manufacture, supply, and delivery of three "Blake" circulating pumps with motors and rheostats, and two feed pumps complete with base-plate motors and rheostats and spare parts, Contract No. 17, George-street and Harris-street Electric Tramway, Sydney, at the sum of four thousand two hundred and sixty-six pounds (£4,266), upon the condition that if the actual cost delivered in Sydney of the spare parts, consisting of one fan complete for circulating pumps, and twelve valve springs for feed pumps, shall be any less sum than thirty-six pounds, the difference shall be deducted from the said contract sum.

The work is to be carried out in strict accordance with the several contract exhibits relating to this Contract, and to be completed within twenty-five weeks from this date.

The security required on this Contract is a fixed deposit receipt in favour of the Secretary for Public Works, for the sum of two hundred and fifteen pounds.

I have to refer you to the Engineer-in-Chief for Railway Construction for further information, and to request that you will call upon the Officer-in-charge of Bonds and Contracts at this office, for the purpose of executing the necessary documents for the due observance of your Contract.

This letter is to be read in lieu of my letter of date 29th August last, which said letter is to be delivered up for cancellation, as mutually agreed.

I am, &c.,

ROBT. HICKSON,
Under Secretary and Commissioner for Roads.

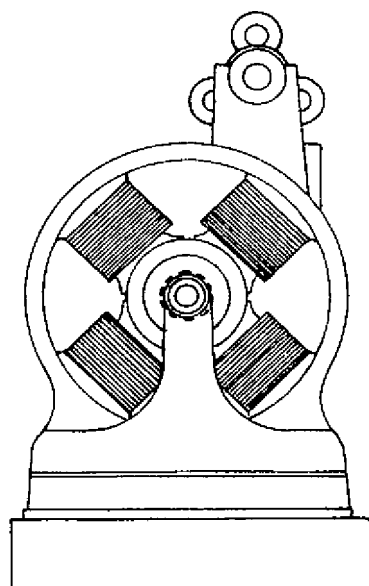
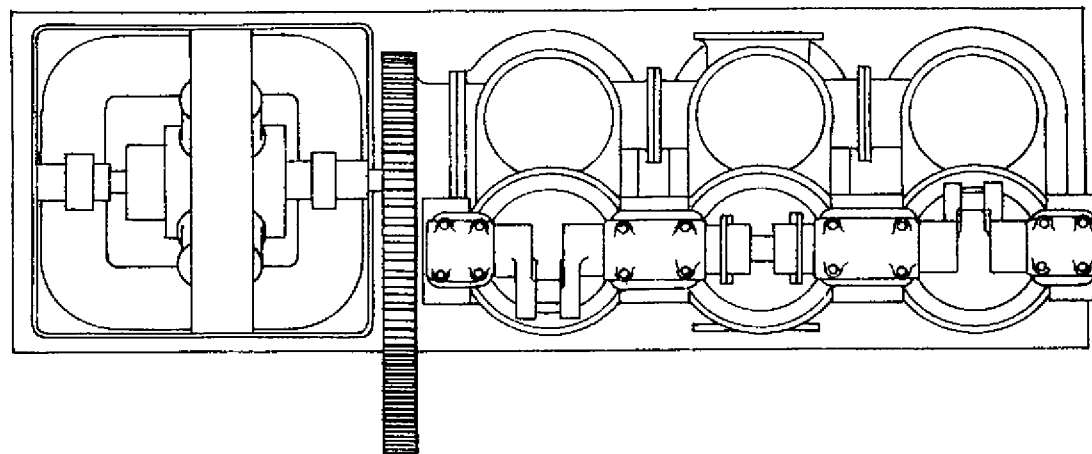
This is the copy Letter of Acceptance marked "G," referred to in our annexed agreement with Her Majesty the Queen, dated the thirty-first day of October, A.D. 1898.

Witness,—

GEO. CHAPMAN,
JAMES L. BOLGER,
Public Works Department, Melbourne.

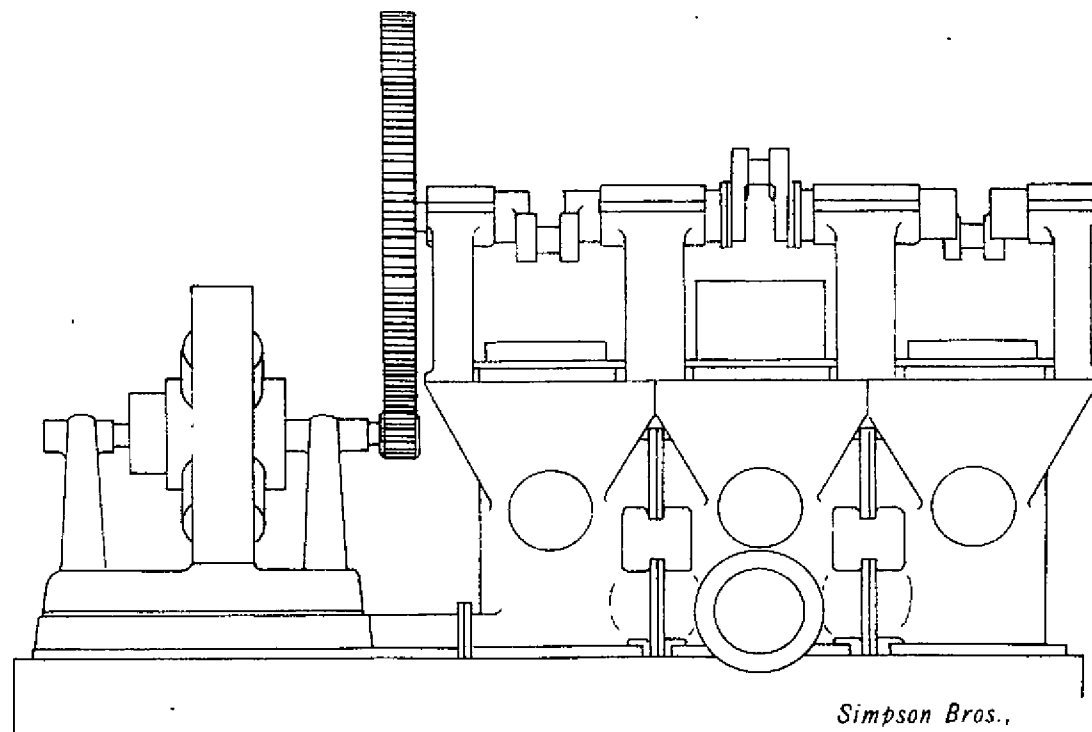
R. W. FINLAYSON.
H. SHAW SMITH.
J. O. SMITH.

*Circulating Pump,
With Gun-metal Water Ends.*

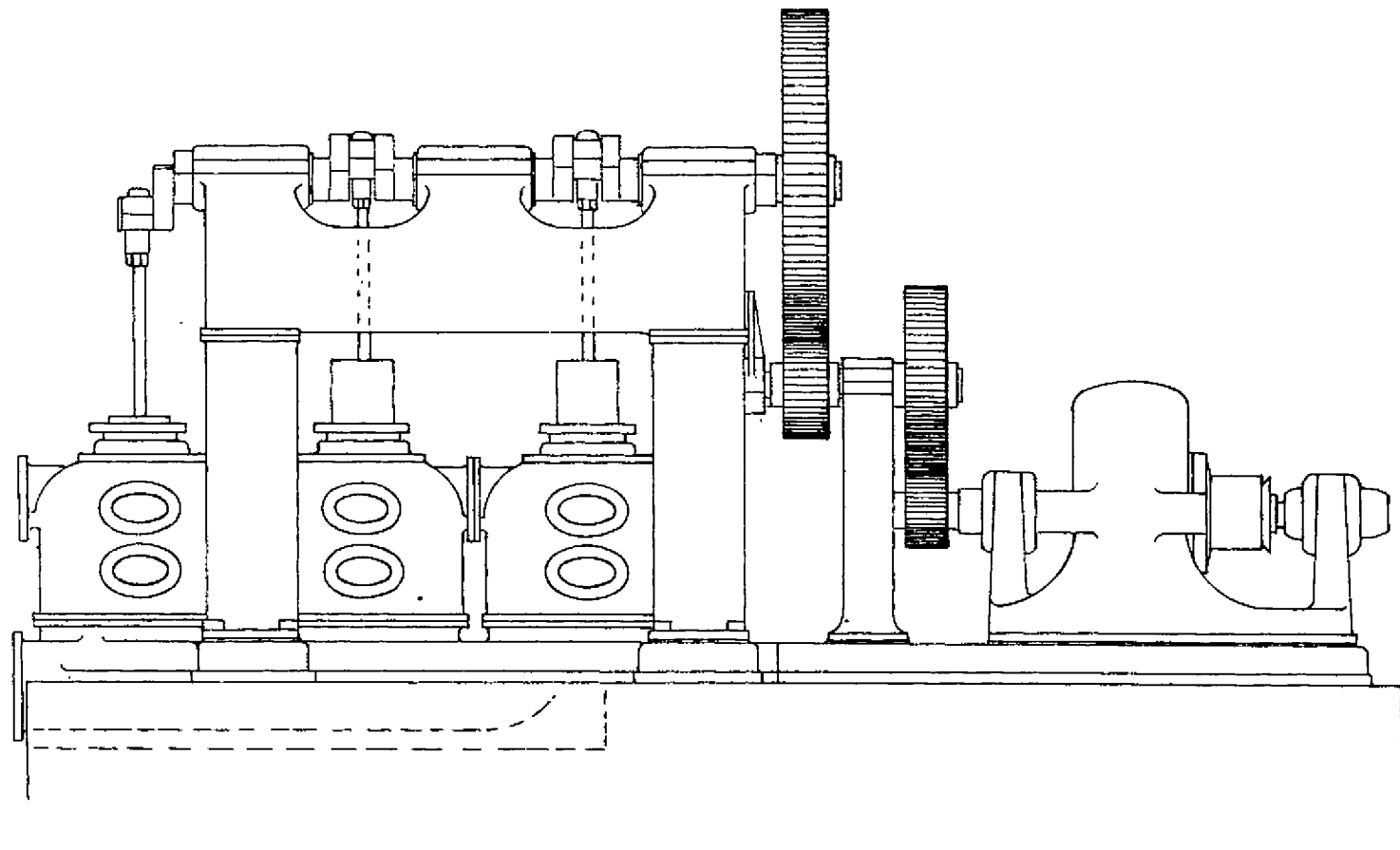
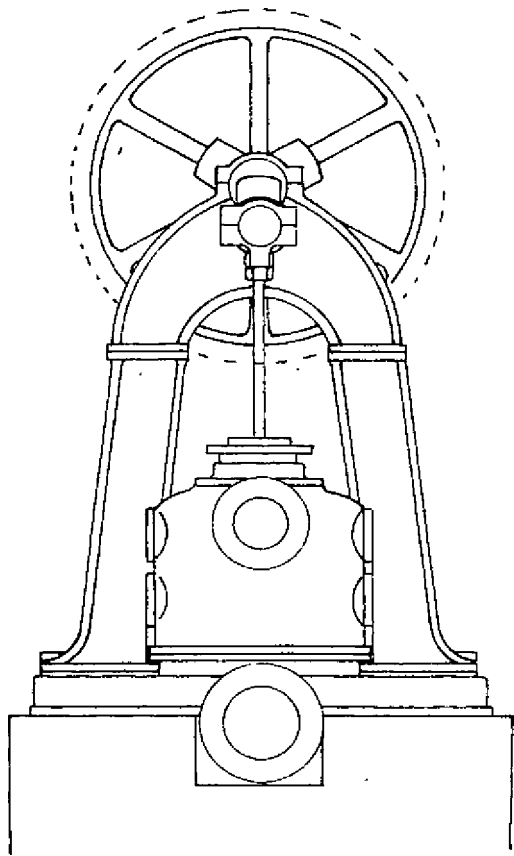


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189—



*Simpson Bros.,
32-34, Clarence Street,
818198. Sydney.*



Brass-fitted Feed Pump.

*Simpson Bros.,
32-34, Clarence Street,
8/8/98. Sydney.*

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

TENTH REPORT

OF THE

METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE,

From 1st July, 1897, to 30th June, 1898.

Printed under No. 18 Report from Printing Committee, 22 December, 1898.



SYDNEY: WILLIAM APPELATE GULLICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1899.

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1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY AND
SEWERAGE.

(TENTH REPORT, FROM 1ST JULY, 1897, TO 30TH JUNE, 1898.)

Printed under No. 18 Report from Printing Committee, 22 December, 1898.

14 September, 1898.

To the Honorable the Secretary for Public Works,—

Sir,

The Board of Water Supply and Sewerage have the honor to submit to you their Tenth Report, embracing the period from 1st July, 1897, to 30th June, 1898.

WATER SUPPLY.

2. The average daily consumption of water per head of estimated population supplied, was 42 gallons, as against 42·2 gallons during the year 1896-7. The average daily supply was 18,283,000 gallons, and the estimated population supplied 434,810.

3. During the year 2,559 houses were connected to the water supply, making a total at present supplied of 89,749 houses. The total number of properties, including vacant land, liable for water rates is 112,086.

4. The work of extending the benefits of a proper and permanent water supply to new districts in the outlying suburbs has been vigorously carried on. The total length of trunk and reticulation mains, of sizes varying from 42 inches to 3 inches in diameter, laid was 60·6 miles. In addition to the above, over 18 miles of water-mains were cleaned, and the hydrants in connection with the same overhauled. One hundred and forty-three screw-down, and 997 ball hydrants were fixed. The total length of water-mains, exclusive of trunk mains, now under the Board's control, is 967 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles, with 1,858 screw-down, and 18,740 ball hydrants.

5. With a view to preserving the purity of the water supplied to the citizens, a considerable amount of attention has been given to the settlements scattered over the catchment area.

Formerly the duty of visiting and inspecting the holdings on this area was entrusted to one officer, but it became apparent that the work could not be satisfactorily carried out by one man, owing to the extent of country to be traversed, embracing an area of nearly 500 square miles. A second ranger was, therefore, appointed, which has enabled every holding to be visited at least once a month, at uncertain intervals, to watch generally over the interests of the Board, and the results have been eminently satisfactory.

6. The Board regret to have to report that the masonry weir thrown across the Cataract River, at Broughton Pass, was, on 14th February last, swept away by floods. Owing to the abnormal rainfall, the river rose to a height of 16 feet over the crest of the weir, or 4 feet higher than any flood since the construction of the works. The disaster is attributed by the engineer to the battering action of the timber and boulders brought down by the flood-waters. No interruption whatever to the supply occurred, and repairs as detailed in the report of the Engineer attached hereto, promptly effected.

It is satisfactory to know that a weir of similar design, but constructed of concrete, thrown across the Nepean River at the Pheasant's Nest, was in no way affected, although the flood-waters in this stream rose to a height of 64 feet over the top of the weir.

7. The canal, as well as the various tunnels, aqueducts, &c., have been maintained in a satisfactory condition. Certain portions of the canal in embankment which proved defective, have been strengthened and relined with concrete. It is the intention of the Board to deal in this way each year with other portions of the canal, until the whole has been so treated, when it is anticipated that the annual cost of maintenance will be very materially reduced.

8. For the better working of the canal line it was found necessary to duplicate the telephone line, and this work is now almost completed.

9. The puddle wall of the bank, and also the by-wash of the Prospect Reservoir, have been raised sufficiently to permit of the depth of water stored in the reservoir being increased by 1 ft. 6 in., representing an additional quantity of water impounded of over 700,000,000 gallons.

10. The canal between the Prospect Reservoir and the Pipe Head Basin has been emptied and thoroughly cleaned out, and the 72-inch diameter pipes between the latter place and Pott's Hill Reservoir have been covered with a cement wash, and the bands painted.

11. The Pott's Hill Balance Reservoir and the Screening Chamber are in an efficient condition.

12. No fractures or bursts of any consequence have occurred on either the trunk or reticulation mains.

13. Improvements in the existing supplies at the following places have been affected:—Leichhardt, Balmain, Rookwood, Granville, Five Dock, North Sydney, Mosman, Neutral Bay, Enfield, Hurstville, &c.

14. The number of water-meters fixed during the year was 967, 267 were removed, the net increase being 700. The total number now fixed is 7,544.

838 meters of various sizes were issued out on hire, and 50 were sold outright. The total number issued on the hire system since April, 1894, is 3,304, of which 2,788 are still in operation.

15. 61,227 water fittings of various kinds were tested at the Board's shops at the Crown-street Reservoir, of which 56,080 were passed and stamped, 5,028 returned defective, and 119 condemned.

16. The various pumping plants at Crown-street, Ryde, Chatswood, Carlton, and Richmond are reported by the Engineer to be working satisfactorily.

17. The cost of pumping 1,000 gallons 100 feet high, as compared with former years, was as follows :—

	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895-6.	1896-7.	1897-8.
Crown-street	d. ·75	d. ·70	d. ·48	d. ·32	d. ·35	d. ·347	d. ·345	d. ·387
Ryde	·324	·312	·422
Chatswood	1·025	·805
Carlton	·984	1·149
Richmond	1·452	1·788

The Engineer, in his report, explains the reason of this increase.

The quantity of water pumped was 3,260,364,989 gallons, being an increase of 171,596,816 gallons over the quantity lifted during the previous year, and representing very nearly 50 per cent. of the total discharge from Prospect.

18. The service reservoirs and tanks have been cleaned and are in good condition. The new steel tank at Wahroonga, of a capacity of 1,000,000 gallons, referred to in last Report as in course of construction, has been completed.

19. The Board note with pleasure the approaching completion of the Centennial Park Reservoir, which will enable them during the coming summer to efficiently deal with the ever-increasing demand for high-level water in the city and higher portions of various suburbs. The rising and delivery mains have been laid by this Board and are ready for use.

20. In consequence of the Amending Bill drafted some time ago, which contains, among other things, provision to extend the jurisdiction of the Board outside the county of Cumberland, not yet having been passed into law, the Board are still unable to comply with the repeated requests of the Camden Municipal Council to afford the residents a supply of water from the canal at Kenny Hill.

The success of the Richmond scheme is also dependent upon the passing of this measure, and quite recently a request made by the Windsor Borough Council for the Richmond mains to be extended to their town has had to be refused from a like cause.

The Board, therefore, trust the Minister will see his way to introduce this Bill to the Assembly at the earliest possible date.

21. The works in connection with the supply to the following country towns are giving satisfaction in every respect:—Liverpool, Campbelltown, Smithfield, and Richmond.

At the town of Liverpool a number of dead-ends of water-mains have been coupled up, thus improving the circulation, while at the local reservoir the orifice of the outlet pipe has been covered with a fine screen to prevent the entrance of foreign bodies.

22. Portions of the old Botany Water Reserve, not now required for water-supply purposes, have been leased for trade and agistment purposes, resulting in a very substantial increase in the annual revenue of the Board.

23. The tabulated results of a monthly analysis of samples of water from various points, by Mr. William M. Hamlet, Analyst to the Board of Health, is attached hereto, showing, notwithstanding numerous complaints which have appeared from time to time in the daily papers, that the water still continues to maintain its reputation for purity and excellence.

SEWERAGE.

24. During the year 10·29 miles of sewers were transferred from the Public Works Department to the control of the Board, 3·354 miles were taken over from local Municipal Councils, and 50·85 miles of reticulation sewers were constructed by the Board. The total length of sewers now under the jurisdiction of the Board is 320·254 miles. In addition to these 2·03 miles of storm-water ducts were handed over from the Government, and 1·52 miles constructed by the Board. The total length of storm-water channels now maintained by the Board is 20·591 miles.

25. The number of houses connected to the sewers during the year was, in the city, 1,147, and suburbs, 2,685, making a total of 51,425, representing a population of about 257,125 persons.

Although this record exceeds that of any previous year, it is anticipated, now that a portion of the Western Suburbs Scheme, as well as the North Sydney and Double Bay Systems, have been completed, that there will be still greater activity in the coming year in connection with house-drainage work.

26. The whole of the main and reticulation sewers and works connected therewith, have been maintained in a very satisfactory condition. A few cases of flooding of premises during heavy rainstorms occurred, but these have now been fitted with reflux traps, and measures taken to avoid a repetition of the evil.

27. The total quantity of silt removed from the sewers was 2,568 tons, 1,450 tons being taken from the sewers of the old system, 665 tons from Bondi, and 453 tons from Botany. This result is regarded as satisfactory.

The quantity of sand lifted from the various storm-water channels was—Metropolitan area, 2,300 loads; suburban area, 2,430 loads. The necessity for this work

work considerably increases the cost of maintaining these ducts, and an experiment has been tried of constructing automatic flushing stations at different points, which have so far worked efficiently.

28. The work of repairing the old city sewers, referred to in last year's Report, has been completed ; as the cost is chargeable to maintenance, a portion of the work was carried out each year since 1891, and the Engineer reports all of the main branches to be now in good condition, and likely to last for many years.

29. The plant at the low-level ejector station at Alexandria, which is the first installation of its kind in connection with the Metropolitan Sewerage System, has worked efficiently and economically as regards consumption of coal.

30. The sludge removed from the chambers of the outlet house at Cook's River amounted to 2,005 cubic yards, as against 1,975 cubic yards during the previous year. The building, machinery, &c., at this station are in good order.

31. The average daily flow of sewage on to the farm at Cook's River, was 2,675,000 gallons, as against 2,361,000 during the preceding year.

Thirty-five acres of additional filtering area have been provided, and the main carrier and railway extended to the same.

The sludge has been disposed of without difficulty on the cultivation area, and no nuisance created. The crops taken from this area have been satisfactory, notwithstanding the destruction wrought by a severe southerly gale and storm, which passed over the district in February last. The crops are eagerly sought after, and are as a rule sold as they stand at lucrative prices per acre. The soil of the farm consists of hungry sea-sand, and although no doubt most suitable for the disposal of sewage, which after all is the main consideration, as a crop-yielder is not all that could be desired, yet the Board hope, now that the farm is recovering from the disastrous effects of the experiment of leasing, to in a short time obtain from it a very fair revenue to set against the cost of its maintenance.

Stock rearing, principally pigs, and agistment have proved very profitable, and the Board intend to still further extend their operations in this direction.

The total revenue from all sources was £199 2s. 3d., as compared with £105 10s. 3d. during the previous year.

The area at the Rockdale end, which has been acquired by the Government as a Sewage Farm for the Western Suburbs, has lately been handed over to the Board, along with the outlet works, and already a large amount of work, consisting of fencing, under-draining, erection of break-winds, &c., has been carried out. On the advice of Mr. Maiden, F.L.S., Director of Botanic Garden, about 2,000 trees of various kinds have been planted, the whole of which were kindly supplied by Mr. Maiden from the Government Nurseries. The Board intend to make this tree-planting a feature on the farms, and will set apart a small sum annually for the purpose.

32. Samples of the effluent water from the Sewage Farm have been analysed by Mr. W. M. Hamlet, by permission of the Board of Health, and his report, which is attached, shows the result of the filtration to be all that can be reasonably expected.

33. The total number of premises connected to the sewers by the Board was 195, of these 91 were dealt with under the compulsory clauses of the Act, and 104 under the deferred-payment system. The average cost per house was £9 12s. This latter system is working well, and the privilege is now being availed of by a large number of small property-owners in the Western Suburbs and North Sydney districts, which are about to be dealt with.

34. The difficulty of dealing with the evil of defective city drainage, referred to in last Report, still continues, owing to the delay in passing the Amending Bill.

35. The public appear to fully appreciate and take advantage of the system inaugurated by the Board of granting to owners of property, certificates that the licensed drainers have carried out their work in accordance with the By-laws and Regulations, no fewer than 7,275 of these documents having been issued.

36. Although strong opposition was evinced in some quarters to the erection on houses, &c., of ventilating-shafts from the public sewers, and all manner of ills prognosticated as a consequence of their erection, the complaints as to bad smells from the sewers in districts where the ventilation system has been completed, have been practically nil; and sickness due to preventable diseases, among the residents of such localities, instead of increasing, has been, as shown by the report of the Medical Officer, very materially reduced. The total length of sewers now ventilated is 270 miles, and the metal shafts erected 124,201 lineal feet.

FINANCIAL.

WATER SUPPLY.

37. The following table shows the working of the Water Branch:—

Year.	Revenue.	Working Expenses.	Capital Cost.	Capital Cost, excluding item City Council's Water Fund.	Percentage of Working Expenses to Revenue.	Percentage of Working Expenses to Capital Cost.	Percentage of Revenue on Capital Cost.	Interest on Capital Cost after Paying Expenses.
	£	£	£	£				
1888	125,486	19,205*	3,004,557	2,623,837	20·40	0·97	4·78	3·81
1889	138,923	36,568	3,088,068	2,707,500	26·32	1·35	5·13	3·78
1890	145,990	34,788	3,189,080	2,808,412	23·82	1·23	5·19	3·96
1891	165,831	38,291	3,306,649	2,925,987	23·09	1·30	5·66	4·36
1892	155,886	45,078	3,394,581	3,013,919	28·91	1·49	5·17	3·68
1893	157,426	37,141	3,409,731	3,029,059	23·59	1·22	5·19	3·97
1894	161,167	39,274	3,440,614	3,059,957	24·36	1·21	5·26	4·05
1895 for six months.	85,364	19,693	4,078,979	3,698,323	23·06	1·06	4·60	3·54
1895-6	174,357	37,495	4,154,261	3,776,879	21·50	0·99	4·61	3·62
1896-7	175,984	40,821	4,244,550	3,867,168	23·19	1·05	4·55	3·50
1897-8	178,881	45,220	4,327,543	3,950,161	25·27	1·14	4·52	3·38

* For nine months only.

38. There is an increase in the total revenue of £2,897, but the revenue from assessments is £900 less than the previous year.

In last year's Report it was shown that notwithstanding the fact that 55½ miles of new mains had been laid the revenue from assessments had been reduced by £5,364, which was attributed to the decreased assessments of the various councils, on which the Board's rates are based. It is to be regretted that this shrinkage in values still continues. It was confidently believed last year that the values had reached bed-rock, and it was anticipated that there would this year have been experienced an upward tendency, and any new mains laid result in a substantial increase in the revenue; but this desire has not been realised, as, although over 60 miles of new mains have been laid, opening up districts not previously reticulated, the result is, as already stated, £900 on the wrong side.

Another cause which contributed to this disappointing result was the writing back of the rates, in accordance with the decision of the Privy Council, on land situated more than 150 feet from water-mains, which land it has previously been the custom to charge. The amount involved was £2,496.

39. It is satisfactory, however, to note that the meter revenue has not only maintained the lead of £2,015 recorded in last Report, but has been increased still further during the year just ended by £3,165. Of course, this cannot be set down altogether to increased consumption, but is partly due to the fact that the assessed rates having been reduced, the value of excess consumption over assessments is greater.

40. There is an increase of £332 in the revenue from water used for building purposes, which is a healthy sign, also in the special, stock, and garden fees.

41. The working expenses have increased by £4,399, due principally to the extra cost of maintaining the additional mileage of water-mains, rebuilding the weir at Cataract River, cleaning and fettling and restoring, almost as good as new, old water pipes taken up out of ground after many years service, and also to cost of extra pumping on account of increased consumption of high-level water.

The expenses of management are only £159 in excess of the previous year.

42. The capital cost has been increased by £82,993, being the value of the new works constructed during the year.

43. The revenue was £178,881 and the working expenses, £45,220, or 25·27 per cent. of the gross revenue, leaving a net revenue of £133,661, or a return of 3·38 per cent. upon the capital cost.

44. The towns of Campbelltown and Liverpool are supplied direct from the main canal above the Prospect Storage Reservoir. For the supply of the former place, a penstock has been built in the canal for the purpose of conserving sufficient water for requirements in the event of the supply to Prospect being shut off for any purpose, while for the Liverpool supply a small service reservoir has been constructed adjacent to the canal. These towns are debited with an annual instalment sufficient to pay off in 100 years with interest the actual cost of all local works; and with expenses of maintenance and management they are also charged at the rate of 3d. per 1,000 gallons as their contribution towards the cost of the main works above their off-take for the water supplied calculated at the rate of 32 gallons per head of the estimated population, per day.

45. The following tables are worked out on this basis:—

CAMPBELLTOWN WATER SUPPLY.

Year.	—	Annual Instalment required to pay off Cost of Reticulation and Interest thereon in 100 years.	Maintenance (including proportion of Head Office expenses)	Charge for Water supplied from Canal, 32 gallons per head per day at 3d. per 1,000 gals.	Total Charges.	Revenue.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1889	Reticulation, £2,175 } Population supplied with water, 144 }	78 13 0	129 8 0	21 0 6	229 1 6	128 18 0
1890	Reticulation, £4,353 } Population supplied with water, 561 }	157 8 1	222 17 0	81 18 1	462 3 2	345 16 0
1891	Reticulation, £4,433 } Population supplied with water, 686 }	160 5 11	234 17 0	100 3 1	495 6 0	408 15 0
1892	Reticulation, £4,433 } Population supplied with water, 748 }	160 5 11	222 0 6	109 10 1	491 16 6	357 1 1
1893	Reticulation, £4,454 } Population supplied with water, 820 }	161 1 1	168 2 9	119 14 4	448 18 2	401 14 7
1894	Reticulation, £4,457 } Population supplied with water, 844 }	161 3 3	171 10 4	123 4 5	455 18 0	398 8 4
1895 (six months.)	Reticulation, £4,457 } Population supplied with water, 853 }	80 11 7	79 1 8	62 5 5	221 18 8	191 7 2
1895-6	Reticulation, £4,502 } Population supplied with water, 877 }	162 14 4	150 2 3	128 7 10	441 4 5	383 15 0
1896-7	Reticulation, £4,741 } Population supplied with water, 901 }	171 8 8	175 4 6	131 10 11	478 4 1	386 17 11
1897-8	Reticulation, £4,741 } Population supplied with water, 926 }	171 8 8	176 2 4	135 3 11	482 14 11	400 8 7

LIVERPOOL WATER SUPPLY.

Year.	—	Annual Instalment required to pay off Cost of Reticulation and Interest thereon in 100 years.	Maintenance (including proportion of Head Office Expenses).	Charges for Water supplied from Canal, 32 gallons per head per day at 3d. per 1,000 gals.	Total Charges.	Revenue.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1891	Cost of Reticulation, £11,885 } Population supplied with water, 1,244 }	429 15 2	134 9 8	181 12 5	745 17 3	236 18 3
1892	Reticulation, £12,773 } Population supplied with water, 1,527 }	461 17 5	853 6 5	223 11 0	1,538 14 10	1,004 4 4
1893	Reticulation, £12,997 } Population supplied with water, 1,661 }	469 19 5	312 15 0	242 10 1	1,025 4 6	956 15 3
1894	Reticulation, £13,120 } Population supplied with water, 1,857 }	474 8 4	332 14 3	271 2 5	1,078 6 0	947 8 0
1895 (six months.)	Reticulation, £13,274 } Population supplied with water, 1,923 }	240 0 1	157 16 1	140 7 7	538 3 9	473 14 3
1895-6	Reticulation, £13,258 } Population supplied with water, 2,035 }	479 2 1	365 11 5	297 18 4	1,142 11 10	983 10 10
1896-7	Reticulation, £13,264 } Population supplied with water, 2,111 }	479 12 6	369 16 2	308 4 1	1,157 10 9	906 2 7
1897-8	Reticulation, £13,543 } Population supplied with water, 2,137 }	480 14 3	364 1 8	312 0 0	1,165 15 11	924 8 9

46. The following is the table in connection with the Richmond Water Supply, the cost of which is not charged against the Board, the source being altogether distinct from that of the Metropolitan Supply, who are simply managing the scheme on behalf and at the request of the Minister. The source of this supply is outside the County of Cumberland, and consequently beyond the jurisdiction of the

the Board; the properties not actually supplied cannot be charged, nor can they be compelled to connect, and until the amending Bill, which contains a provision to set this matter right, has been passed into law, the financial results must continue to be unsatisfactory.

RICHMOND WATER SUPPLY.

(Date of Transfer to Board, 26th May, 1893.)

Year.	Capital Cost.	Annual Instalment required to pay off Cost of Works and Interest in 100 years.	Maintenance (including proportion of Head Office Expenses).	Total Charges.	Revenue.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1893	12,340 0 0	446 4 3	314 16 1	761 0 4	399 15 3
1894	12,340 0 0	446 4 3	638 7 10	1,084 12 1	438 18 6
1895	12,352 2 6	223 6 6	178 6 2	401 12 8	337 3 2
(for six months)					
1895-6	12,480 7 0	451 5 9	529 10 1	980 15 10	547 11 11
1896-7	12,637 7 4	456 19 3	383 9 0	840 8 3	658 5 7
1897-8	12,658 11 2	457 14 7	417 13 5	875 8 0	676 19 7

SEWERAGE.

47. The following table shows the working of the Sewerage Branch :—

Year.	Revenue.	Working Expenses.	Capital Cost.	Capital Cost, exclusive of items paid from Revenue.	Percentage of Working Expenses to Revenue.	Percentage of Working Expenses to Capital Cost.	Percentage of Revenue on Capital Cost.	Interest on Capital Cost after paying Expenses.
	£	£	£	£				
1890	81,800	22,249	1,281,045	1,177,614	27.19	1.88	6.94	5.06
1891	81,302	25,411	1,447,287	1,343,856	31.25	1.89	6.05	4.16
1892	87,927	27,305	1,605,948	1,503,517	31.05	1.81	5.84	4.03
1893	93,661	27,092	1,691,462	1,588,031	28.92	1.70	5.89	4.19
1894	93,134	28,053	1,745,120	1,641,689	30.12	1.70	5.67	3.97
1895	43,110	14,250	1,831,611	1,728,180	33.05	1.64	4.98	3.34
(six months)								
1895-6	85,486	30,304	1,892,256	1,788,825	35.44	1.69	4.78	3.09
1896-7	87,652	29,680	2,018,120	1,914,689	33.86	1.55	4.57	3.02
1897-8	89,688	30,564	2,116,306	2,012,875	34.07	1.51	4.45	2.93

48. The Sewerage revenue has been increased by the sum of £2,036. Seeing that during the last two years there has been such activity displayed in extending the benefits of the sewerage system to new districts, it was only reasonable to expect that the increase in the revenue would have been much greater, but here again the reduction in the Municipal assessments has affected, detrimentally, the result.

49. Notwithstanding the increased mileage of sewers to be maintained, and the additional expenditure on the Rockdale Sewage Farm, lately transferred, the working expenses are only £884 more than the year ended June, 1897.

It is gratifying to note that, owing to the rigid economics practised by the Board, the expenses of management are £5 less than the previous year.

50. The capital cost has been increased by the sum of £98,186, being the value of new sewers and storm-water ducts transferred by the Sewerage Construction Branch, and constructed by the Board.

51. The revenue was £89,688, and the working expenses £30,564, or 34·07 per cent. of the gross revenue, leaving a net revenue of £59,124 or a return of 2·93 per cent. on the capital cost.

WATER AND SEWERAGE.

52. The following table shows the working of the two Branches taken together:—

Year.	Revenue.	Working Expenses.	Capital Cost.	Capital Cost, exclusive of Items on which Interest has not to be paid.	Percentage of Working Expenses to Revenue.	Percentage of Working Expenses to Capital Cost.	Percentage of Revenue on Capital Cost.	Interest on Capital Cost after paying Expenses.
	£	£	£					
1890	227,790	57,037	4,470,125	3,986,026	25·08	1·43	5·71	4·28
1891	247,133	63,702	4,783,936	4,269,843	25·77	1·49	5·78	4·29
1892	243,813	72,383	5,001,529	4,517,436	29·68	1·60	5·39	3·79
1893	251,087	64,233	5,101,183	4,617,090	25·58	1·39	5·43	4·04
1894	254,301	67,327	5,185,734	4,701,646	26·47	1·43	5·40	3·97
1895 (6 months).	128,474	33,943	5,910,590	5,426,503	26·42	1·24	4·72	3·48
1895-6	259,843	67,799	6,046,517	5,565,704	26·09	1·21	4·67	3·46
1896-7	263,637	70,502	6,262,670	5,781,857	26·74	1·21	4·56	3·34
1897-8	268,569	75,784	6,443,849	5,963,036	28·21	1·27	4·50	3·23

53. The capital cost, as far as it is known by the Board, of the combined water and sewerage schemes on 30th June, 1898, amounted to £6,443,849; deducting therefrom as in former years (which practice it is not considered advisable to depart from, until the true debt as provided for in the draft Amending Bill, now in the hands of the Minister, has been definitely ascertained) what is known as the City Council Water Fund, and the cost of certain sewerage works which were paid for from revenue, both of which items are consequently not carrying interest, leaves £5,963,036 as the amount upon which interest has to be paid.

54. The total revenue was £268,569, and the working expenses of both Branches £75,784, or 28·21 per cent. of the gross revenue, leaving a net revenue of £192,785, or a return of 3·23 per cent. on the capital cost.

55. The amount required to pay interest, calculated at rates varying from 6 per cent. to 4 per cent. on the Municipal debentures taken over by the Board, and 3·789 per cent. on moneys provided out of Government loans raised for general purposes, is £222,096 9s. 2d., to which must be added £4,765 15s. 11d. for depreciation in the value of machinery, working plant, buildings, &c., and £75,784 15s. 8d. working expenses, making the total expenses of the Board £302,647 0s. 9d., whilst the revenue actually receivable was £268,569 14s., but to this latter sum must be added

£20,000,

£20,000, representing the value of water which the Board are required by the Act to supply free of charge to public hospitals, charitable institutions, public parks and gardens, and for street washing and watering, gutter-flushing, &c. The gross earnings of the Board were, therefore, £288,569 14s., leaving a net deficiency on the year's transactions of £14,077 6s. 9d.

56. As hereinbefore pointed out, the deficiency is due entirely to the shrinkage in the Municipal valuations, which unfortunately is still taking place, but to a much less extent than hitherto.

This deficiency is after all a matter of very small concern when it is remembered that the Board is not a dividend-paying institution, but a body engaged upon a work of a national character, viz., the reduction of the death-rate of the community and the improvement of the health of the Metropolis generally, which work, although carried out ostensibly for the benefit of dwellers in the city and suburbs, is an advantage also to residents of the Colony as a whole.

57. The North Sydney and portion of the Western Suburbs Sewerage Systems having been transferred to the control of the Board, the premises liable thereto will be charged rates from 1st July, 1898.

The Board have given very careful consideration to the question as to whether these systems should be treated along with the original metropolitan system as one scheme, and one general rate struck over the whole area, or be dealt with as entirely separate and distinct schemes, and a special rate struck to meet the requirements of each, and after very mature deliberation have decided on the latter course.

The principal reasons which impelled the Board to this decision are that the works were asked for by the representatives of these districts, and they then expressed the willingness of the residents to pay the expenses in connection with the same; the works were estimated for, and reported upon as separate schemes, and when the Western Suburbs Sewerage Scheme was approved by the Public Works Committee in 1889, it was clearly understood that the liabilities attaching to the scheme would have to be borne entirely by the Western Suburbs Districts, the following extracts from the Committee's Report of 27th August, 1889, being most emphatic and convincing on this point:—

“It has been necessary for them to take evidence to a large extent on the entire scheme, because ultimately the entire scheme will have to be carried out, and on the scheme as a whole must be calculated the sewerage-rate which the residents of the Western Suburbs will eventually have to pay.

“The money required for the proposed works will have to be obtained by loan, and to that extent the public indebtedness of the Colony will be increased. But the interest, and within a fixed period the principal, will be paid by the residents of the Western Suburbs; the general public will not be called upon to contribute in any degree.

“The sewerage rate chargeable upon the cost of the entire scheme when completed would be, under the existing Act, 9½d., under the suggested amendment of the Act, at 4 per cent. interest, 7d., and with the interest at 3½ per cent., 6½d. The sewerage-rate upon the cost of the works immediately before the Committee, £830,304, would be, under the existing Act, 6.68d., and under the extended period for repayment of the loan 5.12d., but as this deals with only a portion of the entire
scheme,

scheme, and the entire scheme must eventually be carried out, it is advisable that the people of the Western Suburbs should understand what they ultimately will be called upon to pay, and that, as already stated, will be 7d. or 6½d. This rate will provide interest, repayment, and working expenses."

The reports of the Public Works Committee were adopted by the Parliament, and the necessary funds appropriated by a special Act in each case.

It has been estimated that to charge one general rate over all the districts would necessitate raising the charge on the city and other districts at present sewered from 7d. in the £, to 10¾d. in the £., which would mean that the property-owners in the city of Sydney would be charged a rate of 3¾d., in the £, in order to provide a sewerage-system for (say) Strathfield or Burwood. This surely could not be considered by any stretch of imagination an equitable arrangement.

A careful calculation has been made, and it has been found necessary to strike the maximum rate of 1s. in the £ on all premises liable to sewers draining into the main outfalls at Arncliffe and North Sydney; and even this rate will be insufficient to meet the interest on the outlay, and working expenses.

The exact rate required cannot be ascertained until the whole of the works are completed and handed over. In the amending Bill, now in draft, provision is made for rating up to 8 per cent. on the assessments.

When the reports on these schemes were first submitted it was estimated by the engineer who designed them, that a rate of 7d. in the £ would be amply sufficient, but it was then anticipated that the annual valuation of assessable properties in the Western Suburbs, which in 1887 was £1,460,000, would in 1889 be £2,000,000, in 1894 £2,200,000, and on the completion of the scheme £3,300,000. But this rather over-sanguine estimate of the probable development and increase in the population of these suburbs has unfortunately not been by any means realised, as it is found the actual valuations, owing to the shrinkage in property-values that has taken place in recent years, which in 1889 were £1,656,842, have fallen to £1,478,595 for the current year.

This then is the explanation of the high rate which it is necessary to charge, but, after all, only the same amount of revenue will be collected, as instead of paying a low rate on a high assessment, the tax-payer will be charged a higher rate on a reduced assessment.

Furthermore, it must be remembered that immediately the sewerage rate is charged the storm-water drainage rate now levied on most of the premises will cease, as will also the fees paid to the local Municipal councils for attending to the existing pit and pan systems. Then again, it is only reasonable to suppose that on the substitution of a proper modern sanitary system of water-carriage sewerage, for the present abominations, the general health-rate of the community will be very materially raised, the value of which, if it could be reduced to figures, would far outweigh the extra burden imposed.

58. The amount of revenue outstanding to 30th June, 1898, was £38,885 19s. 1d., or £4,193 1s. 8d. less than the amount unpaid at the end of the preceding year.

This result cannot but be regarded as very encouraging, especially in view of the fact that the discount which it has been the custom for a few years past to offer as an inducement to persons to pay promptly was abolished from 1st January last.

The

The principal items of arrears are meters, £15,605, representing the value of water consumed in excess of assessments to 30th June, accounts for which were not rendered until after the commencement of the present financial year. Churches and charities, £8,828; Government rates, £1,456; house properties, £4,283; vacant land, £6,656.

59. The gross receipts paid into the Consolidated Revenue, exclusive of Richmond, amounted to £272,762 15s. 8d., as against £260,364 8s. 6d. during the previous year, or an increase of £12,398 7s. 2d.

Legal proceedings were taken for the recovery of £8,276.

60. The total amount actually expended by the Board was £253,797 7s. 11d., made up as follows:—

Chargeable to Loans	...	...	...	£181,194	0	3
Chargeable to Revenue	...	...	...	72,603	7	8

61. The number of premises which became liable for water-rates was 2,989, and sewerage and drainage rates 4,894, making the total number, including vacant land, now rated—water, 111,856, sewerage and drainage, 65,094.

Rate notices to the number of 290,013 were delivered.

62. The report of the Medical Adviser to the Board shows that the health of the officers and employes of the Board continues satisfactory, and again he brings under notice the fact that no case of disease could be traced to any defect in the sewers, or was attributable in any way to work on which the men were employed.

63. The usual quarterly reports, by Dr. T. Mailler Kendall, Medical Adviser to the Board, on the health of the metropolis, are appended hereto, together with reports on the following subjects:—

- (a) The outbreak of diphtheria during 1897,
- (b) On the incidence of diarrhoea during the period of the Board's operations, and
- (c) The sanitary value of the operations of the Board in reducing and avoiding the mortality from typhoid fever.

64. The Comptroller of Stores reports that the value of goods received by him for the services of the Board was £43,404 4s. 7d., and issued, £43,885 6s. 4d. The value of stock on hand is £16,325 1s. 9d.

The work of cleaning and restoring old cast-iron water-mains taken out of ground on replacement by new and larger ones has been vigorously carried on, 1,400 tons having been treated in this way at an average cost, including material and labour, of 11s. 2d. per ton.

65. On 22nd March last the period of office of Colonel Thomas Rowe as President expired, when he was reappointed for a further term of two years.

Mr. John Macpherson, official member, was also reappointed for a term of four years.

The seats of Aldermen Francis Buckle, city member, and David Davis, suburban member, also became vacant by effluxion of time on 22nd March; the former gentleman did not seek re-election, and his place was filled by the election of Alderman Henry Chapman.

The

The election for a suburban member resulted in the return of Alderman Davis to his old seat on the Board.

66. During the year all the works, both completed and in progress, have been visited and inspected by the Board, and, in addition, 56 meetings have been held at the Board's offices, at which the attendance was as follows:—

MEETINGS OF BOARD FROM 1ST JULY, 1897, TO 30TH JUNE, 1898.

	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May.	June		
Meetings held	4	5	5	5	4	5	4	5	5	5	4	5	56 meetings.	
													Present.	Absent.
T. Rowe, President	4	5	5	5	4	5	4	5	3	5	4	5	54	2
J. Taylor, Vice-President	4	5	5	5	4	5	3	5	5	5	4	5	55	1
G. A. Mansfield	4	5	5	4	4	5	4	5	5	5	4	5	55	1
J. Macpherson	4	5	5	5	4	5	4	5	5	4	4	5	55	1
*H. Chapman ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	4	5	15	Nil.
†F. Buckle	4	5	5	4	4	5	4	5	3	...	...	...	39	1
D. Davis	4	5	5	5	2	5	4	5	4	4	4	5	52	4
J. Ahearn	4	5	5	5	4	3	4	4	5	4	4	5	52	4

* Mr. Chapman elected 22nd March. † Mr. Buckle retired 21st March.

67. The Balance-sheets prepared by the Accountant, and reports by the Board Engineer, Mr. J. M. Smail, M. Inst. C.E., and other officers, are attached hereto.

68. As a fitting conclusion to this record of the operations of the Board during the year just ended, which in importance far outweigh the work of any previous year, the Board point with pride and satisfaction to the Report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the management of the Department.

This Commission, consisting as it did of three gentlemen so well qualified by previous experience for an inquiry of this nature, held its first meeting on 15th March, 1897, and after a most critical and searching investigation into all the details connected with the work of the Board and the duties of the staff, extending over a period of seven months, forwarded to His Excellency the Governor such a testimonial as must effectually set at rest any doubts that may possibly have existed previously as to the efficient and economical manner in which the Board were discharging the important trusts committed to their hands.

THOMAS ROWE, Col., F.R.I.B.A.,

President.

WILLIAM HOLMES,

Secretary.

Description

Description of Sydney Water-works at end of June, 1898.

THE source of supply is from the Nepean River, and two of its tributaries, the Cordeaux and Cataract Rivers. The catchment area is about 354 square miles. Across the Nepean River is built a concrete dam 10 feet high, which is designed to divert a portion of the stream only into the tunnel, and lift it to level of crown of the same. The water is then taken by a tunnel $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length to the Cataract River. Another concrete dam, similar to that on the Nepean, is thrown across this river just below the outlet of the tunnel from the Nepean, and the water is thence conveyed by a tunnel for about $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile, and then by a series of open canals and tunnels, making a total distance from the source of about $40\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Prospect Reservoir. There are $11\frac{1}{2}$ miles of tunnels and about $28\frac{1}{2}$ miles of open canal from the off-take to the Prospect Reservoir. Several gorges are crossed—some by inverted siphons, others by pipe aqueducts.

Prospect Reservoir.

This reservoir covers an area, when full, of 1,261 acres, and has a capacity of 10,812,313,000 gallons.

The dam is earth with a clay-puddle core, and is 7,300 feet long, maximum height 84 feet, with slopes of 3 to 1 on the water side, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 1, with two 15-foot berms, on the outer side, and is 30 feet wide on the top; the water-face is covered with heavy bluestone pitching. When quite full there are 6,744,343,000 gallons available by gravitation.

The water is drawn off from the reservoir through a valve-tower into pipes placed in a brick tunnel, carried outside and round the northern end of embankment, and is discharged through controlling valves into a basin (at the end of this basin is placed a gauge-weir, from which can be read the quantity passing over daily), from which it then proceeds by an open canal for 5 miles to the Pipe Head Basin, situated $16\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Sydney, and is then conveyed by a wrought-iron pipe, 6 feet in diameter, to Potts' Hill, a distance of 5 miles.

Potts' Hill Balance Reservoir.

The water is delivered here into a 100,000,000-gallon tank, built partly in excavation, partly in bank, the bottom of which is lined with hydraulic lime concrete, and the sides, which are laid to slopes of 1 to 1, are lined with dry-coursed rubble. This work is designed to tide the city over any interruption of supply from Prospect, as well as to prevent fluctuation of head of pressure.

Screening Tank and Trunk Mains.

This screening-tank is of brick, built in two concentric rings. The water is delivered into the outer ring, and passes through a series of copper-gauze screens of 840 meshes to the inch. These screens are arranged so that the orifice which they fill can be closed, and the screen taken out and scoured. From these tanks the water passes into two 48-inch cast-iron mains.

The 48-inch main first laid continues with same diameter to Lewisham, whence it bifurcates, one branch (48-inch) leading to Petersham Reservoir, the other (42-inch) to Crown-street Reservoir. The new 48-inch main was completed in 1893, and is worked alternately with the old. The two trunk mains are connected at New Cantorbury road, Petersham.

Crown-street Reservoir and Pumping-station.

Crown-street Reservoir is built of brick, and contains 3,250,000 gallons. The top-water level is 141 feet above high-water mark. At this place is situated the main pumping-plant, consisting of three compound high-duty pumping-engines. No. 1 Worthington pumping-engines are capable of raising 500,000 gallons per hour to the Paddington Reservoir, a height of 70 feet above the pumps; No. 2 Worthington pumping-engines are capable of raising 210,000 gallons per hour to Woollahra Reservoir, a height of 140 feet above the pumps, and also of raising 200,000 gallons per hour to Waverley, a height of 220 feet above pumps. Owing to the small storage capacity at Paddington and Woollahra these engines are not being worked to their greatest advantage, as they have to start and stop at short intervals. No. 3 pumping-engines, of the horizontal compound condensing rotative direct-acting type, designed and erected by Mort's Dock and Engineering Company, are capable of raising 100,000 gallons per hour to a height of 210 feet.

Four 142-h.p. Babcock and Wilcox boilers generate the requisite steam.

Paddington Reservoir.

Paddington Reservoir, top-water level of which is 214 feet above high-water mark, or 73 feet above Crown-street, is built of brick, and contains 2,000,000 gallons, and is supplied by a 36-inch cast-iron main from Crown-street pumps, and distributes the water through a 24-inch cast-iron main *via* Begg-street, and a 36-inch *via* Park-road.

Woollahra Reservoir.

Woollahra Reservoir, top-water level of which is 282 feet above high-water mark, or 141 feet above Crown-street, is built of brick, and contains 1,000,000 gallons, and is supplied by a 24-inch wrought-iron main from Crown-street, and distributes the water through a 20-inch main.

Waverley Reservoir.

Waverley Reservoir top-water level is 360 feet above high-water mark, and 78 feet above Woollahra, is built of brickwork, and contains 1,087,000 gallons. Water is distributed therefrom through two outlets of 24-inch and 15-inch diameter respectively. Supplemental tanks in Waverley Park, erected at an elevation of 20 feet above the present reservoir, now supply the upper zones of the district.

Petersham Reservoir.

This reservoir is built of brick, and contains 2,157,000 gallons. The top-water level is 166 feet above high-water mark, and receives its supply by gravitation from Potts' Hill through a 48-inch cast-iron main, which branches off the 48-inch main at Lewisham, and distributes the water through two 18-inch and one 20-inch outlets.

North

North Sydney Supply—Ryde Pumping-station, Ryde Hill Tank, and Chatswood Tanks.

North Sydney, which was supplied from Paddington by a submarine pipe up to the end of 1891, has since received its supply from Potts' Hill, the water being delivered through a cast-iron pipe partly 24-inch and partly 20-inch diameter into a balance reservoir, near the Ryde Railway Station, containing 2,116,000 gallons. Here a pair of powerful pumps raise the water through a 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch wrought-iron rising main into a 1,000,000-gallon wrought-iron tank to Ryde village, at a level of 23 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet above high-water mark, and by a continuation of the same main into a pair of each 1,500,000-gallon wrought-iron tanks at Chatswood, at an elevation of 370 feet above high-water mark.

From the first-named tank the whole of Ryde, Gladesville, and Hunter's Hill get their supplies, and a 9-inch branch was extended over the Parramatta River and Iron Cove Bridges for the supply of the heights of Balmain.

The pair of iron tanks at Chatswood afford a liberal supply to Willoughby, North Sydney, and Mosman, and the newly-reticulated district of Gordon and Hornsby, Thornleigh and Beecroft.

Gordon, Wahroongah, Hornsby, Thornleigh, and Beecroft.

This popular residential district, extending from Chatswood to Beecroft, *via* Hornsby, and adjacent to the Milson's Point Railway and Northern Railway Lines, is now supplied with water from the Board's works. Two pumping-plants—one being the old Woollahra pumps from Centennial Park and a newly-built high-duty pumping engine, by Blake, having a capacity of 30,000 gallons per hour, have been erected at Chatswood, from whence water is pumped to Wahroongah into a 40,000-gallon elevated tank, at a height of 720 feet above sea-level. The pumping-main, which is also used as a main distributory, is 10 in. in diameter, and is 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length; a further extension, also of same diameter, was laid to Hornsby. From Pierce's Corner an 8-in. steel main branches off this 10-in. pipe, and supplies Thornleigh, Beecroft, &c. About 12 miles of reticulation mains of 6-inch and 4-inch diameters have been laid along such streets in the various centres of population as are sufficiently built upon to warrant the outlay.

Campbelltown.

Campbelltown is supplied direct from the main canal by gravitation, a 6-inch pipe from the canal at 16 miles 40 chains being laid to the town, a distance of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and the reticulation consisting chiefly of 4-inch mains.

Liverpool.

Liverpool receives its supply by a 9-inch pipe from the main canal at Cecil Hills, which is extended as far as Mount Young, and thence by a 6-inch main to the town. In order to tide over any possible interruption to the flow in the canal a 4,000,000-gallon earthen reservoir has been constructed close to the canal, and is filled from the canal.

Smithfield.

The Smithfield water-works, completed in July, 1895, were designed to supply the township of Smithfield, which is situated on the Prospect Creek, about 3 miles south-east of the reservoir. The works included may be briefly summarised as under:—

An off-take on the main canal, about 3 miles below Prospect Reservoir; a circular concrete tank on the bank of said canal, having a capacity of 100,000 gallons; a 4-inch main to the township; and mains totalling about 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the same diameter laid in all streets occupied by dwellings. The works cost about £2,900, and supply a population of 300.

Rookwood, Granville, and Auburn.

Rookwood and Auburn receive their supply from an 18-inch main along Joseph-street from Potts' Hill.

Granville is supplied through a 15-inch branch from the 72-inch wrought-iron trunk main laid along Woodville-road for a distance of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and an 18-in. and 15-in. main laid along Parramatta-road from John-street, Rookwood.

Ashfield.

A part of Ashfield is too elevated to receive a supply by gravitation from Potts' Hill level; therefore the loftier parts are supplied from the Woollahra Reservoir by the Petersham trunk main, which conveys the water to a 100,000-gallon wrought-iron tank, erected on a brick circular support, at an elevation of 223 feet above high-water mark.

Hurstville, Kogarah.

The bulk of the supply to Kogarah is given by gravitation from 12-inch mains connected with the Petersham Reservoir system. The higher portions of this district are supplied with water from Penshurst, where is erected an elevated steel tank having a capacity of 1,000,000 gallons; and also a 20,000-gallon cast-iron tank, built on brick piers. The pumping-plant consists of small Blake's duplex pumps, having a capacity of 12,000 gallons per hour, and Worthington compound high-duty pumps, having a capacity of raising 30,000 gallons per hour. The water is raised to Penshurst from the Carlton pumping station.

Richmond.

In July, 1893, the Board assumed the temporary management of the Richmond water-works, which were completed in 1892, and had since then been worked locally by the Richmond Municipal council. The scheme, which is entirely unconnected with the Sydney supply system, consists of a small pumping-plant—two horizontal 6-horse power engines, coupled and geared, working two brass-lined single-barrel deep-well pumps (Tangyes), fixed 61 ft. 6 in. below floor of engine-room—erected on the left bank of the Hawkesbury River, just below the confluence of the Grose and Nepean; a circular brick service tank, 60 ft. in diameter, having a capacity of 225,000 gallons; a 6-in. supply main to Richmond, 4 miles in length; and 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles of reticulation mains, 3 in. and 4 in. diameter, within the town.

Description

Description of the Metropolitan Sewerage System.

THE Metropolitan Sewerage System, under the control of the Board of Water Supply and Sewerage, comprises the old and new systems, the former having been initiated by the old City Commissioners in 1853, and was carried out by their successors, the present City Council, which was incorporated in 1857. The City Council had control of the water and sewerage works within the city until the year 1888, when the waterworks were transferred to the Board. The transfer of the existing sewerage-works followed in 1889.

The old system comprised four main outfalls, with subsidiary sewers along the principal streets, which in turn received the reticulation sewers of the minor thoroughfares. The four main outfalls discharged the sewage of the city into the various parts of the harbour at Blackwattle Bay, Darling Harbour, Sydney Cove, and Woolloomooloo Bay, respectively. This system was designed on the principles of what is termed the "combined system." The pollution of the freshness of the harbour, by the discharge of the sewage of the city, and consequent danger to public health, led to the appointment of a Commission to inquire into the best means of diverting the sewage from the harbour and otherwise disposing of same. The new intercepting system was the outcome of the labours of the Commission. The main works were carried out by the Government, and on completion were transferred, with all other existing works, to the control of the Board by Act of Parliament. The system, which is on the lines of the partially "separate system," intercepts all sewage, which heretofore was discharged into the harbour, at a level of 40 feet above high-water mark. This is termed the gravitation zone. The sewage from the low-level area—*i.e.*, between high-water mark and 40-foot contour—will eventually be pumped into the gravitation sewers, and discharged into the ocean or into the sewage farm.

The system consists of two main outfalls, named the northern and southern respectively, the former discharging into the Pacific Ocean, at a point named "Ben Buckler," at Bondi, and the latter discharging into a sewage farm at "Webb's Grant," on the shores of Botany Bay. These works are of considerable magnitude, and have not been constructed without considerable difficulty and outlay.

Northern Outfall.

The northern system commences at "Ben Buckler," where a large chamber was constructed in the sandstone rock. From this chamber two channels bifurcate, so as to ensure a free discharge during the prevalence of either northerly, easterly, or southerly gales. From the chamber a shaft extends to the surface for ventilation and escape of air when the sea breaks into the discharge channels. The dimensions of main outfall at chamber is 8 ft. x 7 ft. 6 in., and decreases by decrements to 6 ft. 10 in. x 5 ft. 10 in. at Oxford and Liverpool Streets junction. The scheme for drainage of Double Bay Low Level is almost completed, the sewage from which will be discharged into a submain of the Bondi sewer which meets it near Harris-street, Paddington. There is a large chamber at Oxford and Liverpool Streets into which three different branches discharge, *viz.* :—The northern branch, which passes under Hyde Park to Castlereagh-street, where it bifurcates, one submain intercepting the sewage from main outfall at Macquarie Point, and the other intercepting the sewers discharging at Queen's Wharf. 2nd. The western branch, which extends along Liverpool-street to and along Kent-street to Miller's Point, intercepting the sewage which discharged into Darling Harbour. 3rd. The south-western branch, which passes under Belmore Gardens, Benevolent Asylum, and along George-street West to Carlton-street, where it bifurcates into two sub-mains, one passing through Darlington, University Grounds to Camperdown, Newtown, and Petersham, intercepting old city sewers and draining new areas; the other submain passing along George-street West by a long siphon, on account of a depression. Connected with this siphon is a scour chamber and valves for periodic cleansing. This branch extends to the Glebe and boroughs of Leichhardt and Balmain. At Foucart-street the sewer bifurcates, one branch now being constructed will drain the north-western slopes the other the south-eastern, the latter which is nearing completion has several submains discharging into it. The scheme for the drainage of the low levels on these slopes is now under construction. The whole of the sewage below the 40-foot contour line, which now flows into Johnstone's Bay, will be intercepted by this branch and discharged into the ocean. 4th. The Potts Point branch, commencing at Bourke-street, near rear of Darlinghurst Gaol, and extending along same for some distance, then passing along Victoria-street, and terminating at Challis Estate. This sewer intercepts a considerable quantity of sewage formerly discharging at Woolloomooloo Bay. 5th. Elizabeth Bay branch, which extends along western bank of Lacrozia Creek and Rushcutter's Bay, intercepting sewage formerly discharging into them. 6th. The Woollahra and Waverley branch, extending along east side of Double Bay valley, passing under Edgecliff Road, and terminating at present at Denison-street, Waverley; this sewer drains the northern watershed of Woollahra and Waverley.

The work was carried through varying formations—in some instances the stratum was indurated sandstone; in others shale, clay, and water-charged drift-sand. Concrete enters largely into the construction of the works, the lining of rock tunnels being principally bluestone concrete rendered with cement mortar. Wherever the outfall sewer crossed natural creeks or watercourses outlet and scour valves were provided. An overflow sewer discharging into Rushcutter's Bay is connected with the main outfall to take surplus water during heavy rain-storms. This sewer was carried across low-lying swampy land on arches and circular piers; the latter were constructed on the same principle as carried out in India.

Southern Outfall.

The southern main outfall commences at the inlet chamber, which is constructed on the north bank of Cook's River, near its junction with Botany Bay. The sewer is 5 ft. 6 in. in diameter, constructed of concrete, with brick lining rendered with Portland cement. In places the sewer is above the level of the adjoining land, and in others it passes through low sand-hills and swampy ground. Where natural

watercourses are passed over, concrete culverts and overflow chambers and valves are provided. The outfall sewer extends to Botany-road, where the size is decreased for a short distance to 4 ft. 6 in. x 3 ft. 6 in. Hawksley Section: From Botany-road the sewer extends along Bourke-street, through the boroughs of Waterloo, Redfern, and the City of Sydney to Nobbs-street, where the submains from different districts join. This outfall drains the southern watershed of the city and boroughs of Redfern, Waterloo, Alexandria, Macdonaldtown, and Newtown.

Inlet House.

The sewage passes from the main outfall into the straining-chambers of inlet house. The chambers are in duplicate and controlled by inlet valves, so that when one series is in use the other is being cleaned out. The sewage is strained by means of three circular screens; the mesh varies from 3 inches to 1 inch. The screens are worked by one central shaft, with gearing fixed on the platform at one end, and intercept all extraneous matter before the sewage passes into the siphon-well. From the siphon-well the sewage passes under the bed of Cook's River by a cast-iron siphon, 3 ft. 9 in. in diameter, laid in a trench and surrounded with concrete. The siphon is connected with a well in outlet house on south side of river, from which the sewage flows along a main carrier, and is distributed over the irrigation-beds and settling-tanks by valves. The valves are of simple construction, and the distribution of the sewage is easily controlled by the farm manager.

Botany and Rockdale Sewage Farms.

The Sewage Farm is situated on a neck of land called Webb's Grant, on the eastern end of which the southern outfall discharges, while the western outfall discharges on the western end. The formation is raw drift-sand, originally covered with low dense scrub.

For agricultural purposes, to be worked at a profit, the soil is useless, but as a filter for crude sewage—this being the state in which the sewage is distributed over it—it cannot be surpassed.

At the eastern end the farm is laid out on one side in irrigation-beds, at different levels, so as to enable the manager to command the whole area. On this area the sludge, which is dredged from the inlet house, is conveyed in trucks by a small locomotive to the various beds, and is used as manure. This sludge is also used as a top dressing to the newly-formed sand-banks to prevent them being demolished by wind. On the other or southern side the ground is laid out in a series of filtering-tanks, the number admitting of their being used intermittingly. To facilitate filtration some of these beds have been under-drained with satisfactory results, and at times, when circumstances admit, they are cultivated, which assists in keeping the ground clean and improves the soil as a filter. Cattle and pigs are reared on the surplus products of the farm. The pig-styes are built of concrete, and kept clean by daily washing. Cattle and horses are also taken for agistment. The daily discharge on to the eastern or Botany farm for the last year has averaged 2,680,000 gallons; this is disposed of over 71 acres of land prepared to receive same, the irrigation and filtration tanks and beds being specially formed and subdrained, the effluent water discharging above high-water mark at Botany Bay.

The western outfall, delivering on the western or Rockdale farm, has just recently come under the control of the Board, and owing to the whole system not being in full operation the flow is somewhat limited.

This outfall terminates on the farm in a screening chamber, the coarser matter being separated from the sewage which at this point is diverted on to filtering beds, of which about 75 acres have been prepared similarly to those at the Botany farm. Contracts are now being prepared for the under-drainage of the beds. The planting is being vigorously carried out, and will form a feature on both farms. The Rockdale farm is specially reserved for the disposal of sewage from the western suburbs system.

Western Suburbs.

The sewerage system for this district is now being carried out by the Government Sewerage Department under a special vote as regards the main ducts. The outfall works and the eastern branch sewer are now completed. This sewer drains portions of Marrickville, Petersham, and Leichhardt, and will also receive the sewage from low-level system which will be pumped into it at Meeks' Road pumping-station. The contract for the construction of the main sewers in connection with the latter system has been let and work commenced. The northern branch will drain parts of Leichhardt, Petersham, Ashfield, Marrickville, the first section which extends to the New Canterbury Road, Petersham, is nearing completion. The western branch will serve parts of Marrickville, Petersham, Ashfield, Canterbury, Enfield, Burwood, and Strathfield, the first and second sections are nearing completion, the latter extending to Arthur-street, Ashfield. The sewage from the whole of the above areas will discharge on a portion of the sewage farm.

North Sydney.

The Government Sewerage Branch are carrying out a scheme for the drainage of the above borough which will eventually be extended to Mosman, the sewage from the whole of this area will drain to the outfall works at Middle Harbour. The sewers for the drainage of all the area surrounding the Recreation Reserve and extending to Kirribilli and Blue's Point are completed, the submain for the drainage of Neutral Bay will shortly be commenced.

Randwick and Waverley.

The outfall sewer to serve the above boroughs will discharge into the Pacific Ocean north of Coojee Bay. The first section is now in course of construction and terminates near Perouse Road, Randwick.

Rates and Charges for Water, Sewerage, and Stormwater Drainage.

WATER RATES.

1. The following rates and charges are those which the owners and occupiers of houses, tenements, and lands shall pay in respect of water supplied by the Board, that is to say:—

For water supplied for domestic purposes otherwise than by measure.

2. (I.) In respect of lands and tenements of which the assessed annual value is £17 or under, 10s. per annum.
- (II.) In respect of lands and tenements of which the assessed annual value is over £17, a rate of 7d. for each pound sterling on the amount of the assessed annual value up to £300 inclusive; 5d. for each pound sterling on the amount of the assessed annual value in excess of £300 up to £700 inclusive; 4d. for each pound sterling on the amount of the assessed annual value in excess of £700 up to £1,000 inclusive; 3d. for each pound sterling on the amount of the assessed annual value in excess of £1,000 up to £4,000 inclusive; and 2d. for each pound sterling on the amount of the assessed annual value in excess of £4,000.

3. The following rates shall be paid in each year in respect of lands and tenements which are not supplied with water for domestic purposes, and which are not more than 60 yards distant from a main constructed by or vested in the Board, that is to say:—

- (I.) In respect of lands and tenements of which the assessed annual value is £10 or under, a rate of 1s. in the pound.
- (II.) In respect of lands and tenements of which the assessed annual value is over £10, a rate of 10s. per annum up to the assessed annual value of £17 inclusive.
- (III.) In respect of lands and tenements of which the assessed annual value is over £17, a rate of 7d. for each pound sterling on the amount of the assessed annual value.
- (IV.) In respect of lands on which no building is erected for human habitation, a rate of 4d. in the pound of the assessed value.
- (V.) The like rates as those above mentioned shall be charged on all lands and tenements not included in any valuation by the Municipal Council of the City of Sydney or Redfern, or of any Borough or Municipal District, and on all lands for the time being valued by the said Municipal Council of the City of Sydney or Redfern, or by such Borough or Municipal District, at a sum less than the true value thereof.
- (VI.) When any lands or tenements become liable to a rate, or to an increased rate, during the currency of any half-year by reason of the extension of a main or for any other reason whatsoever, then a part of such rate or increased rate, as the case may be, proportionate to the unexpired period of the current half-year, shall become due and be paid forthwith.

Supply of water by meter.—Charges for water supplied by meter.

4. The charge for water supplied by meter shall be 1s. per 1,000 gallons for all water consumed up to 20,000,000 gallons per annum, and 9d. per 1,000 gallons for all water consumed in excess of 20,000,000 gallons per annum: Provided that the minimum quantity of water to be charged for, where water is so supplied, shall be 10,000 gallons per annum. Her Majesty's ships will be supplied free of charge.

5. All charges for water supplied by meter shall, unless otherwise provided by a contract made between the Board and the person to be supplied, be paid within one month after service by the Board upon the person liable to pay such charge of a notice in writing setting forth the amount due for water so supplied, and demanding payment thereof within the period of one month aforesaid. Service of any such notice may be effected by serving the same personally on the person named therein, or by sending such notice through the post to the person named therein at his last known place of abode or business; and where the place of abode and the place of business of such person are unknown to the Board, by sending it through the post addressed to him at the lands and tenements to or in respect of which the water is supplied, or by leaving it on such lands and tenements.

For water for other than domestic purposes otherwise than by measure.

- (VI.) The charge for water supplied to gas-engines or oil-engines shall be 5s. per annum for each engine of two horse-power and under, and for every additional horse-power beyond two horse-power an additional charge of 2s. 6d. per annum for each horse-power.
- (VII.) The charge for water supplied to steam-boilers shall be £1 per annum for each steam-boiler up to three horse-power. And for every additional horse-power beyond three horse-power an additional charge of 5s. per annum for each horse-power.

(VIII.)

(viii.) The charge for water supplied for actuating ventilators or refrigerators shall be by special fee, according to the following scale, namely:—

Class A.—Passing 60 gals. per hour at 65 lb. pressure—	
1 nozzle,	£6 per annum.
2 nozzles,	£4 10s. per annum each.
3 " "	£3 10s. "
4 " "	and upwards, £3 per annum each.
Class B.—Passing 40 gals. per hour at 65 lb. pressure—	
1 nozzle,	£3 15s. per annum.
2 nozzles,	£3 per annum each.
3 " "	£2 10s. per annum each.
4 " "	and upwards, £2 per annum each.

Supply for twelve hours only in each day.

Provided, however, that the supply of water under this By-law shall be for twelve hours only in each day, and no person having such supply shall continue to use the same for more than twelve hours in any one day.

Water for trade purposes, &c.

(ix.) The charge for water supplied for purposes of the under-mentioned or other trades shall be at such rates, upon such terms, and subject to such conditions as may be agreed upon by the Board and the person requiring to be supplied, provided, however, that for any year or part thereof, the minimum charge for water supplied for the under-mentioned trades shall be that in each hereunder case set opposite the trade, viz. :—

Photography, and any like process...	... ..	5s. per annum.
Tripe-cleaning	... ..	5s. "
Tyring purposes	... ..	5s. "
Laundries	... ..	5s. "
Dyers	... ..	10s. "
Condiment-making	... ..	5s. "
Bottle-washing	... ..	5s. "
Small goods (sweets)	... ..	5s. "
Waterfalls and fountains	... ..	5s. "
Shop-fronts, by hose	... ..	5s. "
Organ motors and such like mechanisms ..	... ..	20s. "

Washing Vehicles.

(x.) The Board may supply water for the washing of vehicles with a hose, without meter, at the rate of 5s. per annum for each vehicle.

In all cases where special fees are charged the Board reserve to themselves the right of insisting upon a meter being fixed at any time, notwithstanding the fact that the special fee may have been paid. All special fees are in addition to the assessed annual rate of the premises on which such fees are charged, and are payable in advance. All premises on which water is used for other than domestic purposes, and upon which special fees are paid, shall be open for inspection by the inspectors of the Board at any reasonable hour.

2. Assessed rates shall be paid half-yearly in advance, whether a meter is used or not. In the case when a meter is used the meter account will be rendered only when it is in excess of the assessment. Cheques and Post-office orders will be received in payment of rates; but if the cheque tendered by any person as payment for rates due is dishonored, the Board may cut off his service, and proceed for the recovery of the amount by warrant for distress or otherwise. Cheques and Post-office orders must be crossed in favour of the Board.

3. The minimum charge for water, whether supplied through meter or otherwise, for domestic purposes and for purposes other than domestic, is the assessed annual rate. If the water is supplied by meter, and the meter account exceeds the assessment (calculated at the rate of 1s. per 1,000 gallons), then such excess shall be charged in addition to the assessment.

4. One meter may be allowed to supply several tenements when such tenements are occupied by one person or firm as a place of business or abode, and the meter account will be credited with the assessments of all such tenements. One service only will be allowed under these conditions, upon which the meter will be fixed, and all the water for such tenements must pass through such meter. Where peculiar circumstances entail a departure from the above, and two services are absolutely necessary, then there shall be a meter on each service pipe.

Building Charges, &c.

(xi.) The charge for water supplied for building and plastering purposes, for buildings to be used either wholly or partly as dwelling-houses, shall be at the rate of one half-penny per cubic yard on the cubical contents of each building. The Board will supply water for all other buildings either by meter or at the rate abovementioned per cubic yard on the cubical contents of each building as the Board shall determine: Provided that before any water shall be used through meter for building purposes such meter shall be submitted to the Board in each case for examination, and must pass the sensitive test; and the minimum charge in each case for water so supplied through meter shall be 10s.

(1.) The charge for water supplied for plastering rooms only shall be 2s. 6d. for each room, and for the building of wash-houses, water-closets, coppers, and chimneys only, 2s. 6d. each.

(2.) The charge for water supplied for making and mixing of concrete for foundations of wooden blocks, stone cubes, or other form of permanent roadway or pavement, shall be at the rate of £1 1s. per 1,000 square yards by superficial measurement of road surface, and for all other concrete, brickwork, or masonry, at the rate of three half-pence per cubic yard, as measured on the work.

(xii.)

- (XII.) Any person who maintains horses or cows may be supplied with water, without meter, from the domestic service for the sum of 5s. per annum for each animal, in addition to the assessed annual rate of the premises on which such animal is maintained or supplied with water.
- (XIII.) All lands or premises actually supplied with water by the Board, on which any one or more head of horses or cattle shall be kept or maintained, shall be liable to an extra rate or charge (beyond and in addition to the assessed annual rate of the premises) of 5s. per head for each head of horses or cattle kept or maintained on such lands or premises. And where such lands or premises are not actually supplied with water by the Board they shall be liable to an extra rate or charge (beyond and in addition to the assessed annual rate of the premises) of 2s. 6d. per head for each head of horses or cattle kept or maintained on such lands or premises.
- (XIV.) The Board may supply water for gardens (and for such purpose may permit a hose and stand-pipe to be used), without meter, at the rate of 10s. per annum per 1,000 square feet superficial area, or part thereof, and 2s. 6d. for every additional 250 square feet superficial area, or part thereof, in addition to the assessed annual rate of the premises to which such garden belongs or is attached.

SEWERAGE RATES.

1. The following rates and charges are those which the owners and occupiers of houses, tenements, or lands shall pay for or in respect of sewerage, or for or in respect of the liability of such houses, tenements, or lands to rates and charges for sewerage, that is to say :—

- (i.) Where the premises are of the assessed annual value of £17 or under, 10s. per annum.
 (ii.) Where the premises are above the assessed annual value of £17, a rate of 7d. for each pound sterling on the amount of the valuation.

2. The following rates shall be paid in each year in respect of vacant and unoccupied lands and tenements, on which no building is erected for human habitation, and which are not connected with any sewer or drain under the control of the Board, and which are situated within 150 feet from a sewer or drain belonging to the Board, that is to say :—

- (i.) A rate of 4d. for each pound sterling on the amount of the assessed value.

Western Suburbs Outfall Sewer, Rockdale.

The following rates and charges are those which shall be paid by the owners or occupiers of houses, tenements, or lands liable to be rated in respect of the Western Suburbs Outfall Sewer at Rockdale and reticulating sewers connected therewith, that is to say :—

A rate of 1s. for each pound sterling on the amount of the valuation of such houses, tenements, or lands.

North Sydney Sewerage Works.

The following rates and charges are those which shall be paid by the owners or occupiers of houses, tenements, or lands liable to be rated in respect of the North Sydney Sewerage Works and reticulating sewers connected therewith, that is to say :—

A rate of 1s. for each pound sterling on the amount of the valuation of such houses, tenements, or lands.

METROPOLITAN DRAINAGE BY-LAWS.

Whereas by the "Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Act Extension Act of 1894" the Board of Water Supply and Sewerage is authorised and empowered to make, alter, and repeal By-laws: Now, the Board of Water Supply and Sewerage, under and by virtue of the powers contained in the above-mentioned Act, do hereby make the By-laws following, that is to say :—

Assessment and Rates.

1. For the purposes of these By-laws the value of lands and tenements in each year shall be the value (if any) at which the same are for the time being assessed for rating purposes by the Municipal Council of the City of Sydney or the Borough or Municipal District respectively in which such lands or tenements are situated, on the 1st day of January and the 1st day of July respectively, as the case may be, in each year; and such value shall continue to be the value of such lands or tenements for the purposes aforesaid during such year.

2. The rates which are respectively set opposite to the descriptions of stormwater drains hereunder mentioned are those which shall be paid by the owners or occupiers of the lands or tenements situated within the boundaries of the drainage areas respectively proclaimed in respect of such stormwater drains, and for the purpose of assessing such rates, the valuation of such lands and tenements by the Municipal Council of the City of Sydney or the Borough or Municipal District respectively within which the same respectively are situated, shall be taken as the valuation thereof by the Board under the said Act. The minimum rate payable under these By-laws shall be in each case 1s. per annum :—

Rushcutter's Creek Drain.—A rate of 7d. for each pound sterling on the amount of the valuation of the lands or tenements.

Willoughby Falls, Neutral Bay, and Careening Cove Drains.—A rate of 7d. for each pound sterling on the amount of the valuation of the lands or tenements.

Blackwattle, Globe, and Denison Ward Drain.—A rate of 7d. for each pound sterling on the amount of the valuation of the lands or tenements.

Beattie-street, Balmain, Drain.—A rate of 2d. for each pound sterling on the amount of the valuation of such lands or tenements.

Iron Cove Creek, Ashfield, Burwood, Enfield, and Canterbury Drain.—A rate of 6d. for each pound sterling on the amount of the valuation of all lands or tenements situated within the drainage area described as Class A, and a rate of 4d. for each pound sterling on the amount of the valuation of all lands or tenements situated within the drainage area described as Class B.

Shea's Creek, Waterloo, Drain.—A rate of 7d. for each pound sterling on the amount of the valuation of the lands or tenements.

Iron Cove Creek Extended, Ashfield, and Burwood Drain.—A rate of 7d. for each pound sterling on the amount of the valuation of the lands or tenements.

Homebush Creek, Burwood, and Strathfield Drain.—A rate of 7d. for each pound sterling on the amount of the valuation of the lands or tenements.

Long Cove Creek, Leichhardt, Ashfield, and Petersham Drain.—A rate of 3d. for each pound sterling on the amount of the valuation of all lands or tenements situated within the drainage area described as Class A, and a rate of 1d. for each pound sterling on the amount of the valuation of all lands or tenements situated within the drainage area described as Class B.

Erskineville and Munni-street, Newtown, Alexandria, and Erskineville Drain.—A rate of 7d. for each pound sterling on the amount of the valuation of the lands or tenements.

3. All such rates as before-mentioned shall be paid in advance by equal payments on the first day of January and the first day of July in each year, and the first payment shall be made at the time when an owner or occupier becomes liable to pay such rates.

FOR COUNTRY DISTRICTS IN COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND.

For water supplied for domestic purposes otherwise than by measure :—

- (i.) On every house, tenement, or land of £10 assessed annual value and under, 10s. per annum.
- (ii.) On every house, tenement, or land above the assessed annual value of £10, a rate of 1s. for each pound sterling on the amount of the valuation.
- (iii.) Vacant or unimproved lands are subject to a rate of 4d. for each pound sterling on the amount of the valuation.
- (iv.) The like rates as those above mentioned shall be charged on all lands, tenements, and hereditaments not included in any valuation by any Borough or Municipal District, and on all lands for the time being valued by any such Borough or Municipal District at a sum less than the true value thereof.

For water supplied by measure :—

- (v.) The charge for water supplied by measure shall be 1s. per 1,000 gallons for all water consumed up to 20,000,000 gallons per annum, and 9d. per 1,000 gallons for all water consumed in excess of 20,000,000 gallons per annum.

Analyses. WATER SUPPLY TABLE.

Year.	Average Daily Supply.	Total Supply for Year.	Number of Houses supplied.	Estimated Population supplied.	Average Daily Supply during year.		Mains.	
					Per House.	Per Head of Estimated Population.	Mains laid.	Mains cleaned.
1888.....	gallons. 8,144,169	gallons. 2,972,621,023	61,718	206,246	gallons. 132	gallons. 27'49	miles yds. 63 898	miles yds. 4 899
1889.....	8,820,000	3,210,244,159	67,924	326,035	129	27'05	86 1,468	16 907
1890.....	8,456,034	3,007,402,450	71,501	343,204	118	24'70	75 860	7 278
1891.....	9,540,102	3,482,237,514	76,093	365,246	125	26'11	102 250	26 1,566
1892.....	12,129,152	4,439,273,890	78,926	378,885	154	32'12	89 915	29 741
1893.....	12,583,652	4,574,782,338	81,238	390,132	153	32'12	15 1,711	26 466
1894.....	13,798,874	5,014,639,009	83,621	401,380	164	34'23	46 1,262	4 295
1 Jan., 1895, to 30 June, 1896 ..	16,645,014	9,104,922,372	85,059	408,232	196	40'70	98 1,568	3 1,023
1 July, 1896, ,, 1897 ..	17,659,357	6,445,655,323	87,100	418,512	204	42' 2	55 954	10 1,654
1 ,, 1897, ,, 1898 ..	18,233,000	6,678,514,000	89,740	434,810	203	42'	60 1,056	18 0

WATER RATES.

Year.	Gross Revenue.	Rates Cancelled.	Discounts.	Net Revenue.	Net Revenue Collected.	Revenue Outstanding.
1888.....	£ s. d. 125,762 3 0	£ s. d. 276 4 0	£ s. d.	£ s. d. 125,485 19 0	£ s. d. 87,987 16 11	£ s. d. 40,791 2 6
1889.....	141,531 3 0	2,607 4 0	.....	138,923 18 3	145,059 3 4	34,665 17 5
1890.....	149,316 0 2	3,325 10 10	.....	145,990 9 4	155,054 19 9	24,601 7 0
1891.....	171,445 17 5	5,614 16 6	.....	165,831 0 11	161,494 3 9	26,023 4 2
1892.....	160,325 3 9	4,438 16 9	.....	155,886 7 0	162,719 16 7	19,194 15 7
1893.....	158,963 12 5	1,537 0 7	.....	157,426 11 8	153,473 1 2	13,148 6 1
1894.....	162,037 0 4	919 19 1	.....	161,167 1 3	158,785 14 5	19,982 11 3
To June, 1895 (6 months)	91,840 12 6	491 19 8	5,992 16 10	85,364 16 0	80,823 16 2	24,242 6 6
„ 1896 (12 „).....	183,293 5 7	1,326 16 11	9,523 14 4	174,357 14 4	165,193 7 3	30,870 6 6
„ 1897 (12 „).....	183,454 9 5	1,705 18 0	5,764 0 3	175,984 11 2	173,093 5 9	33,766 5 10
„ 1898 (12 „).....	189,460 18 8	4,304 4 5	3,275 7 6	178,881 6 0	182,018 13 0	30,618 19 7

MAINTENANCE.

MANAGEMENT.

Year.	Maintenance of Mains and Works generally, including Wages.	Coals.	Rents.	Total Maintenance.	President and Board Fees.	Salaries.	Stationery and Printing.	Advertising and Incidental.	Total Management.
1888.....	£ s. d. 8,534 10 6	£ s. d. 901 14 5	£ s. d. 707 6 8	£ s. d. 10,023 11 0	£ s. d. 1,253 10 3	£ s. d. 6,099 18 10	£ s. d. 1,303 7 1	£ s. d. 525 6 4	£ s. d. 9,182 2 6
1889.....	17,139 9 0	1,489 13 10	1,756 10 0	20,385 12 10	1,703 12 6	12,346 15 8	933 9 11	1,193 13 7	16,182 1 8
1890.....	17,312 12 6	2,272 11 11	960 10 9	20,546 1 1	1,242 10 0	10,912 0 2	905 6 9	1,122 12 0	14,242 8 11
1891.....	19,795 8 10	2,663 6 3	1,107 9 4	23,571 4 5	1,242 10 0	11,204 3 1	943 0 9	1,290 2 1	14,634 15 11
1892.....	28,260 10 8	1,729 17 5	1,100 4 0	31,090 12 1	1,041 18 8	10,747 17 6	641 14 4	1,556 3 10	13,937 14 4
1893.....	20,606 4 0	1,635 13 2	1,101 15 10	23,343 13 0	859 3 4	10,997 18 11	556 5 8	1,890 12 8	13,798 0 7
1894.....	22,067 5 5	2,024 6 5	1,131 4 8	25,222 16 8	847 10 0	11,060 3 8	799 4 1	1,344 5 6	14,051 3 3
To June, 1895 (6 months).....	10,912 9 10	871 7 6	722 12 6	12,506 9 10	437 10 9	5,620 7 6	463 14 8	665 8 3	7,187 0 5
„ 1896 (12 „).....	20,434 12 3	1,986 3 8	1,293 10 5	23,714 6 4	1,015 6 6	10,951 3 5	622 17 3	1,291 7 8	13,780 19 10
„ 1897 (12 „).....	22,831 1 0	2,083 0 0	1,302 4 11	26,221 6 11	1,042 10 0	11,414 13 7	307 16 9	1,335 3 10	14,600 3 2
„ 1898 (12 „).....	26,449 11 8	2,744 4 1	1,266 11 7	30,460 7 4*	1,047 10 0	11,704 17 4	507 6 3	1,500 3 10	14,759 16 5

* Includes £1,072 13s., repairing break, Cataract Dam.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

Year	Revenue.	Total Maintenance.	Total Management.	Total Maintenance and Management.	Interest.		Total Interest.	Depreciation.	Total Expenses.
					On Loan Capital.	On Debentures.			
1888.....	£ s. d. 125,485 19 0	£ s. d. 10,023 11 6	£ s. d. 9,182 2 6	£ s. d. 19,205 14 0	£ s. d. 59,970 7 3	£ s. d. 4,300 0 0	£ s. d. 64,276 7 3	.....	£ s. d. 88,482 1 3
1889.....	138,923 18 3	20,385 12 10	16,182 11 8	36,568 4 6	101,477 5 5	4,150 0 0	105,627 5 5	2,446 8 8	144,641 18 7
1890.....	145,990 9 4	20,546 1 1	14,242 8 11	34,788 10 0	105,099 19 9	4,000 0 0	109,099 19 9	3,421 15 2	147,310 4 11
1891.....	165,831 0 11	23,571 4 5	14,634 15 11	38,266 0 4	107,981 11 8	4,000 0 0	111,981 11 8	3,916 18 0	154,154 10 0
1892.....	155,886 7 0	31,090 12 1	13,937 14 4	45,078 6 5	111,809 8 2	4,000 0 0	115,869 8 2	877 12 8	161,825 6 10
1893.....	162,426 11 8	23,343 13 0	13,798 0 7	37,141 13 7	115,187 0 10	4,000 0 0	119,187 0 10	2,511 15 2	158,840 9 7
1894.....	161,167 1 3	25,222 16 6	14,051 3 3	30,273 19 9	116,000 5 5	4,000 0 0	119,000 5 5	1,771 13 6	160,798 8 8
To June, 1895 (6 months).....	85,364 16 0	12,506 9 10	7,187 0 5	19,093 10 8	69,383 2 9	2,000 0 0	71,383 2 9	775 16 5	91,852 9 5
„ 1896 (12 „).....	174,357 14 4	23,714 6 4	13,780 19 10	37,495 6 2	137,098 5 2	4,000 0 0	141,098 5 2	3,481 16 5	182,075 7 9
„ 1897 (12 „).....	175,984 11 2	26,221 6 11	14,600 3 2	40,821 9 1	140,049 12 4	4,000 0 0	144,049 12 4	3,350 2 8	183,221 4 1
„ 1898 (12 „).....	178,881 6 0	30,460 7 4	14,759 16 5	45,220 3 9	143,496 0 5	4,000 0 0	147,496 0 5	3,543 4 8	196,264 8 10

SEWERAGE TABLE.

Year.	Number of Houses Drained.	Estimated Population served.	New Sewers Laid During the Year.		Existing Sewers.	Total Length of Sewers.	Storm-water Drains Laid.					Ventilating Shafts Erected.	Sewers Ventilated.
			By Board.	By Govt.			By Board.	By Govt.	By Municipalities.	Existing.	Total.		
1890	22,765	109,272	9.33	13.68	99.02	122.03	.77	Nil.	Nil.	2.33	3.15	12,630	14.5
1891	26,884	129,043	21.53	4.46	122.03	148.02	Nil.	1.23	Nil.	3.15	4.38	47,028	70.74
1892	31,402	150,729	22.50	2.42	148.02	172.04	.47	.77	Nil.	4.33	6.62	40,030	79.25
1893	36,062	173,097	4.35	5.05	172.04	182.34	.10	2.38	Nil.	6.02	9.10	50,239	81.43
1894	39,065	191,832	13.35	1.27	182.34	201.95	.06	.66	Nil.	9.10	9.82	54,405	92.50
1895-96	44,462	213,417	22.63	5.02	201.95	230.20	.00	4.00	Nil.	9.82	14.42	87,505	182.50
1896-97	47,593	228,446	25.56	Nil.	230.20	256.76	.766	2.42	803	14.42	18,409	99,337	210.00
1897-98	51,425	257,125	50.35	10.29	256.76	320.25	.152	2.03	Nil.	18,409	20,501	124,201	270.00

SEWERAGE RATES.

Year.	Gross Revenue.	Rates Cancelled.	Discounts.	Net Revenue.	Net Revenue Collected.	Revenue Outstanding.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1890	85,291 0 7	3,491 18 7	.....	81,799 11 0	74,189 2 1	7,610 8 11
1891	83,731 10 11	2,428 12 7	.....	81,302 18 4	80,270 17 0	8,642 10 3
1892	80,031 18 4	1,104 19 6	.....	87,026 18 10	86,554 11 5	10,014 17 8
1893	94,504 15 1	848 12 3	.....	93,661 2 10	95,385 6 10	8,200 13 8
1894	93,721 13 0	587 4 4	.....	93,134 8 8	93,256 16 10	8,068 5 6
June, 1895 (6 months)	47,123 16 6	218 7 2	3,800 7 7	43,110 1 9	43,372 17 0	7,896 10 3
June, 1896 (12 months)	91,082 15 10	290 0 5	5,337 1 0	85,485 14 5	84,365 2 6	8,030 2 2
June, 1897 (12 months)	91,360 4 6	405 16 5	3,217 12 6	87,662 15 6	87,266 2 9	9,322 14 11
June, 1898 (12 months)	91,881 12 10	521 15 3	1,671 10 4	89,688 7 3	90,744 2 8	8,206 19 6

MAINTENANCE.

MANAGEMENT.

Year.	Maintenance of Sewers and S.W. Drains and Works generally, including Wages.	Sewage Farm Maintenance.	Rents.	Total Maintenance.	President and Board Fees.	Salaries.	Stationery and Printing.	Advertising and Incidentals.	Total Management.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1890	9,490 12 3	918 2 10	1,041 13 4	11,450 8 6	1,427 2 6	7,706 17 0	1,110 6 3	464 10 7	10,709 5 4
1891	13,794 8 4	829 18 7	1,000 0 0	15,624 6 11	1,242 10 0	7,180 7 6	880 7 8	475 2 0	9,787 7 11
1892	14,492 18 9	887 17 1	1,002 0 0	16,382 15 10	1,041 18 8	8,533 13 5	611 18 6	735 2 4	10,922 12 11
1893	15,567 9 0	968 8 2	1,069 13 6	17,605 10 8	859 3 4	7,270 14 11	550 4 1	806 14 3	9,486 16 7
1894	10,181 8 10	890 13 9	1,116 3 0	12,188 10 7	847 10 0	7,423 3 3	658 1 9	630 16 2	9,864 11 2
To June, 1895 (6 months)	8,002 17 2	*64 6 6	559 2 6	8,626 6 2	437 10 0	3,927 4 2	419 2 10	849 10 0	6,624 7 0
To June, 1896 (12 months)	18,185 2 5	625 2 1	1,227 10 5	20,037 14 11	1,615 6 5	7,792 3 0	711 0 9	747 14 9	10,268 4 11
To June, 1897 (12 months)	16,802 0 8	884 4 9	1,232 7 5	18,918 12 10	1,042 10 0	8,140 13 3	637 18 3	890 16 10	10,761 18 4
To June, 1898 (12 months)	17,081 9 10	893 10 9	1,232 7 5	19,207 8 0	1,047 10 0	8,369 16 10	418 11 2	921 6 11	10,757 3 11

* Farm leased during this period.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

Year.	Revenue.	Total Maintenance.	Total Management.	Total Maintenance and Management.	Interest.		Total Interest.	Depreciation.	Total Expenses.
					On Loan Capital.	On Debentures.			
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1890	81,799 11 0	11,450 8 5	10,709 5 4	22,249 13 9	36,141 10 1	8,635 0 0	44,776 10 1	.....	67,026 8 10
1891	81,302 18 4	15,624 6 11	9,787 7 11	25,411 14 10	39,674 17 4	6,820 0 0	46,494 17 4	.....	71,906 12 2
1892	87,026 18 10	16,382 15 10	10,922 12 11	27,305 8 9	45,196 19 0	6,820 0 0	52,016 19 0	220 12 10	79,543 0 7
1893	93,661 2 10	17,605 10 8	9,486 16 7	27,092 7 3	50,863 12 4	6,820 0 0	57,683 12 4	586 15 11	85,862 15 6
1894	93,134 8 8	18,188 10 7	9,864 11 2	28,053 1 9	53,821 12 7	6,820 0 0	60,641 12 7	641 19 10	89,226 14 2
To June, 1895 (6 months)	43,110 1 9	8,626 6 2	5,624 7 0	14,250 13 2	28,664 0 3	3,560 0 0	32,124 0 3	230 15 8	46,695 9 1
To June, 1896 (12 months)	85,485 14 5	20,037 14 11	10,266 4 11	30,303 10 10	60,458 15 11	6,970 0 0	67,428 15 11	1,016 3 0	93,748 13 9
To June, 1897 (12 months)	87,662 15 6	18,918 12 10	10,761 13 4	29,680 11 2	64,151 9 3	7,177 0 0	71,328 9 3	985 17 5	101,994 17 10
To June, 1898 (12 months)	89,688 7 3	19,807 8 0	10,757 3 11	30,564 11 11	67,210 8 0	7,334 0 0	74,600 8 9	1,217 11 3	100,382 11 11

Analysis of Approximate Cost of Water Supply Scheme, City and Suburbs, and Percentage of Revenue on same to 30th June, 1898.

District.	Acreage.	Mileage of Mains.	Properties Liable.	Population	Capital Cost of Work.			Main- tenance and Manage- ment.	Revenue.	Per- centage of Net Return on Cap. Cost after paying Ex- penses.
					Local Reticula- tion.	Proportion- ate Charge for Main Works on Population Basis.	Total.			
Alexandria	1,024	12.42	2,419	8,700	£ 12,420	£ 67,425	£ 79,845	£ 906	£ 1,742	1.04
Annandale.....	333	10.4	1,946	8,325	8,100	64,518	72,618	867	1,720	1.17
Ashfield.....	2,018	36.4	3,460	13,500	35,100	104,625	139,725	1,406	4,140	1.95
Auburn.....	2,048	15.2	960	2,500	7,400	19,375	26,775	260	363	0.38
Balmain	576	38.1	7,004	25,500	52,700	197,625	250,325	2,656	7,136	1.78
Bankstown .....	.....	1.8	15	125	1,000	968	1,968	13	26	0.66
Botany	2,163	6.45	620	2,500	4,880	19,375	24,255	260	998	3.04
Burwood	1,050	24.54	1,910	6,500	22,770	60,375	73,145	677	2,660	2.71
Campbelltown .....	.....	5.7	230	877	4,670	6,797	11,467	91	393	2.63
Camperdown.....	435	10.38	1,657	7,175	9,100	55,406	64,506	747	1,509	1.18
Canterbury	7,104	12.3	775	2,960	9,420	22,940	32,360	308	528	0.67
City of Sydney.....	2,880	165.7	22,076	101,935	165,000	789,996	954,996	10,618	72,410	6.47
Concord.....	2,560	14.2	774	2,300	11,320	17,825	29,145	240	1,080	2.88
Darlington	38	3.5	763	3,750	2,260	29,062	31,262	390	833	1.41
Drummoyne.....	512	8.8	922	2,200	6,560	17,050	23,610	230	664	1.83
Enfield	1,696	10.5	730	2,200	5,480	17,050	22,540	230	556	1.44
Erskineville	166	5.9	1,401	5,850	4,500	45,337	49,837	609	1,168	1.11
Five Dock.....	1,412	9.6	387	1,300	10,450	10,075	20,525	135	447	1.52
Glebe.....	461	23.5	4,017	17,500	18,370	135,625	153,995	1,822	4,609	1.89
Gordon .....	.....	27.9	1,329	2,000	30,300	15,500	45,800	208	2,475	4.94
Granville	2,830	20.5	1,690	4,800	22,330	37,200	59,580	500	1,917	2.37
Hunter's Hill	1,100	11.5	627	4,560	9,100	35,340	44,440	475	1,558	2.43
Hurstville.....	3,384	31.6	1,497	4,480	25,700	31,720	60,420	406	1,113	1.06
The Islands.....	.....	1.2	24	125	3,250	968	4,218	13	765	17.82
Kogarah	3,648	16.4	1,102	2,800	13,960	21,700	35,660	291	771	1.34
Lane Cove.....	2,496	9.34	528	1,200	5,290	9,300	14,590	125	562	2.99
Leichhardt	1,120	35.8	4,093	15,500	36,000	120,125	156,125	1,614	3,781	1.38
Liverpool.....	20,608	13.6	620	2,035	10,900	15,771	26,671	212	889	2.53
Marrickville	2,010	36.25	4,416	16,195	37,170	125,511	162,681	1,697	4,383	1.96
Mosman.....	2,048	16.86	1,502	2,200	14,400	17,050	31,450	230	1,430	3.84
Newtown	442	27.3	4,999	21,500	28,200	166,625	194,825	2,240	5,331	1.58
North Bctany	2,176	9.3	743	3,000	4,030	23,250	27,280	312	496	0.67
North Sydney	2,067	38.16	5,264	17,840	38,750	138,260	177,010	1,858	6,813	2.79
Paddington	403	29.5	4,463	19,500	27,220	151,125	178,345	2,031	5,610	2.00
Petersham.....	762	29.6	3,232	12,500	27,410	96,875	124,285	1,302	3,955	2.13
Prospect and Sherwood	7,680	5.3	200	785	4,300	6,083	10,383	82	280	1.99
Parramatta	2,176	5	20	110	850	852	1,702	11	34	1.35
Randwick	8,000	33.5	2,219	7,400	27,900	57,350	85,250	770	2,905	2.50
Redfern.....	435	26.2	4,797	24,340	25,100	188,635	213,735	2,535	10,873	3.90
Rockdale	4,442	28.9	2,190	6,100	29,330	47,575	76,905	635	1,695	1.37
Rookwood and Silver Water	5,376	13.1	680	2,350	10,940	18,212	38,152	244	1,038	2.08
Ryde	10,240	8.7	441	2,340	7,800	18,135	25,935	244	721	1.83
St. Peters	896	12.7	1,578	5,500	16,290	42,625	58,915	573	1,002	0.73
Strathfield and Flemington	1,747	17.5	1,036	2,500	18,540	19,375	37,915	260	1,613	3.64
Smithfield and Fairfield.....	7,680	3.6	98	505	2,100	3,913	6,013	52	95	0.71
Waterloo	806	14.6	2,247	9,500	14,560	73,625	88,185	989	2,334	1.41
Waverley	1,965	23.0	2,893	10,250	21,380	79,430	100,810	1,067	3,482	2.39
Willoughby	5,286	23.6	1,362	3,700	22,760	28,675	51,435	385	1,407	1.98
Woollahra.....	2,222	27.2	2,660	10,500	20,600	81,375	101,975	1,094	4,034	2.93
Yacluse	768										228	1,200	9,300	9,300	125	245	1.29

Approximate Mileage of the various sized Mains, City of Sydney and Suburbs, &c.

	3"	4"	5"	6"	8"	9"	10"	12"	15"	18"	20"	24"	Miles.
Alexandria .....	...	5.83	...	8.9	...	1.1	...	...	1.5	...	...	...	12.33
Annandale .....	...	7.4	...	.75	...	1.35	...	.5	...	...	...	...	10.0
Ashfield .....	...	18.24	...	12.09	...	1.2	...	2.7	.25	...	...	...	34.48
Auburn .....	...	0.6	...	2.1	...	.2	...	...	.88	...	...	...	9.78
Balmain	1.1	23.46	...	7.48	1.26	2.0	...	1.2	1.4	2.8	...	...	40.7
Beecroft .....	...	.75	...	1.3	3.38	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5.43
Botany .....	...	3.9	...	1.2	...	1.3	...	...	...	...	...	...	6.4
Burwood .....	...	13.4	...	6.5	...	2.6	...	1.8	...	...	...	...	24.3
Bankstown .....	...	1.8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.8
Campbelltown .....	.02	2.7	...	3.1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5.82
Camperdown .....	.5	6.8	...	1.2	...	1.4	...	.2	...	...	...	...	10.1
Canterbury .....	...	6.8	...	4.4	...	...	...	1.0	...	...	...	...	12.2
City of Sydney	5.1	28.9	2.0	38.6	1.8	10.0	3.1	15.3	16.6	.75	4.0	1.75	127.9
Concord .....	...	7.44	...	3.45	...	.1	...	.6	...	2.0	...	...	18.69
Darlington .....	.2	2.7	.4	.1	...	.1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.5
Drummoyne .....	...	5.0	...	2.0	...	1.7	...	.1	...	...	...	...	8.8
Enfield .....	.1	7.1	...	1.2	...	.25	.9	.5	...	...	...	...	10.05
Erskineville .....	...	4.4	...	.6	...	...	...	.7	...	...	...	...	5.7
Five Dock .....	...	4.5	...	1.6	...	1.3	...	1.3	.9	...	...	...	9.6
Glebe	2.2	12.9	...	5.5	.08	2.4	...	...	...	...	...	...	23.08
Gordon .....	...	8.6	...	5.1	...	...	9.7	...	...	...	...	...	23.4
Granville .....	...	16.6	...	3.0	...	...	...	...	3.7	...	...	...	23.3
Hunter's Hill .....	...	6.3	...	2.4	...	2.5	...	.8	1.6	...	...	...	13.0
Hurstville .....	...	19.0	...	5.6	...	...	2.2	2.7	...	...	...	...	29.5
The Islands .....	.3	.3	...	.6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.2
Kogarah .....	...	9.25	...	5.9	...	1.5	...	.6	...	...	...	...	17.25
Lane Cove .....	...	8.6	...	.6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.2
Leichhardt .....	...	26.5	...	5.6	...	.8	...	.25	1.5	1.3	...	...	35.95
Liverpool .....	...	5.4	...	3.3	...	4.9	...	...	.1	...	...	...	13.7
Marrickville .....	...	22.5	...	8.1	...	1.4	...	...	2.3	...	1.0	.7	36.0
Mosman .....	...	9.9	...	4.4	...	...	...	...	1.3	...	...	...	15.6
Newtown .....	.15	17.63	...	5.9	...	2.6	.3	.6	...	...	...	...	27.18
North Botany .....	...	3.46	...	4.5	...	1.2	...	.2	...	...	...	...	9.36
North Sydney .....	.15	21.1	...	10.4	...	.7	.75	.75	1.95	.47	...	...	36.27
Paddington .....	...	11.4	.15	14.1	.8	.6	.1	.25	...	...	.5	.2	28.1
Petersham .....	...	14.9	...	9.0	.2	.5	...	1.6	1.3	.7	.1	...	28.3
Prospect and Sherwood .....	...	2.9	...	1.6	...	.5	...	...	.03	.2	...	...	5.23
Parramatta .....	...	...	...	...	...	.5	...	...	...	...	...	...	.5
Randwick .....	...	18.6	...	10.9	.3	1.1	.3	3.0	...	...	...	...	34.2
Redfern	1.0	13.25	...	6.1	.4	2.3	.4	.9	1.6	.5	...	...	26.46
Richmond	7.95	2.00	...	.8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.81
Rockdale .....	.7	15.4	...	5.3	...	2.7	...	2.8	...	...	2.1	...	29.0
Rookwood and Silverwater .....	.08	5.26	...	1.3	...	...	...	.5	1.0	2.7	...	...	10.84
Ryde .....	...	5.0	...	2.1	.2	.5	...	.6	.25	...	1.3	...	9.95
St. Peters .....	...	6.6	...	1.5	...	1.25	...	1.0	.1	...	...	...	10.45
Strathfield and Flemington .....	...	7.3	...	6.60	...	.8	.8	1.3	...	...	...	...	16.86
Smithfield and Fairfield .....	...	3.6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.6
Vaucluse .....	...	1.93	...	2.8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4.73
Waterloo .....	.05	8.3	...	4.15	...	...	.2	...	...	.8	...	...	13.5
Waverley .....	...	14.84	...	4.87	...	.75	.42	1.3	.1	.5	...	...	22.78
Willoughby .....	...	13.6	...	5.4	.4	.02	.25	...	...	2.4	.02	...	22.09
Woollahra .....	.25	12.0	...	7.3	...	2.42	.08	1.8	...	...	1.0	...	23.23
Totals	19.85	502.71	2.55	243.35	8.82	56.54	19.50	45.23	38.36	15.12	10.02	2.65	967.70

The above does not include Trunk or Pumping Mains.

Appendix.

RESULTS of Analysis of the Sydney Water Supply; by WILLIAM M. HAMLET, Government Analyst, Government Laboratory, Sydney.

Date, 1897-8.	Description of Water.	Expressed in Grains per Gallon.				Expressed in Parts per Million.				Appearance in standard 2-foot Tube.	General observations on the character of the Water.
		Total Solid Residue dried at 220°	Chlorine as Chlorides.	Nitrogen as Nitrates and Nitrites.	Phosphates from animal impurity.	Free Ammonia.	Albuminoid Ammonia.	Oxygen absorbed in 15 min.	Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours.		
1897.											
13 July	Crown-street Reservoir	6.16	2.35	Trace	.00	.00	.05	.28	.53	Clear	Sustains its uniform excellence.
	Belmore-road, Randwick	5.83	2.35	do	.00	.00	.05	.28	.53	do	
	Inlet end, Prospect Reservoir	6.16	2.40	do	.00	.00	.07	.30	.60	do	
	Basin at the head of the Canal	6.02	2.40	do	.00	.00	.07	.30	.60	do	
	Mean for July	6.05	2.37	do	.00	.00	.06	.28	.56	do	
16 August	Crown-street Reservoir	6.02	2.35	do	.00	.00	.08	.42	.93	do	A water fit for drinking and all household purposes. The only noticeable variation is a slight increase in the oxygen required for the oxidation of the organic matter present.
	Belmore-road, Randwick	6.02	2.35	do	.00	.00	.09	.42	.93	do	
	Inlet end, Prospect Reservoir	6.16	2.35	do	.00	.01	.07	.42	.93	do	
	Basin at the head of the Canal	6.02	2.35	do	.00	.00	.03	.42	.93	do	
	Mean for month of August	6.05	2.35	do	.00	.00	.08	.42	.93	do	
23 September	Crown-street Reservoir	6.02	2.4	do	None	.00	.09	.46	.95	do	The analyses show that the quality of the Sydney water supply is quite up to the standard of what good drinking water should be.
	Belmore-road, Randwick	6.16	2.4	do	do	.00	.06	.46	.95	do	
	Inlet end, Prospect Reservoir	6.02	2.4	do	do	.00	.08	.46	.95	do	
	Basin at the head of the Canal	6.02	2.4	do	do	.00	.08	.46	.95	do	
	Mean for month of September	6.05	2.4	do	do	.00	.077	.46	.95	do	
12 October	Crown-street Reservoir	6.02	2.4	do	do	.00	.07	.35	.78	do	Maintains its usual standard of excellence.
	Belmore-road, Randwick	6.16	2.4	do	do	.00	.08	.35	.78	do	
	Inlet end of Prospect Reservoir	6.02	2.4	do	do	.00	.09	.37	.78	do	
	Basin at the head of the Canal	6.02	2.4	do	do	.00	.09	.36	.78	do	
	Mean for the month	6.05	2.4	do	do	.00	.082	.367	.78	do	
22 November	Crown-street Reservoir	5.60	2.4	do	do	.00	.05	.34	.70	Clear and bright	Maintains its high character as an excellent drinking water.
	Belmore-road, Randwick	5.83	2.4	do	do	.00	.08	.34	.70	do	
	Prospect Reservoir, near Inlet	6.02	2.4	do	do	.00	.07	.34	.70	do	
	Basin at the head of the Canal	5.83	2.4	do	do	.00	.06	.34	.70	do	
	Mean for the month	5.84	2.4	do	do	.00	.07	.34	.70	do	
21 December	Crown-street Reservoir	6.20	2.5	do	.00	.00	.09	.52	1.01	Clear	Fit for drinking and all domestic purposes.
	Belmore-road, Randwick	6.02	2.5	do	.00	.00	.07	.30	.60	do	
	Inlet end of Prospect Reservoir	6.93	2.7	do	.00	.00	.03	.30	.60	do	
	Basin at the head of the Canal	5.74	2.4	do	.00	.00	.08	.30	.66	do	
	Mean for month of December	6.248	2.57	do	.00	.00	.08	.356	.73	do	
1898.											
24 January	Crown-street Reservoir	5.83	2.30	do	None	None	.09	.55	1.12	do	The water maintains its usual character at the points at which it was sampled.
	Belmore-road, Randwick	5.74	2.30	do	do	do	.09	.53	1.13	do	
	Inlet end, Prospect Reservoir	5.04	2.20	do	do	do	.08	.70	1.60	do	
	Basin at the head of the Canal	5.60	2.40	do	do	do	.09	.56	1.14	do	
	Mean for January	5.56	2.30	do	do	do	.087	.62	1.26	do	
23 February	Crown-street Reservoir	5.83	2.35	do	.00	.00	.07	.32	.67	Clear, peaty tint	The water maintains its usual character at the points at which it was sampled.
	Town Hall, Randwick	6.38	2.35	do	.00	.00	.07	.44	.80	do	
	Inlet end, Prospect Reservoir	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bottle broken in transit.
	Basin at the head of the Canal	5.74	2.35	Trace	.00	.00	.08	.41	.80	Clear, peaty tint	
	Mean for February	5.83	2.35	do	.00	.00	.073	.39	.78	do	
17 March	Crown-street Reservoir	5.74	2.2	do	.00	.00	.08	.53	1.09	do	The water maintains its usual standard of excellence.
	Town Hall, Randwick	5.60	2.2	do	.00	.00	.08	.40	.85	do	
	Inlet end of Prospect Reservoir	5.60	2.2	do	.00	.00	.08	.40	.77	do	
	Basin at the head of the Canal	5.46	2.2	do	.00	.00	.08	.44	.84	do	
	Mean for month of March	5.60	2.2	do	.00	.00	.08	.44	.85	do	
14 April	Crown-street Reservoir	5.64	2.25	do	None	.00	.08	.43	.83	do	The samples submitted do not reveal any important variation from the average chemical composition of Sydney Water.
	Town Hall, Randwick	5.76	2.25	do	do	.00	.04	.34	.67	do	
	Inlet end of Prospect Reservoir	5.60	2.25	do	do	.00	.03	.53	1.00	do	
	Basin at the head of the Canal	5.83	2.25	do	do	.00	.09	.49	.93	do	
	Mean for month	5.72	2.25	do	do	.00	.07	.44	.86	do	
	Hurstville Council Chambers	5.76	2.25	do	do	.00	.05	.34	.67	do	
	Burwood Council Chambers	5.00	2.25	do	do	.00	.05	.29	.56	do	
12 May	Crown-street Reservoir	5.83	2.4	do	.00	.00	.08	.19	.39	Clear	These chemical analyses show these four samples to be of a water which is fit for a town supply.
	Randwick Town Hall	5.46	2.4	do	.00	.00	.07	.19	.39	do	
	Inlet end of Prospect Reservoir	5.46	2.4	do	.00	.00	.08	.19	.39	do	
	Basin at the head of the Canal	5.60	2.4	do	.00	.00	.09	.19	.39	do	
	Mean for month of May	5.60	2.4	do	.00	.00	.08	.19	.39	do	
	Hurstville Council Chambers	6.16	2.4	do	.00	.00	.05	.19	.39	do	
	Burwood Council Chambers	6.30	2.4	do	.00	.00	.05	.19	.39	do	
	Liverpool Water Supply:—										
	Railway Station	8.12	3.5	do	.00	.00	.05	.16	.32	do	
	Police Station	8.44	3.5	do	.00	.00	.06	.16	.32	do	
11 June	Crown-street Reservoir	6.16	2.35	do	.00	.00	.05	.40	.86	Clear, very slight tint	The samples do not importantly vary from the average composition of this water.
	Randwick Town Hall	6.16	2.35	do	.00	.00	.08	.29	.59	Clear, peaty tint	
	Inlet end of Reservoir	5.04	2.00	do	.00	.00	.09	.34	.73	do	
	Basin at the head of the Canal	5.83	2.35	do	.00	.00	.08	.29	.60	Clear, very slight tint	
	Hurstville Council Chambers	5.46	2.35	do	.00	.00	.06	.22	.46	Clear, peaty tint	
	Burwood School of Arts	5.60	2.35	do	.00	.00	.08	.30	.66	Clear, very slight tint	
	Mean for June	5.71	2.29	do	.00	.00	.08	.30	.65	do	

METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE—WATER SUPPLY DEPARTMENT—BALANCE-SHEET, 30TH JUNE, 1898.

DR.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	CR.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Amount advanced by Treasury—			By Metropolitan Water Supply Works, constructed by Works Department and vested in Board	2,699,532 0 1	
From Loans, Works Department	2,700,316 17 4		Duplicate pipe line—Potts' Hill to Crown-street	163,496 3 2	
Interest paid to 25th May, 1898, as per Legislative Council statement, printed 25th June, 1898	423,657 0 0		Water Supply Works, districts north of Parramatta River	159,314 11 7	
	3,123,973 17 4		Lands	139,850 6 7	
Less amount repaid during 1896	862 10 6	3,123,311 6 10	Reservoirs—Crown-street, Paddington, and Woollahra	£ 46,550 14 10	
Amount advanced to Board by Treasury—			Hurstville	6,852 1 3	
From loans to 30th June, 1897	663,863 1 1		Ashfield	4,768 10 9	
" " 30th June, 1898	82,986 19 0	746,850 0 1	Waverley	798 4 0	
" " 30th June, 1898 — Account erection of Board's Offices		32,525 3 11	Potts' Hill	108,577 12 1	167,547 2 11
Amount advanced by Treasury—			Machinery		35,932 2 11
From loans for Richmond Water Supply Works—			Buildings		25,228 6 0
Expended by Public Works Department	12,340 0 0		Mains—	£ 241,453 18 8	
Expended by Board	318 11 2		City Council	591,387 6 0	832,841 4 8
City Council Water Fund		12,658 11 2	Campbelltown Water Supply Works	4,741 10 1	
Debentures		377,382 1 6	Liverpool Water Supply Works	13,542 17 5	
Colonial Treasurer—Cash Account Balance		80,000 0 0	Smithfield Water Supply Works	2,649 5 4	
" " Store Advance Account		14,698 3 4	Gordon Water Supply Works (including Wahroonga Tank, £4,041 4s. 1d.)	28,667 5 9	
" " Summons Fees Advance Account		21,381 18 10	Richmond Water Supply Works	12,658 11 2	
" " Contractors' Advance Account		88 6 8	Becroft Water Supply Works	4,921 18 2	
President's Trust Fund Account—Contractors' deposits, &c.		26 1 1	Sundry Works	3,030 6 0	
Outstanding accounts due contractors and others		1,227 12 11	Prospect and Canal	19,232 18 8	
Rates overpaid		4,076 1 0	Stores	16,361 14 4	
Balance, Richmond Water Supply Revenue Account		112 18 11	Meter Branch	610 10 1	
		596 11 5	Samples	73 13 0	
			Meters	6,928 2 2	
			Working plant and tools	2,308 6 10	
			Board's offices—Water Supply portion	31,084 9 6	
			Furniture	2,001 17 0	
			Rates outstanding	30,766 11 0	4,372,552 3 5
			Summons fees outstanding	88 19 2	
			Accounts outstanding	5,820 19 11	
			Commercial Banking Company of Sydney (contractors' deposits, &c.)		36,676 10 1
			Dishonored cheques		1,227 12 11
			Colonial Treasurer—Richmond Cash Account Balance	355 4 6	18 8 6
			" " Trust Account, unclaimed moneys	30 9 0	
			Balance as per Revenue Account		385 13 6
					4,074 9 3
					£4,414,934 17 8
					£4,414,934 17 8

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Sydney, 22nd August, 1898.

MELBOURNE GREEN,
Accountant.

RICHMOND WATER SUPPLY REVENUE ACCOUNT, 30TH JUNE, 1898.

REVENUE.	Totals.		EXPENDITURE.	Totals.	
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance brought forward			By Salaries and Wages	332	18 6
Water rates	389	18 6	Stationery	10	0 0
Meter accounts	274	3 10	Stores, pumping expenses, &c.	74	14 11
Stock fees	5	10 0			
Garden fees	0	10 0			
Special fees	2	17 6			
Meter rents	8	11 6			
	681	11 4	Balance		
Less—Rates cancelled	4	11 9			
		676			596
		19			11
		7			
		£1,014			£1,014
		4			4
		10			10

Sydney, 16th September, 1898.

MELBOURNE GREEN,
Accountant.

METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE—SEWERAGE REVENUE ACCOUNT, 30TH JUNE, 1898.

REVENUE.	Totals.		EXPENDITURE.	Totals.	
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance brought forward			By Wages, general maintenance, working expenses, repairs, &c., maintenance of ventilating shafts, maintenance of storm- water sewers	16,393	0 9
Sewerage rates	83,518	19 0	Rent	1,232	7 5
Drainage rates	6,482	2 3	Inlet and outlet house expenses, sewage farm	517	0 10
Drainers' licenses	163	10 0	Maintenance of sewage farm, Botany	893	10 9
Sale of plans	894	12 6	" " Rockdale	42	12 6
Drainers and others—Accounts	25	16 8	" " ejector station, Alexandria	728	15 9
Rents receivable	274	0 4			
Compulsory drainage	179	12 5			
Agistment, sewerage farm	107	1 6			
Miscellaneous receipts	143	17 5			
Sale of produce	67	5 9			
" live stock	24	15 0			
	91,881	12 10			
Less—					
Discounts off rates	1,671	10 4			
Rates cancelled or removed	505	19 5			
Revenue refunded	15	15 10			
	£2,193	5 7			
Balance					
		89,688			
		7			
		3			
		3,045			
		5			
		3			
		£106,382			
		11			
		11			

Sydney, 22nd August, 1898.

MELBOURNE GREEN,
Accountant.

METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE.—BALANCE-SHEET—SEWERAGE, 30TH JUNE, 1898.

DR.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	CR.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Amount advanced by Treasury—							By Government Sewerage Works constructed by Public Works Department, and vested in the Board	1,175,577	18	11			
From Loans, Works Department, to 30th June, 1898				1,227,027	6	10	Sydney Municipal Council's Works to 31st December, 1889	248,974	13	1			
" Revenue, Works Department, to 30th November, 1889	101,629	18	6				Redfern " " " " £22,712 11 4						
" Revenue, Works Department, to 31st December, 1891	1,801	1	6				" New Sewers by Board " " " " 7,287 8 8	30,000	0	0			
				103,431	0	0	North Sydney Local Council's Works	£4,423	0	0			
" Loans, Boards, to 30th June, 1897	338,851	19	10				" " Sewers (Government)	20,996	19	0			
" " " " " 1898	98,185	17	5				" " " (Board's)	27,307	17	5	52,727	16	5
				487,037	17	3	Randwick Sewerage Works				9,571	19	5
" Loan, New Offices, to 30th June, 1898, portion charged to Sewerage				32,525	3	11	Darlington Sewerage Works				5,000	0	0
Debentures, City Council	100,000	0	0				Storm-water Sewers (Government)	£134,883	8	11			
" Redfern Council	30,000	0	0				" " (Board)	5,501	8	3			
" Balmain Council	2,500	0	0				" " (Ashfield Council's Works)	9,700	0	0	150,084	17	2
" Ashfield Council	8,200	0	0				New Sewers (Board's)				384,506	14	0
				140,700	0	0	Ventilating Shafts				38,430	3	3
City Council Debentures and Overdraft paid by Treasury				158,110	5	4	Machinery				3,721	8	1
Contractors' Advance Account—Trust Fund				2,039	11	9	Lands				664	15	11
Outstanding Accounts due to Contractors, &c.				4,785	8	11	Buildings				4,820	0	2
Rates Overpaid				14	17	4	New offices (sewerage portion)				31,084	9	7
Balance, Colonial Treasurer, Cash Account				6,491	4	6	Sewage Farm—Live Stock				125	0	0
				£2,162,162	15	10	Sundry Works	£128	12	9			
							" Sewage Farm	9,807	7	11	9,936	0	8
							Flushing Hydrants				397	6	4
							Working Plant and Tools				1,149	1	1
							Furniture				1,689	1	1
							Rates Outstanding				7,635	17	0
							Accounts " "				3,014	16	11
							Balance Revenue Account						
							" Colonial Treasurer's Trust Account (Unclaimed moneys)						
											10,650	13	11
											3,045	5	3
											5	11	6
											£2,162,162	15	10

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Sydney, 22nd August, 1898.

MELBOURNE GREEN,
Accountant.

Report on the Health of the Officers and Employees of the Board.

Sir,

Sydney, 28 July, 1898.

I have the honor to report that 122 of the employees and officers of the Board reported themselves for examination by me during the financial year ending 30th June, 1898.

Ten presented themselves for examination as to their fitness for employment in the Board's service. One was reported as suffering through his own fault.

Eight were ordered to return to work.

Twenty-five were suffering from accidents.

Seventy-eight were suffering from general ailments.

Nine hundred and fifty-three days were recommended for sick leave, 248 of which were granted for accidents.

Of the 705 days granted for general sickness, 233 were recommended for cases of influenza, 56 for a case of typhoid fever, 105 for cases of erysipelas, and 60 for cases of mumps.

The general health of the employees was very good, and among the sewer maintenance men it was not only very good, but no case of disease could be traced to any defect in the sewers, nor was any disease caused through their work.

I have, &c.,

THEO. MAILLER KENDALL,
Medical Adviser.

The Secretary.

Report on the Health of the Metropolis, 1897.

To the Secretary, for presentation to the President and Members of the Board,—

SIR,

I have the honor to report that during the year 1897 just ended the death-rate from such diseases as diphtheria, phthisis, diarrhoea, and enteric fever shows a great decrease as compared with former years. The population of the metropolis, which declined in numbers during the previous years, shows great signs of recovering its former numerical strength.

	1895.	1896.	1897.
City	103,870	100,000	95,850
Suburbs... ..	319,730	308,500	314,150
Metropolis	423,600	408,500	410,000
Density per acre in City	48·7	46·9	45·93

The mean temperature, 53·7° F., for the year just ended was somewhat higher than the mean for the year 1896. The highest temperature for the year, 99·4° F., was registered on 20th November, 1897; the lowest temperature, 41·4° F., on 18th July; and the greatest range, 36·2° F., on 12th November. The excessive temperatures registered during the year 1896 were fortunately not reached, although the heat was oftentimes oppressive owing to the great amount of humidity present in the atmosphere. The rainfall for the year was not so great as during the year 1896, and though it was greater than that of the year 1895, it was not so well distributed, and fell upon a fewer number of days.

Quarters ending—	1894.		1895.		1896.		1897.	
	inches.	days.	inches.	days.	inches.	days.	inches.	days.
March 31st	17·25	61	16·20	59	9·97	43	5·93	37
June 30th	6·63	38	5·12	41	18·70	34	17·60	33
September 30th	7·11	39	4·41	31	4·83	36	11·70	32
December 31st	6·75	50	6·13	42	8·92	44	7·07	35
Total	37·74	188	31·86	173	42·42	157	42·30	137

The general death-rate during the past year was much lower than it has been since the year 1888.

Quarters ending—	1894.			1895.			1896.			1897.		
	City.	Suburbs.	Metrop.	City.	Suburbs.	Metrop.	City.	Suburbs.	Metrop.	City.	Suburbs.	Metrop.
March 31st	448	925	1,373	474	1,141	1,615	341	882	1,213			
June 30th	358	932	1,320	364	840	1,204	444	954	1,408			
September 30th... ..	433	944	1,377	391	931	1,322	273	795	1,188			
December 31st... ..	443	1,036	1,470	396	955	1,351	415	1,027	1,442			
Total	1,782	4,177	5,961	1,682	3,867	5,549	1,625	3,867	5,492	1,473	3,658	5,231

COMPARISON of Death-rate in Metropolis.

Year.	Population.	Deaths under—				Deaths.	
		One Year.		Five Years.		Number.	Rate per 10,000.
		Number.	Rate per 10,000.	Number.	Rate per 10,000.		
1888 ...	333,551	2,128	63·4	3,080	91·1	6,313	189·2
1889 ...	351,470	2,323	66·09	4,273	121·1	6,431	182·9
1890 ...	370,357	1,854	50·6	2,516	67·9	5,591	150·9
1891 ...	389,655	2,175	55·7	2,821	72·4	6,418	169·8
1892 ...	406,480	1,830	45·0	2,422	60·0	5,512	135·6
1893 ...	411,710	1,966	47·7	3,161	76·7	6,481	156·8
1894 ...	423,600	1,787	42·1	2,373	56·6	5,961	140·7
1895 ...	423,600	1,331	31·4	2,156	50·9	5,549	130·9
1896 ...	408,500	1,711	41·8	2,232	54·5	5,492	134·4
1897 ...	410,000	1,551	38·0	1,976	48·2	5,231	130·0

The zymotic death-rate for the city stood, at the end of the year 1896, at 1·3 per 10,000 of the population. It fell at the end of January, 1897, to ·7, and remained at this point till the month of March, when it fell further to ·4. During the month of April the increase in mortality from diarrhœa caused the rate to rise to 1·2, but it fell again during May to ·4, and although it rose during June to ·6, it fell again in July to ·5, rose in August to ·6, and fell during September to ·2 and in October to ·1. The warm wave of heat in November increased the diarrhœal diseases, and raised the rate to 1·7, but it fell again during December to 1·4. For the suburbs this rate was 1·1 at the end of 1896, 1·2 at the end of January, 1897. For February it was ·9; for March, ·9; for April, ·7; for May, ·9; June, ·6; July, ·6; August, ·6; September, ·3; October, ·8; November, 1·6; and the increase in the mortality from enteric fever during December brought the rate up to 1·8. The mortality from diarrhœa shows a marked decrease as compared with the two previous years. An exhaustive inquiry into the incidence of diarrhœa during the period of the Board's existence showed most conclusively that the operations of the Board had tended to mitigate those evils which conduce to this disease; but there are other causes of the disease beyond the scope and the control of the Board. The east central group of suburbs were most attacked by the disease, and of the various boroughs, Enfield, Willoughby, and Mosman showed the highest rate of mortality as compared with the population. Diarrhœa has been traced to contaminated water, but the water supplied by the Board has been shown by the monthly analysis of the Government Analyst to be so pure that it is placed beyond the suspicion of contamination. Diarrhœa has often been ascribed to changes occurring in food, and "the English Public Health Service believe that diarrhœa is produced by changes taking place in food, produced probably by several allied organisms, and that the *materies morbi* is swallowed rather than breathed." It is, however, through fermentative changes in itself that milk is a frequent cause of diarrhœa; and much of this change is due to individual neglect in exposing this food to the influence of telluric emanations, and of the emanations of accumulations of domestic filth. How often do we see the jug left handy overnight, to be filled by the milkman in the morning, just in the position where it may become contaminated by street dust, prowling dogs and cats. To discover many causes of disease requires very little searching, for in very many, if not most, instances individual neglect is the great factor of disease.

DEATHS from Diarrhœa.

Quarters ending—	1895.			1896.			1897.		
	City.	Suburbs.	Metropolis.	City.	Suburbs.	Metropolis.	City.	Suburbs.	Metropolis.
March 31st	21	74	95	36	108	144	8	55	63
June 30th	18	46	64	7	35	42	3	18	21
September 30th	3	10	13	1	8	9	2	9	11
December 31st	25	100	125	14	144	158	23	82	105
Total	67	230	297	58	295	353	36	164	200

COMPARISON (per 10,000 of Population) of Deaths from Diarrhœa in the Metropolis.

	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
Number of deaths	384	263	288	297	305	281	297	353	200
Rate per 10,000 of population	10·7	7·1	7·3	7·3	7·4	6·6	7·0	7·6	4·8

SEWERED DISTRICTS.—Rate of Mortality from Diarrhœa per 10,000 of the Population.

	Before Laying of Sewers.	After Laying of Sewers.
City of Sydney	6·7	5·8
Darlington	6·6	2·6
Glebe	10·0	3·4
Newtown	5·2	3·0
Paddington	10·5	5·0
Redfern	15·0	12·0
Waterloo	27·0	20·0
Woollahra	9·1	5·0

The mortality from diphtheria shows a marked decrease, being considerably lower than it has been during the past twenty years. The presence of this disease cannot always be ascribed to defective sanitation, as the removal of faulty sanitary circumstances has not always been followed by a diminution of the

disease. The question of school attendance has an important bearing on this subject, and without doubt also there ought to be exercised by individuals some form of co-operation to inculcate that cleanliness which will tend to the promotion of public health. The bacillus of diphtheria has never yet been discovered in sewer air, and the causes of the disease are in most instances beyond the scope and control of the Board.

RATE of Mortality from Diphtheria per 10,000 of the Population.

	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
Number of deaths	188	149	179	120	128	134	88	85	55
Rate	5.2	4.62	4.5	2.9	3.1	3.1	2.7	2.07	1.3

It, of course, must be remembered that since the beginning of the operations of the Board wonderful aid in the treatment of diphtheria has been discovered, but the fall in the death-rate began before the discovery of antitoxin, and therefore some of the credit of the reduction in the mortality of this disease may be given to the operations of the Board.

Quarters ending--	1894.	1895.		1896.			1897.			
	Metro- polis.	City.	Sub- urbs.	Metro- polis.	City.	Sub- urbs.	Metro- polis.	City.	Sub- urbs.	Metro- polis.
March 31st	29	2	23	25	0	10	10	3	12	15
June 30th	46	4	25	29	4	39	43	2	14	16
September 30th... ..	35	4	17	21	1	18	19	0	16	16
December 31st	24	0	13	13	1	12	13	0	8	8
Total	134	10	78	88	6	79	85	5	50	55

The above table shows the number of deaths occurring in the years 1894, 1895, 1896, and 1897. It is to be noted that the greater portion of the mortality occurs during the first half-year.

The discussion which arose during the year on the subject of phthisis caused much thought to be exercised with regard to the infectious nature of this disease, more especially as touching upon its cure and prevention. The danger existing through the presence of the disease is now fully recognised, and it is to be hoped that active measures will be taken to assist in its suppression. It is well-known that this disease may be disseminated by means of milk, and it is very doubtful whether the so-called Pasteurisation is any safeguard against the germs of disease; consequently, our existing Dairy Supervision Act should be enforced with more rigour than at present, and more supervision should be exercised over the milk vendor. In my report on phthisis I noted the dangers which arise from the filthy and pernicious habit of expectoration. Recent reports show that in England, France, and Germany measures are being taken to abolish this habit, which is aptly described as disgusting, dangerous, and unnecessary. The operations of the Board have tended to diminish the mortality from phthisis, probably through that drying of the soil which always follows the laying of deep sewers.

DEATHS from Phthisis.—City of Sydney.—Rate per 10,000 of the Population.

1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
13.5	12.3	13.3	13.4	10.6	10.6	9.8	9.1

REDUCTION in Mortality (Per 10,000 of the Population) in Sewered Districts.—Phthisis.

	Before laying of Sewers.	After laying of Sewers.
City of Sydney	13.6	9.1
Glebe	11.5	6.2
Darlington	8.0	2.6
Newtown	6.1	3.9
Redfern	12.1	5.2
Waterloo	15.9	6.4
Paddington... ..	13.6	7.2
Woollahra	6.1	4.2

DEATHS from Phthisis.

Quarters ending—	1895.			1896.			1897.		
	City.	Sub-urbs.	Metro-polis.	City.	Sub-urbs.	Metro-polis.	City.	Sub-urbs.	Metro-polis.
March 31st	56	51	107	41	43	84	31	59	90
June 30th	39	73	112	29	74	103	42	69	111
September 30th... ..	47	83	130	38	79	117	39	56	95
December 31st	38	58	96	42	82	124	47	60	107
Total	180	265	445	150	278	428	159	244	403

The year 1896 was notable for a disastrous epidemic of typhoid fever, which, fortunately, did not recur during the year 1897. Temperature as expressed in high degrees of heat does not affect the spread of typhoid fever, except in that great heat promotes putrefaction and thus indirectly influences the progress of disease. Had it not been for a want of foresight and proper municipal care in certain of our suburbs, the year 1897 would have been a record one for the smallness of mortality from typhoid fever.

DISTRIBUTION of Deaths from Typhoid Fever according to Age.—Metropolis.

Under 5 years.	5 years to 10 years.	11 years to 20 years.	21 years to 30 years.	31 years to 40 years.	41 years to 50 years.	55 years.	59 years.
3	5	19	26	11	10	2	1

Five deaths occurred at the age of 22 years, five deaths at the age of 41 years, six deaths at the age of 27 years, 4 deaths at the age of 18 years, and four deaths at the age of 28 years. I have before mentioned that owing to a want of appreciation of progressive sanitation, or owing to a want of funds, some of the suburban areas have again been subject to a typhoid epidemic. In connection with this I would draw attention to my former Annual Reports, in which I stated my opinion that typhoid fever is in some way connected with the soil, and in my Report for 1896 I quoted the statements of Sir Charles Cameron, of Dublin, in support of my opinion. Recently Sir Richard Thorne Thorne has drawn attention to the steady diffusion of this disease, which sets in after the appearance of a case in an insanitary area. "This prevalence of the fever," he says, "goes to show that enteric fever, though mainly distributed in epidemic form by water or by means of milk, is by no means always a water-borne disease, and it raises anew the question as to how far recurring prevalences of enteric fever in one town or in one spot can be due to the persistence, in more or less active form, in certain soils of the organism of the disease." Dr. Sidney Martin has ascertained that "the behaviour of the microbe is very different when, in the absence of competing micro-organisms, it is implanted in organically polluted soil, than when it is implanted in a soil from an altogether uninhabited and uncultivated area. In a soil of the first description the bacillus rapidly increases and spreads abroad, whereas, in virgin soil, under like conditions of temperature and moisture, it languishes and quickly dies out." Such a knowledge should rouse all municipal bodies into action, so that the soil of attractive and fast growing suburbs should not become sewage sodden through individual carelessness and neglect. Questions such as these are of paramount importance, and must not be shelved as they have been in time past. Ratepayers must prepare for united action, so that their respective boroughs may prosper through the fostering of the public health.

During the year 1897 461 cases of typhoid fever were reported to the Board, as against 616 cases in the year 1896, 381 cases for 1895, and 542 cases for the year 1894.

Quarters ending—	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	Total.
March 31st	214	186	253	150	803
June 30th... ..	168	90	216	167	641
September 30th	27	36	45	36	144
December 31st	133	96	102	113	444
Total	542	408	616	466	2,032

Of the 461 cases reported during the year 1897, 408 cases were admitted to the various hospitals, and fifty-three cases were treated at their own homes. The number appears greater than usual when compared with that of 1895, but the apparent increase is due to the fact that the partial notification of infectious disease instituted by the Board has been taken more advantage of than formerly.

Treated at—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Coast Hospital	13	5	14	17	23	11	5	1	5	3	6	11	114
Sydney Hospital	1	10	12	10	6	3	2	1	5	0	11	12	73
Prince Alfred Hospital	9	22	21	26	20	4	4	4	3	7	21	20	161
Children's Hospital	0	4	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	17
St. Vincent's Hospital	1	2	9	8	2	2	3	0	1	1	10	4	43
Own Home	10	5	5	3	5	7	2	1	0	2	3	10	53
Total	34	48	67	64	62	27	16	7	14	13	51	58	461

An inquiry was made by the Board's Inspectors into the environment of the dwellings from which each of these cases came.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
No sewers were available	16	24	40	38	35	16	7	3	6	6	29	27	247
Houses were in an insanitary state	15	21	22	18	22	8	6	2	5	5	19	23	166
Owners had complied with the regulations of the Board	3	3	3	7	5	1	2	2	1	2	2	6	37
Came into port suffering from fever	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	5
No fixed abode	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	2	6
Total	34	48	67	64	62	27	16	7	14	13	51	58	461

Of the 37 cases coming from dwellings whose sanitary fittings were in accordance with the Board's regulations, 14 were school children, 2 labourers, 2 domestic servants, 2 nurses, 1 draper, 4 married women, 1 doctor, 1 milk boy, 2 clerks, 1 painter, 1 policeman, 1 carter, 2 waiters, 1 postman, 1 bookbinder.

DEATHS from Typhoid Fever—City of Sydney only.

Year.	Population.	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 of the Population.
1884	118,645	100	8.43
1885	122,175	93	7.61
1886	123,645	62	5.58
1887	122,770	46	3.75
1888	119,590	50	4.18
1889	116,490	59	5.07
1890	113,470	43	3.79
1891	109,090	29	2.66
1892	106,380	19	1.76
1893	106,380	15	1.41
1894	104,880	42	4.06
1895	103,870	20	1.92
1896	100,000	42	4.2
1897	95,850	16	1.6

DEATHS from Typhoid Fever.

Quarters ending—	1894.			1895.			1896.			1897.		
	Metrop.	City.	Suburbs.	Metrop.	City.	Suburbs.	Metrop.	City.	Suburbs.	Metrop.		
March 31st ...	50	6	26	32	18	39	57	5	13	18		
June 30th ...	26	2	17	19	13	32	45	5	22	27		
September 30th ...	14	2	4	6	4	12	16	1	4	5		
December 31st ...	30	10	14	24	7	18	25	5	22	27		
Total... ..	120	20	61	81	42	101	143	16	61	77		

.Of the 461 cases reported to the Board during the year 1897, 77, or 17 per cent., proved fatal. Of these 77 fatal cases, 34 were treated at the various hospitals and 43 cases were treated at their own homes.

Died at—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Sydney Hospital	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	6
Prince Alfred Hospital	0	1	0	2	3	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	10
Coast Hospital	4	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	3	13
St. Vincent's Hospital	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	4
Children's Hospital	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Own Home	7	3	2	2	4	7	2	1	0	2	3	10	43
Total... ..	11	5	2	7	9	11	2	2	1	5	4	18	77

An inspection of the environment of these cases showed—

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
No sewers were available	9	3	1	2	3	5	0	1	0	2	3	7	36
Houses were in an insanitary state	2	2	1	3	5	6	0	1	1	3	1	10	35
Owners had complied with the regulations of the Board	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	4
Came into port suffering from fever... ..	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
No fixed abode	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	11	5	2	7	9	11	2	2	1	5	4	18	77

So that only 5·2 per cent. of the fatal cases came from dwellings which were properly supplied with sanitary fittings according to the Board's regulations. Two of these cases have been conclusively proved to have contracted the disease away from their own residences, and therefore the percentage may be safely reduced to 2·6.

REDUCTION in Mortality per 10,000 of Population.—Sewered Districts.

	Rate before Laying of Sewers.	Rate since Laying of Sewers.
City of Sydney	5·07	2·4
Glebe	2·5	1·1
Darlington	4·0	·6
Newtown	6·6	3·8
Redfern	3·6	1·0
Waterloo	1·2	·9
Paddington... ..	2·7	1·6
Woollahra	2·1	·9

Notwithstanding that in certain quarters complaints have been made as to the purity of the water supplied by the Board, inquiry has found that such complaints have no firm basis, and that with the exception of iron rust in small quantities, the water maintains a high standard of excellence and purity. Recent research directed by Dr. Sims Woodhead has shown that the old-fashioned filter, with a filtering medium of charcoal, stone or iron, not only does not confer protection against disease germs, but even affords a fruitful breeding-ground for these organisms. The filter which is the most easy to clean and renders the filtrate continuously sterile is the Pasteur-Chamberland porcelain filter, and next to this is the Berkefeld filter, composed of compressed diatomaceous earths, with a larger output than the Pasteur-Chamberland, but does not render the filtrate continuously sterile. This last filter is, however, a very good filter for all practical purposes. It is wonderful to find, even in this enlightened age, how little the value of cleanliness is appreciated, and that there are individuals who think that because they have installed a good pressure Pasteur-Chamberland filter in their houses, it will go on for ever rendering the water pure, without any care or trouble on their part, forgetting that disease germs, if left to their own devices, may grow into the substance of the filtering media, and be driven by pressure into the filtrate. Everything needs care and attention, and no filter will continue to yield clear filtered water unless a due amount of care and cleanliness is exhibited. The retrospect of the period of the Board's operations is a very favourable one, and although there may be other influences which have been, and are at the present time, assisting in obtaining the good results, still it is a very significant fact that none of this came about till the Board commenced to extend their operations, and that much of the many benefits derived can be directly traced to the operations of the Board.

I have the honor to be,
Your obedient Servant,

THEO. MAILLER KENDALL,
Medical Adviser.

January 31st, 1898.

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION of Reported Cases of Typhoid Fever.

	Density of Population per acre.	Rate of Reported Cases per 10,000 of Population.
Sydney	45.93	8.4
Suburbs—		
North-western—		
Balmain	48.67	6.0
Leichhardt	12.80	31.6
Annandale	20.53	20.0
Glebe	36.69	11.2
West Central—		
Newtown	45.46	10.0
Camperdown	17.62	15.3
Erskineville... ..	35.73	23.2
St. Peters	6.28	16.2
East Central—		
Redfern	58.25	11.3
Darlington	89.47	5.1
Waterloo	11.36	17.6
Alexandria	8.07	18.4
Botany	1.16	49.8
North Botany	1.31	30.0
Eastern—		
Randwick	1.05	4.2
Waverley	5.84	4.6
Woollahra	5.49	3.9
Paddington	50.26	2.8
Western—		
Ashfield	6.43	10.0
Burwood	6.13	40.0
Enfield	1.33	70.0
Concord ... ..	.95	0.0
Strathfield	1.46	5.0
Five Dock	1.39	80.0
Drummoyne... ..	4.19	5.0
Marrickville... ..	8.21	13.6
Petersham	16.67	16.6
Southern—		
Canterbury ... ..	.45	19.8
Hurstville ... ..	.63	2.1
Kogarah ... ..	.83	0.0
Rockdale	1.46	0.0
Northern—		
North Sydney	9.18	4.4
Mosman	1.14	0.0
Willoughby ... ..	.61	6.1
Lane Cove ... ..	.47	9.0
Manly	1.69	6.0
Ryde... ..	.39	13.6
Hurstville	2.62	19.8

The highest rate, therefore, is 80 per 10,000 of the population, for Five Dock; then Enfield, 70; Botany, 49.8; Burwood, 40; and Leichhardt, 31.6.

COMPARISON of the Death-rate from Typhoid Fever in the Cities of Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth, and Hobart.

City (Excluding Suburbs).	Area in Acres.	Population.	Density per Acre.	Deaths from Typhoid Fever.			
				Excluding Hospitals.		Including Hospitals.	
				Number.	Rate per 10,000.	Number.	Rate per 10,000.
Sydney... ..	2,226	95,850	45.93	6	.6	16	1.6
Melbourne	6,000	69,977	11.1	4	.6	20	3.0
Adelaide	3,632	40,429	11.1	13	3.2	25	6.1
Brisbane	6,400	105,734	16.5	38	3.6	145	13.7
Perth	2,657	28,317	10.6	40	14.1	74	26.0
Hobart... ..	1,270	28,726	22.6	16	3.5	10	5.9

Report on the Health of the Metropolis for the Quarter ending March, 31, 1898.

To the Secretary, for presentation to the President and Members of the Board,—

Sir,

I have the honor to submit my report on the health of the metropolis during the first quarter of the year 1898.

The population remains the same as regards total as it was for the corresponding quarter of last year, but there has been a decrease in the city and an increase in the suburbs.

POPULATION.

	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
City	103,870	103,870	100,000	95,850	95,250
Suburbs... ..	319,730	319,730	308,000	314,150	315,050
Metropolis	423,600	423,600	408,000	410,000	410,300
Density per acre in city	48·7	48·7	46·9	45·9	44·6

The temperature showed a great amount of variation, and the quarter was notable for the great humidity of the atmosphere.

TEMPERATURE.

	1896.		1897.		1898.	
	Date.	Temperature	Date.	Temperature.	Date.	Temperature.
January	13th ...	108·5	18th ...	51·6	19th ...	93·1
"	16th ...	105·2	22nd ...	90·3	22nd ...	58·3
"	30th ...	63·0	.....	.....	.....	.....
February	1st ...	98·0	6th ...	61·3	9th ...	94·8
"	4th ...	58·0	24th ...	90·5	20th ...	59·8
March	5th ...	80·0	11th ...	51·8	2nd ...	83·8
"	31st ...	52·6	14th ...	92·9	16th ...	55·6

The highest temperature, 93·1, was registered 13th January, 1898; the lowest temperature, 55·6, was registered 16th March, and the greatest range, 33·2, occurred on 19th January.

The rainfall was distributed over 36 days, or 1 day less than during the corresponding quarter of last year. The amount registered was 11·61 inches, or 5·66 inches more than fell during the corresponding quarter of last year.

RAINFALL for quarter ending 31st March.

1894.		1895.		1896.		1897.		1898.	
Inches.	Days.	Inches.	Days.	Inches.	Days.	Inches.	Days.	Inches.	Days.
17·25	61	16·20	59	9·97	43	5·95	37.	11·61	36

The total number of deaths from all causes was greater than during the corresponding quarter of last year, the excess being due to the increase in the number of deaths from scarlet fever, typhoid fever, diarrhœa, cancer, phthisis, and enteritis.

DEATHS from all Causes, quarter ending 31st March.

	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
City	377	448	474	341	401
Suburbs	1,049	825	1,141	872	955
Metropolis	1,426	1,373	1,615	1,213	1,356

The zymotic death rate for the city rose from 1.4 per 10,000 of the population at the end of December, 1897, to 2 at the end of January, 1898, fell to .9 at the end of February, and stood at .9 at the end of March. For the suburbs this rate fell from 1.7 at the end of December, 1897, to 1.2 at the end of January, 1898, to 1.07 at the end of February, and rose again to 1.3 at the end of March.

The mortality from diarrhœa shows a decided increase upon that for the corresponding quarter of last year. The summer rise coincided with the rise in the 4-foot earth temperature which reached the height of 68°. Humidity of the atmosphere, more especially during the existence of a high temperature, favours putrefactive change. Want of cleanliness in the home tends to lower the vitality of the human being, and renders the individual in this way more prone to contract disease. Irregular removal of house garbage allows festering heaps to exist, and the present system which obtains in our principal thoroughfares of displaying inadequate and unsuitable receptacles teeming with filthy garbage upon the public pavements is pernicious in the extreme, more especially as the contents are raked over by the itinerant rag and bottle merchants and scattered upon the footpath. Such things are factors of preventable disease.

MORTALITY from Diarrhœa, quarter ending 31st March.

	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
City	21	36	8	26
Suburbs	74	108	55	62
Metropolis	95	144	63	88

The theory that has been advanced that diphtheria increases with the extension of sewerage systems is not strengthened by the experience of our Metropolis. Year by year the mortality from this disease has become smaller, and during the quarter just ended it has been very small indeed.

MORTALITY from Diphtheria, quarter ending 31st March.

	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
City	2	0	3	0
Suburbs	23	10	12	11
Metropolis	25	10	15	11

The dangers arising from the filthy and pernicious habit of expectoration have been before pointed out by me. Such dangers are emphasised by the fact that it has been positively established that phthisis is frequently communicated through the spores, derived from desiccated sputum floating in the air.

MORTALITY from Phthisis, quarter ending 31st March.

	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
City... ..	56	41	31	31
Suburbs	107	43	59	87
Metropolis	163	84	90	118

The necessity for care in dealing with this disease may be better appreciated through the experience of a French military hospital. Two patients suffering from tuberculosis died in one of the wards of the hospital; about six months after a healthy soldier suffering with a sore heel was placed in this ward; and about six months after this another healthy soldier suffering from a sore heel was also placed in this ward. Both of these soldiers contracted phthisis, one dying very quickly. In 1897, L. Woodruff, writing on the subject of school hygiene, counsels that no one suffering from tuberculosis should be allowed to teach or attend at a school. He cites a case where a school-teacher contracted phthisis in a room infected by his predecessor, who had died of phthisis. In New York steps are taken for actively dealing with this disease, and for isolating such infected persons as will submit to this measure. Dr. Hermann Biggs states that one-fourth of all the deaths among the working classes is due to tuberculosis, and Dr. Sims Woodhead, in his address to the Cheshire Chamber of Agriculture, urged the desirability of including tuberculosis in the schedule of infectious diseases. Brown, in his report on the health of Carlisle, in 1897, points out that the tuberculous lesions in cattle have the same localisations as in the human subject, and he lays great stress upon the great necessity for the periodical inspection of dairy cattle, because of the undoubted propagation of tuberculosis by milk. In our Metropolis, out of 1,356 deaths, 118, or 7.8 per cent., were due to tuberculosis. The ages of the fatal cases ranged from 1 year to 73 years; the greatest number of fatal cases (9) occurred at the age of 28 years; 8 cases proved fatal at the age of 38 years; 6 at the age of 27 years; 6 at the age of 60 years.

DISTRIBUTION of Mortality in Metropolis, according to age, for the quarter ending 31st March, 1898.

1 year.	15 to 19 years.	20 to 29 years.	30 to 39 years.	40 to 49 years.	50 to 59 years.	60 to 69 years.	70 years.	73 years.
2 deaths	8	33	34	19	9	11	1	1

In the sewered districts the death rate is much lower now than it was formerly, before the sewers were laid, and the increase in mortality occurred during the present quarter beyond the sewered area.

DISTRIBUTION of Mortality from Phthisis in the various Boroughs.

	Rate per 10,000 Population.		Rate per 10,000 Population.		Rate per 10,000 Population.
City	3.3	Botany	12	Marrickville... ..	1.8
Balmain	1.4	North Botany	3.5	Petersham	2.3
Leichhardt	3.6	Paddington	2.5	Canterbury	9
Annandale	1.7	Randwick	1.3	Hurstville	0
Glebe	2.9	Waverley ... ..	.9	Kogarah	6.6
Newtown	5.4	Woollahra	3.8	Rockdale	1.6
Camperdown	2.8	Ashfield	1.5	North Sydney	2.2
Erskineville	1.7	Burwood	1.5	Mosman	0
St. Peters	0	Enfield	4.5	Willoughby	0
Redfern	3.5	Concord	0	Lane Cove	8.7
Darlington	5.9	Strathfield	11.8	Manly	0
Waterloo	8.7	Five Dock	0	Ryde... ..	10
Alexandria	0	Drummcyne... ..	4.6	Hunter's Hill	0

With regard to enteric or typhoid fever this year marks a new era, for it is now compulsory to notify this disease, and consequently more cases have been reported to the Board than during former years.

During the first quarter of the year 1894, 214 cases of typhoid fever were reported to the Board; in the year 1895, 186 cases were reported; in the year 1896, 253 cases were reported; in the year 1897, 150 cases were reported; and in the year 1898, 339 cases were reported during the first quarter of the year. Of the 339 cases reported during the quarter just ended, 145 were treated at the various hospitals, and 194 at their own homes.

	January.	February.	March.	Total.
Sydney Hospital	9	8	12	29
Prince Alfred Hospital	12	13	13	38
Coast Hospital	26	17	18	61
St. Vincent's Hospital	4	2	2	8
Children's Hospital	9	0	0	9
Own Homes	86	54	54	194
Total	146	94	99	339

A careful inquiry was made into the environment of these 339 cases, with the following result:—

	January.	February.	March.	Total.
No sewers were available	120	60	61	241
Houses were in an insanitary state	19	18	20	57
Owners had complied with the Board regulations	7	11	12	30
No fixed abode	0	0	4	4
Came into port suffering from disease	0	5	2	7
Total	146	94	99	339

In 30 cases therefore, or 8.8 per cent. of the total number reported, the owners of the dwellings from which the cases were taken had complied with the regulations of the Board. An analysis of the occupations of these 30 cases shows:—Labourers, 4; school children, 11; hospital nurse, 1; married women, 3; butcher, 1; domestic servants, 3; bootmakers, 2; clerks, 2; dealers, 2; plumber, 1. In so scientific an age as the present it becomes necessary for every individual to recognise his true position of responsibility, and endeavour to make the best use of those benefits which are the outcome of scientific investigation. The very dog who quests around a post is making abstractions and drawing inferences, and to properly discharge the duties of citizenship it is necessary for man to use his reasoning powers, for it is through ignorance and indifference that infectious material is scattered broadcast, diminishing the chances of recovery of persons suffering from disease, and imperilling the safety of others. The number of putrescible substances is not great, still they are universally distributed, and are derived from every organised being. Injurious smells are caused by the hordes of anaerobic microbes which invade decaying matter with dangerous activity, but germ life is ubiquitous, and pathogenic germs are of so delicate a nature that they soon perish in the struggle with the swarms of saprophytes which simultaneously come into existence. The nasty smells which issue from street grids or sewer openings often give rise to exaggerated fears, but it is not always the rank smelling sewer air which causes disease, but rather those dangerous, insidious, non-smelling gases, the formation of which cannot be altogether avoided. There is absolutely no need for sewer gas to enter any house if only all householders would see that their house drains were properly connected with the sewers, and that all their intercepting traps were

were in good working order. The system of ventilating houses and sewers by long pipes and shafts carried well up into the air has been shown to be most efficient system known, and all competent observers are agreed that the bacilli of disease have never been found in the air issuing from such ventilators. Dr. Vivian Poore has drawn attention to the evils of over-crowding in cities and towns, and he is of opinion that this over-crowding, which is one of the most powerful factors in shortening the duration of life, is encouraged by the modern conveniences of water supply and well sewered streets. Sir Richard Thorne Thorne, however, says: "It is manifest that an enormous saving of life has resulted through the establishment of public water supplies and sewers. Before the institution of public works typhoid fever was mainly endemic, now it was occasionally epidemic, and although the epidemics are certainly startling, the total amount of typhoid fever is trivial compared with what it used to be. Towns with a systematic sewerage have, as a rule, a lower death-rate than towns which are not sewered at all, and drainage works beneficially influence public health by preventing the systematic pollution of the air, under our houses and in their vicinity, through decaying waste matters."

The number of deaths from typhoid fever during the quarter just ended exceeds the number for the corresponding quarter of last year.

Quarter ending March 31st.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
City ... ..	...	6	18	5	5
Suburbs... ..	...	26	39	13	24
Metropolis	50	32	57	18	29

Of these 29 cases 19 were treated at the various metropolitan hospitals, and 10 at their own homes.

	January.	February.	March.	Total.
Sydney Hospital	1	1	1	3
Prince Alfred Hospital	0	1	3	4
St. Vincent's Hospital... ..	1	0	0	1
Children's Hospital	1	0	0	1
Coast Hospital... ..	2	5	3	10
North Sydney Hospital	1	2	1	4
Western Suburbs' Hospital	0	0	1	1
Own home	4	1	0	5
Total	10	10	9	29

LOCALITIES from which the fatal cases came.

	Rate per 10,000 Population.		Rate per 10,000 Population.		Rate per 10,000 Population.
Annandale	1.4	Botany	4.0	North Sydney	1.1
Ashfield	4.5	Erskineville	3.5	Redfern ... ..	.4
Balmain ... ..	.3	Hunter's Hill	2.5	Petersham	1.5
Burwood	1.5	Marrickville ... ..	.6	Shipping	2 cases.
City... ..	.3	St. Peters... ..	3.6	No fixed abode	2 cases.

An inquiry was made into the environment of these cases.

	January.	February.	March.	Total.
No sewers were available	5	5	5	15
Houses were in an insanitary state	4	3	2	9
Owners had complied with the Board's regulations	0	0	0	0
No fixed abode	1	1	1	3
Came into port suffering from disease	0	1	1	2
Total	10	10	9	29

No cases, therefore, or 0 per cent. of the total number of fatal cases, came from homes, the sanitary fittings of which were in accordance with the regulations of the Board.

City	Density of Population per Acre.	Rate of Reported Cases per 10,000 of Population.
City	44.6	4.0
Suburbs.		
North Western—		
Balmain	48.67	7.7
Leichhardt	12.80	17.7
Annamdale	20.53	29.1
Glebe	36.69	6.5
West Central—		
Newtown	45.46	6.4
Camperdown	17.62	2.8
Erskineville	35.73	14.4
St. Peters	6.28	23.4
East Central—		
Redfern	58.25	4.7
Darlington	89.47	2.9
Waterloo	11.36	8.8
Alexandria	8.07	8.6
Botany	1.16	20.0
North Botany	1.31	0
Eastern—		
Paddington	50.26	1.0
Randwick	1.05	6.6
Waverley	5.84	3.8
Woollahra	5.49	2.9
Vaucluse	1.45	0
Western—		
Ashfield	6.43	19.2
Burwood	6.19	1.5
Enfield	1.33	9.0
Concord ... ..	.95	8.7
Strathfield	1.46	7.7
Five Dock	1.39	0
Drummoyne	4.19	13.4
Marrickville	8.21	10.9
Petersham	16.67	11.1
Southern—		
Canterbury ... ..	.45	6.0
Hurstville ... ..	.63	4.0
Kogarah ... ..	.83	3.3
Rockdale	1.46	3.2
Northern—		
North Sydney	9.18	10.9
Willoughby ... ..	.61	0
Lane Cove ... ..	.47	52.1
Manly	1.69	30.3
Ryde ... ..	.39	4.4
Mosman	1.14	4.1
Hunter's Hill	2.62	18.1

The evidence of typhoid fever, therefore, during the quarter was greatest at Lane Cove, which reported 52.1 cases per 10,000 of its population, next greatest stands Manly, 30.3, then in order: Annandale, 29.1; St. Peters, 23.4; Botany, 20; Ashfield, 19.2; Hunter's Hill, 18.1; Leichhardt, 17.7; Erskineville, 14.4; Drummoyne, 13.4; Petersham, 11.1; North Sydney, 10.9; Enfield, 9.0; Concord, 8.7.

In some instances, although the sanitary fittings were in accordance with the Board's regulations, the soil around was in such a condition, owing to being composed of refuse matter and garbage, that the dwellings were rendered unhealthy. The operations necessary for the installing of a proper sewerage system undoubtedly disturbed the disease germs lying in such soils, and gave some impetus to the disease, but the benefit of such a system is exemplified in the case of the borough of Erskineville, which in the year 1894 reported 65 cases of typhoid fever per 10,000 of its population, and now reports only 14.

It is very necessary to recognise the fact that although science has done much for all, yet the application of the truths which have been thus revealed must not be made rashly, and that common sense must play an important part in the carrying out of sanitary laws. Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes has well said that "Science is an excellent piece of furniture for a man's upper chamber, if he has common sense on the ground floor," and it is only through using this ground floor equipment that the benefit of scientific knowledge can be obtained. The neglect of sanitary laws, however, is a fault—

"Which neither God nor man can well forgive."

and nature will surely exact the penalty for such neglect.

I have, &c.,

THEO. MAILLER KENDALL,
Medical Adviser.

30th April, 1898.

Report

Report on the Health of Metropolis, Quarter ending 30th June, 1898.

To the Secretary, for presentation to the President and Members of the Board,—

Sir,

Sydney, 31 July, 1898.

I have the honor to submit my report on the health of the Metropolis during the second quarter of the year 1898.

The population remains almost the same as for the corresponding quarter of last year—that for the city having diminished, and that for the suburbs having increased.

	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
City	108,870	103,870	100,000	95,850	95,250
Suburbs	319,730	319,730	308,000	314,150	315,050
Metropolis	423,600	423,600	408,000	410,000	410,300
Density per acre in city	48·7	48·7	46·9	44·6	44·7

The temperature showed a great amount of variation, and some low temperatures were recorded. The highest temperature, 83° F., was registered 23rd April, the lowest temperature, 41·5° F., 28th June, and the greatest range, 23·7° F., occurred 3rd April. The quarter on the whole was colder than the corresponding quarter of last year.

	1895.		1897.		1898.	
	Date.	Temperature.	Date.	Temperature.	Date.	Temperature.
		° F.		° F.		° F.
April	8	83·9	12	88·0	3	83·0
"	15	51·0	22	50·0	22	48·5
May	3	81·0	9	44·0	22	66·8
"	13	45·2	17	78·8	25	42·4
June	22	42·5	10	68·0	11	65·8
"	28	67·0	30	44·8	28	41·5

The rainfall was distributed over forty-five days, or twelve days more than during the corresponding quarter of last year. The amount which fell was 17·53 inches or 17 inch less than fell during the corresponding quarter of last year.

RAINFALL for the quarter ending June 30th.

1894.		1895.		1896.		1897.		1898.	
Inches.	Days.	Inches.	Days.	Inches.	Days.	Inches.	Days.	Inches.	Days.
6·63	38	5·12	41	18·70	34	17·70	33	17·53	45

The total number of deaths was higher than for the corresponding quarter of last year, the increase being due to the higher mortality from measles, influenza, scarlet fever, phthisis, and diphtheria.

	1895	1896	1897	1898
City	358	361	444	429
Suburbs	962	840	954	980
Metropolis	1,320	1,240	1,398	1,409

The zymotic death-rate for the city fell from 9 per 10,000 of the population at the end of March to 6 at the end of April, rose to 8 at the end of May, and, owing to the increase in mortality from measles and diphtheria, to 1·6 at the end of June. For the suburbs this rate stood at 1·3 at the end of March, 1·2 at the end of April, 1·1 at the end of May, 1·4 at the end of June.

The

The mortality from diarrhœa, was the lowest known for many years past.

	1895	1896	1897	1898
City	18	7	7	6
Suburbs	46	35	25	25
Metropolis	64	42	32	31

Recent scientific investigation has discovered that street scavenging is of great importance in this disease—not the badly managed scavenging which we see in our city, but proper, thoroughly carried out street scavenging assists greatly in diminishing the mortality from diarrhœa. When the moisture evaporates from street refuse, a poisonous dust is blown about, and Professor Klein has discovered a peculiar, previously undescribed anaerobic bacillus in the horse-dung voided in the street. Klein states, that this bacillus is of a highly pathogenic character and is one of the causes of acute diarrhœa. The mortality from diphtheria was much higher than during the corresponding quarter of last year. The causes of diphtheria, as before pointed out, are really beyond the scope of the Board's operations, and the incidence of the disease generally follows continued wet weather. Of all known diseases diphtheria is probably the most closely allied to filth, and it is important to guard against the infection of articles of diet. Professor Trevelyan has drawn attention to the occurrence of the micro-organisms of this disease in articles of diet especially milk. He points out that milk is a good cultivation medium for the bacillus of diphtheria, and that it is possible that cows suffer from this disease, and communicate the bacillus directly to the milk. He also mentions the possible propagation of the disease through some of the domestic animals, especially the cat. Diphtheria is a disease which, in its epidemic form, attacks the inmates of well-regulated dwellings as readily as it does those of a dirty dwelling. Various reasons have been assigned for such epidemics, and they have been traced to dirty school floors, milk being exposed for sale in uncovered vessels, and to misuse of ash-pits. In ash-pits there are all the conditions necessary to breed diphtheria, and, unfortunately, it is not necessarily those who have sinned that suffer, as the currents of foul air from these ill-managed and dirty receptacles are conveyed to innocent people.

MORTALITY from Diphtheria, quarter ending June 30th.

	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
City ... ..	.....	4	4	2	2
Suburbs ... ..	.....	25	39	14	30
Metropolis	75	29	43	16	32

During the quarter just ended, 73 males and 42 females died from phthisis in the metropolis. This mortality is slightly higher than that occurring during the corresponding quarter of last year. At the Twelfth International Congress of Medicine, which has just concluded its session at Moscow, it was unanimously agreed that "tuberculosis is a disease, which, if taken in time, is comparatively easy to cure, and that all houses which have been inhabited by phthisical patients ought to be disinfected. It was also recommended that phthisical patients should not be allowed to expectorate in streets or public vehicles, because the expectoration, when dry, became an infectious dust.

MORTALITY from Phthisis, quarter ending June 30th.

	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
City	39	29	42	38
Suburbs	73	74	69	77
Metropolis	112	103	111	115

MORTALITY at Various Ages, quarter ending June 30th, 1898.

1 to 5 years.	12 to 19 years.	20 to 29 years.	30 to 39 years.	40 to 49 years.	50 to 59 years.	60 to 64 years.	71 to 77 years.
4	11	25	29	26	12	4	4

ORDER of incidence in the various Boroughs of the Mortality from Phthisis for the quarter ending June 30th, 1898.

	Rate per 10,000 of Population.		Rate per 10,000 of Population.		Rate per 10,000 of Population.
1 Enfield	9.0	9 City of Sydney	3.9	17 Glebe	2.3
2 Lane Cove	8.8	10 Waverley	3.8	18 North Sydney	2.2
3 Woollahra	5.8	11 Marrickville	3.6	19 Redfern	2.1
4 Ryde	5.0	12 Erskineville	3.5	20 Paddington	2.0
5 Newtown	4.4	13 Petersham	3.1	21 Balmain	1.6
6 Waterloo	4.4	14 Canterbury	3.1	22 Annandale	1.5
7 Leichhardt	4.3	15 Ashfield	3.0	23 Camperdown	1.4
8 Hurstville	4.0	16 Hunter's Hill	2.5	24 Alexandria	1.2

The origin of the infectivity of phthisis is hidden in the night of time, but that it is infectious is now admitted. The theory of treating phthisis with an abundance of fresh air is no new doctrine, and was, apparently, appreciated in ancient times before the desire to control Nature, rather than to assist her, crept into the treatment of disease, and created a great obstacle in the way of improvement. Impure and re-breathed air, undoubtedly, assists in propagating this disease, and is one of the causes of debilitation, and renders the individual vulnerable to the attack of tubercle bacillus. To banish and to avoid this air sewage, it is necessary to legislate for a proper Building Act, which will prevent the erection of jerry-built houses and the formation of narrow lanes and streets.

During

During the quarter ending June 30th, 216 cases of typhoid fever were reported to the Board in the year 1896; 165 cases in the year 1897; and 252 cases in the year 1898. As the law for the compulsory notification of disease came into force this year, it was only to be expected that a greater number of cases would be reported. Of the 252 cases reported, 115 were treated at the various hospitals, and 137 cases at their own homes.

Treated at—	April.	May.	June.	Total.
Prince Alfred Hospital	21	16	7	44
Sydney Hospital	6	7	2	15
Coast Hospital	20	22	7	49
St. Vincent's Hospital	1	2	1	4
Children's Hospital	0	0	3	3
Own Homes	52	71	14	137
Total	100	118	34	252

An inquiry was made into the environment of each of these cases with the following result:—

	April.	May.	June.	Total.
No sewers were available	62	87	18	167
Dwelling were in an insanitary state	14	19	8	41
Owners had complied with the Regulations of the Board	20	10	7	37
No fixed abode	2	1	1	4
Came into port suffering from the disease	2	1	0	3
Total	100	118	34	252

Thirty-seven cases, or 10·6 per cent. of the total number, came from dwellings in which the sanitary arrangements were in accordance with the Board's Regulations. An analysis of the occupations of these cases shewed—

Laundress ... 1	Domestic servants ... 3	Nurse 1
Tutor 1	Dressmaker 1	Labourers 4
Dealer 1	Blacksmiths 2	Engineer 1
Housewives ... 2	School children... .. 20	

True sanitation is based upon two principles: 1. Common sense; 2. Scientific research. The advances in chemical science have given rise to more correct theories than those formerly in acceptance, and although it seems a vast pity to upset those notions of sanitation which have taken a deep root in men's minds, and to demolish suddenly pet theories, still the truth must be told, in order to restore comfort, to avoid unnecessary alarm, and to place those very notions and theories upon a more enduring basis. In view of the dire results of epidemics and the seeming impotence of medicine to effect a cure, it would appear necessary to consider public health as more a question for statesmen than for physicians. Such may be the case, and no doubt politicians having the care of the public purse are able to help in very practical manner, if only their judgment is not biassed through ignorance and prejudice. At the present time the most pressing work of the sanitary reformer is not to legislate but to educate. He must endeavour to make the mass of the people, in some degree at least, participate in the knowledge of the causes of preventable disease and death, so that ignorance and prejudice may be abolished; for it is through a want of knowledge that people fail to appreciate the immeasurable results of sanitation. Putrefaction is a process of vast importance, for it is to be noted that, in the neighbourhood of human habitation, the results of putrefaction do not remain in the locality itself, but are carried away by the power of diffusion and distributed in atmospheric space, and this air sewage, loaded with morbid matter, may be carried by the air currents beyond its own district into a healthier zone. Cleanly people therefore should be protected by the municipal authorities against the ill-doing of their unclean neighbours. There is marked degree of difference in the incidence of typhoid fever upon houses with different types of closets, and it is greatest upon those provided with the pail closet and common privy. The difficulty experienced with these two kinds of closets is that of keeping them clean, and although the pail closet is much to be preferred to the other, still there is the danger that some of the contents is spilled upon the ground adjoining; and that this may be a source of danger is accentuated by the fact that as faeces dry, the particles thereof may be carried into the atmosphere or into drinking water, and "happy is the man who neither breathes the one nor drinks the other, when so contaminated." People living in towns do not sufficiently object to the accumulation of refuse matter in the wrong place. If they would show their appreciation of the danger, they would cease to see the unsightly and noisome dirt-boxes in the streets and on the pavements, foul ash-pits, and that pestilence-breeding heap which is controlled by our City Corporation, and called the "Moore Park Tip." The responsibility of the health of the citizens ought to be cast upon the right shoulders, and this municipal abomination should be got rid of, for the offensive emanations which arise from such heaps of refuse not only increase the impurity of the atmosphere, but these deposits themselves afford a nidus for disease and other germs, which are often highly inimical to human life. The general unhealthy influences of dirt, impure air, and foul drinking water, are admitted by all to increase the virulence of epidemic diseases, and the weakly condition of the body. It is therefore necessary that homes should be clean, that there should be proper ventilation and flushing of sewers and drains, and that every precaution should be taken to preserve the catchment area and source of water supply free from human

human habitations and from any fouling through man or beast. Unfortunately, to carry out all these provisions money is needed, and taxes must be imposed; and although the taxpayer may feel these impositions irksome, and think that these imposts are unnecessary, it must be markedly pointed out that although economy is a good thing, and the cutting down of taxes is a good thing in its way, the cutting down of the death rate is a higher and better thing, and that it is a false economy which, for the sake of the few, sacrifices the many, and injures the public wealth through public health. During the quarter just ended 13 males and 13 females died from enteric fever; 16 of these cases died at the various hospitals, and 10 at their own homes.

Died at—	April.	May.	June.	Total.	Rate per cent. of admission.
Sydney Hospital	3	...	...	3	per cent. 20
Prince Alfred Hospital	1	1	...	2	4.4
St. Vincent's Hospital ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Children's Hospital ... ..	...	...	1	1	33
Coast Hospital	2	2	2	6	12
St. George's Cottage Hospital	1	...	...	1	...
Western Suburbs Cottage Hospital ... ..	...	1	1	2	...
North Sydney Hospital ... ..	...	1	...	1	...
Own Homes	3	5	2	10	7.3
Total	10	10	6	26	...

MORTALITY from Typhoid Fever, quarter ending June 30th.

	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
City ... ..	...	2	13	4	3
Suburbs ... ..	...	17	32	22	23
Metropolis	27	19	45	26	26

An inquiry into the environment of these 26 cases showed—

	April.	May.	June.	Total.
No sewers were available	6	7	5	18
Dwellings were in an insanitary state	4	3	...	7
Owners had complied with Board's Regulations ... ..	...	...	1	1
No fixed abode ... ..	...	...	...	...
Came into port suffering from disease ... ..	...	...	...	...
Total	10	10	6	26

Only 1 case, therefore, of all those which proved fatal is supposed to have come from a dwelling in which the sanitary arrangements were in accordance with the Board's Regulations. It is, however, conclusively proved that the person in question did not reside at the address given.

In sanitary science the aim is to prevent putrefactive change, not so much by those agents termed antiseptics as by the application of natural laws. It is not germ life which is in itself dangerous to the health of mankind, but the danger arises from those poisonous products of putrefactive change. Cleanliness of the body is of paramount importance, and there is every necessity of securing pure air and pure water, two of the essentials of sanitation. It should, therefore, be the care of every individual to prevent and arrest the spread of infection by inducing and maintaining sanitary conditions. Of late years the subject of filtration, both of drinking water and sewage, have occupied a great deal of public attention. House filters for drinking water have been brought as near perfection as possible by the introduction of the Pasteur-Chamberlain pressure filter, but the question of the filtration of water in large quantities has not yet been placed upon a firm basis, so as to be altogether devoid of danger. The disposal of sewage is a gigantic problem, and is not yet satisfactorily solved. The sewage farm is without doubt an excellent method of getting rid of and utilising sewage, but it is costly, and consequently much thought has been bestowed upon investigation as to whether some cheaper method may be substituted. The future treatment of sewage will resolve itself into a biological process, so that it may be applied to small as well as large quantities. The cheapest sewage filter, which combines the biological process, yet suggested is Garfield's coal filter, of which Dr. Bostock Hill remarks:—"The medium is cheap and easily obtained; and although in the past I have looked upon filtration of sewage, otherwise than through land, as of partial and limited value, I strongly believe that the death-knell of the costly sewage farm has been rung, and, what is of far more importance from an economic and sanitary sense, the problem of sewage disposal has been at last solved. The science of hygiene and public health is not founded upon fads and fancies, but for the most part upon solid facts; and if the public were wise, they would support those public men and public bodies whose policy and practical endeavour, in the light of their teaching, were directed to secure the best conditions of life, both moral and physical, for the community in general."

I have, &c.,

THEO. MAILLER KENDALL,
Medical Adviser.

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION of reported cases of Typhoid Fever half year ending June 30th, 1898.

City ...	No. of cases.	Rate per 10,000 of population.
City ...	60	6.2
Suburbs (North Western)—		
Balmain...	30	11.2
Leichhardt ...	48	34.4
Annandale ...	25	30.7
Glebe ...	17	8.4
West Central—		
Newtown ...	26	12.9
Camperdown ...	5	7.0
Erskineville ...	14	24.7
St. Peters ...	30	54.0
East Central—		
Redfern ...	30	13.0
Darlington ...	1	2.9
Waterloo ...	14	15.4
Alexandria ...	12	14.8
Botany ...	8	32.2
North Botany ...	2	7.0
Eastern—		
Paddington ...	9	4.6
Waverley ...	6	5.8
Randwick ...	11	14.6
Woollahra ...	7	6.8
Western—		
Ashfield ...	34	26.0
Burwood ...	29	45.4
Enfield ...	6	25.1
Concord... ..	8	34.7
Strathfield ...	2	7.7
Five Dock ...	4	29.5
Drummoyne ...	5	23.2
Marrickville ...	25	15.2
Petersham ...	28	22.6
Southern—		
Canterbury ...	1	3.1
Hurstville ...	2	4.0
Kogarah ...	3	9.9
Rockdale ...	4	6.4
Northern—		
North Sydney ...	30	17.0
Mosman... ..	1	4.3
Willoughby ...	...	...
Lane Cove ...	7	60.8
Manly ...	11	30.3
Ryde ...	7	30.1
Hunter's Hill ...	9	23.0

The Outbreak of Diphtheria.

To the Secretary, for presentation to the President and Members of the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage.

Sir,

I have the honor to report that Diphtheria has been very prevalent this year and that I have investigated the cases reported in reply to your letter to the various hospitals. The reappearance of this disease at certain intervals in any particular district points to the specific organism having either a saprophytic tendency or to its retaining its vitality in dust, thus rendering the site of previous cases more or less permanently infective. This disease favours damp soils and often appears after cold, wet winds. The disease in former years was strictly a rural one, but owing to certain conditions and changes of environment the habitat of the disease has become extended, and it is now very frequently met with in large towns and cities. During the present year 122 cases have been reported to the Board—25 cases from the city proper, and 97 from the various suburbs. The greatest incidence of the disease, after taking account of the city, as shown by the reported cases, occurred in the north-western suburbs, of which Balmain showed a proportion of 4 per 10,000 of the population, and Glebe, 4.5, while the city showed 2.5. Of the eight cases reported at the Glebe four came from one dwelling. After the north-western suburbs in order of incidence come the west central and the northern suburbs upon equal terms. Camperdown shows a proportion of reported cases 5.5 per 10,000 of the population; North Sydney, 5. The eastern suburbs follow next on the list, and then the east central, of which Botany shows the high rate of 12 per 10,000 of its estimated population. Last of all come the western and southern suburbs. There is not any very great appreciable difference in the proportion of the incidence of the disease between the sewered and unsewered districts, and Mr. Longstaff discounts the idea of its connection with sewers and is of opinion that the cause "should not be sought for primarily in any high developments of civilisation, such as sewers, but rather in some condition associated with a more primitive form of life." The removal of faulty sanitary circumstances has not always been followed by a diminution of this disease, but in many instances the contrary has obtained; still the bacillus of diphtheria has never yet been discovered in sewer air, although exposure to the emanations of foul drains induces an adynamic state of health which renders the individual more prone to disease.

Dr. Thorne Thorne, Chief Medical Officer of the Local Government Board, London, remarks:—"When in such outbreaks of diphtheria as I have investigated some obvious defect leading to the pollution of respired air by sewer or drain emanations was regarded as the cause of the disease, I have in almost every instance found it not only impossible to eliminate other and better established sources of infection, but also that some alternative sources of infection were generally found to have had obvious causal relation to the disease."

Dr. David Hardie, of Brisbane, says: "Diphtheria appears to originate and to spread independently of insanitary conditions, and is not commonly found co-existent with a disease usually associated with such conditions, but it is intimately connected with atmospheric conditions such as a high tropical rainfall."

My very interesting investigations of the 122 cases reported shows that although defective drainage could not be made wholly responsible for the present outbreak of this disease, still a want of appreciation of domestic sanitation was in a great measure the cause, and there was very distinct evidence of individual neglect.

The milk supplied to the several reported cases came from so many widely distributed centres that it would be impossible to charge any one of them specifically with disseminating the disease. Condensed milk was very largely used, and goats also were mentioned as a source of supply. Milk, however, of all foods is very readily contaminated by contagious particles, and becomes a potent disseminator of disease. If, therefore, this food becomes exposed to contagion through individual neglect it becomes a very dangerous element, and consequently a very strict supervision of milk shops is necessary. How great this necessity is, is emphasised by the fact that one of the reported cases came from a milk shop, the proprietor of which continued to sell this article of food although the evidence of the disease being present on the premises was quite established. In a former report I pointed out the public danger which might arise through the establishment of creameries, and how easily one infected dairy might contaminate many, thus showing the need for strict supervision of these places. The case above quoted shows the need for the supervision of milk shops and the need for the immediate proclamation of the present Health Act. Many of the dwellings which were reported in the city were very dirty and showed signs of individual neglect; fowls being kept in small yards and allowed to run about the houses, cows also and horses were stabled in close proximity to the dwelling. These facts are important when we consider that cats, pigeons, horses, and fowls are often attacked during the prevalence of human diphtheria by a disease closely resembling diphtheria itself; and infection of milk may, and according to Dr. Klien, often does arise from the disease being present in the cow itself.

Another powerful influence on the diffusion of diphtheria is school attendance. Recent observation has shown that the aggregation of children in school constitutes one of the conditions under which this disease of particular potency for spread and death may be manufactured. Dr. Thorne Thorne on this point remarks: "School attendance has a powerful influence on the diffusion of diphtheria for it brings together those members of the community, who are, by reason of age, most susceptible to the disease, into exceptionally close relation to each other for many hours of the day." The closer the aggregation the greater the hindrance to the free movement of air and the greater the risk. These statements are applicable to places other than schools, and the crowding of sleeping rooms which at the present day obtain among the poorer people cannot but prove a dangerous evil for public health.

I have on another occasion remarked on the great desire of the child population to project their heads and the major part of their bodies into gully shafts and stinking places; one of the greatest sources of pleasure being to sample the contents of rubbish boxes and to superintend the cleaning out of any stinking place. If parents are too indolent to correct such propensities, which are fraught with evil, they shirk their individual responsibility and must be prepared for a bad result. During this investigation I have traced in two cases the inception of this disease to the abovementioned cause.

Although the constant breathing of the emanations from foul drains induces a condition of health which renders persons more prone to contract diphtheria, the relation is by no means so universal as the public has been led to believe, for many cases of diphtheria occur in premises in which no defect of sanitation can be found. Instances of individual neglect, however, were found during my investigation where bath wastes were allowed to get choked and to become foul and stinking, thus forming a nidus for the propagation of disease.

Since the institution of this Board some influence has been working for the good of the community, by the operations of the present water supply and system of sewerage, so that the mortality from this disease has, in our Metropolis, greatly decreased; and as this decrease began before the powerful aid of the antitoxin treatment was made use of, it is only fair to attribute a portion of the good result to the operations of the Board, perhaps through drying the soil by laying deep-seated sewers.

In the year 1889 the mortality was 5·2 per 10,000 of the population, and it now stands at 2·6.

1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
5·2	4·62	4·5	2·9	3·1	3·1	2·7	2·6

That premises may be permanently infective has been verified in many of the cases investigated, for very many of these cases occurred in houses where the disease had been present within a range of three to six years.

An organic form of any kind, vegetable or animal, will remain unchanged only so long as the environment in which it is placed remains unchanged. Should an alteration in the environment occur the organism will either be modified or destroyed.

By individual action that environment, which is necessary for the fostering and propagation of disease, may become changed, so that disease may be modified or destroyed; but it is evident from this investigation that individual responsibility must be more thoroughly recognised and appreciated than it is at present, for it is useless to complain of choked drains, stagnant water in yards, collections of slop waters from other dwellings being massed in back lanes and against the wall of houses. A stinking drain is an object of danger, an instance of individual neglect, and a disgrace both to the tenant and the house-owner. As such it becomes a subject for individual action and a question of public good, so much so that instant action should be taken to abate the nuisance and to remove the cause.

Light, God's eldest daughter, is too little appreciated as a factor of health, and there is no doubt but that deficient light and a want of free access of fresh air has much to do with the propagation of disease, and to remedy this a proper Building Act is required.

During these investigations I could trace no case, of those reported, to any defect in the Board's operations; on the contrary, those operations have been productive of good, and have caused a decrease of disease. No matter how well our public sanitary works are carried out, we will, unfortunately, always be subject to epidemics of disease, and in most cases the cause will be traced to some neglect on the part of the individual. It remains, therefore, for the individual members of the community to show their appreciation of the sanitary works now established by co-operating to inculcate that cleanliness which will tend to promote the public health and increase the happiness of the community.

I have, &c.,

THEO. MAILLER KENDALL,
Medical Adviser.

Sydney, July 10th, 1897.

DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED CASES.

	Population.	Cases.	Rate per 10,000 of Population.
City of Sydney	100,000	25	2·5
Suburbs—			
North-western—			
Balmain	25,500	12	4·5
Leichhardt	15,500	3	1·9
Annandale	8,325	1	1·2
Glebe	17,500	8	4·5
West Central—			
Newtown	21,500	7	3·2
Camperdown	7,175	4	5·5
Erskineville	5,850	1	1·7
St. Peters	5,500	1	1·7
East Central—			
Redfern	24,340	3	1·2
Darlington	3,750	0	0
Waterloo	9,500	2	2·1
Alexandria	8,700	2	2·3
North Botany	3,000	0	0
Botany	2,500	3	12·0
Eastern—			
Paddington	19,500	6	3·0
Randwick	7,400	2	2·6
Woollahra	10,500	2	1·9
Waverley	10,250	3	2·9
Western—			
Ashfield	13,500	2	1·4
Burwood	6,500	0	0
Enfield	2,200	0	0
Concord	2,300	0	0
Strathfield	2,500	0	0
Five Dock	1,300	0	0
Drummoyne	2,200	2	0·4
Marrickville	16,195	2	1·2
Petersham	12,500	2	1·6
Southern—			
Canterbury	2,960	0	0
Hurstville	4,480	6	13·3
Kogarah	2,800	2	7·0
Rockdale	6,100	1	1·2
Northern—			
North Sydney	17,840	9	5·0
Willoughby	3,700	4	10·8
Mosman	2,200	0	.....
Ryde	2,340	0	.....
Manly ... ..	.....	0	.....
Gladesville ... ..	.....	0	.....
Hunter's Hill	4,560	0	.....
Beyond the Metropolis—			
Cowan ... ..	.....	1	.....
Oatley ... ..	.....	1	.....
Granville ... ..	.....	1	.....
Rookwood ... ..	.....	1	.....
Crookwell ... ..	.....	1	.....

On the Incidence of Diarrhœa during the period of the Board's operations.

To the Secretary, for presentation to the President and Members of the Board.

Sir,

I have the honor to lay before you the result of my inquiry into the incidence of diarrhœa during the period of the Board's operations.

Diarrhœa is a disease which has relations to many other diseases, and has only of late years been properly classed as separate disease through the progress of that science which has discovered many a crimson thread to guide the way through the labyrinthic difficulties surrounding the relations of certain diseases.

Diarrhœa is present at all times and seasons of the year, and in its epidemic form is essentially a disease of towns and crowded areas. In our metropolis it prevails very greatly during the months of January and February, diminishing gradually during the succeeding months till it reaches its lowest point in September, and gradually increases again through the months of October, November, and December. It is fatal at both extremes of age, and no age is exempt from attack, for Dr. Tomkins, of Leicester, is of opinion that "infants and young children form only a small proportion of those attacked, although they furnish nearly the whole of the deaths." Healthy children suffer most, but the disease is most fatal among the weakly. In our metropolis of Sydney over 5 per cent. of the total number of deaths are due to diarrhœa, and of the total number of deaths from diarrhœa more than 77 per cent. occur among children under the age of 5 years. Since the institution of the present water supply and sewerage system there has been a considerable lowering of this death rate.

Metropolis.

RATE of Mortality per 10,000 of the Population.

		Under 5 years.	5 years and under 10 years.	10 years and upwards.
Before laying sewers	... ..	7·5	1	·7
Since laying sewers	... ..	5·8	0	·6

A high atmospheric temperature conduces to a high diarrhœal mortality, but this influence, although very great, is exerted in a very indirect manner. It has been stated by Dr. Springthorpe, of Melbourne, that diarrhœa becomes epidemic only when the mean temperature has reached an elevation of 60° F.; from my own experiments I am inclined to place this elevation of temperature in Sydney at 65° F. Dr. Ballard, who has conducted an elaborate series of experiments, has found that the earth temperature is an important condition, and that the summer rise of diarrhœa does not occur until the mean temperature recorded by a 4-ft. earth thermometer has attained somewhere about 56° F., no matter what may have been the mean temperature attained by the atmosphere. As the result of the experiments which have been made at Erskineville, I have found that the summer rise of diarrhœa in our metropolis occurs when the mean temperature recorded by the 4-ft. earth thermometer reaches an elevation of 64° F., and I expect that further experiments will confirm this result. Of course, the atmospheric temperature and the temperature of the superficial layers of the earth exert an influence upon diarrhœa, but this influence is not apparent until the 4-ft. earth thermometer has recorded the temperature before stated. The stability of the soil temperature is greater at greater depths and does not follow the variations in the atmospheric heat in the same manner as the surface soil temperature. Soils obtain a considerable amount of heat by virtue of the chemical actions which are constantly taking place in them. Rainfall does not exercise an equal influence at all periods of diarrhœal attack, and the diarrhœa mortality is greater during a comparatively dry or a comparatively wet season, especially if the drought on the one hand or the rainfall on the other be remarkably protracted and excessive. Elevation of site is said to have an influence upon diarrhœal mortality, but I have no evidence upon this matter, and its influence is probably lost sight of amid other greater ones. In the year 1859 Greenhow conducted a series of experiments which caused him to conclude that, in epidemics of diarrhœa, some local cause could always be traced; either the air was tainted by the products of decomposition, especially of ordure, or the water which people habitually drank was impure. Greenhow's opinions, however, gave rise to much comment, and in the year 1873, Crane, of Leicester, denied the truth of this statement, and Dr. Buchanan, while he did not refute the truth of the association of this disease with filth, thought that it was really due to a specific poison developed by heat at a particular season. Dr. Tomkins, of Leicester, believes that epidemic diarrhœa is due to a soil-bred organism, which at times escaping from the earth becomes air-borne, and thence gains access to the human body. Dr. Ballard, who is perhaps at the present time the greatest authority on this subject, is of opinion that "the essential cause of diarrhœa resides ordinarily in the superficial layers of the soil, where it is intimately associated with the life processes of some micro-organism not yet detected, captured, or isolated." Soil has without doubt a great influence upon the incidence of diarrhœal disease. Upon solid rock it is said to be less frequent, but rocks with deep, wide, and frequent fissures are not so immune, as they offer opportunities for the collection of organic filth. Towns, villages, houses, &c., built upon such places are subject to a high diarrhœal mortality, and this may explain the high diarrhœal mortality exhibited by Balmain and North Sydney, both of these suburbs being built upon rock. Soils, such as are found in Waterloo, Alexandria, and Paddington, composed of sandstone and clay, are specially favourable to diarrhœa, and the death rate from this disease in these suburbs is high. Of all soils, pure sand

most

most favours diarrhœa, and the nearer gravels approach to sand on the one hand and rock on the other, so they favour diarrhœa or to the contrary. Botany, which has a pure sandy soil, shows a high death-rate. The presence of organic matter in any soil renders it distinctly favourable to diarrhœa, as vital processes are constantly exchanging in such soil material from the organic matter to the surrounding medium. It is not necessary that such pollution should be of a fœcal or excremental nature to exert an evil influence, and it is an indisputable fact that made soil, composed of the refuse of towns, the soil of market gardens, and such sites as have been made through filling up the inequalities of the land with house garbage and street refuse, exercise a powerful influence over diarrhœa, is absolutely dangerous for a building site, and should never be adjacent to buildings. It is highly probable that this culpable fouling of the soil by our forefathers, and persisted in by ourselves, has more to do with the fostering and propagation of disease than any property of the virgin soil itself. Excessive dryness or complete wetness of the soil both appear to be unfavourable to diarrhœa. A degree of habitual dampness which, while being marked, is not sufficient to preclude the free admission of air between the constituent physical elements of the soil is specially favourable to diarrhœa. Such a degree of dampness obtains when in the season of diarrhœa, the subsoil water stands sufficiently near the surface to maintain by capillary attraction, the dampness brought about by previously greater nearness of the water to the surface, or when the soil contains a sufficiency of the clayey element to imprison enough of the water saturating it at some time previously. It is in connection with this habitual dampness of the soil as a factor of diarrhœa that the laying of sewers plays so important a part, by drying the soil and so affecting the variation of the earth temperatures. Before the institution of the works at present under the control of the Board, the mortality from diarrhœa stood as high as 10·5 per 10,000 of the population, but since these works have been in operation this rate has been reduced in the metropolis to 5·9, notwithstanding the fact that those years during which this reduction has been effected have been hot and only had a diminishing rainfall.

Rate of Mortality from Diarrhœa (per 100,000 of the Population) in the Sewered Districts.

	Before laying Sewers.	After laying Sewers.
City of Sydney	6·7	5·8
Darlington	6·6	2·6
Glebe	10·0	3·4
Newtown	5·2	3·0
Paddington... ..	10·5	5·0
Redfern	15·0	12·0
Waterloo	27·0	20·0
Woollahra	9·1	5·0

Density of population is said to affect the death-rate from diarrhœa, but this influence is also noticed in respect to infant mortality from other causes. The city of Sydney with a density of 45·93 persons per acre shows a higher mortality than any of the separate groups of suburbs. Of the various groups of suburbs the Eastern Central with a density of 7·4 per acre shows the highest rate of mortality, and are followed by the Western suburbs with a density of 4·49 persons per acre, then come the Northern suburbs with a density of 1·49 persons per acre, then the Eastern suburbs with a density of 4·07 persons per acre; next come the Western Central suburbs with a density of 20·39 persons per acre, then the Southern suburbs with a density of ·7 per acre, and last of all the North-Western suburbs with the largest density of all, 26·4 persons per acre.

MORTALITY FROM DIARRHŒA.

Order of greatest Mortality.	Density of Population per acre.	Order of g ^r reatest Mortality.	Density of Population per acre.
1. Enfield	1·33	18. Manly	1·69
2. Mosman	1·14	18. Annandale	20·53
3. Willoughby	·61	19. Leichhardt	12·8
4. Waterloo	11·36	20. Woollahra	5·49
5. Concord	·95	20. Paddington	50·26
6. Redfern	18·25	21. Rockdale	1·46
7. Botany	1·16	22. Petersham	16·67
8. Drummoyne	4·19	23. Hurstville	·63
9. Marrickville	8·21	23. Ryde	·39
10. Kogarah	·83	24. Strathfield	1·46
11. Camperdown	17·62	25. Ashfield	6·43
11. Randwick	1·05	26. North Sydney	9·18
12. St. Peters	6·28	27. North Botany	1·51
12. Waverley	5·84	27. Glebe	36·69
13. Balmain	48·67	28. Canterbury	·45
14. Five Dock	1·39	29. Newtown	45·46
15. Alexandria	8·07	29. Darlington	89·47
16. Burwood	6·13	30. Hunter's Hill	2·62
17. Erskineville	35·73		

It will be seen, therefore, from the foregoing table that, as far as the individual suburbs are concerned, density of population does not exert a large influence upon the diarrhœa death-rate. The incidence of diarrhœa is promoted by the density of buildings irrespective of the density of population.

Dr.

Dr. Ballard found that "in a town crowding of buildings of any sort in such a way as to cover an area more or less closely with buildings promotes diarrhoeal mortality. It is probable that this difference of density of buildings upon a given area is one of the circumstances which have to do with the difference in diarrhoeal mortality in large and small towns." Of the different groups of suburbs in the metropolis of Sydney, the East Central shows the highest death-rate, and the greatest density of buildings. Of the individual suburbs the death-rate from diarrhoea does not seem to be affected by the density buildings, as it is very high in suburbs with a very low density of buildings. It is probable, however, that in certain areas of such suburbs the buildings may be denser, and that it is in such areas that the mortality from diarrhoea occurs; consequently some means ought to be found for securing adequate open space about every building. Want of ventilation and deficiency of light are conducive to a high diarrhoea mortality. These conditions are very general in crowded and poor parts of towns, and are often associated with individual neglect. For cleanliness, fustiness and darkness, are never associated with one another. Density of buildings is associated with these conditions, for this is usually the cause of narrow thoroughfares and the impeding of free circulation of air. Individual neglect has a great influence upon diarrhoea, especially such neglect as allows of domestic filth, and fails to cleanse the necessary receptacles of house garbage, &c. This cleansing of dust-bins, &c., is a matter of great importance, and should be the subject of great municipal care until some proper and efficient system of garbage destruction can be installed. The emanations of cess-pools and sewers may, according to Ballard, cause attacks of fatal diarrhoea, but unusual diarrhoeal mortality is observable in many localities where there are no sewers to emit foul air. Such a mortality is to be observed in some of our suburbs where no sewerage system is in existence. Water-pollution has no very direct influence upon the diarrhoea death-rate, but tainted water does certainly cause diarrhoea, and there can be no doubt whatever that our improved water supply has been an important factor in the reduction of our diarrhoea death-rate. In Rotherham an outbreak of diarrhoea was traced to an impure water supply, and the evidence was most conclusive, for the town was supplied with water from two sources, and the epidemic ceased as soon as the supply from one of the sources was discontinued. Gresswell, of Melbourne, has also traced an epidemic of this disease to contaminated water. The incidence of diarrhoea is greatest among the poor, and this is not to be wondered at when we consider that, as compared with the dwellings of the rich, the dwellings of the poor are ill-provided with any means for storing food away from the living rooms. Dr. Vaughan says that healthiest children suffer most from diarrhoea because they are the greatest feeders. He is of opinion that the diarrhoeal attack is due to a poison, and that the poison is taken in to the body very largely through medium of milk. "The English Public Health Service believe that diarrhoea is produced by changes taking place in food, produced probably by several allied organisms, and that therefore the *materies morbi* is swallowed rather than breathed. Such would explain why it is most rife in crowded, dirty and insanitary places, and fits with its undoubted relationship with soil and temperature." It is, however, through fermentative changes in itself or to contamination by effluvia, that milk is a frequent cause of diarrhoea; and much of this change is due to individual neglect, exposing food to telluric emanations, and to the emanations of accumulations of domestic filth. Milk diarrhoea in children is frequently caused by maternal neglect, for breast-fed children thrive better than bottle-fed children, the reason being that the bottle is not always clean, and the selection of food is not always judicious. Diarrhoea among children is very frequently due to the injudicious selection of food, and parents are slow to recognise the necessity for proper selection of nourishment if the child is to be kept in health. Watering of milk involves the risk that organisms pathogenic to man may pass into the milk and even multiply there. Sterilising milk should tend to prevent diarrhoea, but the process must be very carefully carried out, as Flügge states that the use of milk sterilised in the usual way is not without danger. Without doubt pure milk is the best of all foods, and when proper care is exhibited in controlling the supply there is absolutely no danger in its use. In conclusion, it is to be remarked that diarrhoea is not a disease which is directly controlled by efficient sewerage, and therefore cannot altogether be ascribed to faulty sanitation such as comes within the scope of the Board's operations. Many important influences are at work which may promote a diarrhoeal mortality, but as the result of this inquiry I have found that where it was possible for the Board's operations to exert a good influence over the avoidance of this disease, a remarkably good result was very evident.

I have, &c.,

THEO. MAILLER KENDALL,

Medical Adviser.

15th October, 1897.

The Sanitary Value of the Operations of the Board in Reducing and Avoiding the Mortality from Typhoid Fever in the Metropolis of Sydney, N.S.W.

To the Secretary, for presentation to the President and Members of the Board,—

Sir,

I have the honor to lay before you the result of my inquiry into the sanitary value of the operations of the Board as regards the decrease in mortality from, and the avoidance of, Typhoid Fever in the metropolis.

"The science of public hygiene," says Dr. Wilson, "enlists the services of the people themselves in continuous efforts at self improvement, and the general well-being of the people must mainly depend upon their own exertions and self-restraint;" in fact, the people must be interested systematically in the general results of sanitary progress, and become more intimately acquainted with the social and material causes which may and do impede such progress.

In the year 1612, Henry Prince of Wales died of a disease, which was fully described by his physician, Mayerne, and is now supposed to have been Typhoid Fever. In 1734 Gilchrist of Dumfries described a similar disease under the name of "slow nervous fever," and Lancisi mentions cases occurring more than 200 years ago. It is thought that it was not unknown to Galen, and that it corresponds to his "Hemi triteus," mentioned in his writings. It was first properly differentiated from "Typhus" in the year 1848 by Dr. Stewart, and is now considered to be a preventable disease, which there is every reason to believe will be eventually banished from our midst. It is endemic in all parts of Europe, Asia, America, and Australia; and is diffused generally throughout the civilised world. According to Wynter Blyth, the most reasonable theory is that "the cause of Typhoid fever is a vegetable parasite, capable of having an independent existence, of propagating its kind, and completing its cycle of existence quite independent of the body. Hence the impossibility of tracing Typhoid from one person to another, hence its endemic prevalence in certain parts, and hence the mysterious isolated outbreaks which sometimes occur." This statement is open to some comment, and it has been maintained that Typhoid Fever is always the result of infection from an antecedent case of the disease. Its incidence is heaviest where drainage defects exist: although it is very difficult to dissociate their influence from that of co-existent hygienic defects, such as a want of personal cleanliness, impurity of the soil, and impurity of water. The contagion is usually carried by sewage, but direct contagion is not unknown. The virus may be transported by air, sewer gas, and polluted water—a single enteric stool entering a source of water supply being sufficient to infect a whole town. One of the most striking instances of recent date of the danger due to polluted water supply is the disastrous epidemic which lately has devastated the population of Maidstone, in England. This epidemic was distinctly traced to contamination of the water supply through a party of hop-pickers pitching their camp close to the springs forming the source of the water supply, and, as enteric fever broke out in this camp, so the water supply became contaminated. A properly ventilated sewer is not a source of danger, and must be distinguished from a house drain, which, owing to misuse, gross carelessness, and neglect of proper flushing, may become choked and foul, so that it engenders danger, and a system of sanitary engineering which is intended to prevent, and does prevent, the development of disease, not unfrequently furnishes the readiest means for its propagation—for sewer air, laden with morbid ferments, quickly finds its way into the houses in consequence of bad drains. Drain effluvia, sewer gas, and emanations from manure heaps will cause outbreaks of typhoid fever; therefore there is very great need for a distinct recognition of the responsibility of the individual, and necessity for active and intelligent co-operation on the part of the people themselves, not only in safeguarding against filth and its consequences, but also in checking the spread of dangerous infectious disease. According to Mr. Parry Laws and Dr. Haldane, sewer-air is disagreeable but innocuous; and sewage in itself is an innocent and much-maligned benefactor, as the air of sewers contains fewer germs than the open air. But here again there must be no confusion, for the air of a foul drain will deteriorate the air with which it comes into contact, and persons living in deteriorated conditions of air, though they do not of necessity suffer from any definite disease, are prejudiced as to their health when the air has been subjected to devitalising influences, such as the organic exhalations given off from animal bodies or extricated from organic substances undergoing change. The evil effect in such cases is increased when epidemic-producing poisons are introduced into such devitalised air. It is of the greatest importance to any community that there should be uniformity of water supply, uniformity of removal of sewage, and uniformity of garbage destruction, so that foul refuse matters may be removed speedily and continuously from the neighbourhood of dwellings in order to prevent unnecessary disease and unnecessary mortality. It has been remarked by competent observers that the rapid growth of large towns and villages has, in many instances, a most prejudicial effect, for often the necessity for additional houses arises, and is to a great extent met, before the ruling authority of the locality is prepared with efficient means of regulating the arrangement of new streets and houses. Such evil is to be observed in many of our fast-growing and attractive suburbs, which, owing to gross neglect of sanitary precautions, soon become hotbeds of disease. These suburban dangers arise chiefly through the absence of some regulation dealing with the disposal of domestic slopwaters, for the absence of fæcal matter makes but little difference, as domestic slopwaters contain urine, soapy, greasy, and other solid matters, in which, when they are allowed to accumulate in and around houses, decomposition takes place, and foul-smelling substances escape into and contaminate the air, the soil, and the water around. Truly, "infectious diseases belong to the people, and not to the place," and well may Pettenköfer remark that "the ground round our houses is more contaminated by ashpits, privies, cesspools, and drains than a churchyard is by bodies which have six years and more for their decomposition." The occupation of houses surrounded by such soil is dangerous, for pernicious damp exhalations rise up from the soil with the effect of increasing the severity of many diseases. The subsoil, beneath a house, may, if dry, contain in its pores or air spaces a vast amount of air, or if wet, a considerable quantity of water; consequently there is a great need for taking precaution so that such subsoil shall not become

become contaminated with house refuse or human excreta, for Typhoid Fever is especially spread by means of excremental matters, and is very prevalent upon pervious soils. Pettenköfer says that the conditions requisite for an outbreak of Typhoid Fever are: a rapid fall, after a rise, of the ground water; pollution of the soil by animal impurities; a certain earth temperature, and the presence of a specific organism. The best pabulum for the supposed microbe is contained by a warm, moist, well-aerated soil. Porous soils (sand or gravel) with a low level of ground water, are the warmest, and, in the main, the healthiest soils, but they are most liable to organic pollution; and Sir Charles Cameron points out that "it is in the low-lying districts and on the gravels where there is most Typhoid Fever," and he is of opinion that "the disease is a soil disease, resembling in its propagation malarial diseases." This relation between this disease and telluric conditions is very strongly supported by many observers, but without doubt depends upon contamination, for the dissolution and distribution of dilute sewerage throughout the soil would be favourable to the development of Typhoid bacilli, and there can be no doubt as to the truth of Sir Charles Cameron's statement that "a filth-laden soil is a good nidus for the bacilli of Typhoid Fever," and that "just in proportion as we preserve our soils from human excreta, may we expect to find a diminution of the amount of Typhoid Fever." In country towns and fast-growing suburbs, this question of soil contamination is even more important than in well-drained cities, for the subsoil water may become polluted and through this the source of water supply. Sewage polluted water may acquire the property of causing Typhoid Fever without access of Typhoid excreta; consequently the great necessity for keeping the water-courses free from impurity, so that there may be no truth in the words of Tennyson when he sang:—

Feeding the budding rose of boyhood
With the drainage of your sewer,
Send the drain into the fountain
Lest the stream should issue pure.

For sometimes it would appear that people were afraid lest they should drink pure water, since in many places a great desire is evident to pollute the watercourses by turning sewage into them. Such being the case, what wonder was it that in times past diseases frequently spread so rapidly that they became epidemic, and devastated whole kingdoms and changed the face of history? But it may be that even in this there is much to be thankful for, and that Nature, our great schoolmistress, who teaches us wisely by little and little, was only admitting us to a new fact, and giving us a fresh lesson in the jurisprudence of self-preservation. In our city the institution of the present system of sewerage has been followed by such excellent results that it only remains for the people to avail themselves of its privileges to the fullest extent, not only by installing proper sanitary fittings in their houses, and having properly connected and ventilated house-drains, but also by recognising their individual responsibility, and by exhibiting a due share of precaution in keeping all these fittings in an efficient working state. Our suburbs may learn from the city the lesson of the curse of the Midden System, which allowed excremental matter to soak anywhere into the soil, so that it frequently happened that the subsoil became saturated with impurities through carelessness in not continuously removing the filth collecting in these pestiferous receptacles. The danger arising from such a practice is to be emphasised, as not only does such soil give out dangerous emanations, but the germs of disease may be present during all periods, and can be roused into an increased activity by changing the influence of their environment, as may be done, during the carrying out of sanitary operations. As milk is one of the principal foods of man, more especially during childhood, it is most necessary that a due precaution should be exhibited in regulating the supply and distribution of this food. Milk readily becomes infected with Typhoid Fever, and when so infected is a ready vehicle for the disease; but milk becomes infected only if it is actually contaminated, either through polluted water or when it comes in contact with specific infection derived from an antecedent attack of the disease in man. It is in this direction that so much has been achieved by the establishment of a pure, continuous water supply, which should obviate any necessity for washing cans with dirty water, and so prevent infection of the milk with germs pathogenic to man, as so often happens through the use of polluted water. The question of preserving the milk supply is most important, for of what avail is it to make the homo healthy if the food we eat is robbed of its life-sustaining properties?

Population does not appear to have any very great influence upon the incidence of Typhoid Fever, except in so far as the aggregation of people causes a greater amount of faecal accumulation, house refuse, and street garbage, which, if allowed to remain in or about dwellings, readily becomes, especially in a warm climate, a source of pestilence and disease. Judging from our city, however, it cannot be said that population has had much influence.

DEATHS from Typhoid Fever, City of Sydney.

Year.	Population.	Density per Acre.	Rate of Mortality per 10,000 of Population.
1889	116,490	57.4	5.07
1890	113,470	53.2	3.79
1891	109,090	51.1	2.66
1892	107,730	50.5	1.76
1893	106,380	49.8	1.41
1894	104,880	49.1	4.06
1895	103,870	48.6	1.92
1896	100,000	46.8	4.2
1897	95,850	45.93	1.6

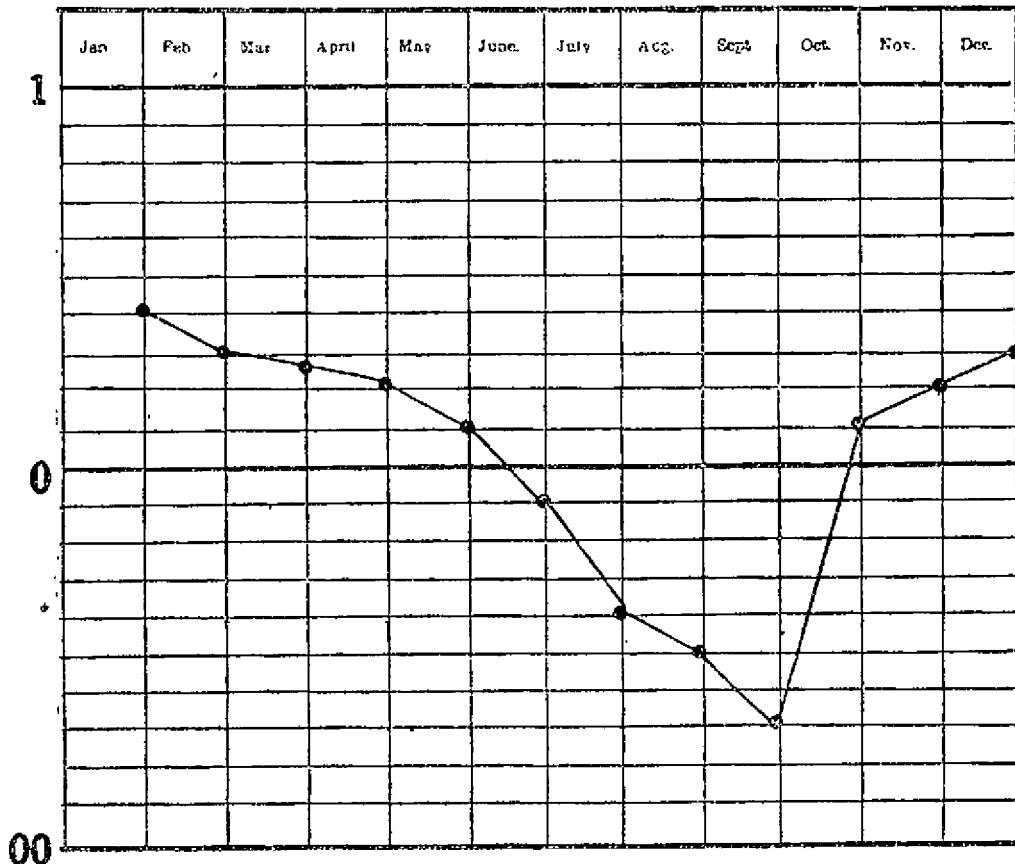
In Notter and Firth's work on Hygiene it is stated that "weather has no clear relation to the prevalence of Typhoid Fever, except in so far that meteorological conditions may act by modifying the moisture and temperature of the soil, and the rain may increase or diminish the chances of an outbreak according to the previous condition of the ground." Sir Charles Cameron is of opinion that a high rainfall causes a diminution of Typhoid Fever, and that although there are many factors affecting the disease,

still it is probable that cold wet years lessen, and hot dry years increase, the disease. Dr. David Hardie, of Brisbane, is inclined to believe that a comparatively high temperature and continued dry weather during the winter and spring months, is almost certainly followed, other things being equal, by an increased number of deaths in the following summer; and that during a rainy season comparatively few cases are met with. In our metropolis the greatest incidence of Typhoid Fever has rarely followed the sequence noticed by Dr. Hardie; in fact there has not been any constant relation between the rainfall and the prevalence of the disease. There are so many other more definite causes to be considered, that the influence of meteorological conditions cannot be very great, although it is quite possible that the combination of excessive heat with scanty rainfall may have some influence; or it may be that since rain increases the amount of atmospheric moisture, it thus assists the devitalising influences of a tropical climate by increasing putrefactive tendencies, for it is well known that in tropical climates the temperature and humidity of the air are highly favourable to putrefactive change, and tend to intensify those pollutions of air and water which are so inimicable to health in all climates.

High or low temperature of the air in itself is said to have no clear relation to the prevalence of Typhoid Fever, except so far as it tends to modify the temperature of the soil; for as solar heat is the source of all energy, so it exercises supreme control over climatic conditions. Dr. David Hardie is of opinion that "the prevalence of Typhoid Fever in Australia has been distinctly shown to be intimately associated with the atmospheric conditions that obtain, not only at the time of the occurrence, but for many months previous." He remarks that "a person whose backyard is untidy or uncleanly in summer does not usually show more intelligent interest in matters pertaining to sanitation during the winter months, or, if so, the difference is not sufficient to account for the prevalence of Typhoid Fever at one time or another." Transportable miasmata are originally due to internal local conditions of soil and water; and although Hirsch has pointed out the devitalising influence of a tropical climate, and Wilson has attributed to a prolonged residence in it shortening of the duration of life and weakening of the constitution, still there is much in the opinion of Surgeon-General Lane Nottter, who attributes "these evils to causes other than those of climate, and points out that, by restraint in the indulgence in alcoholic drinks, by regulation of the amount of animal food, and by simple hygienic precautions, the deadly effects attributed to climate have disappeared." The great improvement in health, as adduced by the lowered death rate, which has in English towns, and in our City of Sydney, followed upon the execution of sanitary work, bears witness to the truth of Nottter's assertion.

The incidence of Typhoid Fever is directly influenced by season, the greater number of cases occurring during the summer and autumn. Little is known of the exact climatic conditions upon which this seasonal rhythm depends, but there is without doubt some relation to heat and cold. In our metropolis the highest mortality usually occurs during the first four months of the year—January, February, March, and April—these months forming the hottest third of the year. Up to the present time this disease is not so prevalent during the winter months, and is almost absent till the end of spring, when it begins to increase during October, and gradually becomes more evident during the months of November and December.

SEASONAL Rhythm of Typhoid Mortality.



This table is the mean seasonal rhythm for seven years, and is calculated for each 10,000 of the population.

Typhoid Fever is especially a disease of young adult life, but no age is entirely free from it. During childhood the liability to the disease increases from year to year till after 20 years of age, when the liability is said to decline. In our metropolis during eight years 970 deaths from Typhoid Fever have been reported. One-sixth of these occurred among children under 10 years of age, and one-half among persons under 20 years of age. About one-third were persons under the age of 16 years; but the disease has been known to be fatal at 76 years of age, and even at a greater age. MORTALITY

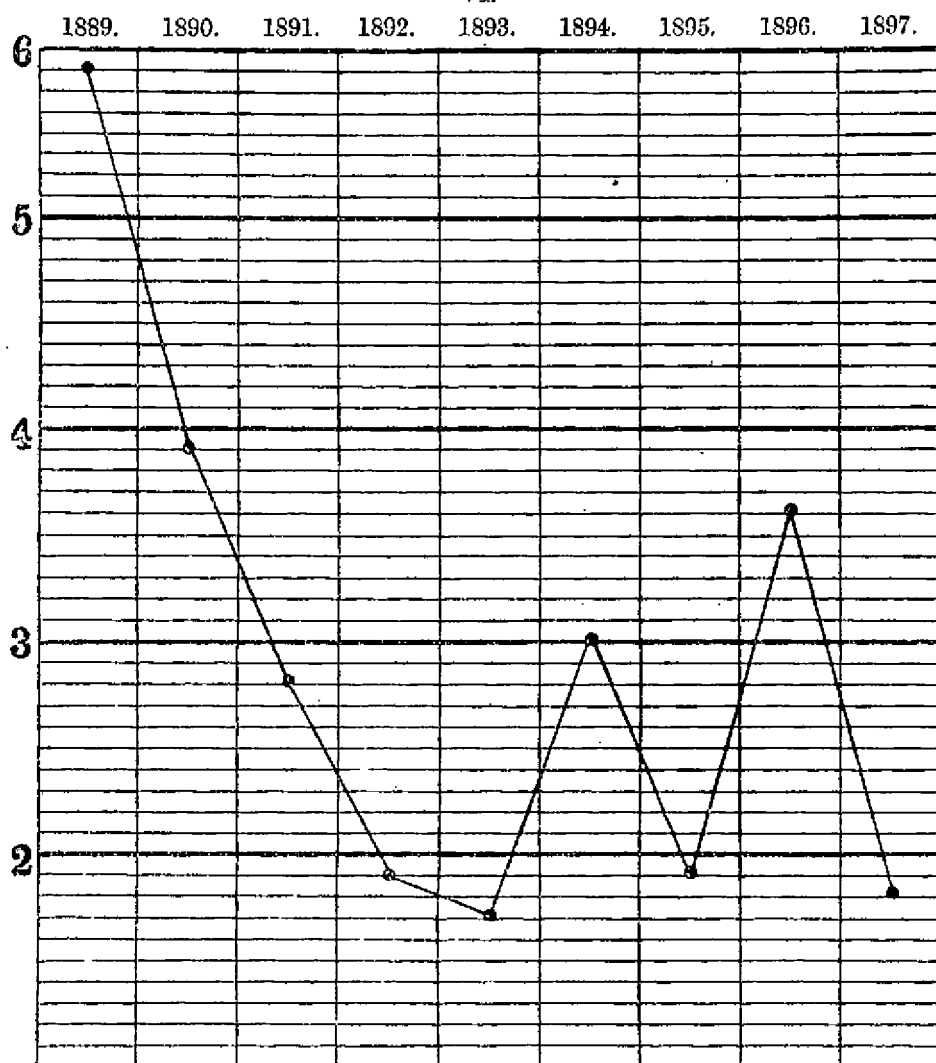
MORTALITY from Typhoid Fever.
Metropolis of Sydney.

Year.	Population.	All Ages.	Under 10 years.		10 Years and under 20 Years.	20 Years and under 30 Years.	30 Years and under 40 Years.	40 Years and upwards.
			Under 5 years.	5 Years and under 10 Years.				
1889	351,470	209	9	20	45	72	39	24
1890	370,357	143	6	9	26	60	24	18
1891	389,655	109	9	12	27	24	24	13
1892	406,480	80	5	6	23	27	15	9
1893	411,710	74	7	6	15	22	15	9
1894	423,600	123	6	15	25	37	30	18
1895	423,600	81	6	7	13	31	12	12
1896	408,500	143	7	12	34	35	34	21
1897	410,500	77	3	5	16	27	12	14

Year.	City.	Suburbs.	Metropolis.
1889	59	150	209
1890	43	100	143
1891	29	80	109
1892	19	61	80
1893	15	59	74
1894	42	81	123
1895	20	61	81
1896	42	101	143
1897	16	61	77

ANNUAL CURVE OF MORTALITY FROM TYPHOID FEVER.

VI.



It will be seen from this table that the mortality per 10,000 of the population began to fall steadily after the institution of the present sewerage system, and that the fall was maintained till the year 1894. No system of notification of disease was in vogue during these years, and therefore it is impossible to say how

how many cases of Typhoid Fever occurred during this period. Inquiry, however, has been made at the various hospitals, and as far as possible the number of cases treated has been obtained. It is impossible, however, to locate the cases as we do at the present time, and therefore the numbers only are given, without any attempt being made to locate the several cases, as it was not until the year 1894 that any attempt at notification was made; and even now the notification is only partial, as the Health Act, though in existence for some time, has only been partially proclaimed.

Treated at—	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	Total.
The Sydney Hospital	114	106	58	43	35	356
Prince Alfred Hospital	250	162	105	81	82	680
The Coast Hospital	241	342	140	61	83	867
St. Vincent's Hospital	136	77	42	36	30	321
Sick Children's Hospital	29	17	14	6	8	74
At Home	134	73	71	48	44	370
Total	904	777	430	275	282	2,668

The mortality during this period of years was at first very great but decreased annually.

Died at—	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	Total.
The Sydney Hospital	23	18	11	4	2	58
Prince Alfred Hospital	30	15	17	14	14	90
The Coast Hospital	13	24	21	10	10	78
St. Vincent's Hospital	7	12	7	2	3	31
Sick Children's Hospital	2	1	0	2	1	6
At Home	134	73	53	48	44	352
Total	209	143	109	80	74	615

The effect of the sewerage system can be noticed each succeeding year as the sewerage became extended in the different suburbs.

DEATHS FROM TYPHOID FEVER.

	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	Total.
Sewered Districts	24	14	13	18	15	84
Unsewered Districts	185	129	96	62	59	531
Total	209	143	109	80	74	615

"Any epidemic of Typhoid Fever," says Dr. Wilson, "in a sewered town points to imperfect ventilation, faulty construction of sewers or drains, deficient flushing, to contamination of the water supply, or to polluted milk." In unsewered districts it points to bad drainage, filthy privies, and cess-pools, all of which may be the means of originating the disease and propagating the specific contagion when it is developed or introduced. Whatever difference of opinion there may be as to the microbial relations of Typhoid Fever, no one doubts that it is essentially a filth disease; and such being the case, it is not wrong, nor is anyone guilty of repetition, when great emphasis is laid upon individual responsibility. No one can possibly take care of his neighbour's dwelling, for he has quite enough to do in seeing that his own home is kept clean; but, if the neighbour will not also be clean, then the law must step in and protect the clean against the unclean—against people who hurl the house-refuse anywhere, to the danger of the community, and foul the soil with human excreta. Such persons are guilty of criminal acts, and are the propagators of disease and the destroyers of their fellows. Until this individual responsibility is thoroughly recognised it will never be possible to avoid Typhoid Fever, which Professor Huxley has described as a scourge and a disgrace to a nation. Mr. Ernest Hart has said that "every death from Typhoid Fever is a violent death, and should be the subject of a sanitary inquest." If such is the case, how shall the punishment be meted to those whose fault it is through carelessness and neglect, ignorance and prejudice? It often happens in a district which has been recently sewered that epidemics of Typhoid Fever will break out through some faulty house connections or careless misuse of house-drains. It has been shown in Table VI that the mortality from Typhoid Fever decreased annually until the year 1894. The operations of the Board were extended greatly during the year 1894, and much contaminated ground was opened up in installing proper sanitary house connections with an increase of Typhoid Fever. This increase caused the Board to institute a partial system of notification of Typhoid Fever, and to make some attempt

attempt at locating the cases, so that a systematic inquiry might be made into the environment of each case, and a sanitary inquest held upon each fatal one, with a view to effecting a remedy for any existing evil. The revelation which followed this inquiry was astounding. People imagined that if in their old system of sewerage a trap existed the supreme end had been attained, forgetting that wherever you get stagnation you get putrefaction, and that the trap was useless unless properly ventilated and continually cleansed; for the efforts of modern sanitary engineers are directed towards ensuring that the gases which inevitably result from putrefaction in sewers and house-drains should be as much as possible diluted with the external air before we breathe them. In many of the hotels and principal eating-houses of the city sewer gas was being absorbed by the man who was dining in what he thought was a properly ventilated, comfortable, and first-class dining-room. Supplies of drinking water stored for domestic purposes were collected in tanks which were so situated that leaky and faulty water-closets, placed on the floor above them, contaminated them with plentiful supplies of foul matter. The internal communications of a house, besides serving as a means of entrance and egress from the rooms also, especially staircases, doors, passages, and fanlights, serve as the means for supplying pure fresh air; but if the sanitary arrangements of a house are bad, and the sanitary fittings are not arranged with due care, foul emanations will filter from wrongly-constructed drain-pipes, from ill-ventilated drain-pipes, from old-fashioned water-closets, having no proper flush of water, and from untrapped house-connections leading no one knows where; and the internal channels of communication in a house will, instead of serving for the supply of fresh air, merely facilitate the exchange of foul air. These revelations, the result of the Board's inquiry, showed a gross neglect of individual responsibility, and a want of due appreciation of the sewerage system which had been installed. It was only to be expected that such neglect would be followed by dire disaster, and that in the endeavour to set matters right the latent germs of disease would be roused into activity, and would propagate rapidly. During the years 1894, 1895, 1896, and 1897, 2,027 cases of Typhoid Fever were reported to the Board, of which 1,833 cases were treated at the various metropolitan hospitals, and 194 cases at their own homes.

Quarter ending.	Cases Reported.				
	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	Total.
March 31st	214	186	253	150	803
June 30th	168	90	216	167	641
September 30th	27	36	45	36	144
December 31st	133	96	102	118	449
Total	542	408	616	461	2,027

Of these 2,027 cases, 1833 were admitted into the various Metropolitan Hospitals, and 194 were treated at their own homes.

	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	Total.
Sydney Hospital	69	70	109	73	321
Prince Alfred Hospital	161	170	169	161	661
Coast Hospital	143	96	247	114	600
St. Vincent's Hospital	45	20	31	43	139
Children's Hospital	34	31	30	17	112
Own Homes	90	21	30	53	194
Total	542	408	616	461	2,027

An investigation of the environment of these cases showed that many adverse influences were at work.

	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	Total.
No sewers were available	311	237	359	247	1,154
Houses were in an insanitary condition	118	81	139	166	504
Owners had complied with the Board's regulations	79	69	81	37	266
No fixed abode	34	12	37	6	89
Contracted before coming into port	0	9	0	5	14
Total	542	408	616	461	2,027

An analysis of the 266 cases coming from dwellings, the sanitary arrangements of which were in accordance with the Board's regulations, shows:—

	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	Total.
School Children	24	30	45	14	113
Labourers	19	8	3	2	32
Domestic Servants	17	6	7	3	33
Hospital Nurses	4	2	2	2	10
Drapers... ..	3	...	2	1	6
Housewives	2	9	4	4	19
Newsboys	2	...	...	...	2
Doctors	1	...	...	1	2
Bootmakers	1	3	1	...	5
Wheelwrights	1	...	1	...	2
Tailors	1	1	1	...	3
Milk Boys	1	1	...	1	3
No occupation	3	...	...	...	3
Bricklayers ... ..	...	1	...	...	1
Clerks ... ..	...	3	1	2	6
Butchers ... ..	...	1	1	...	2
Tobacco Twisters ... ..	...	1	1	...	2
Grooms ... ..	...	2	1	...	3
Painters ... ..	...	2	1	1	4
Greengrocers ... ..	...	1	2	...	3
Architects ... ..	...	2	...	...	2
Actor ... ..	...	...	1	...	1
Ironmonger ... ..	...	...	1	...	1
Carpenters ... ..	...	...	2	...	2
Carters ... ..	...	...	1	1	2
Constables ... ..	...	...	1	1	2
Waiters... ..	...	...	2	2	4
Factory Girl ... ..	...	...	1	...	1
Postman ... ..	...	...	...	1	1
Bookbinder ... ..	...	...	...	1	1

That so large a proportion of these cases occurred among school children caused attention to be drawn to the school buildings, more especially as this fever is not readily transmitted by school attendance, unless the sanitary condition of the school premises is at fault. An inspection of the various schools showed that there were many existing sources of danger, and that masses of children were exposed to the risk of drinking water stored in filthy tanks, and to the foul emanations of latrines not provided with proper sanitary fittings. Some of the private schools also called for examination, and sewers were found ventilating into the bedrooms either through faulty pipes or through rain-water pipes and ill-arranged water-closets. Such glaring faults could only prove a source of discomfort, evil, and even death to the occupants of such houses. The markedly beneficial effect of drainage and water supply upon public health is the great characteristic of the latter half of the present century; but the maintenance of a water supply in a pure state is not of itself sufficient to eliminate typhoid fever unless the local hygienic conditions are good as well, otherwise the resisting powers of the human organism will be lowered and less able to oppose the invading germs which may come from some other source. There can be no doubt but that the efficient treatment of house garbage becomes more important every year, and that the practice of piling all rubbish indiscriminately into a dust-box and exposing it upon the public highway to be torn about by the rag, bone, and bottle collector is highly mischievous, and I agree with Dr. Vivian Poore: "When I see grimy gentlemen in fan-tailed hats engaged in the marvellous operation of climbing over spiked railings with the object of filling a huge lumbering cart with a mixture of some of all such things as rags, excrement, bones, cinders, straw, paper, ashes, &c., I feel that they are occupied in a bit of wilful mischief, and that they are merely increasing the difficulties of that sorting which is inevitable." The systematic house-to-house inspection is without doubt the best means of rectifying existing evils, but the baneful influences of prejudice, ignorance, and a disinclination to spend money has prevented the carrying out of all necessary improvements. Sanitary science aims at preventing putrefaction, together with all the evils that are apt to follow its course when that occurs in or near human habitations. In order, therefore, to further these aims, it is very desirable that people in general should be instructed in such a knowledge of the nature and cause of disease as the science of the day can afford in order to counteract ignorance and prejudice. It is very easy to instal an efficient system of sewerage with proper ventilation, but it is very difficult to make people appreciate, not only its value, but also those conditions which are necessary for its proper working. People do not seem to grasp the fact that although water may prove an efficient seal against sewer gas entering a house, still this water may evaporate, and that unless a proper system of flushing is carried out the trap not only becomes useless, but also a very fruitful source of disease. It is said that many of our pressing social problems are inextricably united with our duty to the soil, and that any country in which the fertility of the soil does not increase cannot rightly be regarded as really in the van of civilisation and scientific progress. If, however, it is intended to use this argument in favour of the indiscriminately digging of human excreta into the soil, except in such cases where a rigorous supervision is carried out, the evidence is against it; for it has been most conclusively proved that fouling of the soil with human excreta and household slop waters has led to the propagation of disease. Besides the many faults of sanitation which have been before mentioned as having been discovered in the city, there were many others of an equally glaring nature. Leaky soil pipes, either worn through age or opened by the depredation of rats, pouring out their filthy vapours to contaminate food and air in the living rooms. House drains were also found opening into badly jointed pipe sewers, where sections of the pipe were falling

falling away from the rest, and allowing the sewage matter to escape into the soil beneath the basement. These evils as seen in the picture were found in a large city hotel, and the sewer gas permeated the bar, the dining-room, the pantry, and the lift. Bath wastes were found which directly ventilated the sewer into the bathroom, as they were untrapped and unventilated. Rain water pipes were also found which opened directly into the sewer and thus became sewer ventilators. These faults emphasise the remark made earlier in this report, that a perfect system may, through misuse or through want of a proper appreciation, become the introducer of disease. This was a partial cause of the epidemic of the year 1896, for it is useless to provide houses with a perfect system of water supply unless this is supplemented by strict cleanliness in the house itself, and it is impossible to attain the perfection of cleanliness if the sanitary arrangements as regards sewers are not properly installed, or if they are faulty, either through age or neglect. The vapours which escape from sewers will surely, if it be possible, find their way into the houses, and will contaminate whatever they come into contact with, whether it be food, milk, water, or the circulating air. No room in a house is of greater importance than the sleeping room, and as a man spends the greater part of his life there, great attention should be paid to its sanitary arrangement, so that there may be no opportunity for sewer gas to penetrate into such a room, and that the air supplied for breathing purposes should be as pure as possible. In arranging the ventilation of a water-closet care should be taken so that the ventilating pipe does not terminate inside the roof, for if it does the foul gases will collect in the roof space and pass again into the house. All these faults were found to exist in this city after a proper sewerage system had been installed. The main sewers were well laid and properly ventilated, but the house connections were at fault, and the owners of houses had failed to appreciate the value of the sewerage system, and the fact that death was often the consequence of faulty house sanitation. No wonder then that a disastrous epidemic occurred in the year 1896 when such a disregard of individual responsibility existed and one might say with the poet Campbell:—

Is this improvement? where the human breed
 Degenerate as they swarm and overflow,
 Till toil grows cheaper than the trodden weed,
 And man competes with man like foe to foe,
 'Till death that thins them scarce seems human woe?

The continuance of the earth-closet and cess-pit systems in the suburbs, especially in those planned upon low-lying lands, favours the propagation of Typhoid Fever. The carelessness of people in allowing collections of putrescible matter to remain in or near dwellings, especially in a climate where the temperature promotes putrefaction, is highly reprehensible. No person is willing to pay taxes for sewers and roads if the outcome is to be alleys and jerry-built houses. The facilities which have been afforded by building societies for jerry-building and overcrowding in the newer suburbs by selling land in preposterously small allotments, with narrow streets and lanes, have been very great. And it must be remembered that, great as is the moral and social harm which results from such overcrowding of given areas, the sanitary evils are equally great, if not greater, for the parcelling out of small allotments of land and the jamming together of buildings, means the propagation of disease, and that instead of sweet smelling residences, malodorous houses are brought into existence. Many persons hold the opinion that if latrines, sinks, yards, and dust boxes can be made to smell sweet by means of disinfectants, a great triumph has been gained, but they are quite wrong, as a well-managed water-closet, sink, or outhouse needs no disinfectant, and if such is used it only hides foul smells which should not exist, and by covering up a danger prevents its detection and remedy. In all places where it is possible to obtain a proper service of water supply, care should be taken to immediately disconnect any old tank service, otherwise mistakes will be made, the two services will be confounded, the health of the occupants will suffer, and blame will be cast upon the permanent water service regarding the purity of the water. Dr. Haviland says that "Typhoid Fever has no reason for existing at all"; but Dr. John Drysdale remarks that, "although the area of its operations may be circumscribed, still it can never be hoped that good food, drainage, and ventilation will extinguish it altogether as long as man is a social animal." It is, however, permitted us to hope on that a better state will yet exist, and is reassuring for our city to note that, although some in our midst have cavilled, the city of York, England, has adopted our upcast system of sewer ventilation as the best possible system known.

During the years 1894, 1895, 1896, and 1897, 424 cases of typhoid fever proved fatal.

Quarter ending.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	Total.
March 31st	50	32	57	18	157
June 30th	26	19	45	27	117
September 30th	14	6	16	5	41
December 31st	38	24	25	27	109
Total	123	81	123	77	424

Of these 424 fatal cases of typhoid fever, 223 were treated at various Metropolitan Hospitals, and 201 cases were treated at their own homes.

Died at	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	Total.	Rate per cent. of Admissions.
Sydney Hospital	16	9	24	6	55	17
Prince Alfred Hospital	20	13	32	10	75	11.3
Coast Hospital	12	6	19	13	50	8.3
St. Vincent's Hospital	11	1	9	4	25	17.1
Sick Children's Hospital	2	2	2	1	7	6
At own homes	61	50	57	43	201	
Total	123	81	143	77	424	

An inquiry into the surroundings of these cases showed :—

	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	Total.
No sewers were available	74	48	99	36	257
Dwellings were in an insanitary state	40	30	31	35	136
Owners had complied with the regulations of the Board...	2	3	5	4	14
Arrived in port suffering from the disease	1	0	0	1	2
No fixed abode	6	0	8	1	15
Total	123	81	143	77	424

The small percentage (3·3) of fatal cases coming from dwellings, the sanitary arrangements of which were in accordance with the regulations of the Board, is an emphatic testimony to the value of the present system of water supply and sewerage, and demonstrates clearly the greater improvement which might be expected if all the houseowners would rectify all faults existing in the present sanitary house fittings. Two at least of these cases had no relation with the sanitary state of the homes of the patients, and one case was that of the promising young physician before mentioned. Further testimony in favour of the operations of the Board is to be found in the remarkable decrease of the mortality of typhoid fever in those districts which have been provided with a proper sewerage system; and where districts fringe upon these sewered portions, although they are unsewered themselves, a marked result for good is to be noticed which will, without doubt, be enlarged with the extension of the sewerage system.

RATE OF MORTALITY PER 10,000 OF POPULATION FROM TYPHOID FEVER.

	Before Laying of Sewers.	After Laying of Sewers.
City of Sydney	5·07	2·4
Glebe	2·5	1·1
Darlington	4·0	·6
Newtown	6·6	3·8
Redfern	3·6	1·0
Waterloo	1·2	·9
Paddington	2·7	1·6
Woollahra	2·1	·9

The triumph of advance in health due to progressive sanitation is very great, and the saving of life very considerable. Perhaps no better sign of the importance of preventive medicine and the science of hygiene can be shown than by the intelligent interest displayed by our public press in following all discussion on subjects relating to public health, and in making considerable comment on the same.

I have, &c.,

THEO. MAILLER KENDALL,
Medical Adviser.

Sydney, January, 1898.

SYDNEY.

City	Suburbs	Density of Population per acre.	Rate of reported cases per 10,000 of the population.			
			1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
		44.93	10.2	7.8	10.0	8.4
	North Western...	Balmain ... 48.67	3.8	5.0	11.6	6.0
		Leichhardt ... 12.80	16.4	25.0	48.3	31.6
		Annandale ... 20.53	22.0	18.0	64.0	20.0
		Glebe ... 36.69	10.0	4.0	11.5	11.2
	West Central ...	Newtown ... 45.46	11.4	8.0	10.0	10.0
		Camperdown ... 17.62	31.0	19.0	11.8	15.5
		Erskineville ... 35.73	65.0	35.0	17.9	23.2
		St. Peters ... 6.28	37.8	26.0	30.0	16.2
	East Central ...	Redfern... 58.25	10.4	5.0	16.5	11.3
		Darlington ... 89.47	6.6	3.0	14.8	5.0
		Waterloo ... 11.36	18.6	5.0	37.3	17.6
		Alexandria ... 8.07	8.6	14.0	114.4	18.4
		Botany ... 1.16	112.0	22.0	66.6	49.8
		North Botany ... 1.31	61.4	40.0	39.3	30.0
	Eastern ...	Paddington ... 50.26	7.2	2.0	8.0	4.2
		Randwick ... 1.05	8.0	3.0	17.3	4.6
		Waverley ... 5.84	4.4	4.0	1.0	3.9
		Woollahra ... 5.49	6.6	4.0	5.5	2.8
	Western ...	Ashfield... 6.43	3.0	6.0	6.9	10.0
		Burwood ... 6.13	17.3	3.0	8.0	40.0
		Enfield ... 1.33	.....	.....	4.5	70.0
		Concord ... 0.95	13.0	.....	4.6	.....
		Strathfield ... 1.46	4.0	.....	10.0	5.0
		Five Dock ... 1.39	37.0	38.0	7.6	80.0
		Drummoyne ... 4.19	.....	.....	.....	5.0
		Marrickville ... 8.21	25.0	16.0	5.0	13.6
		Petersham ... 16.67	10.0	10.0	10.1	16.6
	Southern ...	Canterbury .. 0.45	.....	7.0	7.6	19.8
		Hurstville ... 0.63	.....	.....	5.0	2.1
		Kogarah ... 0.83	.....	.....	5.0	.....
		Rockdale ... 1.46	.....	2.0	12.0	.....
	Northern ...	North Sydney .. 9.18	4.0	2.0	2.2	4.4
		Mosman ... 1.14	.....	.....	.....	.....
		Willoughby ... 0.61	.....	.....	.....	6.1
		Lane Cove ... 0.47	.....	.....	.....	9.0
		Manly ... 1.69	.....	.....	12.0	6.0
		Ryde ... 0.39	.....	4.0	9.0	13.6
		Hunter's Hill ... 2.62	6.0	.....	6.0	19.8

Report of Assessor's Branch for the year ending 30th June, 1898.

Sydney, 5 September, 1898.

I HAVE the honor to submit a report of the working of this branch for the year ending 30th June, 1898.

While no appreciable improvement in general property values can be recorded, it is pleasing to note that the amount received by the Board for water used for building operations shows an encouraging increase, being £328 in excess of that received during the previous year.

Rate Notices.

290,013 notices were served upon ratepayers, including those for new mains, new sewers, and finals for payment of overdue rates.

New Assessments.

The assessments of new buildings, &c., numbered 2,009, and the fees for the use of water for building purposes amounted to £2,346 17s. 2d.

New Mains, Sewers, and Storm-water Drains.

980 properties became liable for rates from new water-mains, 3,955 from new sewers, and 1,067 from new storm-water drains, making a total of 5,302 properties liable from new works.

Rates on Vacant Land.

Owing to a recent decision of the Full Court it is confidently expected that the arrears owing on vacant land will be considerably reduced. This decision clearly establishes the right of the Board to recover from the registered owner of the property.

Summons Work.

This work has been very heavy during the period under review, 39,010 final notices were served and 5,976 summonses issued from the various courts, as under:—

Balmain Court	...	...	...	...	...	280
Campbelltown Court...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Central Court	...	...	...	...	...	644
District Court	...	...	...	...	...	93
Glebe Court	...	...	...	...	...	641
Hunter's Hill Court...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Liverpool Court	...	...	...	...	...	39
Newtown Court	...	...	...	...	...	1,646
North Sydney Court...	...	...	...	...	...	435
Paddington Court	...	...	...	...	...	487
Parramatta Court	...	...	...	...	...	243
Redfern Court	...	...	...	...	...	623
Richmond Court	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ryde Court	...	...	...	...	...	36
Water Police Court	...	...	...	...	...	769
Total	...	...	...	...	...	5,976

Properties rated to 30th June, 1898.

	<i>Water.</i>			
	Houses.	Vacant Land.	Total.	Supplied with Water.
City of Sydney and Suburbs	88,350	21,329	109,679	88,519
Campbelltown...	214	16	230	193
Liverpool	449	71	520	237
Richmond	230	...	230	230
Smithfield and Fairfield	92	6	98	66
Parish of Gordon	703	626	1,329	504
	<i>Sewerage.</i>			
City of Sydney and Suburbs	51,425	2,045	53,470	51,425

It will be noticed that the number of properties shown here as liable is less than that returned on 30th June, 1897. This may be accounted for in a number of ways. The councils have in some cases rated a number of adjoining lots conjointly instead of separately, as formerly. In other instances whole terraces have been demolished, and more pretentious buildings have been erected on the land. It will be seen at once that although these alterations may or may not tend to decrease the revenue they certainly reduce the number of properties liable for rates. Moreover, the decision of the Privy Council regarding the 150-ft. limit has had some effect in this particular.

The Secretary.

H. J. BEAUMONT,
Assessor.

No. 1.

No 2.—STOCK, GARDENS, AND SPECIAL FEES.

Table with columns: Ward or Borough, Stock (1896-7, 1897-8), Gardens (1896-7, 1897-8), and Special Fees (1896-7, 1897-8). Rows include various wards like Double Ward, Brisbane Ward, Cook Ward, etc.

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No. 4.—GENERAL SUMMARY OF RATES, FEES, &c.

Summary of Sewerage and Drainage Rates. General Summary for Rates, Fees for Water and Sewerage, for year ending 30th June, 1898. Table with columns for Ward or Borough, No. of Properties, Sewerage Rates, New sewers, Revenue for year, etc.

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Annual Report of Stores Branch.

Sir,

9 August, 1898.

January last terminated the 5-year contracts for the supply of locally-manufactured pipes and special castings, and new contracts for a further 5-years' supply were entered into between the Government and the former contractors, who were the only local tenderers, and whose prices were not only lower than those of the merchants tendering for goods of British manufacture, but were considerably lower than the rates paid to them during the previous five years. In April a contract was let by the Board, for the first time, for the local manufacture and supply, during the ensuing five years, of the whole of the stop, reflux, and air valves that may be required. This contract is at once a distinct economy over former cost for similar imported goods, the slightly reduced rates for which were only secured at the expense of a burdensome and perhaps extravagant stock.

The material on the Board's works that passed through this Branch is shown in the following table:—

Article.	Contractor.	Rate.	Value.
General stores	Briscoe, Drysdale, & Co.....	26½% below Schedule	£ s. d. 927 13 6
Do	J. Keep and Sons.....	5½ do	1,226 3 11
Uniforms	Hatfield Bros.	Schedule	169 11 8
Pig-lead	Sydney Lead Works	£11 18s. 6d. per ton	1,024 15 7
Do	Briscoe, Drysdale, & Co.....	£13 5s. do	1,393 2 2
Iron pipes	Pope, Maher, & Co.....	£7 2s. 6d. and £6 9s. per ton...)	8,502 13 5
Do	G. and C. Hoskins	£7 12s. and £6 14s. 6d. do ...)	39,743 1 8
Castings	do	£10 5s. and £9 9s. do ...)	1,306 9 9
Stop valves.....	Milne Bros.	Schedule	267 3 6
Ball hydrants,.....	Pope, Maher, & Co.....	At 8s. 3d. each.....	
		Total	54,580 15 2

Old Mains recovered.

Of the numerous mains recovered from the ground on replacement by new and larger ones, about 1,400 tons were re-stored, and taken on to stock at the equivalent value of new goods—approximately £10,000. The cost of fettling and repairing these mains was,—labour, £696; stores, &c., £88; total, £784, or, roughly speaking, 11s. 2d. per ton. Other mains, chiefly 3" diameter, known to have been more than 30 years underground, and shown to be too far decayed for further use, were sold as scrap iron at £1 per ton. The ordinary cast scrap iron was sold by public tender, and realised £2 16s. per ton.

Stock Balance.

(Exclusive of material charged direct to Works).

Stock in hand, 30th June, 1897	£ s. d. 16,746 3 6	Issues	£ s. d. 43,885 6 4
Receipts	43,464 4 7	Stock in hand, 30th June, 1898	16,325 1 9
	£60,210 8 1		60,210 8 1

Pay Branch.

The sum expended in this office during the past year was about £91,000 on account of fees, salaries, wages, compensations, petty cash, and refunds.

Examination of the daily post each morning showed that 12,739 letters contained remittances in payment of rates to a total value of about £61,000.

Three hundred and ninety-eight tenders were received in respect of seventy-nine contracts, and in all cases security for the due performance of the contract took the form of cash deposit; the total security thus held at the close of the year was £6,710 15s.

Ten of the latest scientific publications have been added to the library, making a total of 440 volumes.

The customary examination for admission of junior clerks to the Board's service took place last March. Twenty-three candidates presented themselves, and of these only seven obtained sufficient marks to qualify for any vacancies arising during the ensuing twelve months.

A. ELLICE FLINT,
Paymaster and Comptroller of Stores.

Engineer's Report.

Sir,

Engineer's Office, 10 August, 1898.

I have the honor to submit, for the information of the Board, the Annual Report of the working of the Engineer's Department for the period ending 30th June, 1898.

1. WATER SUPPLY BRANCH.

Catchment Area and Head Works.

The catchment area was originally under the supervision of one ranger, but subsequently it became evident that the patrol was not sufficient to safeguard the purity of the water supply, and the Board approved of the area being divided, and placed under the supervision of two rangers. The monthly reports of these officers show that the various landholders and others using the grazing-lands on the watershed are kept under vigilant supervision. It has been the habit in the past for settlers and others to turn cattle on to the various swamp lands to live or die, as the case may be; the owners of same are now traced, and dealt with under the provisions of the Act. The duties of the rangers, although of an arduous nature, have been efficiently performed.

Various applications for alienating areas of land within the watershed area for mining purposes have been referred to the Board by the Mines Department for their consideration; in each case applications have been refused at the instance of the Board. Any alienations of land within the area for either residential, mining, or manufacturing purposes should in all cases be opposed, and on this point the Board of Health are in accord with the Board of Water Supply and Sewerage; and it is a question of the future that the recommendation of the Board of Health, *re* resuming those areas which were alienated prior to the proclamation of the boundaries of the catchment area, be carried into effect.

Wherever it was considered that there was a possibility of water being polluted by picnic parties, tourists, or road gangs, notices were posted in conspicuous places warning same against such pollution, and steps have been taken to more definitely mark the boundaries of the watershed.

A scheme for supplying the town of Wollongong with water was designed by the Government County Towns Water Supply Branch, which included the interception and diversion of water from the metropolitan supply. The question was considered by the Board, and was not opposed owing to the comparatively small quantity which would be diverted. The weir across the Nepean River at Pheasant's Nest is in good order, and successfully withstood the February flood with a depth of water of 6½ feet over crest of weir. This weir is constructed in concrete, and on inspection after flood was found to be perfectly intact.

The grating protecting the inlet of Nepean Tunnel was damaged by the flood, and has been put in good order.

The tunnel is in good order generally; the outlet above Cataract weir requires attention by arching of channel, which will be provided for in Loan Appropriation for 1898-9. This work will prevent the accumulation of drift wood in Cataract River and blocking of Nepean Tunnel.

The various shafts on the Nepean Tunnel which had been left unfinished have been domed over on good rock foundations, and shafts finished with manhole grating; this ensures ample ventilation to the tunnel.

Cataract Weir.—There was a serious mishap at this weir on the 14th February. The same flood which passed over the Nepean weir without damage almost entirely destroyed this one.

The water rose 16 feet over the crest of weir—which exceeded by 4 feet any previous flood since it was built.

The extra height flooded timbered areas which had not been swept since records have been kept, and brought down immense quantities of timber; some of the logs were of large dimensions. Not only was timber carried down, but hundreds of tons of boulders were dislodged and carried to positions below the site of the weir; some of the boulders weighing 3 to 4 tons must have been carried a distance of 600 feet. The weir was built in coursed masonry with cement joints, and by the constant impact of the battering force of boulders and timber was destroyed course by course. On receipt of the news, and when flood had subsided sufficient to see the extent of the damage, an inspection was made, and it was decided to rebuild the weir with concrete composed of 1 cement, 2 of sharp river sand, and 4 of hard sandstone. The foundation of the old weir, which was found to be sound, was allowed to remain, a central block being removed to form a key for the new work; holes were drilled into the foundations, and steel rails of 18 lb. sections were inserted and set in neat cement mortar. The rails were set at all angles and projected well up into the new work. Pudding-stones were incorporated so as to save concrete, and the work was arranged in carrying out so as to avoid continuous joints, whether longitudinal, horizontal, or vertical. The work was somewhat hampered by the necessity of supplying the towns of Campbelltown and Liverpool with water, these places being supplied from the canal; the latter had to be replenished about every two weeks. By means of a sand-bag dam, the supply was effected within a week of the weir being destroyed.

The weather was fortunately favourable during the reconstruction, no fresh occurring in the river until after completion, when the river rose and passed over the new weir to a depth of 2 ft. 6 in. without damage.

The total quantity of concrete in the weir is 650 cubic yards, and about 50 cubic yards of pudding-stones. The cost of reconstruction, renewing sluice valve, cleaning up, &c., was £1,550, or about £150 below the office estimate. The work was done by day-labour, under the immediate supervision of the Resident Engineer, Mr. Jacob, and Inspector Best.

In addition to the reconstruction of the weir, improvements have been carried out in making a safe approach to valve house in lieu of the ladders which formerly existed.

Upper Canal and Prospect Reservoir.

A considerable amount of work has been done in the way of repairs—trimming slopes of cuttings; opening out and raising puddle wall of Liverpool Dam and tree-planting in enclosure; fixing screening apparatus and constructing platform; pointing the pitching of No. 9 section of canal; constructing road from canal through Mr. Darley's property to Appin Road, painting aqueducts; and other minor works outside ordinary maintenance.

About $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles of fencing has been renewed. The fence is four wires with top rail, the posts and wire being new material, and the top rail being selected from the best of the old material, the contract amount being £282.

The work of strengthening and relining the defective portions of the canal in bank has been vigorously pushed on.

Hamilton's contract was completed in June. This contract was stopped at times to allow water to be passed down canal to replete the Prospect Reservoir.

The contract extended over a length of 5,432 lineal feet, and, owing to the irregularity of the sides through scour and slips, necessitated the use of 733 cubic yards of extra concrete to make the work solid. The cost of this section was £7,895. The carrying out of this section by contract made it evident that in all future work of relining the same should be carried out by day-labour, as it is of the greatest importance that the control of the water should be in the hands of the Board's officers without any interfering interests. This question having been submitted to the Board, who made a visit to the section to be dealt with, they approved of the system of day labour as the best under the circumstances. Operations were commenced by dealing with the worst sections first, which, being detached and generally on curves, made the work more expensive than it otherwise would have been. The work done in section No. 10 by day labour aggregates 1,700 lineal feet, and expenditure £3,100. This amount includes a large quantity of material in hand—cement, sand, and broken stone; also work stripped preparatory for concrete lining. The Board having taken over Contractor Hamilton's plant, at a valuation, it will enable the Department to make better progress, and with anything like approaching continuous work the cost should be less than that already done.

As this work can only be carried out at intervals of season, and maintaining a safe supply at Prospect, dispatch is of the greatest import, and, consistent with economy, this is what is aimed at.

The necessity for a duplicate telephone line between Prospect and head work and to various stations along the line of canal became apparent during the year; and the Board having approved of the work, it was put in hand, and is almost completed. This will be of great service in working the staff in case of accidents.

Quarters for officers on duty have been erected at Kenny Hill, adjoining Inspector Whalan's residence. The accommodation will save time during inspecting tours, and be convenient for officers engaged on survey work when necessary.

Prospect Reservoir.—The work of raising the puddle wall of bank is drawing to completion; the work has been carried out by day labour. The foreman and majority of men worked on the dam while being constructed, and were, therefore, the best for the occasion. The work, together with raising the by-wash, will admit of raising the level in reservoir 1 ft. 6 in., and increase the quantity of water impounded over 700 millions of gallons. The expenditure has been to end of year about £4,600.

As a result of this work there is a large quantity of pitching spawls and kerbing which has been stored in the quarry, and can be used in the improvements contemplated in connection with the lower canal.

A quantity of pitchers from bank was used in pitching the by-wash between the 30-inch main and concrete apron.

The dam has not shown any signs of movement of import. The adits and other main drains continue to fulfil the object for which they were made.

With regard to storage, the year opened favourably with water level at 193.04 R.L.; in April the water level touched 183.85 R.L.; on 24th April rain fell, which raised the level nearly to 186.00 R.L.; a slight recession with some variations was experienced until the rains of 1st June and following dates, which caused the water level to rise to 193.5 R.L., or 20 inches below top water level. Owing to upper canal having to be shut off to carry out relining of canal the water level was not raised above this point, and was maintained at levels varying between 192.00 and 189.00 R.L., until February, 1898, when copious rains set in, and upper canal works were advanced so as to admit of reservoir being repleted, the water level rose to 195.06 R.L., or $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch from by-wash level. Since then the lowest level touched was 189.54 R.L.; but the June rains furnished an abundant supply, with the satisfactory result that the water was flowing over the by-wash.

The necessity for dealing with sections of the upper canal compelled the Department to forego the dry-weather flow of the rivers and the maintenance of a satisfactory level in the storage reservoir.

The inlet house and valve chamber are in good order, and valves kept in working condition. The covered-way showed signs of weakness, but was temporarily strengthened. In the contemplated improvements to Lower Canal, this length of arching will be dispensed with.

The favourable season enabled the officer-in-charge to increase the number of agistment stock on the reserves, the constituents of the Board availing themselves of the opportunity to such extent that the revenue amounted to £415 18s. 3d., which is the highest return for one year yet recorded.

It is contemplated during next year's operations to clear several paddocks which have not yet been touched; this will increase the agistment area and diminish the quantity of bark, leaves, and other surface rubbish which is washed into the reservoir every heavy rain.

Supply from Prospect Reservoir.

The quantity of water supplied to the various districts under control of the Board is recorded at 6,673,514,000 gallons, which is equal to a daily average supply of 18,283,000, or 42 gallons per head per diem for an estimated population of 434,810, the total quantity being an increase of nearly 228,000,000 gallons over the preceding year.

Lower Canal and other Works below Prospect Reservoir.

The Lower Canal was emptied and cleaned out, and advantage taken to construct an offtake for the supply of district of Holroyd Park and Sherwood.

The 72-inch pipes forming the pipe-line have been covered with cement-wash, and bands painted. This cement-wash has been found to be the best for the preservation of this work after trial of different materials for coating. Beyond this work, only that of ordinary maintenance has been carried out, in view of the contemplated alterations to canal.

A contract has been let by the Public Works Department for the manufacture and fixing in position of a duplicate line of 72-inch pipes from Pipe-head Basin to Potts' Hill Reservoir. This work, although under the control of the Board, was taken in hand by the Ministerial Department under a clause in the Act which empowers the Minister to carry out work.

Potts' Hill Reservoir is in good condition, as also the screening chamber.

Additional drainage inlets were carried out in connection with Potts' Hill Reservoir at the request of the local Borough Council.

Trunk Mains.

No reports were made during the year of damage to any of the trunk mains beyond a few drawn joints, which were attended to without interruption to the supply.

General Reticulation.

The whole of the reticulating system is in satisfactory condition. The work of this branch has been brisk during the year, as shown by the following returns.

The number of miles of trunk and reticulating mains laid, varying in diameter from 42-inch to 3-inch, aggregates 60.6 miles; 18 miles of mains cleaned and hydrants overhauled, &c.; $\frac{3}{4}$ mile lowered to suit altered conditions of roadways; and about 15.4 miles of mains of different sizes removed to make way for those of larger diameter to meet increased demands of districts. The number of hydrants fixed were 997 ball hydrants and 143 screw-down ditto.

Included in the aggregate mileage is the new rising main from Paddington to Centennial Park Reservoir, and the 42-inch supply main from same to Oatley-street. This will be connected to the new trunk main about to be laid through City, Redfern, Camperdown, and Petersham for the supply of the western suburbs and high-level zone of Balmain and Glebe Point. The areas of the city now supplied from Paddington Reservoir will receive the benefit of increased head from the Centennial Park Reservoir.

The new main for the supply of the low-level zone of Leichhardt and Balmain was completed and brought into use. This is connected to the 42-inch trunk main from Potts' Hill at Catherine-street and Parramatta Road. It is proposed to connect the original main to the new trunk main about to be laid from Centennial Park Reservoir, so that the high-level zones will have the benefit of the superior head, and obviate the necessity of supplying the latter district from Ryde Tank.

The supply to the districts of Rookwood, Granville, and Five Dock has been improved by laying larger arterial mains of 18, 15, and 12 inches diameter respectively.

At North Sydney the rapid development of the Neutral and Mosman Bays districts necessitated larger arterial mains, and the 15-inch main along the Military Road was extended, reducing in size to 12-inch at terminal point.

Mains of 10 inches diameter have been laid in Sydney, Enfield, Hurstville, Mosman, Newtown, North Sydney, Redfern, Strathfield, Waterloo, and Willoughby.

Mains of 9-inch diameter have been laid in Alexandria, Amundale, Balmain, and Redfern; and of 8-inch diameter in the districts of Balmain, Beecroft, Sydney, Petersham, and Willoughby.

The length of 6-inch mains laid was 10 miles, and 4-inch main 23 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

The general condition of the mains and fittings is satisfactory. During the year the number of bursts totalled 95 in the smaller and 5 in the larger mains. This is lower than previous year, and may be considered as satisfactory, considering the mileage of mains now in operation.

Analysis of Water.

The usual monthly analysis has been carried out by the Government Analyst. The points of observation were extended so as to embrace centres from which complaints were received. The reports show that the water supplied to the consumers was of good potable quality. Complaints were received at various times as to impurity of water at residences. In all cases the complaint was carefully investigated by the officers, and samples obtained. These were submitted in the first instance to the Medical Adviser for his opinion. His reports indicated that water was generally of good quality; any exception was found to be due to local causes, which were at once attended to. The general cause was due to water being drawn from dead-ends, which, notwithstanding the flushing by turncocks, caused a lot of suspended matter to accumulate which passed into the house service. To minimise this evil the Board directed that a report be prepared showing the extent and cost of coupling up the various dead-ends. The report was submitted and a sum was appropriated for the work by the Board, which has been taken in hand and will be systematically carried out. It is also intended to substitute an improved dirt-cap on ball-hydrants, as well as laying the hydrants on the footway in lieu of roadway as heretofore. The foregoing will prevent the possibility of organic matter finding way into the mains from the surface and ensure proper circulation.

House Services.

The number of drillings for house service carried out during the year was 2,933, of which 198 were in the Gordon-Hornsby district. The number of extensions and alterations to existing services for which permits were issued was 10,118. The inspections made in official routine were 1,200. The increase in the reticulated area, as well as increase in building operations, necessitated the inspecting staff being augmented. The position was filled by promotion of an employee in the Meter Branch, who had passed the special examination at the Technical College. The additional inspector admits of stricter supervision than heretofore.

Meter

Meter Branch.

The operations of this branch show increased development and the results are very satisfactory.

The number of new meters received from the contractors after being tested and passed was, 615 $\frac{1}{2}$ -in., 92 1-in., 80 $1\frac{1}{4}$ -in., 18 2-in., 4 3-in., and 2 2-in. metered standpipes for attachment to ball hydrants. The whole of the work was satisfactorily carried out.

The number of meters sent to the testing-shop for examination was 71, and for repairs 228, showing a decrease of 128 of number repaired previous year. The gradual adoption of the Board's pattern is responsible for the decrease in number.

The Board decided that all meters when disconnected for repairs, if of a class which would not fulfil the standard tests, were to be condemned. In compliance with this order, 114 meters were condemned and were replaced by meters of Board's pattern—principally under the hired system.

The number of meters issued on the hired system was 838 of various sizes and 50 were sold right out.

The number of meters tested and examined for country districts was 270 and 28 were repaired. This work is carried out on charge.

The total number of water fittings of various kinds dealt with was 61,227, of which 56,080 were passed and stamped, 5,028 returned as defective, and 119 condemned. The small quantity condemned, as compared with the number submitted, shows an improvement in manufacture, but it must be stated there are still some manufacturers who have an inclination to scamp their work. Owing to complaints *re* fittings after leaving the shop, the instructions as to testing were altered to include an examination of every part. The mechanical branch also carries out fitting work in connection with the engineering department, electrical indicators, telephones, and electric lighting, &c.

The Meter Clerk's report shows a satisfactory result on the year's working. His return shows that during the year the number of meters dealt with were:—

City and Suburbs, fixed	...	...	...	...	912
Government Departments, fixed	...	...	...	...	25
					<hr/>
					967
Meters cut off	...	...	...	...	267
					<hr/>
Increase for year	...	...	...	...	700

The total number of meters in operation in metropolitan area is 7,514.

Of the number of meters fixed (967) 880 have been rented, which makes the total issued on the hire system since April, 1894, 3,304, of which 2,788 are still in operation.

The number of meters which became defective during the year was 385. In all cases these were promptly repaired or replaced with new meters.

The financial result of this branch is of a highly satisfactory nature, as will be seen from the following:—

- Revenue from meters in excess of assessments, £47,006 1s. 3d., as against £43,823 17s. 8d. for previous year. Increase for year, £3,182 3s. 7d.
- Revenue due to earnings of Board meters included in above, exclusive of rents, is £7,822 4s. 1d., as against £6,297 1s. 3d. for previous years. Increase for year, £1,525 2s. 10d.
- Revenue from rent for hired meters for year was £977 14s. 11d., as against £910 7s. for previous year. Increase, £67 7s. 11d.

With regard to the sub-section *c*, it must be taken into account that the operations for the year have been conducted on a very much reduced tariff. After sufficient experience had been gained, based on first cost, maintenance, &c., accounts were taken, and the result showed that the Board could make concessions to the ratepayers, and at same time provide for their responsibilities under capital account.

On presentation of report to the Board the following scale of rents was approved of:—

Meter.	Old rent.	New rent.
$\frac{1}{2}$ inch	...	7s. to 5s. 6d. per annum.
$\frac{3}{4}$ "	...	9s. to 7s. 0d. "
1 "	...	11s. to 8s. 3d. "

This reduction is equal to 22 per cent. on the original rates, and allows a small margin for contingencies.

The quantity of water supplies free for public parks and charitable institutions during the year amounted to 76,579,000 gallons. The value to the Board if they could, under the Act, take credit for same is £3,828 19s., being an increase over previous year of £598 14s. 9d.

In connection with the adoption of a uniform type of meter, I would like to remark that, when it is taken into consideration the numerous types of meters and their high first cost to the consumer in the first instance, in addition to cost of fixing and maintenance, the tangible results of local manufacture, with indestructible material as compared with cast-iron, must in time force itself on the consideration of the public. If this applies to meters purchased right out, it will apply with greater force to the system of hired meters, where the consumer pays a low rental, and, after fixing, is entirely relieved for cost of maintenance.

Fires.

Only 52 fires were reported by the turncocks as requiring their attendance during the year.

Pumping Plant.

With exception of the usual overhaul to No. 1 Worthington engine, no work of importance was carried out in connection with the Crown-street engines.

The details of work done are shown in report of Chief Mechanical Engineer.

Ryde Station.—Considerable amount of work has been carried out by the staff, under Mr. Westcott, in overhauling the western engine, and are more particularly described in Mr. Fyff's report.

A smithy has been provided for the use of staff, and has proved very useful.

Gas has now been laid into the engine and boiler house, which will be beneficial in working the establishment.

The increased pumping necessitated an increase in the staff. This can be attributed to the rapid development in the North Sydney district.

Carlton Station.—The engines here are in good working condition. The new Worthington pump has given satisfaction since it was erected; only repairs incidental to ordinary wear and tear were carried out. Repairs have been effected to the boiler setting, and alterations made in combustion chambers, which has improved the results in steaming.

Chatswood Station.—The contractor for supply of new pumping plant and boiler has satisfactorily carried out his contract. The pump has been working continuously for over six months, and gives every satisfaction. They work easy and almost noiseless. Considering the intermittent nature of the pumping, owing to small tank accommodation and the long length of small rising main, the duty obtained can be considered as satisfactory. The engines are Blake's compound duplex, direct-acting, high-pressure type, with air-pump and jet-condenser, and were imported from Blake and Knowles, the English representatives of the American firm. The boiler was manufactured locally, and is of the multitubular type.

Under contract the plant was required to lift 500 gallons per minute to a height of 370 feet, through a 10-inch steel-riveted main, and 13,640 lineal yards long. The following are the leading dimensions of the engine:—H.P. cylinder, 11 inches; L.P. cylinder, 22 inches; stroke, 18 inches; pump-plungers (externally packed), 9 inches diameter; working pressure in boiler, 110 lb.

Richmond Station (Country Supply).—The plant has been working without overhaul since 1891. Repairs have, however, been carried out this year which have improved the working and raised the duty.

Cost of Pumping.

The cost of pumping at the various stations is given below:—

Pumping Station.	Name of Reservoir to which Water is raised.	Total Volume pumped during year.	Cost of Lifting 1,000,000 gallons 100 feet high.	Cost of Lifting 1,000 gallons 100 feet high.
			£ s. d.	d.
Crown-street	Paddington	1,858,043,700	} 1 12 3	} 387
	Woollahra	432,468,150		
	Waverley	328,456,620		
Ryde	Ryde Hill	111,425,000	} 1 15 2	} 422
	Chatswood	392,208,000		
Carlton	Penshurst	65,137,529	4 15 9	1 149
Chatswood	Wahroonga	60,561,990	3 7 1	805
North Richmond	North Richmond	12,064,000	7 9 0	1 788

Coal Consumed.

	Tons.	cwt.	qrs.	lb.
Crown-street pumping station	2,800	13	3	7
Ryde " " " " " " " " " " " "	1,272	16	2	14
Carlton " " " " " " " " " " " "	261	6	0	0
Chatswood " " " " " " " " " " " "	399	16	2	0
North Richmond " " " " " " " " " " " "	56	17	0	0
Total for year	4,800	9	3	21

There is an increase in the cost of pumping at all the stations. At the Crown-street Station the increase is about 12 per cent. Last year the contract was let for the supply of Helmsburg Mine coal only.

The returns of water pumped and coal consumed show that the superior steaming qualities are only about 5 per cent. above the coal used the previous year. The cost of pumping, reduced to per 1,000 gallons 100 feet high, is 12 per cent. above last year; so that it is questionable whether the small difference in the work done justifies the difference in the price of coal. This question will be considered when a new contract is being prepared.

Duty of Engines.

From Crown-street to Paddington... ..	61,310,925 ft.-lb. per cwt. of coal.
" " Woollahra	61,235,766 " "
" " Waverley	48,411,112 " "
From Ryde to Ryde Village	60,259,000 " "
" " Chatswood	66,060,570 " "
From Carlton to Penshurst... ..	29,527,438 " "
From Chatswood to Wahroonga	38,231,104 " "
From North Richmond to North Richmond Tank... ..	28,323,831 " "

The quantity of water lifted by the above pumps during the year was 3,260,864,989 gallons; an advance of 171,596,816 gallons over that pumped last year.

There is a general improvement in the duty observed in the working of the plant. In connection with the Richmond plant, the coal used for banking fires and raising steam was not hitherto taken credit for. This year this has been done, and a marked improvement in the duty has resulted.

Length

Length of Mains under Board's Control.

The length of mains, exclusive of trunk and pumping mains, under the Board's control is 967·7 miles, and the number of screw-down hydrants 1,858, and ball hydrants 18,740.

Reservoirs and Service Tanks.

The reservoirs and service tanks have been cleaned out, and are in good serviceable condition.

The new steel tank at Wahroonga, having a capacity of 1,000,000 gallons, for the Gordon-Hornsby district, is completed all but painting; the delivery pipes and other fittings will be shortly fixed in position. This tank will take the place of the existing 40,000-gallon tank for general service; the latter will be retained for the supply of the adjacent high-level zone. Residences for the local officers are being erected at Wahroonga and Penshurst; these will be placed under rental, and while receiving a return for the money expended, will ensure protection for the Board's property. The enclosures will be planted and made ornamental as well as useful.

The new Centennial Park reservoir has been completed by the Public Works Department, and will be handed over to the Board in a few months. The pumping main and trunk supply main have been carried out by the Board. The improved storage will be available for the metropolitan area during the next summer.

New Districts.

Beyond the completion of the schemes for the supply of Thornleigh, Pennant Hills, and Beecroft, and for Sherwood and Holroyd Park, no new districts have been opened up.

The schemes formulated for the supply of country towns of Camden and Narellan, also for metropolitan districts of Mobb's Hill and Eastwood, are still in abeyance; the former on account of the existing Act not applying to same, and the latter because the financial aspect has not improved.

Country Towns Water Supply.

The various works in the towns of Richmond, Smithfield, Liverpool, and Campbelltown are in good working order.

Owing to the death of the local turncock at Campbelltown, a vacancy occurred, which was filled by appointing one of the men trained in the service, and locating him at Liverpool in lieu of Campbelltown.

During the year several complaints were received from the local Council *re* the unsatisfactory quality of the water in some portions of the town. On the matter being investigated, the cause was attributed to the number of "dead ends" in the reticulation system, and the presence of numbers of small shrimps, which passed from the reservoir into the supply main. The Board having approved of a large number of the "dead ends" being coupled up to ensure constant circulation, and providing screening arrangements at the Liverpool dam, the work was carried out, and a marked improvement in the quality of the water resulted; the analysis by the Health Board indicated a higher state of chemical purity than that supplied to the metropolitan area. No complaints have been received since. The Richmond tank was cleaned out, and the mains in the town thoroughly flushed. This work will be more regularly taken in hand by giving additional assistance to the local officer, who has to pump water and attend to collection of rates, &c.

Complaints were received from residents to the effect that the waters of the Hawkesbury River, from which the town supply is obtained, was being polluted by a woolwashing establishment higher up, near the town of Penrith. The matter was thoroughly investigated by the Health Board and the assistant engineer on behalf of this Board.

The outcome of the inquiry being a recommendation to the Board to construct filter-beds in connection with the town supply. This matter was, however, taken over by the Minister for Works, as the system was not transferred to the Board, the latter only managing the works until the amending Act is passed, giving the Board the full control.

Botany Reserves.

No further steps have been taken to lease the spare land on the old water reserve, although inquiries have been made anent same.

The five establishments at present located are in good order—additional plant has been made to two of the premises—the tendency being in the direction of improved machinery.

A lease has been effected to the military authority of an area of the vacant land for a resting place for artillery horses, at a rental of £75 per annum.

The fences, drains, wharf, and other improvements are kept in good condition.

The overseer reports that the rainfall for the year was 46·75 inches, and during last six months the rains necessitated the opening of the flood-gates, and an enormous quantity of water flowed into Botany Bay. The quantity stored for use of lessees is estimated at 340,000,000 gallons.

Contracts let during year.

The contracts let or in progress during the year were, viz., relining strengthening, upper canal supply of coal; cartage; general pipe-laying; supply of 2,000 ball hydrants; supply of steel and cast-iron water-pipes; supply of ball and socket submarine pipes; supply of material and erection of 1,000,000 gallons steel tank at Wahroonga; new pumping plant and boiler, Chatswood; extension of building, Chatswood pumping station; supply of 42-inch and 36-inch cast-iron and steel mains in connection with Centennial Park Reservoir; overhauling Blake pumps, Carlton Station; officers' quarters, Kenny Hill; fencing

fencing Botany Reserve; fencing upper canal; supply of stop valves, 20-inch to 3-inch; erection of smithy, &c., Ryde pumping station; supply of wrought-iron gates, upper canal; erection of cottages, Penshurst and Wahroongah tanks; and supply of wrought-iron bands for Ryde pumping main.

A considerable amount of work has been carried out by day labour, viz., main laying in the city; making additions to workmen's cottages; raising puddle wall of Prospect Dam; relining of upper canal, and general maintenance work—incidental to the proper care of Board's property.

Expenditure on Loan Vote.

	£	s.	d.
New mains, including arterial mains	58,303	9	11
Buildings, machinery	7,491	9	4
Relining of upper canal... ..	10,087	16	8
Raising Puddle-wall, Prospect Dam	3,901	8	11
Sundry works	3,223	18	0
Total	£83,008	2	10

Expenditure on Revenue Vote.

The expenditure on maintenance of works during the past year was £30,460 7s. 4d.; of this amount, £1,672 13s. was expended in reconstructing the Cataract Dam destroyed by flood of February.

The reports of Chief Mechanical Engineer and Resident Engineer at Prospect, also summary of mains laid are submitted herewith:—

Report of Chief Mechanical Engineer.

Sir,

Waterworks Reservoir, Crown-street, 11 July, 1898.

I have the honor to submit the following report upon the working of pumping engines, &c., and water supplied for the year ended June 30th, 1898. The only work of any moment during the past year was that of general overhaul to No. 1 Worthington pumping engine on 17th June to 21st July, 1897; for renewals and adjustments where found necessary; and which consisted of opening out cylinders, steam valve casings, air pumps, and main pumps; H. and L. pistons were drawn, piston rings done up and readjusted; two defective studs drilled out of cylinder, new ones fitted; steam valves done up and adjusted; air pump pistons done up and fitted with V.I. valves throughout; all valve gear connections and air and main pump connections were stripped and adjusted; two compensator pistons rebushed with gun metal, and one done up by removing bushes; four compensator glands rebushed with gun metal; eight new compensator gland bolts; compensator connecting rods lined with plastic metal and fitted to gudgeons; compression air-pump rod rebushed; steel connecting pin fitted to opposite end; compensator water pump connecting-rod bush trued up, and new steel connecting pin fitted; all valves removed from main pumps, and pumps thoroughly scaled and painted internally; valves replaced; defective iron spring caps replaced by new brass ones, and several new springs; a quantity of jacketing steam-pipes and couplings renewed; Nos. 3 and 4 boiler safety-valves dismantled and done up. All boilers have been attended to in the way of cleaning, &c., as required. The renewals and repairs to Nos. 2 and 3 pumping engines for the year have been of the usual nature incidental to ordinary wear. No. 2 pumping engines being due for general overhaul is now being proceeded with. The hydrant connections for safety in case of fire have been attended to and periodically tested in order to maintain their efficiency. The electric light and power was installed, and in use now about a year, giving light to engine-house, offices, and yard, and giving dynamo power for driving machinery of motor shop in day-time.

Water pumped during the year ended and for the quarter is given in tabulated form, herewith attached, and as under, viz.:—Water pumped by Crown-street pumps during the year to Paddington reservoir was 1,859,743,700 gallons, being 63.49 million gallons more than the year previous; and for the quarter, 452,753,000 gallons, being 45.88 million gallons more than the corresponding quarter of the year previous. The quantity of water pumped to Woolahra reservoir during the year was 430,486,550 gallons, being 12.2 million gallons less than the year previous; and for the quarter, 95,703,100 gallons, being 7.7 million gallons less than corresponding quarter of previous year. The quantity of water pumped to Waverley reservoir during the year was 328,459,170 gallons, being an increase on the year previous of 47.19 million gallons; and for the quarter, 80,403,250 gallons, being 13.54 million gallons more than corresponding quarter of previous year. The quantity of water pumped at Ryde works for the year to Ryde Hill was 1,11,375,000 gallons, being 20.13 million gallons less than the previous year, owing to part of Balmain having been taken off this source of supply; the pumping for the quarter was 24,057,000 gallons, being 81 thousand gallons less than the corresponding quarter of year previous; to Chatswood, was 392,208,000 gallons, being an increase on the year previous of 60.96 million gallons. The pumping for the quarter was 94,512,000 gallons, being an increase of 19 million gallons on corresponding quarter of year previous. This rise was somewhat expected, seeing that North Sydney is supplied from this source.

Considerable repairs and renewals have been effected by the staff at Ryde works during the year, and consisted of strengthening eastern valve-chamber by a band clip on branch leading to pump, it being cracked. The blow-off connections have been altered, consequent to their being defective. The sediment tubes were taken off and welded up on the lower end, then refixed, and blow-off connections connected thereto. A new supplementary injector feed has been installed. The main feed-pipes were defective, and having to be renewed were fitted with copper pipes. The post joints of H.P. cylinder, western engine, have been rejoined. Gas is being laid on throughout the engine and boiler house. A smithy has been added to the works, and is of great convenience. The work of doing up valve-chamber, seat-bearings, and seats is about to be taken in hand, when a good opportunity will be given to examine the main pump barrels.

The

The quantity of water pumped at Carlton during the year was 66,866,210 gallons, being an increase of 5.94 million gallons on the year previous; and the quarter's pumping, 19,042,070 gallons, being 2.68 million gallons more than corresponding quarter of previous year. The usual renewals incidental to wear has been attended to, and the boiler-setting had some repairs effected.

Chatswood pumping for the year amounts to 60,442,190 gallons, being an increase of 23.8 million gallons on the year previous; and pumping for the quarter was 15,331,200 gallons, being 8.57 million gallons more than corresponding quarter of previous year. The new Blake pump supplied by Morris Bros. has been doing the pumping at these works for the last six months, and running satisfactorily.

The pumping machinery at all the works is in fair working order and condition.

The Engineer-in-Chief.

J. FYFE,
Chief Mechanical Engineer.

RETURN of water pumped and coal consumed for the year ending 30th June, 1893.

From—	To Reservoirs.	Water Pumped.	Coal Consumed.
		gallons.	tons cwt. qr.
Crown-street Works	Paddington	1,859,743,700	1,380 15 0
" "	Woollahra	430,486,550	619 15 3
" "	Waverley	328,459,170	813 7 0
Ryde Works	Ryde Hill	111,375,000 }	1,274 12 1
" "	Chatswood	392,208,000 }	
Carlton	Penshurst, &c.	66,866,210	267 6 0
Chatswood	Wahroongah, &c.	60,442,190	391 3 0
	For heating up slowly in changing boilers, Crown-street		12 0 0
	For engineer's house use		10 0 0
	For dynamo power		285 0 0

RETURN for quarter ending 30th June, 1898.

From—	To Reservoirs.	Water Pumped.	Coal Consumed.
		gallons.	tons cwt. qr.
Crown-street Works	Paddington	452,753,000	293 0 2
" "	Woollahra	95,703,100	120 1 0
" "	Waverley	80,403,250	178 9 1
Ryde Works	Ryde Hill	24,057,000 }	307 10 2
" "	Chatswood	94,512,000 }	
Carlton Works	Penshurst, &c.	19,042,070	76 1 0
Chatswood Works	Wahroongah, &c.	15,331,200	109 10 0
	For heating up slowly in changing boilers, Crown-street		3 0 0
	For engineer's house use		2 10 0
	For dynamo power		84 0 0

Superintendent's Report.

Prospect, 2 July, 1898.

THE year opened favourably here with the water level at 193.04, the situation in April, 1897—the water then having touched R.L. 183.85—having been relieved by rain on April 24th, which raised the level almost to 186.00. A slight recession was then experienced, with some variation till the rains of 1st June and following dates, which resulted in a rise to R.L. 193.50, or 20 in. below top water level.

Owing to works in progress the water was not then raised above that level, and was maintained at levels varying from 192.00 to 189.00 till February, 1898, when a favourable opportunity enabled it to be lifted to 195.06 or 1½ in. from by-wash level. Since then, the lowest level touched was 186.54; but last month's rains furnished an abundant supply, with the result that at date of writing the reservoir is overflowing.

The maintenance of a high level during the whole of the past year was considerably interfered with by the existence of a contract for lining portion of the Upper Canal, several opportunities of raising the level of the water being foregone owing to reluctance to interfere more than was necessary with the operations of the contract, while the low level flow of the rivers was almost wholly unused.

The contract for lining is now finished, and further operations in that respect are being carried out by day labour, a course which I unhesitatingly endorse, as it is of the greatest importance that the control of the water shall be in the hands of the Board's officers only, without any intervening interests.

One mishap of note occurred during the year, and that was the destruction of the Cataract Dam by the flood of February 14th. This flood rose to a height of 16 ft. above the crest of the dam, being 4 ft. higher than any flood experienced since its construction. This extra height invaded timbered country which had not been so swept since records have been kept, and brought down immense quantities of drift timber accumulated above previous flood levels. Not only did it bring this timber, but it also dislodged probably hundreds of tons of boulders; and of these, many were swept along by the water from positions above to positions below the dam. Several of these, weighing individually 3 or 4 tons, may now be seen 100 feet below the dam, which, prior to the flood, are known to have been 500 feet above it. The dam, which was of masonry, was by these means battered to destruction course by course. It is notable that the Nepean dam, which is built of concrete, at the same time withstood a flood passing 6½ feet in depth above its crest without the least injury. The Cataract Dam has now been rebuilt in cement concrete of hard sandstone, mixed in the proportions of 4 stone, 2 sand, and 1 cement. The foundations of the old dam, found to be undisturbed, were allowed to remain, but deep holes were drilled into or through them, and steel rails of 18 lb section set in cement at all angles, and allowed to project well up into the

new

new work. Pudding-stones were introduced to save concrete, and the whole so carried out as to avoid continuous joints, whether longitudinal, horizontal, or vertical. The amount of concrete used was about 650 cubic yards (exclusive of pudding-stones, which are estimated at 50 cubic yards), and the total cost, including the removal of damaged portions of old work, repairs to gear, cleaning up, &c., &c., was £1,550. The work was somewhat hampered by the necessity of providing for the water supplies of Campbelltown and Liverpool, which had to be replenished about every two weeks, and, in fact, water was supplied to them by means of a sandbag dam within a week after the dam carried away.

The weather was fortunately favourable, no fresh occurring till near the completion of the work, when it passed 2 ft. 6 in. over the new work for some hours without doing any damage.

Work on the lower canal has been reduced to the minimum, consistent with effective maintenance, in view of the proposal to raise the sides, which will entail an entire revision of the works. Otherwise attention has been given to all parts of the line, the chief works (apart from details attended to in the ordinary course by our maintenance men), carried out during the year being as enumerated below:—

Relining canal, Hamilton's contract, 3,171 lineal feet, at a cost of £6,481.—The cost of this work per foot run—as, indeed, of all relining—is enhanced by the irregularity of the sides, when stripped, necessitating considerable extra concrete, while the spaces to be filled are not large enough to be effectively filled with either earth or stone packing. The whole work under the contract was 5,432 lineal feet, and 703 cubic yards extra concrete, at a cost of £7,874 18s. 11d.

Doming shafts on Nepean Tunnel.—Domes have been constructed of concrete, on a good rock foundation, in each of six shafts on this tunnel, with ventilating and manhole shafts carried to the surface of ground. Total cost in round figures, £500.

Fencing has been renewed on Upper Canal to the extent of $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The new fence is of four wires and top-rail, posts and wire being new, the top-rail being selected from the best of the old timber. This was contract work, and cost £282.

Relining canal, section 10, day labour.—Of this work 1,700 lineal feet have been completed, at a cost of £3,100. This includes a large quantity of material on hand—cement, sand, and broken stone—and work stripped ready for concrete. The cost of this work is increased, as before-mentioned, by irregularity of section, and further, in this case, by the fact that we are treating first the bad banks, separate pieces of work necessitating constant removal of plant; and it has nearly all been curved work, requiring double centering. With the increased plant (Contractor Hamilton's gear having been purchased), and opportunity for more continuous work, the cost per foot run should be considerably reduced.

Raising puddle-wall, Prospect Reservoir.—About two months of fine weather should see this work finished, giving an extra capacity of 1 ft. 6 in. to the reservoir, or an increased storage of over 700 million gallons. The expenditure to date on this work has been £1,600 (approximate). As the result of this work, we have large quantities of kerbing, pitching, spawls, and road metal stored in the quarry, most of which will be available for raising the lower canal, and necessary work connected therewith. This should not be lost sight of, as it is a most valuable lot of material, stored in a convenient position.

Among minor works may be mentioned the following:—

July, 1897.—Lower canal emptied and partially cleaned out; some repairs effected to covered way.

August, 1897.—Offtake to Holyroyd Park put in; thinning timber and cutting out underscrub at Prospect; alterations and extensions of surface drainage at Potts' Hill.

September, 1897.—Painting bands and cement coating 72-inch main; drainage, &c., to brick cottages at Prospect.

October, 1897.—Pitching by-wash at Prospect from Bridge to 72-inch main; leakages in lower canal reduced; telephone line rearranged and straightened.

December, 1897.—Repairs to Veteran Hall; additional water-holes in front paddocks; flattening slopes of cuttings on upper sections; additions to cottage at Kenny Hill.

January, 1898.—Puddle core in Liverpool dam opened up, raised, and made good where some small leaks showed at the top.

February, 1898.—Heavy floods; Cataract Dam carried away, and considerable damage done to fences, telephone line, roads, approach to Nepean Tunnel, &c.; repairs in hand.

March, 1898.—Roads extended from Prospect embankment to Dog Kennel Road and end of Section 10; relining canal (day labour) started; repairs to Cataract Dam, and doming shafts on Nepean Tunnel in hand; upper canal cleared out where necessary; painting aqueducts started; pointing pitching on Section 9 in hand; Nepean and Cataract Tunnels inspected throughout and found in good order.

April, 1898.—Cleaning and coating 72-inch main with cement wash and painting bands; painting ironwork on aqueduct; repairs to gate and grating, Nepean Tunnel entrance, and repairs to approach to Nepean Tunnel.

May, 1898.—Clearing and preparing ground for tree-planting, Liverpool Dam; all concrete placed in Cataract Dam; forming road from canal through Mr. Darley's place; approach to winch house, Cataract, in lieu of temporary ladders; ford below Nepean Dam.

June, 1898.—Reservoir filled and overflowed on 20th instant, and is still running over; scours also open; Liverpool Dam emptied and refilled; Hamilton's contract for relining finished; Buttenshaw's contract for fencing finished; duplicate telephone line in hand.

Agistment fees for the year have amounted to £415 18s. 5d., being the largest year's taking yet recorded. I have submitted a proposal to appropriate a sum from Loans for further clearing the watershed area and other paddocks, which have never yet been cleared. This would not only admit of increased revenue from agistment, but would tend to do away with large quantities of rubbish, bark, leaves, &c., which are washed into the reservoir with every heavy rain.

The Board Engineer.

A. F. JACOBS,
Superintendent.

LENGTH of each sized Main laid in the different districts for the period from 1st July, 1897, till 30th June, 1898.

District.	3"	4"	6"	8"	9"	10"	12"	15"	18"	20"	24"	30"	36"	38½"	42"	42½"	Total.
Alexandria.....	yds.	yds.	yds.	yds.	yds.	yds.	yds.	yds.	yds.	yds.	yds.	yds.	yds.	yds.	yds.	yds.	yds.
Annandale.....	60	876	...	238	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,176
Ashfield.....	527	...	...	377	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	904
Auburn.....	304	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	304
Balmain.....	15	9	...	...	...	4	1,559	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,587
Becraft.....	1,184	166	164	23	1	1,191	1	3,932	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,662
Botany.....	619	37	5,919	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,605
Burwood.....	267	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	268
Camperdown.....	223	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	228
Canterbury.....	114	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	144
City.....	369	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	369
Concord.....	19	4,146	4,191	693	6	1,214	1	572	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	660	11,502
Drummoyne.....	18	...	...	...	...	...	1,056	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,076
Enfield.....	337	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	337
Erskineville.....	15	55	...	...	...	1,580	915	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,565
Glebe.....	346	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	316
Gordon.....	2,036	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,036
Granville.....	4,322	150	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,476
Guildford.....	71	25	2	3	2	...	1,903	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,102
Homebush.....	554	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	554
Hunter's Hill.....	277	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	277
Hurstville.....	945	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	935
Kogarah.....	1,272	1,057	6	...	1,980	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,245
Leichhardt.....	2,557	1,262	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,819
Liverpool.....	2,324	614	...	1	8	...	...	1,509	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,456
Lane Cove.....	807	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	807
Marrickville.....	83	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	83
Mosman.....	492	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	493
Newtown.....	1,803	12	...	...	35	2,317	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,167
N. Botany.....	509	487	...	...	509	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,595
N. Sydney.....	1,142	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,142
Paddington.....	267	876	59	...	428	1,228	793	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,631
Petersham.....	63	268	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	14	2	8	1,495	...	1,798	
Prospect and Sherwood.....	738	3,456	376	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,581
Redfern.....	3,549	2,554	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,110
Rockdale.....	1,566	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	250	849	...	2,665
Rookwood.....	321	...	...	244	780	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,349
Smithfield.....	1,050	1,752	142	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,944
St. Peters.....	137	759	43	1	4	896	1,735	4,673	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,478
Strathfield.....	156	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	156
Vaucluse.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	158	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	160
Waterloo.....	814	489	...	...	1,481	733	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,017
Willoughby.....	124	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	124
Woolahra.....	56	1,593	...	4	337	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,890
Waverley.....	2,254	230	759	...	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,263
Totals.....	1,473	41,354	17,731	7,052	902	8,480	6,029	9,136	10,316	5	14	2	8	1,745	849	660	106,656
																	or miles yds. 60 1,056

II.—SEWERAGE BRANCH.

During the year the following storm-water drains, constructed by the Government Sewerage Branch, have been transferred to the control of the Board under the provisions of the Amending Act of 1894, viz. :—

Double Bay storm-water channel.
 Homebush Creek storm-water channel, Albyn-street branch.
 " " " Homebush-road branch.
 " " " Russell-street branch extension.
 Willoughby Creek channel.
 " " Falcon-street branch.

During the same period the following main sewers, constructed by the Government Sewerage Branch, have been transferred to the Board under the provisions of the Amending Act of 1889, viz. :—

Western Suburbs System.—Constructed under Act 54 Vic. No. 17, viz. :—

Western System.—Outfall sewers, divisions 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Renwick-street sub-main.
 Sydenham-road sewer.
 Edgeware-road sub-main.
 Little Tupper-street sub-main.
 " " extension.

Nelson-street sub-main.
 Parramatta-road sub-main.

Northern System.—Main sewer, division No. 3.
 Foucart-street sub-main.

North

North Sydney Sewerage.—Constructed under Act 52 Vic. No. 22, viz.:—

North Shore outfall sewer.
 " " Earnest-street branch.
 " " extension.
 McDougall-street sub-main.
 Willoughby-street sub-main.
 Lavender Bay sub-main.
 Glen-street sub-main.
 Blue's Point sub-main.

No municipal storm-water drains have been taken over during the year.

A portion of the sewerage system carried out by the Glebe Local Council was taken over under the provisions of the Amending Act of 1889.

The total length of sewers and storm-water ducts transferred to the Board were, viz.:—

Sewers—13·64 miles. (*Vide Appendix A. Tables 1 and 3.*)
 Storm-water ducts—2·03 miles. (*Vide Appendix A. Table 2.*)

Surveys, &c.

Surveys have been carried out to determine the position and level of side inlets for the Government Sewerage Department in connection with the reticulation sewers, which are carried out under the Board, for the following sewers:—

South Willoughby sewer.
 Neutral Bay sewer.
 Marrickville low-level sewer.
 Western Branch, 4th division.

Surveys have also been made for extension of storm-water drains at Rushcutter Bay, Victoria and Gresham streets, and for reticulating sewers in Annandale, Ashfield, Balmain, Canterbury, Glebe, Leichhardt, Marrickville, North Sydney, Paddington, Petersham, and Waverley. Surveys are also in progress for dealing with the balance of the above districts, as well as Newtown, St. Peters, and Willoughby.

New Sewers.

The total length of sewers constructed by the Board during the year is 50·85 miles, and of storm-water ducts 15 miles. (*Vide Appendix B.*)

The aggregate length of sewers and storm-water ducts under the Board's control is 340·83 miles.

The usual procedure is followed in throwing open the sewers for the use of the public so as to make them revenue-bearing at the earliest moment. This applies only to where the main sewers constructed by the Government Sewerage Department are available.

Contracts in Progress.

The work of constructing the reticulating sewers has been vigorously pushed on, during the year 26 contracts were in progress as against 22 for the previous year, the total length of sewers aggregating 445,000 lineal feet of various sizes, in formations varying from hard rock to water-charged sandy soil. Construction of wrought and cast iron for sewers and construction and erection of metal ventilating shafts in the city and suburbs.

Contracts for erection of two brick main ventilating shafts, one at Bellevue Hill, on Main Bondi Sewer, and the other in Victoria Park on the Camperdown branch of the Bondi Outfall.—These shafts are ornamental in appearance and, while being useful, do not detract from the appearance of the surrounding locality.

Additional filtration tanks with underdrainage and extension of main carrier have been constructed on the sewage farm. Trapped gullies have been constructed in former open inlets of Iron Cove storm-water duct, these were constructed by the Board on account of the nuisance set up and danger to health, by the foul air emitted from the openings of covered portions of the storm-water duct. Flushing-gates were fixed at Long Cove Creek storm-water duct.

Storm-water Sewers.

The loss on the storm-water sewers still continues to be a drag on the sewerage revenue of the Board. Owing to the large size of some of the ducts and the quantity of sand and silt carried into them, the cleansing by hand becomes expensive. In order to reduce the cost of maintenance as much as possible, a pair of flushing-gates, worked by water power obtained from the adjacent water main, and controlled by one man, were erected on the Long Cove Creek duct, near Battle Bridge. Since the gates were erected the District Inspector reports that they are efficient for the purpose and labour saving, inasmuch as he was enabled to detach two men for other duty. This system has been so far successful, that the Board approved of erection of another gate on the Beattie-street Channel, Balmain.

Other channels will be dealt with in the near future, as it is necessary to reduce the cost of maintenance to a minimum; this applies with greater force to the Rushcutters' Bay storm-water duct.

Outfall Sewers.

With the exception of two lengths of the Bondi Outfall Sewer, which are scoured in the invert, all the main ducts are in good condition. The various penstocks, valves, &c, are regularly attended to and kept in order for any emergency. The construction of the storm-water sewer through the Double Bay Valley provides an overflow and safety-valve for the Bondi Outfall. This provision formed part of the original system. The automatic flow-recorders continue to give satisfaction.

Reticulation

Reticulation Sewers.

The whole of the reticulating sewers in the old and new systems are regularly attended to. Some of the former had to be replaced and made water-tight, the fault principally lying in defective jointing. New cast-iron covers have been fixed on lamp and man holes to replace old timber covers which had become dangerous for traffic. Two old sewers had to be lowered to suit improved conditions of buildings requiring greater depth.

Owing to the surcharging of the Wattle-street and other sewers during heavy rainfall, some of the premises connected thereto had to be provided with reflux sink-traps in house drains to prevent flooding, and to afford egress for the surcharge water. The manhole covers were filled with guide-rods so as to admit of same lifting with the pressure and reseating when same was spent.

The addition of the sewers transferred by the Government and new reticulating sewers necessitated augmenting the maintenance staff.

The various flushing-tanks placed at terminal points of slow grades are acting effectively.

Removal of Silt from Sewers, &c.

The quantity of silt removed during the year from the old system was 1,450 tons. The quantity from main outfalls, new system, was: Bondi, 665 tons; Botany, 453 tons. Considering the extensions made, this quantity cannot be considered as large.

The silt is disposed of on Government reclamation works, being conveyed thereto by the sludge punt "Ino."

The quantity of sand removed from the stormwater-ducts for the year was, viz:—

Metropolitan	2,300 loads.
Suburban	2,430 „

As before mentioned, the introduction of flushing-gates will effect considerable reduction in the cost of maintenance.

Repairs to City Sewers.

The repairs to Pitt-street sewer were completed during the year. This work closes the repairing work of the old system of city sewers. It was commenced in 1891, and carried on every year by the staff as the work of the Department permitted. The whole of the main branches of the old system may now be considered in a good condition, and will stand for years. The work consisted of renewing invert where scoured out through the erosive action of street-metal and sharp sand, which has extended over a period of years prior to the Board taking control. The sides and intrados of arch have been repointed, where necessary. Manholes have been brought to the surface and fitted with cast-iron covers. Where same occurred under tramlines, which were constructed long after the sewers were built, side entrances were made; so that, under the altered conditions, the sewers can be maintained with the same facility as those on the new system.

The work done since repairs were commenced is, viz. :—

	Invert repaired.	Pointing.	Arch repairs.
	Feet super.	Feet super.	Feet lineal.
1897-8	6,165	30,238	nil.
1896-7	1,418	1,255	nil.
1891-6	35,817	209,351	1,817
	<u>43,400</u>	<u>240,844</u>	<u>1,817</u>

This work has been paid for out of revenue, and the staff will be distributed over the maintenance work generally.

Pumping Station.

The plant at the ejector station is in good running order; the ejectors continue to work well. The Engineer-in-charge, Mr. Brown, has, by attention and management, reduced the working expenses to a satisfactory point. The consumption of coal to the work done, as represented by sewage lifted into the outfall, has been considerably reduced since the works started.

Outlet Works, Cook's River.

The building is in good condition, and the strainers, valves, and other working gear in good working order. No stoppage occurred during the year.

The quantity of sludge removed from the chambers was 2,005 cubic yards, as against 1,975 cubic yards for previous year.

The quantity of lime used was 11 tons, as against 2 tons for preceding year. The increase was necessary to render the sewage more adaptable for cultivation on the Farm. The appearance of the crops since the change justifies the increase.

The workmen's cottages are in very fair order, but will shortly require painting and overhauling.

The locomotive and trucks are in very fair condition.

The temporary bridge across the river has been repaired, and is periodically examined to ensure safety.

Sewage Farms.

Botany Farm.—The disposal of the sludge from inlet-house has been carried out without difficulty or nuisance. The sewage, which now amounts to 2,675,000 gallons daily, is satisfactorily disposed of.

Additional filtering areas—35 acres in extent—have been added during the year, the main carrier and railway being extended in connection with same. The planting has been pushed on, and means taken to form breakwinds on the more exposed portions of the farm. The trees have been carefully selected, only those suitable for the climatic conditions of the place being planted.

The plantations formerly made are showing up well, and enhances the appearance of the place.

Very fair crops have been produced during the year. Several crops were lost owing to a severe gale and the exposed situation of the farm. This would have been an absolute loss if pig-raising did not form part of the establishment; but under the circumstances, what could not be disposed of was consumed by the pigs.

The growing crops look thriving, and if the manager has any luck, a return can be expected when they mature.

The piggeries and stock sheds have been extended, and are in first-class condition; these are equal to any in the colony, as there is every facility for keeping them clean and airy.

The Manager reports that the proceeds of the farm are:—Agistment, £107 1s. 6d.; sale of produce, £67 5s. 9d.; and sale of stock, £24 15s.; total, £199 2s. 3d. The revenue for the preceding year was £105 10s. 3d. The amount expended on sale of stock was £80 10s. 3d., and the present value of same is £125. There is no doubt that the best results in the way of revenue-producing lies in the direction of pig-raising, as there is every facility for producing clean, wholesome pork on the farm.

As heretofore, the whole of the ploughing and harrowing is done by contract. A system of deep-furrow ploughing is carried out, which, with the underdrains, assists in the aeration of soil, and tends to keep it from becoming sour.

The cattle have increased from four to thirteen. Only one case of sickness occurred, and the cow was, on the advice of the Health Board, destroyed, as tuberculosis had developed. With regard to the pigs, no case of sickness occurred, the number at present being eighty of all ages.

The fencing, which was destroyed by a severe gale, is being re-erected in a more secure place.

Rockdale Farm.—As this farm is in connection with the Western Suburbs system, all accounts of expenditure, &c., will be kept separate, and it will be dealt with separately in reports.

The farm was transferred to the Board in the early part of the year, so as to dispose of the sewage which would be discharged into the main sewers from the districts thrown open for public use.

Although transferred, the work of forming the beds by the Government was continued, there being sufficient area prepared to deal with the amount of sewage coming down.

In order to obtain best results from the ground, under-drainage will be necessary, and steps will be taken to have this work carried out shortly.

In order to provide breakwinds for the future, and enhance the appearance of the place, systematic planting is necessary, and to carry same to a successful issue the advice of Mr. Maiden, F.L.S., Director of Botanic Gardens, was obtained. This gentleman kindly visited the farm and gave valuable advice as to position and nature of trees suitable; he also supplied about 1,500 trees for the purpose.

The Board approved of an appropriation for this work, and it was put in hand at once so as to catch the season.

I have no doubt that, with judicious care and management, this farm will be ornamental as well as useful, and not the nuisance as anticipated by some persons.

Contracts will be let for fencing and extending permanent-way to the western boundary of farm.

It is also contemplated erecting residences for the employees on the farm, in such position that all parts will be overlooked. As these buildings will be let at a rental, there will be no undue charge on the revenue account.

The various places under lease are in a satisfactory state. The water-main has been lately extended for the convenience of the lessees.

The effluent water has been periodically examined by Mr. Hamlet, Government Analyst, and maintains its former purity.

House Drainage Connections.

The following is the number of houses which are connected with the metropolitan and suburban sewers under the control of the Board:—

	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895-6.	1896-7.	1897-8.	Total.
City...	961	541	1,070	1,223	1,050	1,384	971	1,147	8,347
Suburbs...	3,804	3,578	3,443	3,437	2,853	3,113	2,160	2,685	25,078
									33,425
									18,000
									51,425

The subjoined list shows the number of properties connected with Board's sewers during the past twelve months:—Alexandria, 138; Annandale, 204; Balmain, 28; Camperdown, 8; Glebe, 302; Erskineville, 298; Leichhardt, 163; Marrickville, 227; Newtown, 615; North Sydney, 91; Petersham, 135; Paddington, 65; Redfern, 138; Randwick, 26; Waterloo, 17; Waverley, 129; Woollahra, 101.

House Drainage Plan Fees.

The fees received for house-drainage plans, and plans prepared, were—

	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895-6.	1896-7.	1897-8.	Total.
Plans...	2,213	2,303	2,485	2,669	2,119	2,624	2,557	3,219	20,189
Fees ...	£1,933.	£1,938 15s.	£1,937 13s. 6d.	£1,107 6s. 6d.	£918 15s.	£369 5s.	£708 7s. 6d.	£800 2s. 6d.	£1,891 17s. 6d.

The number of houses surveyed and charted in permanent records was 2,391, and the number of building plans lodged was 38.

The

The contract for compulsory drainage work commenced on 1st January, and terminates on 31st December next; and, as only one payment has been made, the comparisons of cost per house, as compared with previous years, would not hold good. Future contracts will provide for period of contract to correspond with financial year.

Great activity is shown at present in the work of house drainage, owing to the large additions which have been made to the sewers available for public use. This applies to case of application by the owners and those under the deferred-payment system. Under the deferred-payment system, 156 estimates have been prepared for submission to the Board.

Owing to the Amending Bill not being in force, the Board cannot move direct in enforcing the By-laws within the city in connection with premises connected with the old sewerage system, the sanitary arrangements of which are defective and dangerous to the health of the occupants. The existing machinery is too complicated to ensure anything like active results. It is to be hoped that the Act will be passed as soon as possible.

House Drainage Certificates.

The number of official certificates issued to owners since inception of the system is—

	1891-6-7.	1897-8.	Total.
City	1,670	536	2,206
Suburbs	4,500	560	5,060
Total... ..	...	...	7,275

Defective Drainage.

During the year the officers smoke-tested 25 premises which showed the drainage to be defective. Through the action of the Municipal Council, the local Authority under the Health Act, many places came under the supervision of the Board in connection with the reconstruction of drainage and sanitary plumbing. No less than 821 approved gullies were fixed in connection with house-drains. Under the defective Act under which Board works no further alteration could be enforced. Out of 111 notices to reconstruct the drainage, only 27 complied with same.

Sanitary Plumbing.

During the year 2,584 jobs have been supervised and passed, and 983 official certificates issued for same. Fifty-nine notices were served to alter fittings, and action was taken in 25. The Inspecting Staff smoke-tested the fittings of twelve places and hydrostatically tested 223. The Inspector reports that in the course of testing by hydrostatic pressure a considerable number of leaky joints were detected, some in the bedding of closet pans, some in the cast-iron pipes, both in the bodies and sockets—the latter through careless caulking. As leaks in sanitary plumbing cause considerable expense and trouble to cut out and make good, it has the effect of ensuring greater care by the workmen. This would not be the case if the water test was not insisted upon. The general experience is, that cases of bad work are on the decrease.

Among the many cases which have come under the observation of the officers, the following is quoted as a sample of defective fittings, &c.

In a large boarding establishment, the upstairs closet and bath were connected to the soil pipe. When the closet became choked—the closet being of the old pan and container type—the copper pan was completely eaten away, as was the lead soil-pipe in many places. The vertical joints of soil-pipe were slipped without being soldered. When the closet choked, which it frequently did, a quantity of faecal matter was forced into the bath. There was no lock-off trap or ventilation, and it is needless to say that the inmates were constantly ill from the effects of sewer gas. This place was put in a safe condition through reporting the matter to the City Council, as the Board could not force action, notwithstanding the absolutely dangerous state of the premises. In another boarding establishment the following defects were found, viz. :—Upstairs closet and bath connected with soil-pipe and a small 1-inch compo. pipe carried from bend of soil pipe to the eaves, terminating close to a bedroom window. The soil-pipe was of galvanized sheet iron, in bad condition. On the ground floor the lavatory and bath wastes were connected together and discharged into a low level down-pipe, thence direct to the sewer. There being no "lock off" trap, the sewer gas was laid on direct to the interior of the premises. Several instances were found that in attempting to ventilate, the sewer gas was either led to the interior of the house or up the rain-water pipes which terminated near bedroom windows.

Ventilation of Sewers.

The efficiency of the shafts erected have been tested, and the results are shown in the accompanying returns. The complaints as to nuisance from the shafts are decreasing. The maintenance staff has been kept busy effecting repairs, attending to water spray inducts, and altering sites of shafts, necessitated through alteration or improvements to buildings to which they were attached. During the year there were some severe gales, and out of 3,000 shafts only twelve sustained any damage. These were erected over seven years. Eight of the twelve were injured by falling trees. The "Hereward" gale injured three shafts only. All repairs were effected by the staff.

The combined induct-spray and flushing-tanks act efficiently and are all in good working order.

The two main brick shafts are doing good work. The influence on the main sewers affected is seen by the steady current of air and general drying up at previously wet surfaces.

The District Inspector reports that where the sewers have been ventilated the improvement has been marked.

Where practicable, dead-ends are connected up so as to ensure movements of air within the sewers.

Special Shafts.

These have been tested, and the results are shown in the following table. The results are satisfactory —

STEAM-SHAFTS, WATER-SPRAYS, AND STACKS, 1897-98.

Date.	Instrument.	Time	Anemometer.			Lineal Feet per Hour.	Cubic Feet per Hour.	Miles per Hour.	The Pressure per Square Foot.	Locality.
			Start.	Finish.	Difference.					
1897.		h. m.								
25 Oct...	12	0 30	8,120,700	8,138,300	17,600	35,200	62,202	6.66	.2217	Induct 18-in., Kerosene Works, Botany, stack.
1898.										
22 Mar.	918	8 0	4,560,600	4,994,800	433,700	54,212	184,798	10.26	.5263	„ 25-in., Busby Bore, spray.
31 May..	5	2 0	442,000	493,200	51,200	25,609	11,264	4.84	.1171	„ 9-in., Darling Point, spray.
21 June..	3	1 20	365,000	421,800	59,800	44,850	8,806	8.49	.3604	Exhaust 6-in., Cameron's Factory, steam.
21 „ ...	2	0 45	3,242,900	3,286,100	43,200	57,600	11,909	10.9	.594	„ 6-in., New York and Brooklyn, stack.
21 „ ...	12	0 20	9,771,700	9,790,600	18,900	56,700	35,437	10.73	.5756	„ 9-in x 10-in., Horden's Factory.
21 „ ...	13	0 20	422,000	440,600	18,600	55,800	34,875	10.56	.5376	„ „ „
21 „ ...	6	0 30	1,134,800	1,184,100	49,300	98,600	43,384	18.67	1.7205	„ 9-in., Tooth's Brewery, stack.
21 „ ..	6	0 10	1,184,100	1,189,400	5,300	31,800	224,781	6.02	1.812	„ 36-in., Victoria Park.
22 „ ..	12	0 15	9,790,700	9,803,200	12,500	50,000	353,430	9.46	.4475	„ 36-in., Bellvue Hill.
22 „ ...	13	1 10	440,200	489,900	49,700	42,600	8,364	8.06	.3248	Induct 6-in., Edgecliff-road, spray.
22 „ ...	13	1 20	489,800	579,400	89,600	67,200	29,566	12.72	.8680	Exhaust 9-in., Crown-street, new stack.
22 „ ...	2	0 15	3,292,200	3,301,700	9,500	38,000	7,461	7.19	.2584	„ 6-in., Cornwell's Brewery, stack.
23 „ ...	2	1 10	3,201,700	3,428,900	127,200	109,000	21,402	20.64	2.1218	„ 6-in., McCorquodale's Mill, stack.
27 „ ...	2	0 40	3,442,000	3,472,400	30,400	45,600	80,580	8.03	.3724	Induct 18-in., Burren-street, spray.
29 „ ...	3	2 0	459,900	511,500	81,600	40,800	72,080	7.72	.2979	Exhaust 18-in., Liverpool and Elizabeth streets, spray.
29 „ ...	10	1 30	2,499,400	2,562,100	62,700	41,800	73,865	7.91	.3128	„ 18-in., St. James' Road, spray.
29 „ ...	2	0 20	3,485,500	3,562,900	17,400	52,200	92,243	9.88	.488	„ 18-in., Elizabeth-street, spray.
29 „ ...	2	0 20	3,503,400	3,514,800	11,400	34,200	60,435	6.47	.2093	„ 18-in., Castlereagh-street, spray.
1 July..	2	1 0	3,515,100	3,541,900	26,800	26,800	47,358	5.07	.1285	Induct 18-in., Purves-lane, spray.
1 „ ...	10	0 20	2,562,200	2,569,700	7,500	22,500	39,760	4.26	.0907	„ 18-in., Toxteth-road, spray.
1 „ ...	10	0 12	2,569,700	2,578,600	8,900	44,500	34,950	8.42	.3545	„ 12-in., Erskine-street, spray.
1 „ ...	10	0 12	2,578,500	2,581,100	2,600	28,000	49,479	5.3	.1404	„ 18-in., Kent-street, spray.
1 „ ...	3	0 15	541,500	545,900	4,400	17,600	31,101	3.33	.0534	„ 18-in., Harrington-street, spray.
1 „ ...	2	1 40	3,511,300	3,593,800	82,500	31,500	55,664	5.96	.1776	„ 18-in., Pitt-street, spray.
1 „ ...	10	0 30	2,585,600	2,605,600	20,000	40,000	70,681	7.57	.2865	„ 18-in., Loftus-street, spray.
1 „ ...	3	0 15	545,800	550,100	4,300	17,200	30,394	3.25	.0528	„ 18-in., Macquarie-street, spray.
9 „ ...	10	0 30	2,605,700	2,630,700	25,000	50,000	235,000	9.46	.4475	Exhaust 26-in. x 26-in., Obelisk, spray.
9 „ ...	10	0 15	2,630,500	2,636,600	6,100	24,400	43,117	4.62	.1067	Induct 18-in., Bourke-street, spray.

The erection of ventilating-shafts and arrangements for induced currents of air have been pushed on during the year.

It is satisfactory to report that the shafts are erected with very little friction with the general public, and I have to acknowledge courteous assistance on the part of the local municipal councils.

The total mileage of sewers ventilated is 270 miles; the total length of metal shafts erected is 124,201 lineal feet; as against 210 miles of sewer and 99,397 lineal feet of shafts last year.

The whole of the material used in the construction of the shafts is manufactured in the Colony.

Drawings.

During the year 536 record tracings have been made. This represents the same number of original drawings which, in order to expedite work, are only prepared in pencil. The tracings are heliographed for office and field use. This system is not only economical, but satisfactory.

Heliotypes printed, 1,625; plans mounted, 1,108; and photographs taken and printed, 361; 93 lantern slides of works and defective sanitary fittings prepared.

Expenditure

Expenditure on Loan Vote.

The amount expended on Loan Account during the year was £98,185 17s. 5d.

Expenditure on Revenue Account.

The amount expended on this account for maintenance, repairs, &c., was £19,897 8s.

Cement-testing Room.

The parcels of cement tested during the year was 24, representing 11,283 casks and 9,590 bags, the whole of which passed the standard tests.

Stoneware pipes, 66 of various sizes, tested ; 55 passed, 11 rejected.

Paving material—3 tests.

Sands—14 tests.

In addition to the above, the officer-in-charge tests the ventilating-shafts annually, and the following is a *résumé* of the work done :—

53 observations of temperature of sewers.
33 " " soil.
2,160 vent-shafts tested and 29 chimney-stacks and water sprays.

Diagrams.

Sewerage reticulation.
Zymotic death-rate.
Death-rate, city and suburbs.

Temperature of sewers.
Silt removed.

The information furnished by the Government Astronomer and Government Statistician has been of the greatest assistance to the Department, and I take this opportunity of returning my thanks for the courtesy shown by them.

The Assistant Engineers and other officers of the Department have ably assisted me in carrying out the various works, and I wish to tender my thanks for same.

Appendices, diagrams, and photographs herewith.

I have, &c.,

J. M. SMALL, M. Inst. C.E.,
Board Engineer.

The Secretary.

APPENDIX A.

TABLE No. 1.

SEWERS constructed by the Government Sewerage Department and transferred to Board.

Size of Sewers.	3' 8" x 5' 3"	3' 6" x 7' 0"	3' 2" x 7' 2"	7' 10" x 6' 10"	7' 8" x 6' 8"	7' 4" x 6' 4"	7' 2" x 6' 2"	6' 10" x 5' 10"	6' 8" x 5' 8"	5' 10" x 4' 10"	5' 6" x 4' 6"	5' 4" x 4' 4"	5' 2" x 4' 2"	5' 1" x 4' 1"	4' 0" x 4' 0"	4' 0" x 3' 9"	4' 0" x 3' 6"	4' 6" x 3' 0"	4' 3" x 3' 3"	4' 0" x 3' 11"	4' 0" x 3' 0"	4' 0" x 3' 8"	3' 9" x 2' 11"	3' 8" x 2' 4"	3' 6" x 2' 0"	3' 2" x 2' 6"	3' 2" x 2' 2"	3' 0 x 2' 0"	Open drain and channel.	Circular.										Pipes.						Total Length.
																														2' 6" Iron Archeduct.	6' 0"	Triplicate.	8' 0"	Duplicate	5' 6"	3' 9"	3' 6"	Duplicate.	3' 6"	2' 6"	2 1/2"	21"	18"	16"	15"	
Length in feet constructed before Board's control.	5092	6354	391	3127	4142	2707	720	2067	1918	529	..	602	436	11496	..	3366	447	4401	363	378	9130	2109	5898	3134	13200	2437	1948	471	3215	5446	8524	34052	250	138,290 lineal feet = 26.19 miles.		
1889-97	3718	1152	2911	454	757	20856	3148	785	3494	406	493	3118	2440	9006	97154	310	159,561 lineal feet = 30.22 miles.	
1897-08	2608	2091	2232	1313	1018	..	2322	..	5305	6762	23355	1195	968	1969	248	1019	1475	..	54,359 lineal feet = 10.29 miles.		
Total																											3148																	310	352,210 lineal feet = 66.70 miles.	

A. H. STABLING,
Surveyor-in-Charge.

T. GRIFFITHS,
Assistant Engineer.

APPENDIX A—continued.

TABLE. No 2.

STORMWATER DUCTS constructed by the Government Sewerage Department and transferred to the Board.

Size of Duct.	Elliptical.																	Oval.	Covered.																							
	9' 8 1/2" x 8' 7"	9' 3 1/2" x 5' 0"	9' 0" x 6' 0"	8' 6" x 6' 0"	8' 4" x 6' 0"	8' 2" x 6' 0"	8' 1" x 6' 0"	8' 0" x 6' 0"	7' 10" x 6' 0"	7' 5 1/2" x 5' 0"	7' 3" x 6' 0"	7' 3" x 5' 0"	7' 0" x 6' 0"	6' 8" x 6' 0"	6' 8" x 5' 0"	6' 6" x 6' 0"	6' 3" x 6' 0"	6' 2" x 6' 0"	6' 0" x 7' 2"	5' 8" x 4' 0"	5' 6" x 3' 7"	5' 4" x 8' 1 1/2"	4' 6" x 3' 8"	5' 0" x 7' 7"	5' 0" x 4' 0"	12' 0" x 5' 6"	12' 0" x 4' 10"	11' 3" x 6' 0"	8' 6" x 5' 6"	7' 4" x 4' 0"	7' 0" x 3' 6"	5' 0" x 3' 6"	5' 0" x 3' 4"	5' 0" x 3' 0"	4' 9" x 3' 0"	4' 9" x 2' 9"	4' 6" x 3' 6"	4' 2" x 3' 9"	3' 6" x 2' 9"	3' 4" x 3' 0"		
Length in feet. Constructed before Board's control																																										
1890																																										
1891																																										
1892																																										
1893																																										
1894																																										
1895-96	43	752	423	1,013	273	332	286	337	870	549	102	605	310	247	1,408	469	631	886	886	304	89	101	533	541	514	1,564	198	1,226	250	250	132	76	462	2,387	1,026	442	773					
1896-97	67																																									
1897-98																																										

Size of Duct.	Open.																	Watercourse.	Watercourse, 27' 6" x 6' 0"	Buckled Plates, 4' 0" x 3' 0"																								
	27' 6" x 6' 0"	26' 3" x 6' 0"	20' 0" x 6' 0"	19' 9" x 5' 6"	13' 0" x 4' 4"	12' 8" x 4' 4"	Size varying from 12' 3" x 10' 10" to 10' 5" x 8' 0"	12' 8" x 6' 0"	11' 8" x 6' 0"	10' 7" x 6' 9"	10' 0" x 5' 6"	10' 5" x 6' 0"	10' 0" x 6' 0"	10' 0" x 5' 6"	9' 6" x 5' 6"	Size varying from 9' 3 1/2" x 5' 0" to 9' 0" x 4' 4"	9' 0" x 8' 0"				9' 0" x 5' 5"	9' 0" x 4' 4"	8' 11" x 6' 0"	8' 11" x 5' 7"	8' 9" x 5' 5"	8' 6" x 5' 6"	8' 5" x 6' 0"	8' 1" x 6' 0"	7' 9 1/2" x 5' 9"	7' 6" x 6' 0"	7' 3 1/2" x 4' 6"	6' 9" x 6' 6"	6' 0 1/2" x 5' 0"	6' 6" x 10' 6"	6' 1 1/2" x 6' 1"	6' 0" x 10' 6"	4' 2" x 3' 11"	4' 0"	3' 1"	2' 10" x 3' 0"	Watercourse.	Watercourse, 27' 6" x 6' 0"	Buckled Plates, 4' 0" x 3' 0"	
Length in feet. Constructed before Board's control																																												
1890																																												
1891																																												
1892																																												
1893																																												
1894																																												
1895-97	72	660	619	811	655	313	439	399	825	499	730	190	1,325	590	790	144	908	594	334	412	488	193	615	270	347	166	636	39	226	529	433	776	106	69	465	648	3,396	822	1,716	539				
1896-97																																												
1897-98																																												

Size of Duct.	Circular.												Pipes.						Total Length.																							
	6' 0"	5' 10"	5' 8"	5' 7"	5' 5"	5' 4"	5' 2"	5' 0"	4' 11"	4' 9"	4' 7"	4' 6"	4' 4"	4' 2"	4' 0"	3' 8"	3' 7"	3' 6"		3' 5"	3' 4"	3' 3"	3' 2"	3' 0"	2' 10"	2' 8"	2' 6"	2' 0"	24"	21"	20"	18"	16"	15"	12"							
Length in feet. Constructed before Board's control																																										
1890																																										
1891																																										
1892																																										
1893																																										
1894																																										
1895-96	647	261				83	248																																			
1896-97			530	213	765				744	395	450	578	938	349	528	478	788	317																								
1897-98																																										
Total																																										

A. H. STABLING,
Surveyor-in-Charge.

T. GRIFFITHS,
Assistant Engineer.

APPENDIX A—continued.

TABLE NO. 3.

SEWERS constructed by Municipal Councils and transferred to Board.

Size of Sewer.	Pipes.				Total Length.
	10"	12"	9"	6"	
Length in feet, 1897-98	690	7,220	9,700	100	17,710 lineal feet = 3.354 miles.
Total					17,710 lineal feet = 3.354 miles.

TABLE NO. 4.

STORM-WATER DUCTS constructed by Municipal Councils and transferred to Board.

Size of Duct.	Open Rock Cutting.	Open.	Covered.					Circular.	Pipes.		Total Length.
		4' 0" x 2' 0"	7' 0" x 4' 0"	6' 3" x 3' 3"	5' 3" x 4' 0"	5' 0" x 4' 0"	Irregular Section.	5' 0"	10"	12"	
1 July to 30 June, 1897 ...	528	264	1,323	150	96	33	330	264	594	660	4,242 lineal feet = 0.803 miles.
Total											4,242 lineal feet = 0.803 miles.

A. H. STARLING,
Surveyor-in-Charge.T. GRIFFITHS,
Assistant Engineer.

APPENDIX B.

SEWERS and Storm-water Drains constructed by the Board.

SEWERS.

	Oval.		Pipes.											Total length in feet.			
	3' 3" x 2' 2"	3' x 2'	24"	21"	18"	16"	12"	9"	6"	4"	Cast Iron.						
											10"	9"	6"				
Alexandria								150								150	
Annandale						450		23,380		1,765						23,595	
Ashfield								25,146		820						32,306	
Balmain								5,697		408						6,100	
Camperdown City								1400		90						250	
Darlington								1,317								1,317	
Erskineville										42						42	
Glebe								84		383						467	
Leichhardt							778	1,479		47,008		1,660				50,996	
Marrickville							414	2,522		29,490		324				33,250	
Newtown										24						136	
North Sydney				90			454	1,716		38,695		1,096			49	42,019	
Paddington										271					67	425	
Petersham								1,429		830						53,744	
Randwick										340						340	
Ryeford										163						162	
Waterloo						1,103		1,040		1,808		3,385			171	6,068	
Waverley						991		1,772		476		9,343			327	13,413	
Woolahra										495					36	803	
1 July, 1897, to 30 June, 1898				89	2,094	6,343	11,414	239,314		9,951		36			116	268,497 feet.	Pipe Sewers = 50.85 mile.
1 July, 1896, to 30 June, 1897				596	1,942	1,476	4,102	113,655		12,267		101			640	184,982 "	" = 25.56 "
1 January, 1895, to 30 June, 1896				72	765	763	4,609	103,490		8,950				143		119,509 "	" = 22.63 "
1894			2,658	651	689	2,922	7,093	81,685		3,257						96,827 "	" = 18.35 "
1893				75			720	17,944		4,248						22,957 "	" = 4.35 "
1892				724			1,078	107,885		4,532						118,793 "	" = 22.50 "
1891			2,770	688	309	440	7,346	101,157		954						113,078 "	" = 21.53 "
1890	1,220	660	1,227	342	1,024	1,569	2,359	39,890		961						49,242 "	{ Concrete Sewers, 1,880 feet = 0.36 Pipe Sewers, 47,362 " = 8.97 "
Total								924,576 feet.								=176.10 miles.	

92

STORM-WATER DRAINS.

	Open.																				Covered	Duct covered by Arch.					Elliptical.	U shaped.				Circular.							Oval.	Pipes.						Length of Concrete Sewers in feet.	Length of Pipe Sewers in feet.	Total length in feet.	Equivalent in miles.									
	3' 6" x 6' 0"										7' 6" x 5' 0"											10' 0"	7' 10"		7' 8"			10' 0" x 8' 0"	4' 0" x 3' 0"		4' 0" x 2' 0"		4' 0" x 1' 6"			5' 6"	4' 0"			3' 11"	3' 10"	3' 6"	3' 4"	3' 0"	2' 6"					2' 4"	24"	21"	18"	16"	12"	6"	Cast-iron, 6"	
	5' 9" x 4' 9"					5' 7" x 3' 9"					5' 5" x 3' 9"					4' 9" x 3' 9"							3' 9" x 3' 9"						3' 3" x 3' 0"					2' 10" x 3' 3"																								
1 July, 1897, to 30 June, 1898	44	716	238	278	110	116	305	185	144	74	222	83																											803	278	803	152																
1 July, 1896, to 30 June, 1897																																						3,770	nil.	4,048	766																	
1 January, 1895, to 30 June, 1896																																					nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.																		
1894														84	250																					334	521	534	683																			
1893																																					3024	4,763	521	10																		
1892															38	526																				nil.	nil.	7,787	1.47																			
1891																																				1,240	1,328	nil.	nil.																			
1890																																					2,740	1,328	4,068	.77																		
Totals																																					10,671	6,890	17,561	3.321																		

A. H. STARLING,
Surveyor-in-Charge.

T. GRIFFITHS,
Assistant Engineer.

APPENDIX B—continued.

DISTRICT OF SYDNEY AND SUBURBS.

Exhaust Shafts.								Induct Shafts.							
Year.	Number of Shafts Tested.	Lineal Feet per Hour.	Cubic Feet per Hour.	Cubic Feet per Day.	Cubic Feet per Week.	Average Time of Test.	Average Wind in Miles per Hour.	Year.	Number of Shafts Tested.	Lineal Feet per Hour.	Cubic Feet per Hour.	Cubic Feet per Day.	Cubic Feet per Week.	Average Time of Test.	Average Wind in Miles per Hour.
1891	500	5,074,061	996,292	23,911,108	167,377,054	14 min.	9.02	1891	240	3,493,572	685,663	16,463,112	115,241,784	14 min.	9.62
1892	515	5,031,370	1,105,719	26,537,250	185,760,792	16 "	13.95	1892	241	3,863,800	758,657	18,207,768	127,454,376	16 "	13.95
1893	538	5,614,550	1,102,416	26,457,984	185,205,888	30 "	8.72	1893	251	3,344,163	754,801	18,116,224	126,806,568	30 "	8.72
1894	613	6,159,430	1,209,404	29,025,606	203,179,872	10 "	7.8	1894	289	4,183,740	822,459	19,739,016	138,173,112	10 "	7.8
1895-6	1,026	14,892,876	3,008,985	72,215,640	505,509,480	11 "	10.72	1895-6	520	10,288,505	2,037,054	43,839,296	342,225,072	13 "	10.72
1896-7	1,225	19,187,320	3,836,959	93,287,010	653,009,112	25 "	11.10	1896-7	634	11,567,095	2,305,238	55,326,712	387,279,934	27 "	11.44
1897-8	1,436	21,211,100	4,333,856	104,012,544	728,037,808	23 "	12.9	1897-8	724	12,857,820	2,550,657	61,215,744	425,510,208	25 "	13.2

Average Work of One Exhaust Shaft.								Average Work of One Induct Shaft.									
Year.	Lineal Feet per Hour.	Cubic Feet per Hour.	Cubic Feet per Day.	Cubic Feet per Week.	Miles per Hour.	Average Wind Velocity.	Percentage of Wind.	lb. Pressure per Sq. Foot.	Year.	Lineal Feet per Hour.	Cubic Feet per Hour.	Cubic Feet per Day.	Cubic Feet per Week.	Miles per Hour.	Average Wind Velocity.	Percentage of Wind.	lb. Pressure per Sq. Foot.
1891	10.148	1.092	47,808	334,656	1.87	9.62	10.52	.0710	1891	14.555	2.858	68,592	480,144	2.75	9.62	28.62	.0378
1892	10.034	2.147	51,528	360,006	2.07	12.95	14.83	.0214	1892	16.032	3.148	75,552	528,804	3.03	13.95	21.72	.0459
1893	10.436	2.049	49,176	344,232	1.97	8.72	22.59	.0194	1893	15.316	3.007	72,168	505,176	2.9	8.72	33.25	.042
1894	10.048	1.972	47,328	331,296	1.9	7.8	21.35	.018	1894	14.494	2.845	68,280	477,060	2.74	7.8	35.12	.0375
1895-6	14.516	2.932	70,585	492,699	2.74	10.72	25.55	.0375	1895-6	19.785	3.917	94,015	653,125	3.74	10.72	34.38	.0702
1896-7	15.663	3.173	76,152	533,064	2.96	11.10	26.45	.0438	1896-7	18.244	3.636	87,264	610,849	3.45	11.44	30.15	.0585
1897-8	14.771	3.018	72,482	507,024	2.8	12.9	21.7	.0302	1897-8	17.760	3.523	84,552	591,804	3.36	13.2	25.46	.0564

Exhaust Work.—1,398 6-in. shafts, 36 9-in., 1 12-in., 1 16-in. shafts, 15 stacks, steam-shafts, and water-sprays. Exhaust per hour, 5,637,930 cubic feet of air; per day, 135,310,320 cubic feet; per week, 947,172,240 cubic feet.

Induct Work.—716 6-in. shafts, 8 9-in. shafts, and 14 water-sprays. Induct per hour, 3,300,372 cubic feet of air; per day, 79,208,928 cubic feet; per week, 554,462,496 cubic feet.

ANALYSIS of a Sample of Water received from effluents from Botany Sewage Farm.

	Results expressed in—	
	Grains per gallon.	Parts per 100,000.
Appearance in 2-ft. tube	A, Clean light brown, not unpleasant odour } B, Brown, slightly unpleasant odour }	
Chlorine as chlorides	9.4	
	8.6	
Nitrogen existing as free ammonia		4.00
		16.00
Organic nitrogen, or "Albuminoid Ammonia"		0.800
		1.800
Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes at 80° Fah.		4.100
		6.500
Do 3 hours at 80° Fah.		9.300
		12.00
Total solid residue dried at 220° Fah.	62.16	
	28.10	

General observations on the character of the water.—These effluents may be allowed to flow into tidal rivers.

Government Laboratory, Sydney, 16 August, 1897.

W. M. HAMLET,
Government Analyst.

[11 Plans.]

METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE. SYDNEY.

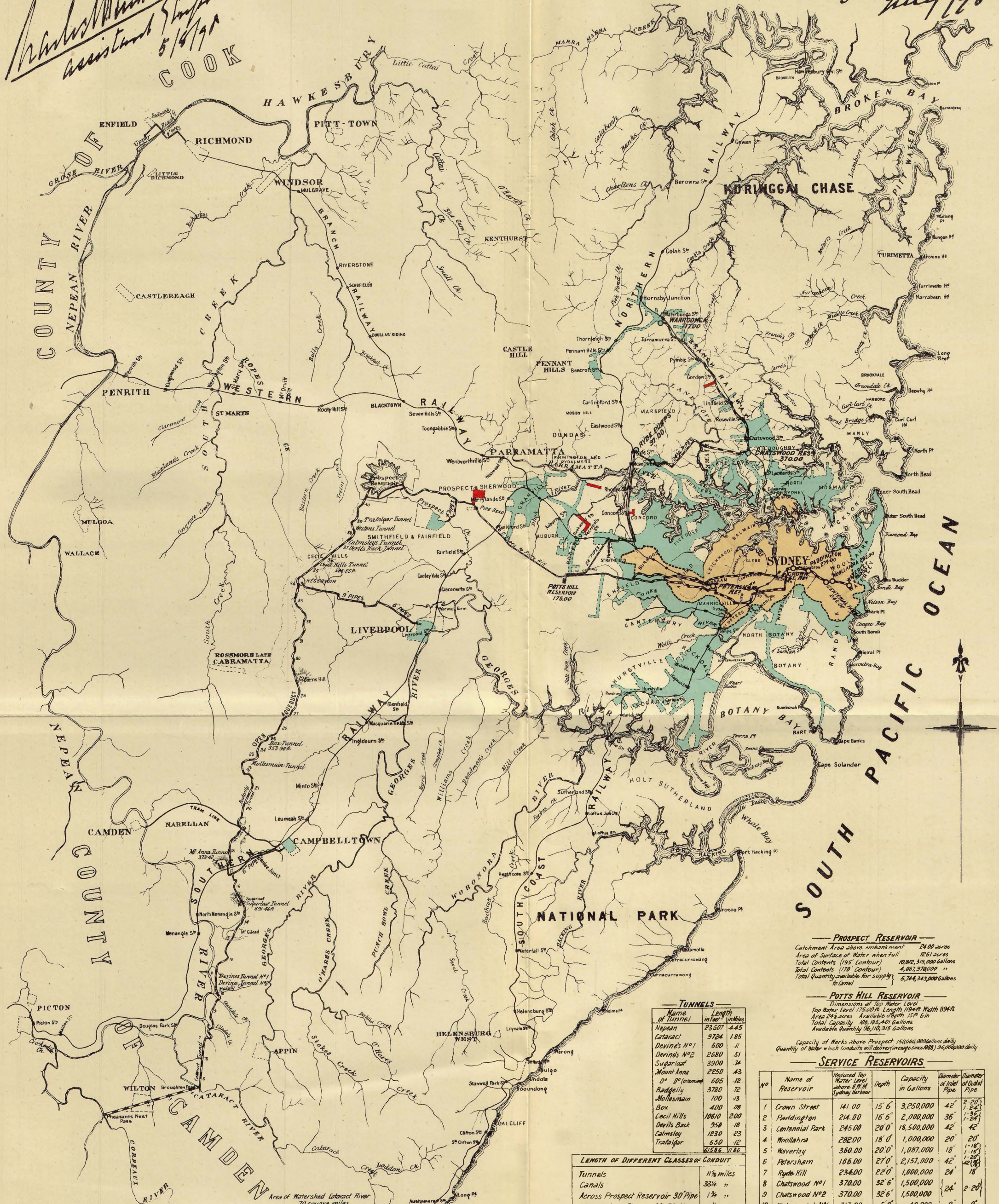
PLAN SHOWING THE GENERAL SCHEME OF WATERWORKS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE BOARD

AREA SUPPLIED WITH WATER

PREVIOUS TO THE BOARD'S CONTROL	SHOWN THUS	
EXTENSION OF AREA BY BOARD TO END OF JUNE 1897	" "	
AREA ADDED FROM 1897 TO END OF JUNE 1898	" "	

M. M. M. M.
 Engineer
 July 1898

Charles M. M. M.
 Assistant Engineer
 5/18/98
 COOK



PROSPECT RESERVOIR
 Catchment Area above reservoir 2400 acres
 Area of Surface of Water when full 1261 acres
 Total Contents (195' Contour) 19,802,313,000 gallons
 Total Contents (170' Contour) 4,067,370,000 "

POTTS HILL RESERVOIR
 Dimensions of Top Water Level
 Top Water Level 175.00 ft. Length 1089 ft. Width 894 ft.
 Area 244 acres Available depth 15 ft 6 in
 Total Capacity 49,185,400 gallons
 Available Quantity 36,100,000 gallons

TUNNELS

Name of Tunnel	Length in Feet	in Miles
Nepean	23,507	4.45
Catacart	9724	1.85
Devine's No 1	600	11
Devine's No 2	2680	51
Sugarloaf	3900	74
Mount Anna	2250	43
10" (1000 ft)	605	12
Badgelly	3780	72
Mollesman	100	13
Box	400	08
Leach Hills	10610	200
Devils Back	950	18
Calmsley	1230	23
Tratalfar	650	12
TOTAL	63,856	1.26

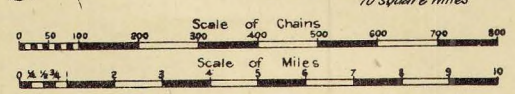
LENGTH OF DIFFERENT CLASSES OF CONDUIT

Class of Conduit	Length in Miles
Tunnels	1.26
Canals	3.34
Across Prospect Reservoir 30" Pipe	1.34
Wrought Iron Pipes 6"	1.2
Wrought Iron Pipes 8"	4.7
Cast Iron Pipes 4"	7.1
Cast Iron Pipes 3"	3.3
Total	63.4

SERVICE RESERVOIRS

No	Name of Reservoir	Heighted Top Water Level above M.H.M. Sydney Harbour	Depth	Capacity in Gallons	Diameter of Inlet Pipe	Diameter of Outlet Pipe
1	Crown Street	141.00	15' 6"	3,250,000	42"	2' 20"
2	Paddington	214.00	15' 6"	2,000,000	36"	1' 35"
3	Centennial Park	245.00	20' 0"	18,500,000	42"	42"
4	Woodlark	282.00	18' 0"	1,000,000	20"	20"
5	Waverley	360.00	20' 0"	1,087,000	18"	1' 18"
6	Petersham	186.00	27' 0"	2,157,000	42"	1' 20"
7	Ryde Hill	234.00	22' 0"	1,000,000	24"	18"
8	Chatswood No 1	370.00	32' 6"	1,500,000	24"	2' 20"
9	Chatswood No 2	370.00	32' 6"	1,500,000	24"	2' 20"
10	Wahroonga No 1	717.00	5' 0"	40,000	9"	9"
11	Wahroonga No 2	706.50	26' 0"	1,000,000	15"	15"
12	Penshurst No 1	270.00	5' 0"	22,800	6"	6"
13	Penshurst No 2	270.00	32' 6"	1,000,000	15"	15"
14	Smithfield	175.00	17' 0"	100,000	12"	6"
15	Richmond	206.00	13' 0"	225,000	6"	6"

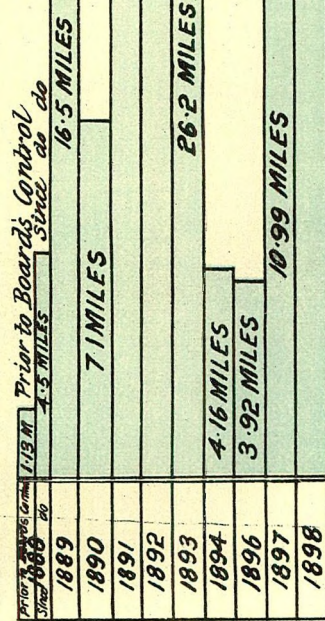
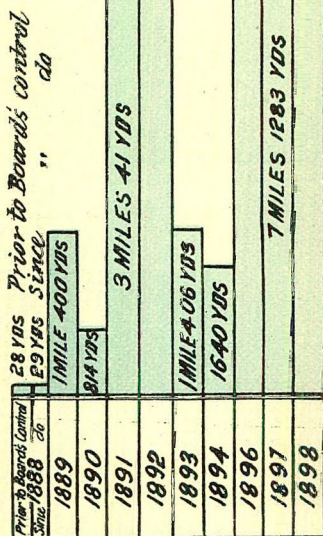
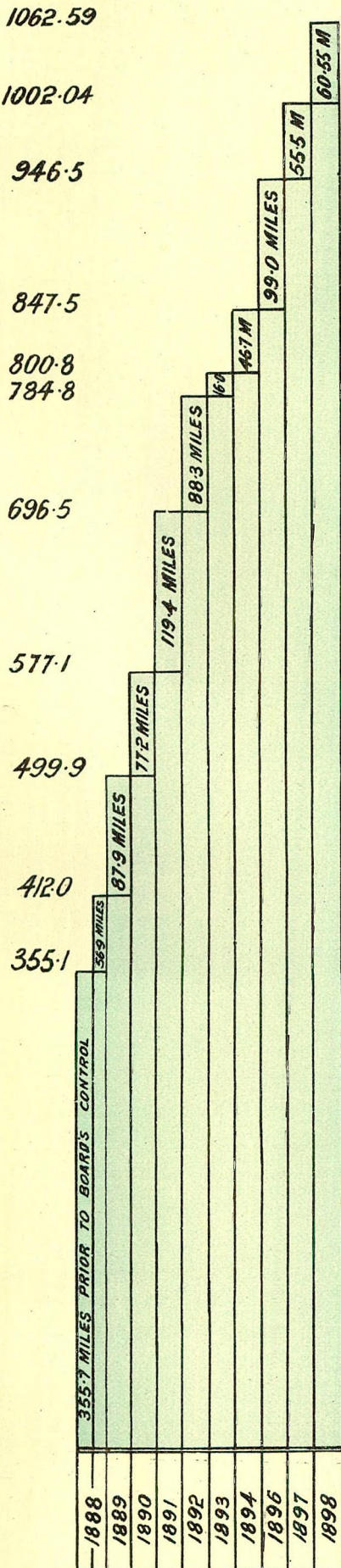
Area of Combined Watersheds of Nepean and Cordeaux Rivers 234 square miles



WATER LEVELS
 The heights marked on the Line of Conduit denote the Level of Water Surface when running full and are above High Water Mark Sydney Harbour

DIAGRAMS

SHOWING THE TOTAL MILEAGE OF TRUNK PUMPING & RETICULATION MAINS LAID TO END OF JUNE 1898 ALSO OF MAINS REMOVED & CLEANED DURING EACH YEAR FROM 1888 TO 30TH JUNE 1898



*Underwritten
Assistant Engineer
5/6/98*

MAINS LAID MAINS REMOVED MAINS CLEANED
Scale 125 Miles to one Inch Scale 1 1/2 Miles to one Inch Scale 4 Miles to one Inch

WATER MAIN RETICULATION

DIAGRAM

Showing Mileage of Water Main Reticulation of the City of Sydney & Suburbs etc

Mains laid Prior to the Control of the Board shown in Black

Do Since Do Do Do Blue

District	0	8	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72	80	88	96	104	112	120	128	136	144	152	160	168	176	Miles 184	Prior	Since	Totals		
Alexandria	0																								4.5	7.92	12.42		
Annandale																										6.3	4.20	10.50	
Ashfield																										7.0	28.63	35.63	
Auburn																										10.85	10.85		
Balmain																										22.1	15.27	37.37	
Bankstown																										1.80	1.80		
Beecroft																										5.53	5.53		
Botany																										6.51	6.51		
Burwood																										10.0	14.50	24.50	
Camperdown																										7.8	2.31	10.11	
Canterbury																											12.26	12.26	
City of Sydney																										99.5	65.80	165.30	
Concord																										1.0	13.22	14.22	
Darlington																										2.6	.93	3.53	
Drummoyne																										9.14	9.14		
Enfield																										10.46	10.46		
Erskineville																										4.5	1.38	5.88	
Five Dock																										9.59	9.59		
Glebe																										15.0	8.84	23.84	
Granville																										22.23	22.23		
Hunters Hill																										11.54	11.54		
Hurstville																										31.59	31.59		
Kogarah																										16.42	16.42		
Lane Cove																										9.31	9.31		
Leichhardt																										22.5	13.31	35.81	
Marrickville																										13.6	22.77	36.37	
Mosman																										16.93	16.93		
Newtown																										16.6	10.74	27.34	
North Botany																										9.34	9.34		
North Sydney																										7.8	29.87	37.67	
Paddington																										21.6	7.10	28.70	
Petersham																										13.8	15.81	29.61	
Prospect and Sherwood																										5.57	5.57		
Randwick																										8.8	24.11	32.91	
Redfern																										16.8	9.55	26.35	
Rookwood																										13.11	13.11		
Rockdale																											26.83	26.83	
Ryde																										8.73	8.73		
Smithfield & Fairfield																										3.66	3.66		
St Peters																										2.25	8.42	10.67	
Strathfield																										3.8	13.90	17.70	
Waterloo																										6.8	7.85	14.65	
Waverley																										12.0	11.00	23.00	
Willoughby																											22.65	22.65	
Woolahra																										11.25	16.10	27.35	
Campbelltown																										5.81	5.81		
Gordon																											28.11	28.11	
Liverpool																										13.58	13.58		
Richmond																										9.0	1.81	10.81	
																								346.9	666.89	1013.79			

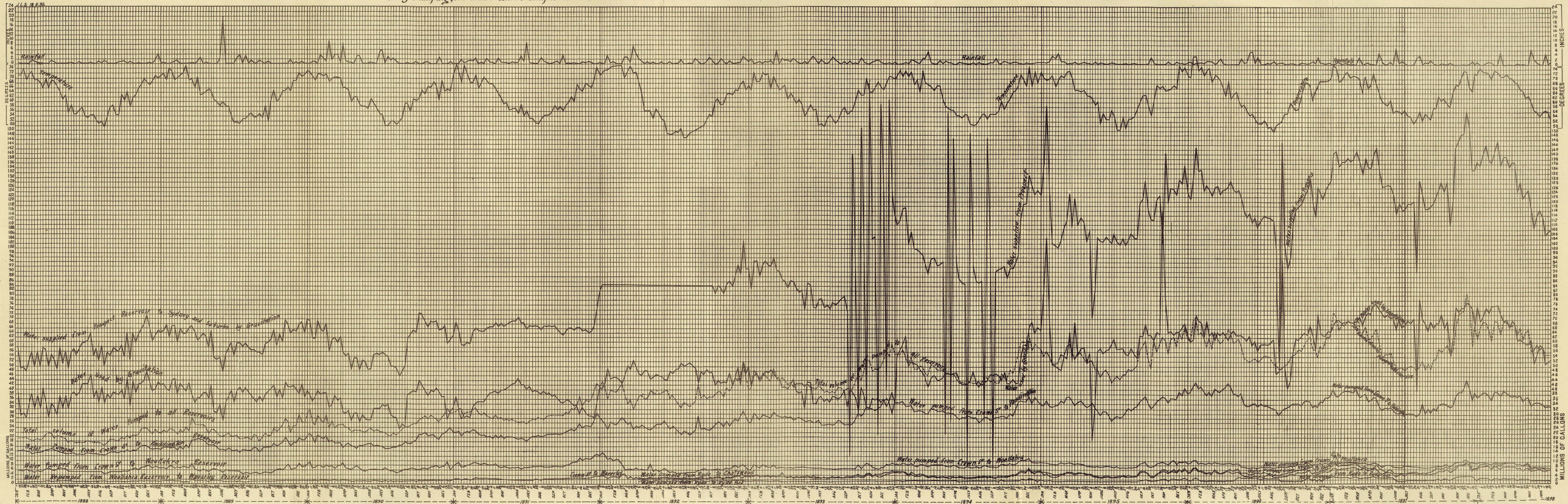
30234

N.B The above does not include Trunk or Pumping Mains or Repairs etc

Charles Smith
 Assistant Engineer
 5/8/91

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE.
 SYDNEY

Table showing the Volume of Water supplied weekly from Prospect Reservoir by Gravitation to Sydney & Suburbs from 1st January, 1888, to 30th June, 1898, the distribution of this water by Gravitation & by Pumping, the mean Shade Temperature and the Rainfall for each week.



30234

Photographed by
 W. A. Collins, Government Printer,
 Sydney, N.S.W.

SIG. 69

Handwritten signature:
 Assistant Engineer
 5/1/98

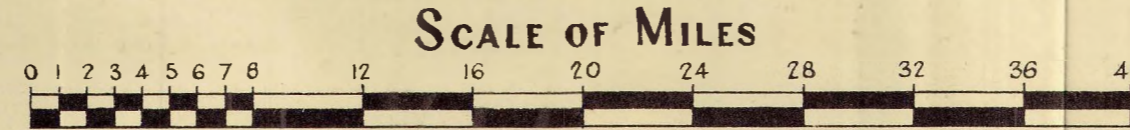
SEWERAGE RETICULATION

DIAGRAM showing Mileage of Subsidiary Sewers in the City of Sydney and Suburbs

Sewers laid prior to the Control of the Board shown in Black

Sewers laid during the Control of the Board shown in Green

*Insuaill
Superior*



BOROUGH	0	8	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72	80	88	96	104	112	Prior to Board's Control	During Board's Control	Totals	
Alexandria		1891	1895-96														9.13	9.13	
Annandale		96-7	1897-98														7.09	7.09	
Ashfield			1897-98														6.10	6.10	
Balmain																	1.16	1.16	
Camperdown		1892	1894	95-96													4.64	4.64	
City of Sydney											1890	1891	1892	95-96	96-97	70.27	7.53	77.80	
Darlington																1.90		1.90	
Erskineville		91	92	1895-96													7.05	7.05	
Clebe				1892	93	1894										3.35	10.43	13.78	
Leichhardt			96-97	1897-98													12.60	12.60	
Marrickville		1894	1896-97	1897-98													14.38	14.38	
Newtown		1891	1892														16.80	16.80	
North Sydney		1895-6	96-97	1897-98													13.55	13.55	
Paddington ●																10.39	4.97	15.36	
Petersham		1892	1894														15.99	15.99	
Randwick				94	95-96	97											4.45	5.58	10.03
Redfern ●				1890	1891												3.20	7.18	10.38
Waterloo		1890	91														7.03	7.03	
Waverley		1891	1892	1894	95-6	96-7	97-8										12.50	12.50	
Woollahra ●			1891	1892	1893	94	96-7										3.31	10.99	14.30
Grand Totals of Mileage																96.87	174.70	271.57	

SIG. 69

30234

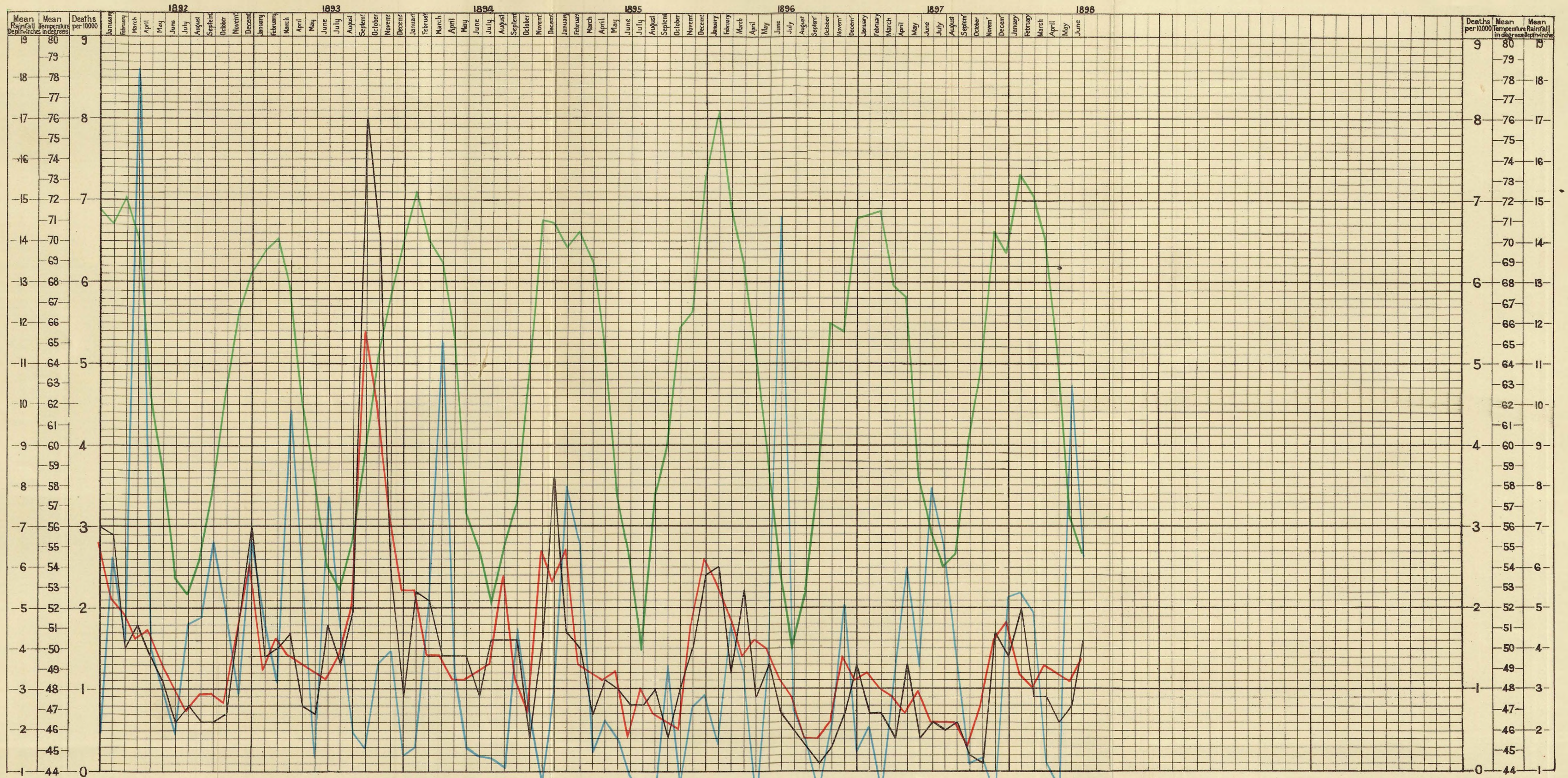
● The whole of the sewers in these Boroughs laid prior to 1890 were constructed by the Government in accordance with the Act

A H Starling
Surveyor in Charge

Photo-lithographed by
W. A. Gullick, Government Printer,
Sydney, N.S.W.

Piffith
Assistant Engineer

ADULT AND INFANTILE ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE OF THE METROPOLIS. PER 10,000 OF THE POPULATION.



NOTES. The Black line indicates the city rate
 " Red " " " " suburban "
 " Blue " " " " rainfall "
 " Green " " " " temperature "

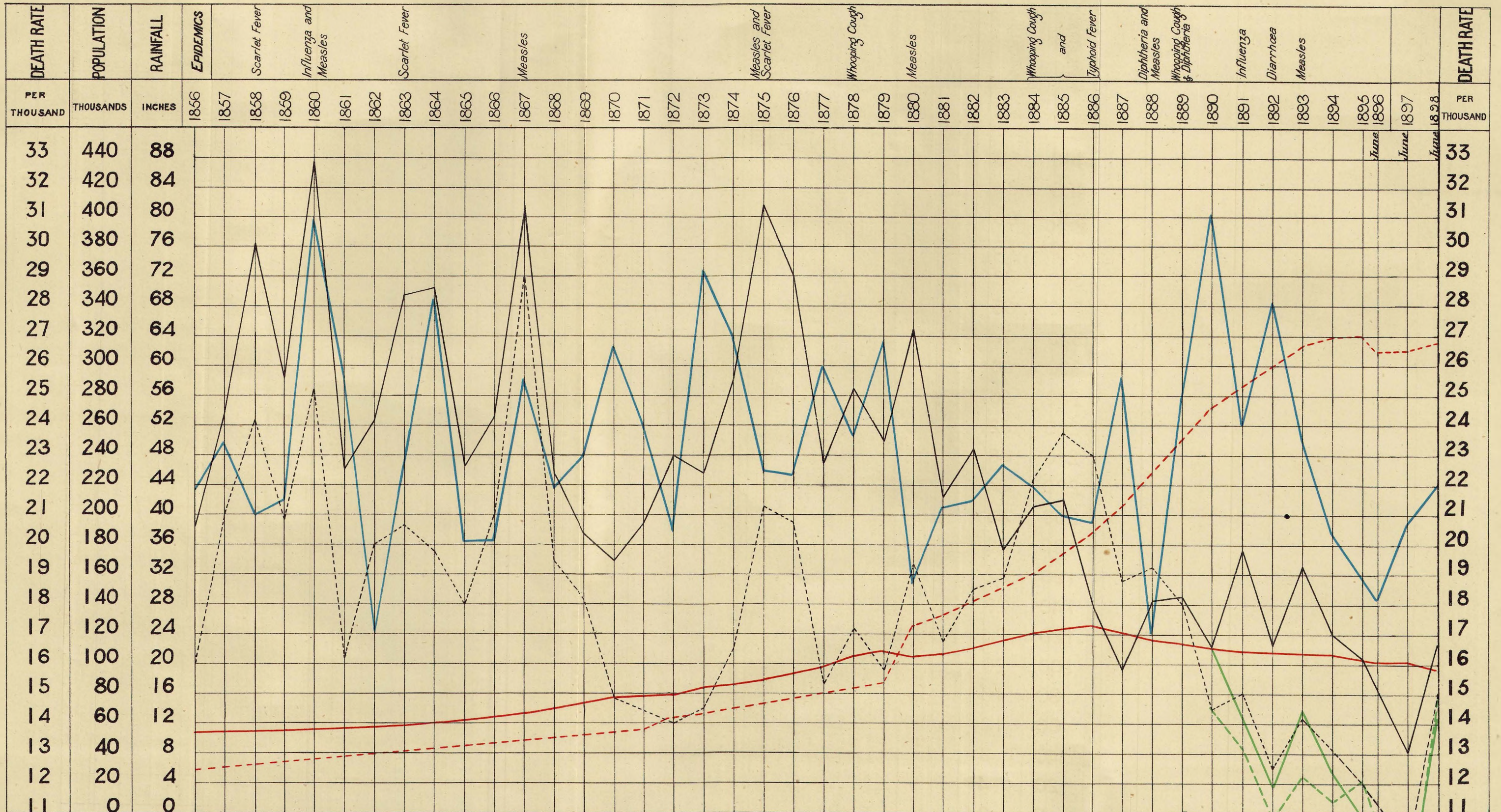
SIG. 6P

J. S. Purvis
 Chief Draftsman.

Photo-lithographed by
 W. A. Gillisk Government Printer,
 Sydney, N.S.W.

Spiffitt
Assistant

DIAGRAM SHEWING DEATH RATE OF CITY OF SYDNEY AND SUBURBS



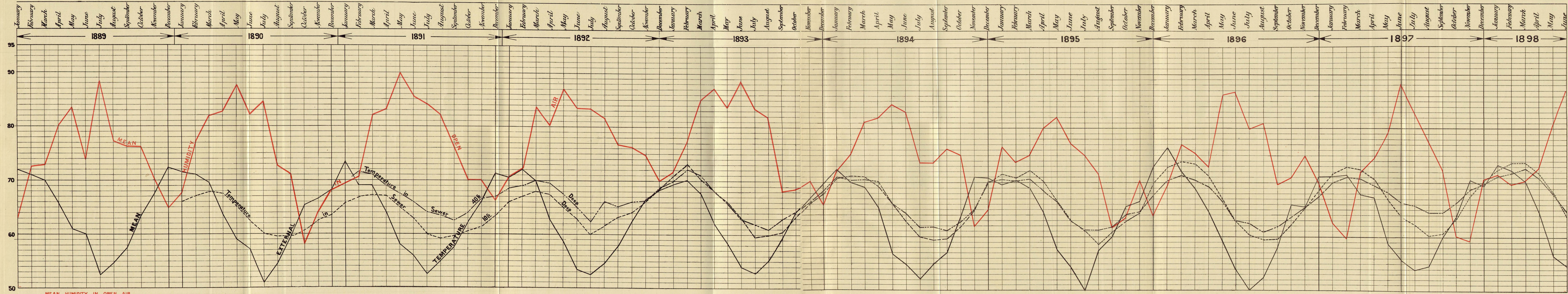
DEATH RATE IN CITY OF SYDNEY
 " " " SUBURBS
 POPULATION OF CITY OF SYDNEY
 " " " SUBURBS
 RAINFALL AT SYDNEY OBSERVATORY
 DEATH RATE IN CITY } EXCLUSIVE OF HOSPITALS,
 " " " SUBURBS } ASYLUMS, AND GAOLS

J. G. P.
 Chief Draftsman,
 30/8/97.
 10.90
 9.87
 7.95
 7.78

Photo-lithographed by
 W. A. Gullick, Government Printer,
 Sydney, N.S.W.

DIAGRAM

SHOWING MEANS OF EXTERNAL TEMPERATURE, TEMPERATURE IN SEWERS 10 AND 40 FT. DEEP,
AND HUMIDITY, FROM THE YEAR 1889.



— MEAN HUMIDITY IN OPEN AIR
 — MEAN TEMPERATURE IN OPEN AIR
 - - - MEAN TEMPERATURE IN SEWER 10 FT. DEEP
 . . . MEAN TEMPERATURE IN SEWER 40 FT. DEEP

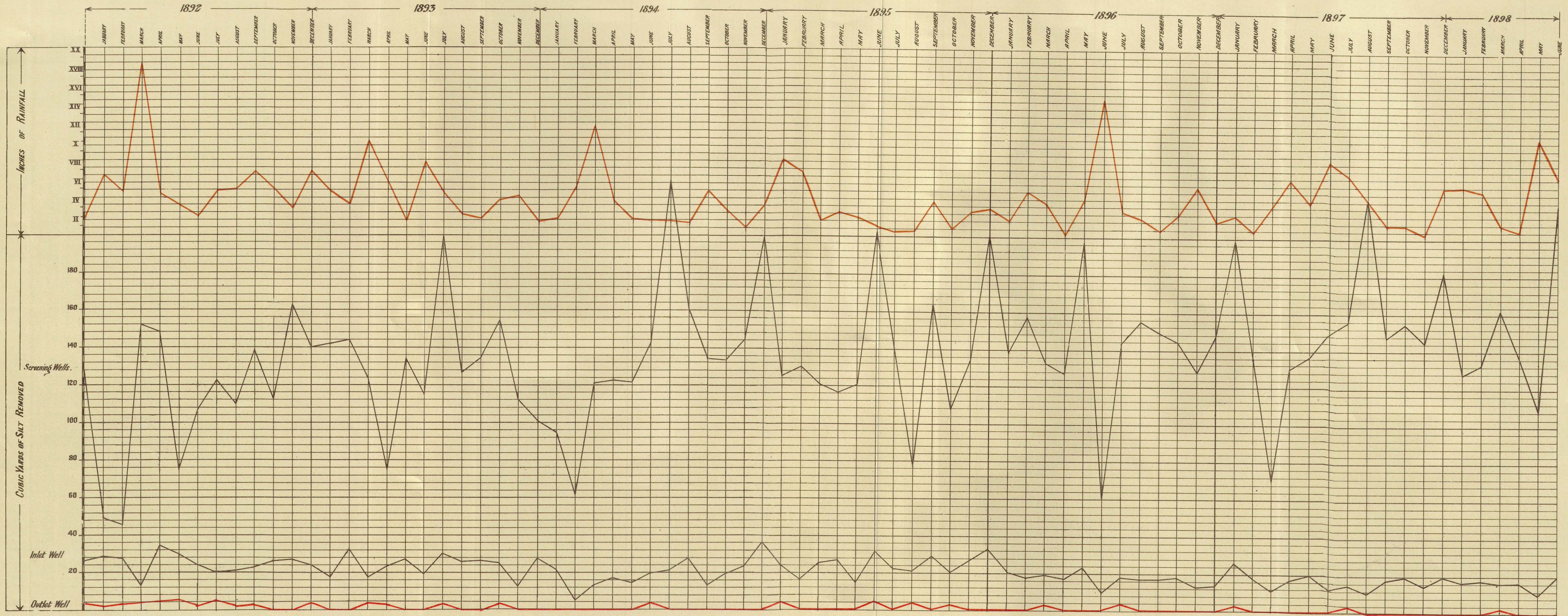
Photo-illustrated by
W. A. Gullik, Government Printer,
Schenectady, N.Y.

J.G.S.
Chief Draftsman,
80/8/97.

W. J. Piffitt
Assist. Eng.

BOTANY SEWAGE FARM.

DIAGRAM SHOWING QUANTITIES OF SILT REMOVED FROM INLET AND OUTLET HOUSES.



SIG. 69

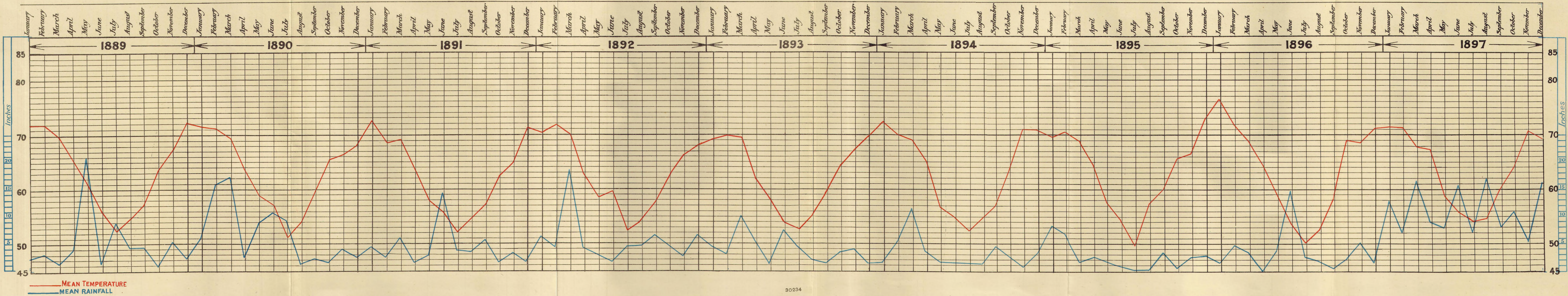
M. S. Smith
 Engineer
 July/98

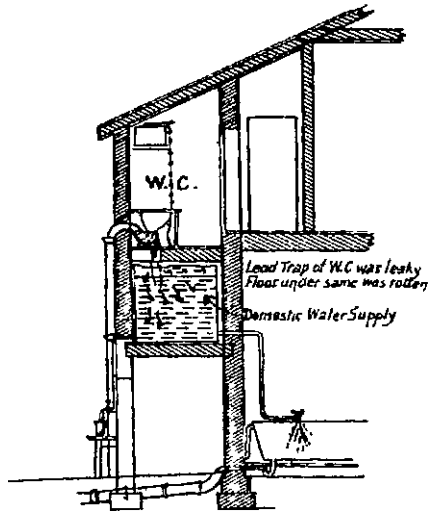
Photo-lithographed by
 W. A. Gullish, Government Printer,
 Sydney, N.S.W.

M. S. Smith
 assist by

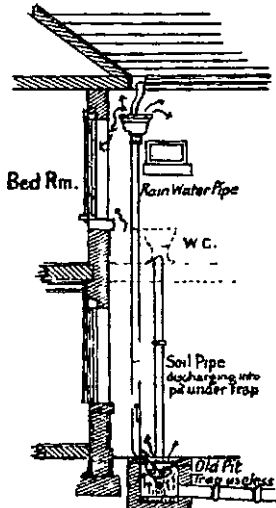
J. G. P.
 Chief Draftsman.
 30/8/97.

DIAGRAM SHOWING ATMOSPHERIC TEMPERATURES & RAINFALL SYDNEY

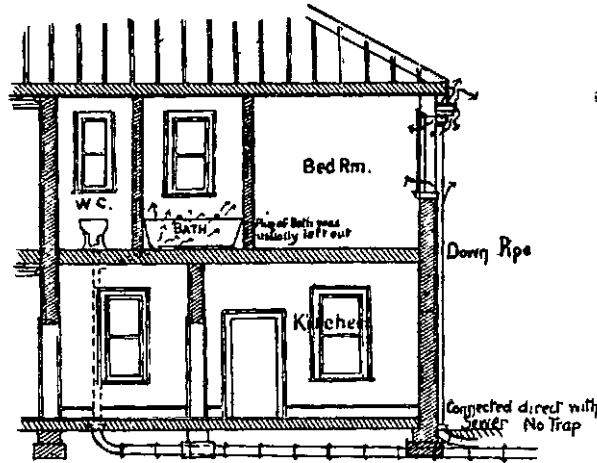




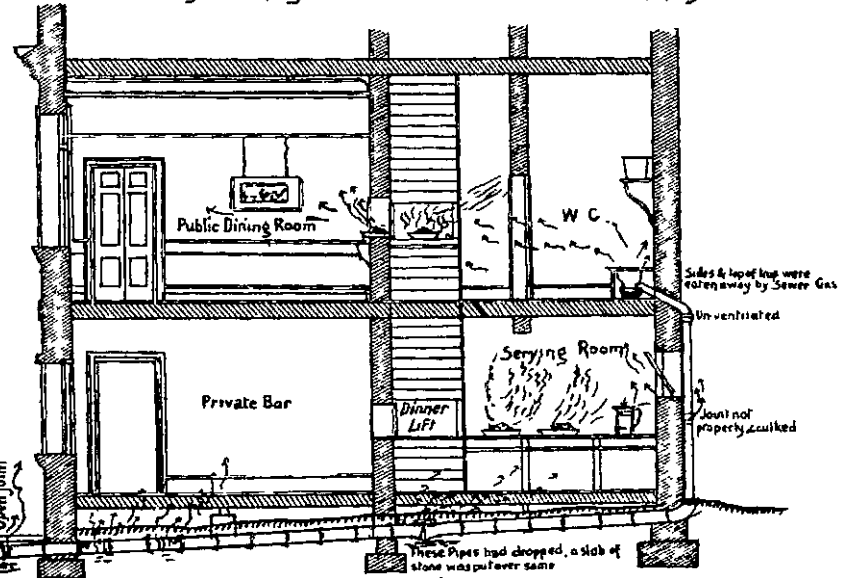
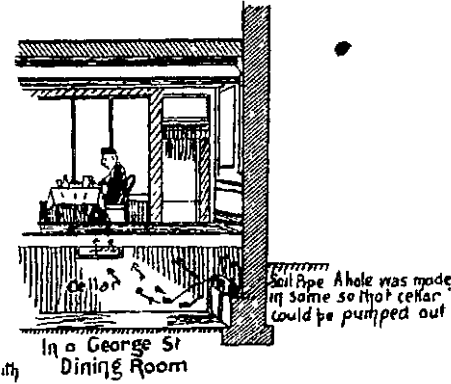
Unhealthy Drinking Water



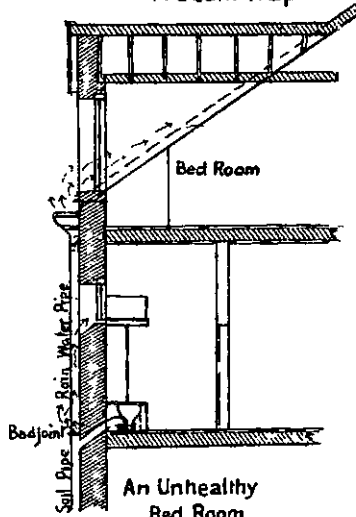
At a Seminary



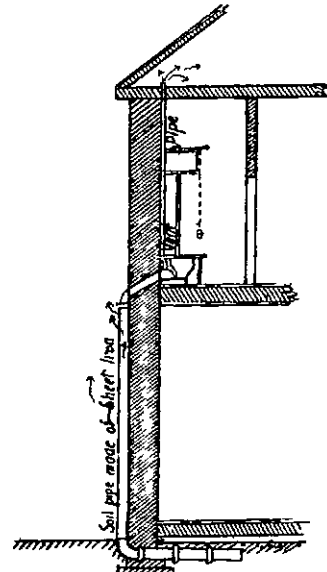
A Death Trap



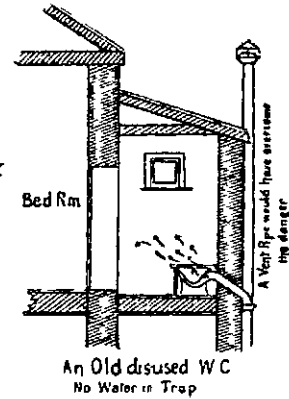
In a large City Hotel



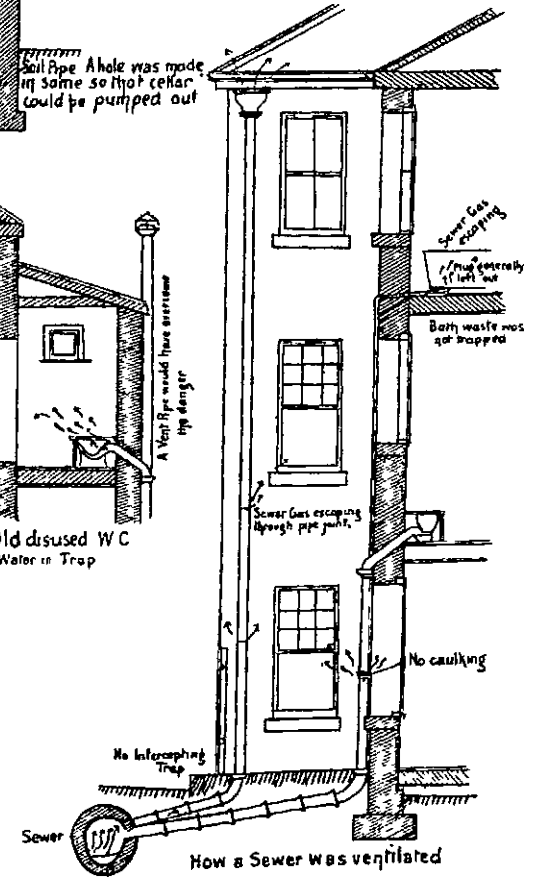
An Unhealthy
Bed Room



A Dangerous Roof



An Old disused W.C.
No Water in Trap



How a Sewer was ventilated

1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

REPORT

OF THE

HUNTER DISTRICT WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD,

From 1 July, 1897, to 30 June, 1898.

Printed under No. 13 Report from Printing Committee, 24 November, 1898.



SYDNEY: WILLIAM APPLIGATE GULLICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1898.

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1898.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

HUNTER DISTRICT WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD.

(REPORT FROM 1st JULY, 1897, TO 30th JUNE, 1898.)

Newcastle, 9 September, 1898.

To the Honorable the Secretary for Public Works,—

Sir,

The Hunter District Water Supply and Sewerage Board have the honour to submit to you their Report for the year ended 30th June, 1898.

WATER SUPPLY.

2. The average daily consumption of water per head of the estimated population supplied was 20·89 gallons, as against 21·10 gallons during the year 1896-7. The average daily supply was 781,004 gallons, and the estimated population supplied was 37,375.

3. During the year there were 544 houses connected with the mains.

4. The number of properties rated at the close of the year was 13,537, of which 7,315 were connected, leaving 4,779 houses and 1,443 vacant lands not connected. The Board have not considered it advisable to exercise the powers conferred upon them by the Principal Act under which the occupiers of houses could have been called upon to connect with the mains. During the year 28,666 rate notices were served.

5. The deferred payment system, by which ratepayers are enabled to have water laid on by the Board, and repay cost by quarterly instalments extending over three years, continues to be used by persons who would not otherwise, owing to the expense, be able to connect their premises with the mains. Since the initiation of the system in August, 1894, 511 houses have been connected. The Board desire to point out that the terms offered are sufficiently easy to enable the poorest ratepayer to connect, and so derive the benefit of the water supply for the rate charged.

6. The lengths of mains now under the Board's control are as follows:—

<i>Suction Mains</i>	...	From River to Walka (old),	18 inches,	968 yards.
		" " " (new),	20 $\frac{3}{4}$ "	968 "
<i>Rising Mains</i>	...	Walka to Buttai (old),	15 "	5 miles 1,060 "
		" " " (new),	20 $\frac{1}{4}$ "	5 " 983 "
		" " East Maitland,	10 "	4 " 310 "
		" Newcastle to High-level Tank,	6 "	814 "
<i>Gravitation Main</i>	...	" Buttai to Newcastle,	15 "	17 " 762 "
<i>Reticulation Mains</i>	...	Laid at inception of Board,	105 "	1,442 "
		Laid by Board to 30th June, 1893,	32 "	14 "

3"		4"		6"		7"		8"		9"		10"		12"		15"	
mls.	yds.	mls.	yds.	mls.	yds.	mls.	yds.	mls.	yds.	mls.	yds.	mls.	yds.	mls.	yds.	mls.	yds.
51	1,159 $\frac{3}{8}$	26	1,211 $\frac{1}{4}$	19	746 $\frac{2}{3}$	0	1,722 $\frac{1}{3}$	4	1,118 $\frac{2}{3}$	0	783	1	845 $\frac{1}{3}$	0	686 $\frac{1}{3}$	0	211
17	882 $\frac{1}{3}$	8	1,416	3	794 $\frac{2}{3}$	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	439 $\frac{2}{3}$	.....	.....	.....	.....
69	282	35	867	22	1,541 $\frac{1}{3}$	0	1,722 $\frac{1}{3}$	4	1,118 $\frac{2}{3}$	0	783	3	1,285 $\frac{1}{3}$	0	686 $\frac{1}{3}$	0	211

Length of Suction Mains	...	...	...	...	1 mile	176 yards.
" Rising Mains	...	...	...	...	14 miles	1,407 "
" Gravitation Mains	...	...	...	...	17 "	762 "
" Reticulation Mains	...	...	...	...	137 "	1,456 "
Total	...	...	...	...	171 "	281 "

7. Extensive repairs to the main pipe line bridges, crossing swamps between Buttai and Lambton reservoirs, were commenced during the year.

8. The steps taken by the Board to keep up a circulation of the water in the storage reservoir at Walka have considerably improved the quality of the water. The circulation is kept up by using the water from the storage reservoir as well as from the river, replenishing the storage by pumping from the river. At times large quantities of water are also run off from the reservoir through the scour pipe. To remove the sludge which has accumulated on the bottom of the reservoir beyond the action of the scour-pipe, the Board have decided to construct a syphon scour-pipe with a long flexible jointed suction length, which will be made to operate on the bottom of the reservoir wherever required, by means of floats and a pontoon. To provide for the running off of the water and sludge taken out, the Cook's-lane drain will be extended to the reservoir embankment. The Board anticipate that, when these works have been completed, and the sludge removed, the quality of the water in the storage reservoir will be much improved, and the facilities will be then permanently available for systematic circulation of the water, and regular removal of weeds, sludge, &c.

9. On the 10th day of May last a notification was made in the *Gazette* that the duplicate rising main to Buttai, and the duplicate suction main from the river to the pumping station, had been completed, and in accordance with the Act, 59 Victoria No. 9, these works thereupon became vested in the Board. The new mains are constructed of riveted steel pipes 20 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter. The suction pipes have flange joints, and the rising mains are spigot and socket with lead joints. The works were carried out by the Department of Public Works to enable the increased consumption of water in the district to be met, and, with additions and alterations of the pumps effected by the Board, have greatly facilitated pumping operations.

10. The facilities for pumping from the river and from Walka to Buttai and East Maitland are now quite sufficient; but it is anticipated that the increasing consumption of water in the city and the suburbs of Newcastle will render necessary the duplication of the gravitation main from Buttai to the district service reservoirs. This matter is now being looked into by the Board engineer.

11. A peculiar decay in a number of cast-iron water pipes in some parts of the suburbs of Newcastle was observed and thoroughly investigated. It was found that the decay was principally caused by the action of acid liberated from the copper ore slag used for roadmaking. The mains laid in streets so formed have been examined, and limestone placed in the trenches with good results.

12. The Meter Hire System continues to give satisfaction to consumers. Since the initiation of the system in January, 1896, 321 meters have been hired out, 158 of which were issued during the year under review. The hire charges are moderate, and the best pattern of meter is supplied by the Board. The Board use the class of meters specially designed by the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage, and take the opportunity of recording their appreciation of the courtesies extended to them by the Metropolitan Board in this and other matters of mutual interest.

13. In accordance with the provisions of the Amending Act, the Board revised the terms upon which water had hitherto been supplied to the local Municipal Councils for public purposes. During the year 1897 no less than 8,709,206 gallons of water were supplied to the Newcastle, Wickham, and West Maitland Councils for street watering. At Newcastle a large percentage, and at Wickham the whole of the water supplied, was used for watering the tram-lines, for which the Councils received payment from the Railway Commissioners, whilst, under the Principal Act, the Board were compelled to supply the water to the Councils free of charge. As every gallon of water supplied has to be pumped, the Board decided to make a charge sufficient to pay out-of-pocket expenditure, and fixed the price at 6d. per 1,000 gallons for street or tram-line watering and for public baths, supplying water free, as hitherto, for gutter-flushing and cleansing sumps, sewers, and drains.

14. The pumping plant at Walka pumping station is working satisfactorily. The alterations and additions to the machinery recently made by the Board have largely increased the pumping capacity of the engines and reduced the expenses hitherto incurred when heavy pumping was rendered necessary by continuous dry weather.

15. The cost of pumping 1,000 gallons 100 feet lift at the Walka pumping station, compared with former years, was as follows:—1892, 790d.; 1893, 741d.; 1894, 691d.; 1895, 565d.; 1896, 499d.; 1897, to 30th June, 377d.; 1897–8, 439d. The cost of pumping per 1,000,000 gallons 100 feet lift was, for 1892, £3 5s., and for last year, £1 16s. 7d. The total quantity of water pumped during the year ending 30th June, 1898, was 285,066,720 gallons, as compared with 164,616,850 gallons for the year ending 30th June, 1893. The large increased consumption of water has correspondingly reduced the average cost of pumping 1,000 gallons 100 feet lift, as practically the same expense had necessarily to be incurred at the pumping station in 1892–3 for the smaller output. The cost of coal per ton has also been considerably reduced, 5s. 6d. being the price paid last year, as against 8s. in 1892–3.

16. The quantity of water pumped at Walka during the year was as follows :— From the river to the storage reservoir, 233,369,509 gallons; from the river to the settling tank, 138,050,637 gallons; from the storage reservoir to the settling tank, 165,755,127 gallons; from the clear water tank to the service reservoirs, 285,066,720 gallons; making a total of 822,241,993 gallons. The quantity of water pumped from the Newcastle reservoir to the high-level tank supplying the highest parts of Newcastle was, approximately, 2,400,000 gallons.

17. The different service reservoirs and the high-level tank are in good order, and repairs to the caretakers' cottages have been effected.

18. Frequent inspections of the watershed, for a distance of 20 miles above the intake at Walka, have been made for the prevention of pollution.

19. Regular monthly analyses of the water have been made as usual by the Government Analyst, Mr. William M. Hamlet, F.I.S., F.I.C. The samples are taken from the river, storage reservoir, settling tank, and clear water tank at the Walka Pumping Station, and from different points of the reticulation mains. The reports indicate that the water, as delivered into the mains, is a good wholesome water, fit for drinking and all domestic purposes. The water is moderately hard, and the question of softening it is receiving attention.

FINANCIAL.

20. The revenue struck for the year was £28,117 12s.; but included in this amount is £5,390 representing rates on properties assessed by the Board in respect of which appeals received were not determined before the close of the year. The figures given above cannot, therefore, be regarded as final, as the revenue for the year will be affected if the valuations of the properties referred to be reduced on determination of the appeals. The provisions of the Amending Act in regard to the rating of property came into force from the 1st July, 1897, and as the basis of rating was entirely altered a comparison with the revenue struck for the preceding year would be of no value.

21. The arrears outstanding at the 30th June, 1897, amounted to £6,748 8s. 4d., which, with the revenue struck for the year—£28,117 12s., gave a total of £34,866 0s. 4d. receivable to the 30th June last. Of this amount £20,009 9s. was collected and remitted to the Treasury, leaving £14,856 11s. 4d. outstanding at the close of the year.

22. The Board desire to explain the reason for such a large amount being outstanding. Consequent on the adverse decisions of the Privy Council, and, later, of the Full Court, in the actions taken by the Board to recover rates from the owners of the large colliery and landed estates in the Water District, an Amending Bill was introduced into the Legislative Assembly on the 21st May, 1896, but owing to the exigencies of public business it was not passed into law until the 13th November, 1897. As previously pointed out, its provisions in respect of assessments and rates were retrospective, operating as from the 1st July, 1897, and the Board were consequently unable to commence service of the rate notices for that half-year until the requirements of the Amending Act in the matters of the assessment of ratable property and the making of the rate had been complied with. It was not until the 10th January last that the Board were able to commence the service of the rate notices for the preceding half-year. This delay seriously affected the collection
of

of the revenue, and accounts for the large amount of revenue uncollected at the close of the year. Special steps will be taken to collect all outstanding rates as soon as possible, and with this object in view the departmental regulations dealing with legal proceedings for the recovery of rates and charges are now being revised.

23. The Board are unable at present to submit a proper balance sheet showing the Revenue and Expenditure for the year, as the Capital Debt has not yet been determined. The Amending Act (No. 14, A.D. 1897) repeals the provisions of the Principal Act in regard to the Capital Debt, and enacts that the Debt at the 30th June, 1897, shall be ascertained, reported upon by the Board, determined by the Minister, and then gazetted. On the 26th August, 1897, a deputation from the Board waited upon the Minister and requested a substantial reduction of the Capital Debt. Mr. Secretary Young asked the members of that deputation to wait and see how much increased revenue the Amending Bill would give, and that if they found it did not give sufficient additional revenue, he would be disposed to treat them as fairly and generously as he had treated any municipality in the country. The Board understand that these figures are now being prepared by an accountant of the Department of Public Works, and will be available shortly.

24. The Management Expenses for the year amounted to £4,221 5s. 9d., and the Working Expenses, £4,517 7s. The amount of interest for the year on the Capital Debt and the statutory instalments to the Sinking Fund for the maintenance and reconstruction of renewable works, cannot be ascertained until the Capital Debt is fixed.

25. The total amount expended by the Board during the year was:—

	£	s.	d.
Chargeable to Loans	2,672	12	7
Chargeable to Revenue	9,515	17	7
	<hr/>		
	£12,188	10	2

SEWERAGE.

26. No sewerage works have yet been carried out in the district under the Board's control, but the Board are advised that a scheme for the sewerage of Newcastle and suburbs is now being designed by the Sewerage Construction Branch of the Department of Public Works.

GENERAL.

27. Before dealing with the revision of the salaries of the staff, the Board felt, in view of the strong impression amongst a large section of the community that the Board's service was over-manned and over-paid, that it would be much more satisfactory to all concerned if the Public Service Board were invited to go fully into the whole question. A recommendation was accordingly made, and the Minister appointed the Public Service Board as a Royal Commission to make full inquiry. After an exhaustive investigation, the Commissioners presented their report on the 22nd November last, and it was gratifying to the Board to observe that the evidence submitted to the Commissioners satisfied them that the staff was not over-manned
and

and over-paid, but that, on the contrary, it was pointed out that a number of junior officers were not sufficiently paid. A thorough revision of the whole of the salaries and wages of the Board's officers was made, and the recommendations of the Royal Commission have been carried out.

28. The Board desire to draw the attention of the Minister to that portion of the report of the Royal Commission dealing with the control of the staff, reading as follows :—“ During the course of our inquiry, several of the members of the Board drew attention to the unanimous desire on the part of the staff to be placed under the control of the Public Service Board. The principal officers, on behalf of the others, also submitted the matter for our consideration. They point out that at present their scope is entirely limited to the Hunter District Board; that they are not ‘officers’ within the meaning of the Public Service Act; and that the Public Service is closed to them. Your Commissioners have no desire to express an opinion on the subject, but merely draw attention to the request made.”

It will be observed that the Commissioners did not desire to express any opinion on the subject, no doubt in consequence of the fact that they themselves formed the Public Service Board. This Board fully expressed their views on this matter in a letter addressed to the President of the Royal Commission under date the 8th November last (see page 36 of Report), and hope that their recommendation will meet with the Minister's approval, and that the necessary legislation will be passed to give effect to same.

28. The Board have made regular inspections of the Pumping Station and Buttai Reservoir, and fifty-three meetings have been held during the year, at which the attendances were as follows :—

MEETINGS OF BOARD FROM 1ST JULY, 1897, TO 30TH JUNE, 1898.

	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May.	June.
Meetings held	3	5	5	4	6	3	4	4	4	4	7	4
H. D. Walsh, President	3	5	3	4	6	2	4	4	4	4	6	3
A. Gardiner, Vice-President... ..	3	5	5	4	6	3	4	4	4	4	7	4
J. Ewing, Official Member	3	5	5	4	6	3	4	4	4	4	5	4
H. W. Jee, Official Member	3	5	4	3	6	3	4	4	4	4	7	4
J. W. Birkenhead, Municipal Member	3	5	5	4	6	3	3	4	4	4	6	3
G. W. Webb, Municipal Member	3	5	5	4	6	3	4	4	4	4	6	4
J. B. Barclay, Municipal Member	3	5	5	4	6	3	4	4	4	4	5	4

29. Enclosed are reports by the Engineer (Mr. J. B. Henson, Assoc. M. Inst. C.E.), with a plan of the waterworks, showing the situation of the pumping station, trunk mains, reservoirs, and the areas reticulated, and also a report by Mr. P. de Mestre Hart, the Board's Assessor.

H. D. WALSH, M. Inst. C.E.,
President.

ALFRED E. FRY,
Secretary.

Accountant's

Accountant's Branch.

RETURN showing amount of Revenue struck, collected, and outstanding for the year ended 30th June, 1898.

Head of Revenue.	Arrears from previous years.			Amount struck for the year ending 30th June, 1898.	Total receivable.	Collected.			Amount outstanding at 30th June, 1898.
	Amount outstanding at 30th June, 1897.	Charges since cancelled.	Net arrears.			Total collected.	Less over-payments refunded.	Net collections.	
Water Rates—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Rates only	5,264 13 9	} 445 11 2	} 4,859 8 5	19,037 5 10	} 27,560 10 9	} 15,287 4 3	} 342 14 6	} 14,944 9 9	} 12,616 1 0
New mains	9 7 3			9 13 8					
New assessments	30 18 7			3,654 2 10					
Special Fees—									
Gardens	5 15 0	} 4 10 0	} 14 10 0	43 0 0	} 341 1 10	} 302 4 4	} 0 5 0	} 301 19 4	} 39 2 6
Live stock	4 15 0			183 0 0					
Sundry water supply	8 10 0			37 12 6					
Builders' supply ... ..	.....			62 19 4					
Meters—									
Meters only	455 0 11	} 16 0 1	} 1,853 13 6	1,197 18 11	} 6,362 6 6	} 4,191 11 10	} 0 4 2	} 4,191 7 8	} 2,170 13 10
Meters in excess	1,397 17 6			2,526 12 7					
Shipping	16 15 2			784 1 6					
Meter Hire—Rent of meters	4 9 0	.....	4 9 0	112 12 7	117 1 7	86 12 7	.....	86 12 7	30 9 0
Other charges	0 3 6	.....	0 3 6	138 2 1	138 5 7	138 5 7	.....	138 5 7	.....
	7,198 5 8	466 1 3	6,732 4 5	27,787 1 10	34,519 6 3	20,005 18 7	343 3 8	19,662 14 11	14,856 11 4
Rents received ... ..	.....	.....	.....	163 1 0	163 1 0	163 1 0	.....	163 1 0	.....
Miscellaneous receipts	16 3 11	.....	16 3 11	167 9 2	183 13 1	183 13 1	.....	183 13 1	.....
	7,214 9 7	466 1 3	6,743 8 4	28,117 12 0	34,666 0 4	20,352 12 8	343 3 8	20,000 9 0	14,856 11 4

ALFRED E. FRY,
Accountant.

Report of Assessor's Branch for the year ended 30th June, 1898.

Newcastle, 31st August, 1898.

I HAVE the honor to submit a report on the work done in this branch during the year ended 30th June, 1898.

The total amount of revenue struck for the year was £27,787 1s. 10d., as under:—

REVENUE STRUCK.

Revenue struck for year ending 30th June, 1898.	Amount.
	£ s. d.
Water Rates on properties where the municipal valuations have been adopted ...	13,988 5 8
(a) On properties assessed by the Board and subject to appeal, where no appeals were received ...	1,576 16 8
(b) Where appeals were determined before close of year ...	1,745 3 4
(c) Where appeals were not determined before close of year ...	5,390 16 8
Meters—	
Meter accounts in excess of rates on properties ...	2,526 12 7
Water supplied by measure ...	1,982 0 5
Special fees—	
For gardens ...	43 0 0
Live stock ...	183 0 0
Trade purposes ...	87 12 6
Building purposes ...	62 19 4
Drilling fees ...	72 6 0
Re-connection fees ...	12 0 0
Meter hire—Rent of meters... ..	112 12 7
Deferred payments—	
Supervision fees ...	19 5 0
Interest on instalments ...	16 1 4
Miscellaneous receipts ...	18 9 9
	£27,787 1 10

APPEALS.

Under the Amendment Act, which came into force as from 1st July, 1897, it is provided that where the Board adopt the Municipal valuations no appeals shall be heard, unless it can be satisfactorily shown that the right of appeal from such Municipal valuations could not have been exercised. No such cases have arisen, but thirty appeals have been received in respect of valuations made by the Board's assessors. Of this number, twenty-five appeals were settled by mutual agreement between the Board and the appellants, and five, involving rates to the extent of £5,390 16s. 8d. per annum (including the appeals made by the Railway Commissioners against the assessments of their properties), have been referred to the Appeal Court for determination, as required by law, the Board and the appellants having been unable to come to any mutually satisfactory agreement.

PROPERTIES RATED AND SUPPLIED AT 30TH JUNE, 1898.

Property.	Rated.	At 30th June, 1898.	
		Connected.	Not connected.
Premises	12,094	7,315	4,779
Vacant lands	1,443	.....	1,443

NOTICES SERVED.

28,666 notices were served upon ratepayers during the year as under:—

Rate notices	25,612
New main notices	37
Notices to connect to main	637
New assessment notices	1,425
Final notices	250
Special fee notices	624
Notices to affix meter	6
Notices of water shut off	75
Total	28,666

NEW MAINS.

During the year 637 properties became liable for water rates from new mains laid.

New

NEW ASSESSMENTS.

1,425 assessments of new properties ratable from old mains were made during the year.

SUMMONSING WORK.

250 final notices were served, but owing to the delay in passing of the Amending Act no summonses were issued.

REVENUE COLLECTED AND OUTSTANDING.

During the year £20,009 9s. revenue was collected, leaving £14,856 11s. 4d. outstanding at the close of the year.

This large amount of outstanding revenue is due to the delay in passing the Amending Act, in the absence of which no legal proceedings for recovery of revenue could be taken. The necessary steps are now being taken to recover arrears, and I anticipate that the collections for the current year will prove satisfactory.

Head of Revenue.	Arrears from previous years.			Amount struck for year ending 30 June, 1898.	Total receivable.	Collections for the year. Net.	Amount outstanding at 30 June, 1898.
	Outstanding at 30 June, 1897.	Charges since cancelled.	Net Arrears.				
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Rates	5,304 19 7	445 11 2	4,859 8 5	22,701 2 4	27,560 10 9	14,944 9 9	12,616 1 0
Meters	1,869 13 7	16 0 1	1,853 13 6	4,503 13 0	6,362 6 6	4,191 7 8	2,170 18 10
Special Fees	19 0 0	4 10 0	14 10 0	326 11 10	341 1 10	301 19 4	39 2 6
Other charges	4 12 6	.....	4 12 6	250 14 8	255 7 2	224 18 2	30 9 0
Totals	7,198 5 8	466 1 3	6,732 4 5	27,787 1 10	31,519 6 3	19,662 14 11	14,856 11 4

The Secretary.

P. DE MESTRE HART,
Assessor.

Rates and Charges for Water in force for the year ending 30th June, 1898.

1. By-laws Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 8, of the Water By-laws, published in the *Gazette* of 14th September, 1892, are hereby repealed, and the following by-laws shall be substituted in lieu thereof, and shall take effect as from the 1st July, 1897: Provided that such repeal shall not prejudice or affect the payment or recovery of any rate, charge, or sum now due under the repealed by-laws.

2. The following shall be the rate which the owners and occupiers of ratable property shall pay in respect of water supply, whether such property is connected with the mains or not, or is supplied by meter or otherwise, for domestic purposes or for purposes other than domestic.

WATER RATES ON PROPERTY.

- (I.) Where the land or premises are of the assessed annual value of £10 or under, 10s. per annum. Lands and premises.
- (II.) Where the land or premises are above the assessed annual value of £10, a rate of 1s. for each pound sterling of the amount of the assessed annual value.
- (III.) Vacant lands of the assessed annual value of £10, and under, a rate of 3s. 4d. per annum; Vacant lands. and on all such lands above the assessed annual value of £10, 4d. for each pound sterling of the amount of the assessed annual value.

WATER SUPPLIED BY MEASURE.

3. The charge for water supplied by measure shall (except in the case of shipping), unless otherwise determined by special agreement between the Board and the consumer, be 2s. per 1,000 gallons. Supply to property by measure.

4. The minimum charge for water, whether supplied through meter or otherwise, for domestic purposes or for purposes other than domestic, shall be the rate hereinbefore imposed. If the water be supplied by meter and the meter account (calculated at the rate prescribed by the By-laws) exceed the rate, then such excess shall be charged in addition to the assessment: Provided that, should the occupier of property supplied by meter vacate the property before the close of the half-year, the meter account shall be credited with that portion only of the rate proportionate to the period of his occupancy. Minimum charge by meter or otherwise, the assessed rate.

CHARGES IN ADDITION TO RATE ON UNMETERED SERVICES.

5. The charges to be paid in addition to the rate in respect of property where water is used for other than domestic purposes, and the supply is not through a meter, shall be at such rates, upon such terms, and subject to such conditions as may be agreed upon by the Board and the person supplied or requiring to be supplied: Provided, however, that for any year or part thereof the *minimum charges* for water supplied to such property (hereinafter referred to as Special Fees) shall be, in addition to the rate, the amount in each case hereunder set forth:— Special fees.

(I.) The charges for water supplied for:—

Photography and any like process shall be...	... 10s. per annum.	
Tripe cleaning ... ..	... 10s. "	
Tying purposes ... ..	... 20s. "	
Small goods (sweets) ... ..	... 10s. "	
Waterfalls and fountains ... ..	... 20s. "	
Shop fronts, by hose ... ..	... 20s. "	
Organ motors and such-like mechanism ... ..	... 40s. "	
Washing vehicles, by hose ... ..	... 10s. "	
Washing yards, by hose ... ..	... 20s. "	

Trade purposes.

Vehicles.
Yards.

- Nozzles and waste pipes. (II.) No person shall use water in connection with any motor unless the nozzle supplying such motor has been first approved of by the Board. The waste-pipe from each motor shall be so fixed that the waste water can be measured at any time.
- Gardens. (III.) The charge for water supplied for watering gardens or lawns, by hose, shall be at the rate of 5s. per annum for every 500 square feet, superficial area, or part thereof, and 2s. 6d. for every additional 250 square feet, superficial area, or part thereof.
- Meter may be insisted upon. 6. In all cases where special fees are charged, the Board reserve to themselves the right of insisting upon a meter being fixed at any time, notwithstanding the fact that the special fee may have been paid. All special fees shall be payable in advance. All premises on which water is used for other than domestic purposes, and upon which special fees are paid, shall be open for inspection by the Inspectors of the Board at any reasonable hour.
- Building charge, &c. 7. (I.) The charge for water supplied for building and plastering purposes, for buildings to be used either wholly or partly as dwelling-houses, shall be at the rate of 1d. per cubic yard on the cubical contents of each building. The Board will supply water for all other buildings, either by meter or at the rate above mentioned by cubic yard on the cubical contents of each building, as the Board shall determine: Provided that before any water shall be used through meter for building purposes such meter shall be submitted to the Board in each case for examination, and must pass the sensitive test; and the minimum charge in each case for water so supplied through meter shall be 40s.
- (II.) The charge for water supplied for plastering rooms only shall be 5s. for each room, and for the building of wash-houses, water-closets, coppers, and chimneys only, 2s. 6d. each.
- (III.) The charge for water supplied for the making and mixing of concrete for foundations of wooden blocks, stone cubes, or other form of permanent roadway or pavement, shall be at the rate of £3 per 1,000 square yards, by superficial measurement of road surface; and for all other concrete, brickwork, or masonry, at the rate of 6d. per cubic yard, as measured on the work.
- Shipping. 8. The charge for water supplied to shipping shall be 4s. per 1,000 gallons. Her Majesty's Navy will be supplied free of charge.
- Premises where horses and cows kept liable to extra rate. 9. All lands or premises actually supplied with water by the Board, on which any one or more head of horses or cattle shall be kept or maintained, shall be liable to an extra rate or charge (beyond and in addition to the rates and charges hereinbefore imposed) of 5s. per head for each head of horses or cattle kept or maintained on such lands or premises. Where such lands or premises are not actually supplied with water by the Board, they shall be liable to an extra rate or charge (beyond and in addition to the rates and charges hereinbefore imposed) of 2s. 6d. per head for each head of horses or cattle kept or maintained on such lands or premises.
- Rates payable half-yearly in advance. 10. Assessed rates shall be paid half-yearly, in advance, by equal payments, on the 1st day of July and the 1st day of January in each current year, whether a meter is used or not. In the case where a meter is used, the meter account will be rendered only when it is in excess of the assessment. Cheques, post office orders, or postal notes will be received in payment of rates or charges; but if the cheque tendered by any person as payment for rates or charges due is dishonoured, the Board may cut off his service, and proceed for the recovery of the amount by warrant for distress or otherwise. Cheques and post office orders must be crossed in favour of the Board.

Board Engineer's Report.

Sir,

Newcastle, 5th September, 1898.

In accordance with your request, I submit herewith a general description of the water-works, and a review of the principal operations from the time the Board took control to the 30th June last.

THE SCHEME OF WATER SUPPLY.

The supply of water for the district under the control of the Board is pumped from the Hunter River, at the apex of the Hunter River Delta, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile up stream from Belmore Bridge, West Maitland. Between this point and the sea coast at Newcastle the river is subject to tidal influence, and the water is unfit for domestic purposes.

The drainage area of the Hunter River above the intake is 7,090 square miles, on which the average annual rainfall is about 25 inches.

The Hunter River and its principal tributary, the Goulburn River, rise in the Great Dividing Range. There are no permanent snow-fields on the mountains, and no lakes in the valleys. The river for about 50 miles of its course above West Maitland, where it is at about sea level, has an average surface grade of 2 feet per mile, and consists in ordinary summer weather of long reaches of deep still water separated by gravel and rock bars, over which the water rushes; it is subject to floods which at times are severe and destructive, and prolonged droughts have been known during which it is said the flow of water was so much diminished as to be scarcely observable. The immense stores of water in the long deep pools would afford an inexhaustible supply should the river actually cease running during a prolonged drought.

A natural bar of gravel extends across the river immediately below the intake, and is the limit to tidal influence. From this bar up stream there extends a long reach of deep water.

The

The greater part of the drainage area consists of sedimentary strata of carboniferous and permo-carboniferous age. In the north-west, along the Liverpool Range, there is an extensive area of eruptive rocks, and isolated masses of similar rock are distributed over the eastern and north-eastern parts of the river basin. The Hawkesbury sandstone measures extend into the valley from the south at its extreme western end, and cover a fair extent of country. These measures overlie the carboniferous beds, and afford a superior class of soft water, but are too remote for their capabilities in this respect to be directly availed of. Limestone is comparatively rare; a few isolated outcrops of limited area occur in the valley of the Upper Hunter. The lime and magnesia, which cause the hardness of the river water, together with salt, are probably derived mainly from the marine beds of the permo-carboniferous measures.

The productive coal measures of the Hunter Valley extend over a considerable portion of the contributing drainage area, but actual coal-mining operations are at present of a limited extent above the intake. In course of time, no doubt, a greater development of this industry will take place, and precautions will have to be taken to prevent pollution of the river water, especially at periods of minimum flow. The principal coal workings of the Hunter District are situated between Maitland and the coast.

The river water is moderately hard, but the dissolved substances contained in it vary from time to time with the rainfall over the drainage area, increasing in time of drought, partly to the long continued evaporation, and partly to the streams being principally fed with spring and subsoil water, which in its passage through the ground has become charged with soluble minerals. In times of flood, although the amount of material washed down by the current will show a large increase in the suspended matter, yet the dissolved matter is not so noticeable, owing to the greater dilution over a given volume of the water.

The number of persons now settled on the drainage area is approximately 30,000, which gives 4.23 persons per square mile. The Board have jurisdiction over the river for a distance of 20 miles above the intake, and frequent inspections are made for prevention of pollution. There is comparatively little settlement of population in the neighbourhood of the river along this length.

The existing scheme of water supply was designed by the late W. Clarke, M.Inst.C.E., in the year 1877, and its construction, with some modifications in the details, was commenced by the Government in the year 1879. Towards the end of 1885 an urgent demand for water arose in the Newcastle District, caused by a prolonged drought, and the main pipe lines being completed, a temporary pumping plant was erected at the intake on the Hunter River, and water was in this way first delivered into Newcastle on the 23rd day of November, 1885. The temporary pumping plant was kept almost constantly at work until January, 1887, when it was superseded by the permanent engines.

The scheme provided for the water supply of the City of Newcastle and suburbs, and the municipalities and townships on the southern side of the Lower Hunter River from the sea coast to West Maitland.

The pumping engines are situated above flood-level on a hill-side about 44 chains back from the right bank of the river. The suction-pipe is of cast-iron, 18 in. diameter. At the pumping station are a settling tank of 1,390,500 gallons capacity, which receives the water pumped from the river; four filter-beds, 100 feet by 100 feet each; a clear water tank of 589,500 gallons capacity; and a storage reservoir of 172,408,100 gallons available capacity, all uncovered. The latter has been formed by constructing an earthen embankment with puddle core across an old lagoon. It contains a reserve supply of clear water, which is resorted to when the river-water is turbid, and is replenished by rainfall on its catchment area of 200 acres, and by water pumped up from the river.

Water is pumped into the settling tank, from which it descends to the filter-beds; the filtered water is collected in the clear-water tank.

The pumping plant consists of three independent Woolf compound beam pumping engines of about 150 horse-power each. Each engine works two main pumps of the bucket and plunger type, one on each side of the beam centre.

Two engines are designed to force water to the summit reservoirs, the third to raise water from the river or the storage reservoir to the settling tank, or to raise water from the river to the storage reservoir as required. The boiler-house contains five 50-horse-power Lancashire boilers, two of which ordinarily supply sufficient steam for the engines. A coal store is attached, having a capacity for 120 tons. A residence is provided for the engineer in charge, and five cottages for workmen.

The filtered water is pumped from the clear-water tank into two summit reservoirs—one at East Maitland and one at Buttai. The latter is on the top of a range about $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant from the pumps. These reservoirs are built of brick and concrete, and are covered over.

East Maitland Reservoir is supplied through a 10-inch cast-iron rising main 4 miles 310 yards in length, and has a capacity of 463,430 gallons. It commands East Maitland, West Maitland, Morpeth, and neighbouring places. Buttai Reservoir is supplied through a 15-inch cast-iron rising main 5 miles 1,060 yards in length, and has a capacity of 1,051,010 gallons. The district commanded comprises the following places:—City of Newcastle, Carrington, Wickham, Hamilton, Waratah, Merewether, Adamstown, New Lambton, Lambton, Wallsend, Plattsburg, Minmi.

There are six district reservoirs which are supplied by gravitation from Buttai Reservoir, and receive the water for distribution. Their location and respective capacities are as follows:—

Minmi, 62,209 gallons; Hamilton, 402,909 gallons; Wallsend, 452,472 gallons; Newcastle, 523,613 gallons; Lambton, 402,610 gallons; Obelisk Hill, Newcastle, 137,125 gallons. All these reservoirs are built of brick and concrete and are covered over.

The gravitation main from Buttai Reservoir to Newcastle is cast-iron, 15 inches diameter, and 17 miles 762 yards in length. On the hill at Newcastle there is a high-level tank constructed of iron on timber supports, which has a capacity of 20,000 gallons; it is supplied with water by a small duplex steam pumping engine placed on the roof of Newcastle reservoir.

A cottage is provided for the caretaker in charge of the three reservoirs at Newcastle, and similar provision is made for caretakers at each of the other reservoirs.

The works, as described above, were constructed before the Hunter District Water Supply and Sewerage Board was formed and took control, at 1st July, 1892. At that date the mileage of reticulation water-mains laid in the Maitland District was 30 miles 1,599 yards, and in the Newcastle District 73 miles 1,603 yards, together making a total of 105 miles 1,412 yards. The reticulation of the city of Newcastle was done by the Municipal Council; with this exception, the water-works were constructed by the Public Works Department.

At the inception of the Board the number of assessments for water rates was 10,965, representing an approximate population of 54,825 persons contiguous to the water mains, the total number of houses actually connected to the mains was 3,018; the estimated number of inhabitants supplied being 15,090. The total population in Maitland and Newcastle Districts, according to the 1891 census, was 61,000; many of these, however, resided in houses beyond the reach of the water-mains.

The general management of the whole works, except the Newcastle reticulation, which was in the care of the City Council, was conducted by officers of the Harbours and Rivers Branch of the Public Works Department in conjunction with their other duties, and, on the transfer of the works to the Board, officers were appointed to take over the water-works duties.

OPERATIONS OF THE BOARD.

During the six years which have elapsed since the Board took control, the various works under their jurisdiction have been maintained in good order, and some important additions and improvements made; the more noteworthy will be referred to in the general description which follows of the operations of the Board during the above period.

Systematic chemical examinations of the water were instituted and deterioration in the quality of the filtered water was observed, investigations were made and remedial measures adopted. These comprised aeration of the water immediately before filtering it; refilling the filter-beds with filtered water slowly from the bottom after they had been dried off for skimming, &c., instead of the former system of applying water to the top, and washing the sand in the older beds. For the latter purpose a special sand-washing plant was constructed, the sand being lifted from a hopper in the filter-beds, washed and returned to hopper trucks for distribution, all by means of high-pressure jets of filtered water. The plant proved efficient and economical. The best result was obtained on one lot of 787 cubic yards, which cost 14/12 pence per cubic yard to wash exclusive of interest on cost, depreciation of plant, and cost of water used; 328 cubic yards of new sand tipped from carts at the washer, cost 10d. per cubic yard, to wash and distribute in the filter-bed.

The effect of the above operations on the quality of the filtered water was highly satisfactory, and the water continued to improve. Subsequently, on 24th June, 1896, the Government Analyst reported as follows on samples of filtered water forwarded to him during April and May:—"There is a marked improvement in the samples of filtered water submitted, those from the clear-water tank and the mains at Newcastle being especially good. Their bright and clear sparkling appearance, almost without any tinge of colour, and the presence of so small a quantity of nitrogenous matter of any kind, point to a supply approaching perfection in these respects as delivered at the mains."

Six samples comprising raw and filtered water are regularly taken every month and forwarded to the Board of Health at Sydney for examination and report. The results of analysis made during the past year have been tabulated and annexed, and clearly show the effective action of the filters and the satisfactory character of the filtered water.

The variations in the soluble matter and the high percentage the permanent hardness bears to the total hardness render impracticable the successful and economical application of any process for materially softening the water supplied to consumers.

Consideration has been given to the possibility of obtaining a softer water—if not to replace the present water to at least dilute it at the times of its maximum hardness. Two areas have been noticed which present some favourable features in this respect—one is at Maitland, and consists of an extensive deposit of sand and gravel, extending from the intake along the western bank of the river northwards. The other is the sand dune country lying parallel to the coast north from Stockton.

If impounding reservoirs for flood mitigation are ever constructed in the upper valley it might be found practicable to arrange for a suitable percentage of water to be retained for a time and then gradually liberated to refresh the river below. The geological formations indicate that the Goulburn River water will be softer than that from the Upper Hunter—possibly little benefit would be derived from storing the latter.

The character of the water in the storage reservoir has been a matter of serious concern ever since its construction. The natural conditions and artificial environment of this reservoir rendered it a difficult matter to obtain the amount of circulation and change of the water which are necessary to its maintenance in a healthy state. Aquatic weeds and low vegetable organisms, principally algae, flourish in great abundance; these, doubtless, in growing tend to purify the water, but by their decay the water becomes charged with organic matter, the grosser particles settle on the bottom and form an ever-increasing layer of black sludge, which cannot be drawn off by the scour-pipe except from a very limited area in its immediate vicinity. The river being liable to sudden floods at all times of the year—during which times the water is too heavily charged with silt to be used—renders it impracticable to empty, clean, and refill the storage reservoir, an operation which would occupy many months.

The Board gave early attention to the state of the reservoir, and decided to operate on the following lines to secure an amelioration of its condition:—Remove, dry, and burn the larger weed growths, pump in river water, run off water from the scour, and use the water mixed with river water more freely for supplying the filter-beds. Operations were carried out accordingly; large quantities of weed were removed, and this—together with the dilution of water effected—caused some of the most troublesome vegetation to permanently disappear. The use of the scour-pipe, which under the conditions originally prevailing discharged into a land-locked lagoon, was attended with a risk of flooding farm lands; this necessitated the construction of a drain, 2 ft. in diameter, from the lagoon below the storage reservoir to the Hunter River—a distance of 2,430 ft.—to afford a ready escape for the water. The drain fully accomplishes the object for which it was constructed, and has enabled large quantities of water to be discharged from the reservoir and replaced with water pumped from the river. The attention thus given to the storage water has secured a gradual improvement.

A scheme for removing the accumulation of sludge which lies on the bottom of the storage reservoir beyond the range of action of the present scour-pipe has been approved by the Board; it includes the extension of Cook's Lane drain to the reservoir embankment, the construction of a syphon scour-pipe having a long flexible jointed suction length, which, by means of floats and a pontoon, will be made to operate on the bottom wherever required. The completion of this work it is confidently anticipated will be followed by a large measure of improvement in the quality of the storage water.

The

The changes made in the working of the filter-beds, together with the special aeration of the water supplied to them, have enabled them to effectually purify the storage water and make it fit for all domestic purposes.

The water-works were originally designed to supply a population of 35,069; the rapid increase which subsequently took place caused attention to be directed to the improvement of the pumping plant, and at the time the Board took control, the Public Works Department had decided to carry out some important additions. These comprised a second suction-pipe 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter from the river to the pumping station, a second rising main 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter from the pumps to Buttai Reservoir, and enlargement of the pumps. The pipes were subsequently laid by the Government and handed over to the Board. They are made of riveted steel plates—the suction-pipes have flange joints, the pipes in the rising main are spigot and socket with lead joints. The alterations and additions to the pumping plant were carried out by the Board from designs furnished by Mr. F. H. Houghton, M.I.M.E., Consulting Engineer, who tested and reported on the plant for the Public Works Department shortly before the Board took control. The improvements comprised the substitution of a 19-inch pump barrel for the 15-inch barrel at the crank end of beam of the high-lift engines Nos. 1 and 2, and the addition of a 24-inch double action third pump to the low-lift engine No. 3, including a delivery pipe laid to the storage reservoir. The duty of this third pump is to replenish the storage reservoir from the river. Since their completion the new additions have worked satisfactorily.

The intake works at the Hunter River were washed away during the flood of March, 1893, and were reconstructed by the Public Works Department when the second suction-pipe was laid; they have not suffered any damage during subsequent floods, and are in good order.

The total extent of reticulation pipes laid by the Board during the past six years amount to 32 miles 14 yards. The principal work carried out in the Maitland District was the extension of the water supply to Lorn and Bolwarra, on the northern side of the Hunter River. The most important extension made in the Newcastle District was the construction of a special 10 and 6 inch main, 4 miles 1,025 yards in length, from Wallsend, to supply the Sulphide Works at Cockle Creek.

Trouble and expense have been caused by a remarkable decay of the metal in cast-iron water-pipes in some parts of the Newcastle suburbs and at Plattsburg, resulting in the pipes bursting under the water pressure. Local investigations were made, and the matter was also referred to the Government Analyst for report, the outcome of which clearly showed the decay to be due to the action of acid liberated from copper ore slag used for coating roads along or near which water-pipes were laid. At Plattsburg, however, the decay was traced to the use of refuse ashes from coke works and furnaces, for forming road surfaces. The remedy applied is, to place limestone in trenches where the decay takes place, and when practicable to drain the soakage water from the bottoms of the pipe trenches.

During last year it was found necessary to commence extensive repairs to the main 15 in. pipe-line bridges, crossing swamps and creeks between Buttai and Lambton. The present design of bridge has proved to be not altogether suitable, and this feature has been considered in connection with the repair work now being done.

A constant supply of water has been maintained throughout the Maitland and Newcastle districts, at a satisfactory pressure, notwithstanding the large increase in the number of consumers, and the extra demands for water during dry periods which have been experienced.

The consumption of water in the Newcastle district is gradually increasing, and in view of its overtaking the capacity of the present supply pipe from Buttai a few years hence, preparations will be necessary to meet further demands. This subject is receiving attention, and a report will be submitted for the information of the Board at an early date.

At the commencement of the Board's control, 802 water meters were in use on private service pipes. A special inspection was made, and a large percentage found to be in a defective condition. Meter-testing tanks and appliances were provided at Newcastle and Maitland, and steps taken to have all meters put in correct working order. Meters requiring repairs or adjustment have to be sent by the owners to the Metropolitan Boards' repairing and testing shop at Sydney. In 1895 the Board decided to purchase meters and let them out on hire. At the 30th June last 301 hired meters were in use. The innovation has succeeded admirably; the use of meters should be encouraged. The total number of meters now in use is 1,014. The Metropolitan Board's standard class of meter was adopted for use—other makes will gradually be eliminated.

From information supplied by the Assessor I find that the total amount of water used by meter for railways, factories, shipping, collieries, and other similar purposes, excluding metered supplies for domestic purposes, small gardens, stock and free supplies was—73,567,210 gallons, or a little over one-fourth of the total water pumped.

Early attention was given to inspection for waste and misuse of water, and much good has resulted. These inspections are continued. The use of the Metropolitan Board's standard fittings was made compulsory.

At the commencement of the Board provisional licenses were issued to plumbers who were following their trade in the Board's district. Subsequently practical examinations were held, which all plumbers desirous of having their licenses confirmed, had to attend. A very low standard was fixed, but with few exceptions, the results of the examination were unsatisfactory, and it was seen that steps to secure a radical improvement were imperative. The Board accordingly made strong representations to the Technical Education Department, and classes for instruction in practical plumbing were formed. Attendance at these classes by licensed plumbers was made a condition of the issue of license, until they had reached an approved standard of skill. Most of the plumbers attended, and eventually reached the necessary standard of efficiency. The classes are still carried on, and all new applicants must have passed the second year practical and theoretical examination in plumbing, and submit evidence of practical experience in plumbing work before licenses will be issued to them. The number of plumbers who held licenses during the past year, was 27, and for the preceding year, 28.

Tabular statements of operations and results are annexed, also plan of the area supplied with water.

The Secretary.

J. B. HENSON, Assoc. M. Inst. C.E.,
Board Engineer.

Statistics.

QUANTITY of Filtered Water pumped to the District Reservoirs, and the Population supplied for the six years ending 30th June, 1898.

Period—Year ending.	Average daily supply.	Total quantity pumped during the year.	Houses supplied.	Estimated population supplied.	Average daily supply during the year.	
					Per house.	Per inhabitant.
30 June, 1893	451,005	164,616,850	3,421	17,105	132	26.37
30 " 1894	418,766	152,849,650	3,848	19,240	109	21.76
30 " 1895	518,038	189,984,003	4,640	23,800	111	22.23
30 " 1896	606,728	222,062,466	6,246	31,230	97	19.42
30 " 1897	731,451	286,979,523	6,931	34,655	105	21.10
30 " 1898	781,004	285,066,720	7,475	37,375	104.5	20.89

QUANTITY of Water pumped during the year ending 30th June, 1898, and Coal used.

At Walka Pumping Station—		gallons.
River to storage reservoir	...	233,369,509
" settling tank	...	138,050,637
Storage reservoir to settling tank	...	165,755,127
Clear water tank (filtered water) to Buttai Reservoir	...	248,338,137
" " " East Maitland Reservoir	...	36,728,533

The coal used during the year amounted to 1,656½ tons; the price, delivered at the works, was 5s. 6d. per ton. During the previous year, the quantity used was 1,650½ tons, and the price 6s. per ton for the first half of year and 5s. 6d. for the last half. The coal is of fair quality for steaming purposes; it contains 15 to 20 per cent. of ash. The quantity of water pumped from Newcastle Reservoir to the High-level Tank was, approximately, 2,400,000 gallons; the coal used cost 11s. per ton during the first half of the year, and 10s. per ton during the last half.

STATEMENT of Cost of Pumping at Walka Pumping Station.

Period.	Cost per 1,000 galls., 100 ft. lift.	Cost per 1,000,000 galls., 100 ft. lift.	Coal used per 1,000,000 galls., 100 ft. lift.	Cost of Coal per ton.	Remarks.
1892.....	d.	£ s. d.	Tons.	£ s. d.	All water pumped at the works is included. The cost includes wages, fuel, stores, ordinary repairs, but not interest on capital. The coal used contains from 15 to 20 per cent. of ash.
1893.....	790	3 5 10	1,873	0 8 0	
1894.....	741	3 1 11	1,827	0 7 6	
1895.....	691	2 17 6	1,826	0 7 0	
1896.....	565	2 7 1	1,841	0 6 9	
1897, to June 30th	499	2 1 7	1,652	0 6 0	
July 1st, 1897, to June 30th, 1898	377	1 11 8	1,500	0 5 6	
	439	1 16 7	1,550	0 5 6	

STATEMENT of Quantity of Water supplied Free during the year ending 30th June, 1898.

		gallons.
Street-watering purposes	...	7,340,660
Gutter flushing, approximate	...	369,000
Charitable institutions, parks, gardens, municipal baths, &c.	...	1,965,950
Total	...	9,675,610

STATEMENT of the extent of Reticulation Water Mains laid during the six years ending 30th June, 1898.

		miles.	yards.
Existing mains at 30 June, 1892	...	105	1,442
Laid during year ending 30 June, 1893	...	0	204
" " 30 " 1894	...	3	1,313½
" " 30 " 1895	...	10	200
" " 30 " 1896	...	8	931
" " 30 " 1897	...	6	517½
" " 30 " 1898	...	3	363
Total	...	137	1,456

CONSUMER'S SERVICE PIPES AND FITTINGS.

STATEMENT of Notices served, Permits issued, and Inspections made during the year ending 30th June 1898.

District.	Notices served.			Permits issued.			Inspections.
	To alter or repair.	To shut off water.	Final notices.	Water main drillings and tappings.	Houses connected.	Alter or repair Service pipes.	
Newcastle	113	62	5	398	430	1,454	5,019
Maitland	8	26	.....	84	105	278	616
Total	121	88	5	482	544	1,732	5,635

Results of Analysis of Water.

Tabulated from Reports by W. M. Hamlet, F.C.S., F.I.C., Government Analyst, Sydney.

Description of monthly samples as numbered in column 2:—No. 1, Storage Reservoir, Walka; No. 2, Settling Tank, Walka; No. 3, Clear Water Tank, Walka; No. 4, Tap, Board's Office, Newcastle; No. 5, Tap, Hydraulic Power House, Carrington; No. 6, Hunter River at intake, Walka. Nos. 1 and 6 are raw waters; No. 2 is raw water specially aerated for immediate filtration, and may be No. 1 or No. 6, or a mixture of both. No. 3 is No. 2 after it leaves the filters. Nos. 4 and 5 are the filtered water as supplied to consumers, and are taken from the water mains at points distant over 20 miles from the filter beds.

Date sample taken.	Description and origin.	Expressed in grains per gallon.				Expressed in parts per million.				Hardness Clarke's degrees.		Appearance in standard 2-foot tube.	General observations on the character of the water.
		Total solid residue dried at 320°.	Chlorine as chlorides.	Nitrogen as nitrates and nitrites.	Phosphates from animal impurity.	Free ammonia.	Albuminoid ammonia.	Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes.	Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours.	Before Boiling.	After Boiling.		
1897.													
11 Aug.	1. Storage..	33.88	10.3	Trace	.00	.00	.50	1.41	2.27	...	...	Turbid.	
11 "	2. "	34.86	11.1	"	.00	.00	.44	.85	1.60	...	...	"
11 "	3. "	32.06	10.7	"	.00	.04	.15	.48	.93	20°	10°	Clear.	
12 "	4. "	35.42	11.2	"	.00	.00	.13	.41	.80	...	...	"
12 "	5. "	33.46	11.2	"	.00	.00	.13	.41	.80	...	...	"
11 "	6. River ..	21.70	6.0	"	.00	.07	.13	.39	1.73	15°	6°	Turbid.	
6 Sept.	1. Storage..	33.88	10.00	"	.00	.00	.40	.76	1.54	...	...	Clear.	
6 "	2. Mixed ..	32.20	9.20	"	.00	.09	.24	.75	1.42	...	...	"
6 "	3. "	30.66	9.20	"	.00	.00	.08	.60	1.22	20°	10°	"	
8 "	4. "	32.20	9.15	"	.00	.00	.08	.70	1.42	...	...	"
8 "	5. "	30.10	9.00	"	.00	.00	.07	.72	1.35	...	...	"
6 "	6. "	26.46	6.90	"	.00	.01	.08	.72	1.42	16°	6°	"	
5 Oct.	1. Storage..	32.90	10.3	"	.00	.10	.20	.62	1.16	...	...	Clear, small amount of suspended matter.	
5 "	2. River ..	32.50	9.3	"	.00	.05	.07	.41	.80	...	...	"
5 "	3. "	31.50	9.3	"	.00	.00	.08	.29	.51	...	...	Clear.	
7 "	4. "	32.62	9.2	"	.00	.00	.08	.30	.53	20°	10°	"	
6 "	5. River ..	31.92	9.2	"	.00	.00	.08	.29	.51	...	...	"
5 "	6. "	33.32	9.3	"	.00	.05	.07	.41	.80	20°	10°	Clear, suspended matter.	
6 Nov.	1. Storage..	34.72	10.0	"	.00	.07	.22	.78	1.33	...	...	Clear.	
6 "	2. River ..	31.64	7.9	"	.00	.07	.10	.45	.80	...	...	"
6 "	3. "	31.78	7.9	"	.00	.00	.03	.21	.40	20°	10°	"	
10 "	4. "	31.78	7.8	"	.00	.00	.03	.30	.70	...	...	"
8 "	5. "	31.78	7.7	"	.00	.00	.03	.26	.53	...	...	"
6 "	6. "	32.06	7.9	"	.00	.05	.08	.31	.60	20°	10°	"	
6 Dec.	1. Storage..	36.00	10.7	"	.00	.10	.22	.71	1.40	...	...	"
6 "	2. Mixed ..	37.00	10.8	"	.00	.08	.18	.60	1.13	...	...	"
6 "	3. "	36.82	10.8	"	.00	.00	.06	.40	.80	...	...	"
8 "	4. "	35.98	10.8	"	.00	.00	.06	.31	.66	...	...	"
8 "	5. "	36.68	10.8	"	.00	.00	.06	.31	.66	...	...	"
6 "	6. "	40.46	11.0	"	.00	.08	.08	.46	.93	...	...	"
1898.													
6 Jan.	1. Storage..	33.18	10.6	"	.00	.00	.32	.79	1.60	...	...	Clear, suspended matter	
6 "	2. Mixed ..	27.58	8.2	"	.00	.10	.20	.77	1.53	...	...	"
6 "	3. "	27.44	8.2	"	.00	.00	.04	.42	.88	...	...	Clear.	
10 "	4. "	27.30	8.2	"	.00	.00	.04	.47	.94	...	...	"
10 "	5. "	26.88	8.2	"	.00	.00	.04	.47	.94	...	...	"
6 "	6. River ..	25.78	6.1	"	.00	.05	.08	.67	1.33	...	...	Clear, suspended matter.	
3 Feb.	1. Storage..	30.60	10.4	"	.00	.09	.34	.72	1.44	20°	10°	Clear, some suspended matter.	

Date sample taken.	Description and origin.	Expressed in grains per gallon.				Expressed in parts per million.				Hardness Clarke's degrees.		Appearance in standard 2-foot tube.	General observations on the character of the water.		
		Total solid residue dried at 220°	Chlorine as chlorides.	Nitrogen as nitrates and nitrites.	Phosphates from animal impurity.	Free Ammonia.	Albuminoid ammonia.	Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes.	Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours.	Before Boiling.	After Boiling.				
1898.															
3 Feb...	2. Storage..	30.80	10.4	Trace	.00	.08	.34	.67	1.32	...	..	Clear.	
3 "...	3. " ..	32.76	10.4	"	.00	.00	.07	.37	.76	20°	10°	"			
4 "...	4. " ..	31.36	10.1	"	.00	.00	.08	.34	.67	...	...	"	
4 "...	5. " ..	31.36	10.1	"	.00	.00	.08	.41	.80	...	...	"	
3 "...	6. River ...	19.04	4.8	"	.00	.01	.09	1.04	2.11	13°	5°	Clear on standing, some deposited matter.			
7 Mar..	1. Storage..	31.85	9.5	"	.00	.14	.30	.75	1.60	...	...	Clear, greenish tint, suspended matter.	
7 "...	2. Mixed ...	27.30	7.3	"	.00	.06	.14	.62	1.30	...	...	Clear, greenish tint.	
7 "...	3. " ..	26.46	7.3	"	.00	.00	.07	.42	.80	...	...	"	
10 "...	4. " ..	25.90	7.3	"	.00	.00	.06	.42	.80	...	...	"	
10 "...	5. " ..	27.72	7.3	"	.00	.00	.06	.42	.80	...	...	"	
7 "...	6. River ...	25.34	5.8	"	.00	.00	.10	.79	1.30	...	...	Clear, suspended and deposited matter.	
6 April	1. Storage..	32.06	8.9	"	.00	.05	.26	.66	1.33	21°	10°	Clear, suspended matter.			
6 "...	2. Mixed ...	31.50	8.1	"	.00	.10	.16	.56	1.13	...	...	"	
6 "...	3. " ..	31.64	8.1	"	.00	.00	.03	.32	.66	20°	10°	Clear and bright.			
7 "...	4. " ..	29.40	8.1	"	.00	.00	.03	.32	.66	...	...	"	
7 "...	5. " ..	28.90	8.1	"	.00	.00	.03	.32	.66	...	...	"	
6 "...	6. River ...	31.92	7.85	"	.00	.09	.07	.52	1.00	20°	10°	Clear, suspended matter.			
3 May..	1. Storage..	31.00	8.9	"	.00	.06	.27	.34	.66	20°	10°	"			
3 "...	2. Mixed ...	32.00	8.9	"	.00	.04	.12	.30	.60	...	...	"	
3 "...	3. " ..	31.64	8.9	"	.00	.00	.05	.17	.33	20°	10°	Slight greenish tint; some suspended matter.	These samples show that the water maintains its average character as recorded by chemical analysis.		
5 "...	4. " ..	31.22	8.9	"	.00	.00	.05	.17	.33	...	...	"	
5 "...	5. " ..	30.66	8.9	"	.00	.00	.05	.17	.33	...	...	"	
3 "...	6. River ...	32.06	8.9	"	.00	.08	.06	.20	.40	20°	10°	"			
8 June.	1. Storage..	29.26	8.7	"	.00	.01	.32	.61	1.20	...	...	Clear, suspended matter.	The samples do not materially differ from the average composition of this water at the points named.
8 "...	2. Mixed ...	28.84	8.1	"	.00	.02	.14	.40	.86	...	...	"	
8 "...	3. " ..	28.70	8.1	"	.00	.00	.05	.29	.60	...	...	Clear.	
9 "...	4. " ..	27.44	8.1	"	.00	.00	.05	.29	.60	...	...	"	
9 "...	5. " ..	28.56	8.1	"	.00	.00	.05	.29	.60	...	...	"	
8 "...	6. River ...	28.00	7.7	"	.00	.00	.03	.33	.73	...	...	Slightly turbid.	
No. 1. Storage water (11 samples.)		32.66	9.84	Trace	None	.056	.304	.740	1.411	Averages of above results.					
Nos. 3, 4, and 5, filtered water (33 samples).		30.91	8.98	"	"	.001	.063	.368	.726						
No. 6, River water (11 samples).		28.74	7.47	"	"	.044	.079	.576	1.122						

Composition of the Solid Residue River Water (Sample No. 6).

	6th Dec., 1897, before rainfall.		3rd Feb., 1898, after rainfall.	
	Grains per gallon			
Sodium Chloride, NaCl,	16.94	.....	7.05	
Potassium ,, KCl	Trace	.....	Trace	
Magnesium ,, MgCl ₂	1.07	.....	.69	
Magnesium Carbonate, MgCO ₃	7.94	.....	2.88	
Calcium ,, CaCO ₃	6.93	.....	3.46	
Calcium Sulphate CaSO ₄	2.00	.....	0.44	
Insoluble, &c.	1.50	.....	1.40	
Organic Matter and Loss	4.08	.....	3.14	
	40.46		19.04	

[One Plan.]

HUNTER DISTRICT WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD

WATER WORKS

PLAN SHOWING THE SITUATION OF THE PUMPING STATION, TRUNK MAINS, RESERVOIRS AND THE AREAS RETICULATED.

SCALE 0 20 40 60 80 100 200 300 CHS.

SCHEDULE OF RESERVOIRS

RESERVOIR	CAPACITY	TOP WATER LEVEL ABOVE LOW TIDE LEVEL	DEPTH
WALKA STORAGE RESER.	172 408 100 GALLS	36.61 FT	20.00 FT
MAITLAND SERVICE "	463 430 "	147.03 "	15.00 "
BUTTAI SUMMIT "	1 051 010 "	302.28 "	15.00 "
MINMI SERVICE "	69 209 "	188.78 "	19.50 "
WALLSEND "	452 472 "	106.28 "	15.00 "
LAMBTON "	402 610 "	164.28 "	20.00 "
HAMILTON "	402 909 "	164.28 "	20.00 "
NEWCASTLE "	523 613 "	182.28 "	12.00 "
OBELISK HILL "	137 125 "	228.28 "	14.00 "
HIGH LEVEL TANK	20 000 "	307.03 "	11.00 "

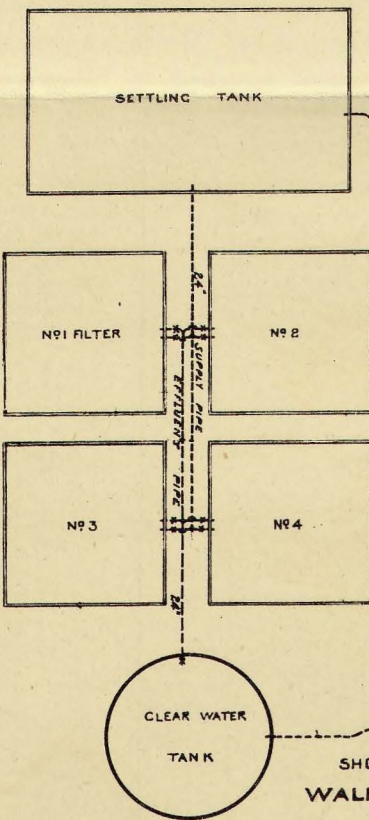
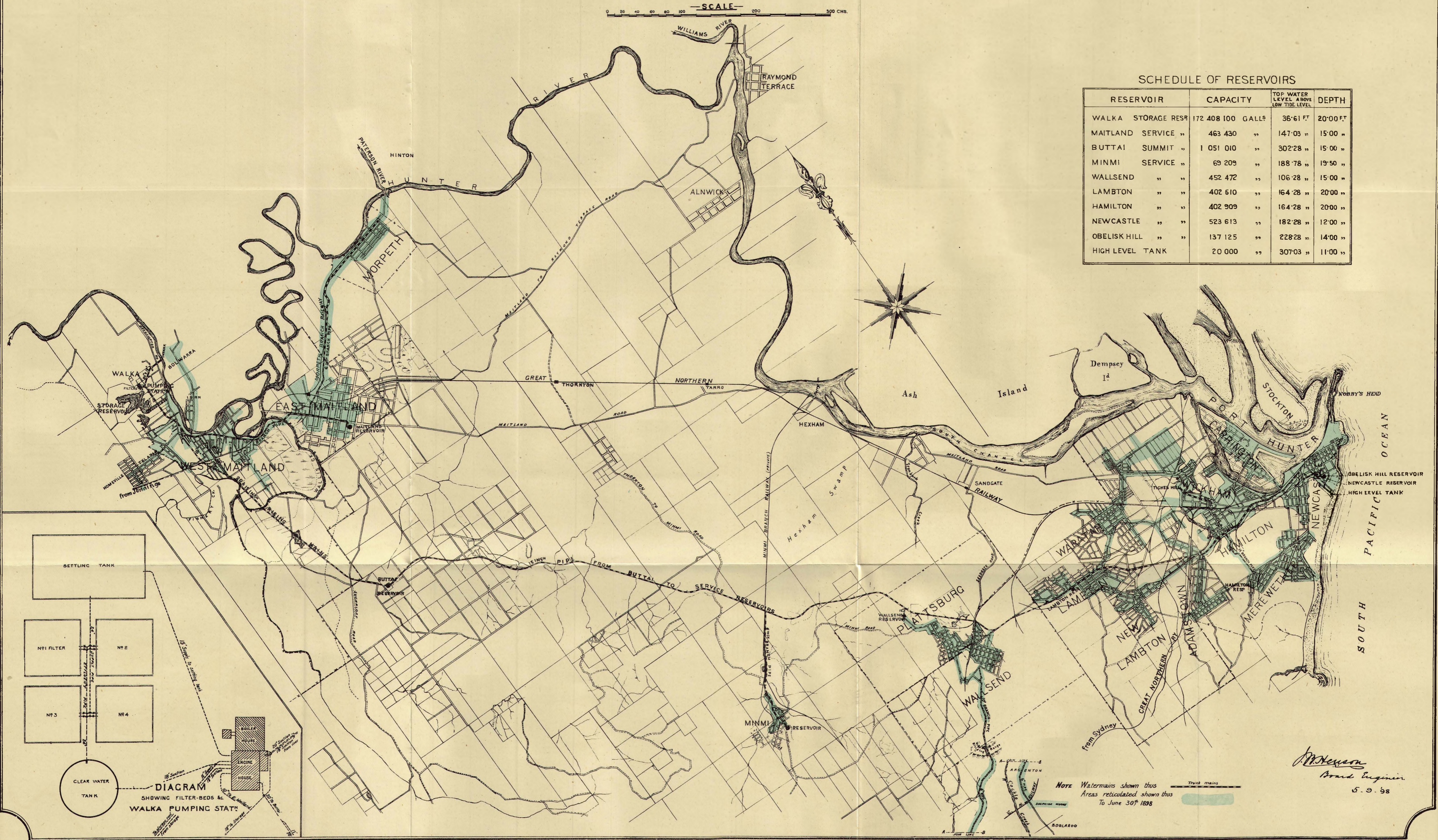


DIAGRAM SHOWING FILTER-BEDS & WALKA PUMPING STATION

NOTE Watermains shown thus
Areas reticulated shown thus
To June 30th 1898

J. H. Newman
Chief Engineer
5.9.98

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

REFUSAL OF WATER AND SEWERAGE BOARD IN RE
HOSPITAL FOR FEMALE INSANE AT RYDE.

(RETURN RESPECTING.)

Printed under No. 15 Report from Printing Committee, 8 December, 1898.

RETURN to an *Order* of the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated the 20th October, 1898, That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

“ All papers connected with the refusal of the Water and Sewerage Board to supply water free of charge to the Hospital for the Female Insane, known as Mount St. Margaret, at Ryde.”

(Mr. Lyne.)

No.	SCHEDULE.	PAGE.
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3.	Minute—Assessor to Secretary, Water Supply and Sewerage Board, 10/11/96. Report on Institution.....	3
4.	Letter—F. B. Frechill to Secretary, Water Supply and Sewerage Board, 25/11/96, inquiring on what grounds the Institution is not exempt from payment of rates	5
5.	Letter—F. B. Frechill to Secretary, Water Supply and Sewerage Board, 3/12/96, stating that as the Board is determined to levy rates the overdue rates should be sued for in the District Court	5
6.	Letter—F. B. Frechill to Secretary, Water Supply and Sewerage Board, 10/12/96, respecting Board's intention to cut off water supply	5
7.	Letter—F. B. Frechill to Secretary, Water Supply and Sewerage Board, 11/3/97, respecting rate-paper claiming £5 8s. 5d.....	5
8.	Minute—The Assessor to Secretary, Water Supply and Sewerage Board, 20/3/97, suggesting that Chief Secretary's Department be asked to say whether Mount St. Margaret is registered as an Asylum for the Insane. Reply to Board's letter, 1/4/97	6
9.	Letter—F. B. Frechill to Secretary, Water Supply and Sewerage Board, 30/8/97, further respecting claim on Institution	6
10.	Letter—F. B. Frechill to Secretary, Water Supply and Sewerage Board, 14/10/97, further respecting Board's claim, and again suggesting that matter be referred for the decision of a District Court Judge.....	7
11.	Memo.—Secretary, Water Supply and Sewerage Board, to the Assessor, 22/11/97, inquiring what action is being taken.....	7
12.	Memo.—F. B. Frechill, 2/12/98, stating that he would accept service of final notice	7
13.	Letter—F. B. Frechill to Secretary, Water Supply and Sewerage Board, 29/12/97, objecting to the case being tried by a Magistrate	8
14.	Account—3/12/97, amounting to £8 2s. 3d.	8
15.	Letter—Solicitor to Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board to Secretary of Board, 25/3/98, stating that the case " Board v. Mount St. Margaret's Home, Ryde," had been heard in the District Court and a verdict given for defendants	9
16.	Minute—Assessor, Water Supply and Sewerage Board, to Secretary to Board, 26/3/98, asking that Master-in-Lunacy be requested to say whether his Department pays fees in respect of any inmates of the Institution	10
17.	Letter—Chief Clerk, Master-in-Lunacy's Office, to Secretary, Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, 30/3/98, stating that the Master-in-Lunacy pays £18 10s. per quarter on account of Kathleen Dowley, an inmate of the Institution	10
18.	Minute—The Assessor to the Secretary, Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage, 4/4/98, in regard to obtaining a copy of the Judge's notes in connection with the case.....	11
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[580 copies—Approximate Cost of Printing (labour and material) £31 6s.]

No.	PAGE.
19. Letter—F. B. Freehill to Solicitor to Board, 16/4/98, acknowledging receipt of a letter from him, dated 14th April, 1898, and expressing surprise at its contents. (For copy of Solicitor's letter see papers numbered "No. 29.")	11
20. Minute—The Assessor, Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage, to Board's Solicitor, 5/5/98, inquiring whether rates can be collected	11
21. Memo.—Secretary to Board, 6/5/98, re serving notice for rates	11
22. Letter—Solicitor to Board to the Secretary, 31/5/98, suggesting that Mr. Freehill be notified that if the rates be not paid by a certain date that the water will be cut off	12
23. Letter—F. B. Freehill to Board's Solicitor, 29/6/98, again protesting against levy of rates	12
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No. 1.

Agreement to Rent Meter.

METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE.

THIS Agreement, made the 12th day of August, 1895, between the Board of Water Supply and Sewerage (hereinafter designated the said Board) of the one part, and St. Margaret's Roman Catholic Convent of Good Counsel, Gladesville Road, Ryde (hereinafter designated the said Consumer), of the other part, witnesseth that for the mutual considerations herein expressed the said Board agree to let and the said Consumer agrees to take and hire a 1-inch water meter and couplings at a yearly rental, payable half-yearly in advance on the 1st day of January and the 1st day of July, of 11s. per annum upon the terms and conditions set forth on the back hereof, which conditions, together with the by-laws and regulations of the Board, are intended to be read as part of this Agreement.

In witness whereof the said Board of Water Supply and Sewerage have hereunto set their Common Seal, and the said Sister M. Joseph O'Regan has hereunto set her hand and seal the day and year first before written.

The Common Seal of the Board of Water Supply and Sewerage was fixed hereto on the 10th day of September, 1895, in the presence of,—
C. W. DARLEY, T. ROWE, and G. W. LANDER.

C. W. DARLEY,
President.
T. ROWE,
G. W. LANDER.

Signed, sealed, and delivered, by the said Sister M. Joseph O'Regan in the presence of,—
SISTER M. ANTONIO O'DALY.

SISTER M. JOSEPH O'REGAN.

CONDITIONS.

I. The Consumer shall cause the Meter and all piping and other work necessary for properly affixing the same, and for conveying water from the mains of the Board to the lands and hereditaments of the Consumer, to be fixed and laid down at his own cost and expense by a duly licensed plumber under the direction and to the approval of some authorised officer or representative of the said Board.

II. The scale of charges shall be as follows:—For $\frac{1}{2}$ " Meters, 7/-; $\frac{3}{4}$ ", 9/-; 1", 11/-; $1\frac{1}{2}$ ", 13/-; $1\frac{3}{4}$ ", 15/- per annum.

III. The said Board and all officers, workmen, and servants employed by them shall have full right and liberty to enter upon the said premises of the said Consumer from time to time at all reasonable hours for the purpose of fixing the said Meter and keeping the same in repair and in proper working order and of taking the register thereof, and for the purpose of making any inspection, alteration, or disconnection, or removal thereof, or of any water piping cocks cistern or apparatus in connection therewith or for any other purpose in connection with the said supply of water which the said Board may think necessary.

IV. The said Meter, with the fittings connected therewith, shall be and remain the absolute property of the said Board, and shall, with the pipes and fittings from the main of the said Board to the exterior of the said premises of the said Consumer, be subject to the sole control and governance of the said Board.

V. The said Consumer shall and will keep the said Meter properly protected from all accident or damage from fire or other causes, and hereby agrees to be responsible to the said Board for its safe keeping and condition and answerable for any damage or injury which may be done to or sustained by the said Meter.

VI. The said Consumer shall not either himself or by any workman or others disconnect the said Meter or fittings connected therewith or interfere with the same for repair or otherwise than by these presents is provided, and in the event of any repairs to the said Meter being at any time found necessary the said Consumer will immediately thereupon give Notice thereof to the said Board and the said Board will with all convenient speed effect such repairs to the said Meter as shall be found necessary.

VII. The said Board will at their own cost and expense maintain and repair the said Meter to the extent of ordinary wear and tear, but if in any case it shall be found by the said Board that any repairs to the said Meter have become necessary in consequence of such Meter having been wilfully or accidentally damaged the said Consumer shall be liable for the cost of such repairs and he hereby agrees to pay the same to the said Board on demand.

VIII. The said Board shall be at liberty at any time they may think fit or from time to time by their Officers, workmen, or servants, at their own expense, to disconnect and remove the said Meter and to affix and substitute any other Meter of like dimensions and capacity in its place and to disconnect and remove any Meter supplied by them under these presents for the purpose of testing the accuracy thereof or for examination or repairs, provided that in so doing they shall cause as little inconvenience as possible to the said Consumer, and it is hereby agreed that where in any case the said Board shall remove the said Meter and affix and substitute any other Meter in its place under this Clause then and in any such case this Agreement and every Clause and provision thereof shall be taken to apply to any such substituted Meter in like manner as if such substituted Meter had originally been described in this Agreement instead of the Meter herein described.

IX. The quantity of water which shall be registered by the said Meter as having been supplied shall be taken as the quantity actually supplied and the said Consumer shall except as hereinafter provided be estopped from disputing the correctness of such registration or alleging that the said Meter was not in good working order and condition, provided always that if the said Consumer shall at any time be dissatisfied with any particular reading of the said Meter and shall be desirous of having the same tested he shall give written notice thereof to the said Board within seven days of such reading and thereupon the said Meter shall be tested by passing through it into a vessel of known capacity sufficient water to fill such vessel and if upon such testing it shall appear to the satisfaction of the said Board that the said Meter registers above 5 per cent. more than was actually passed through it at such testing, then the said Board will bear the expense of and incidental to such testing, and will also adjust the charge for water supplied to the said Consumer, but if the said Meter upon such testing shall not register more than 5 per cent. more than the quantity that shall have actually have passed through it then the said Consumer shall pay to the said Board in addition to the sums hereinbefore agreed to be paid by him all the expenses of and incidental to such testing, provided further that such expenses shall not exceed the following sums, namely: if the Meter shall be tested at the Board's testing rooms at Crown-street, Sydney, the sum of two shillings and sixpence if the Meter be a half-inch Meter, the sum of three shillings and sixpence if the Meter be a three-quarter inch Meter, the sum of five shillings if the Meter be a one-inch Meter, the sum of five shillings and sixpence if the Meter be a one-inch and one-quarter of an inch Meter, and the sum of six shillings and sixpence if the Meter be a one-inch and one-half an inch Meter, but if the Meter be tested on the premises of the said Consumer the cost of material and labour required or employed in such testing will be charged to the said Consumer, provided, however, that the maximum charge for such testing shall not exceed forty shillings in the case of each Meter.

X. The said Consumer shall not be at liberty to avail himself of the right to test the said Meter provided by the said last Clause of these presents for any quarter of the year other than the one next preceding his giving written notice within seven days of the last reading of the said Meter to the said Board of his dissatisfaction and desire to have the said Meter tested as aforesaid.

XI. The said Consumer shall not transfer this Agreement to any other person without written consent of the Board.

XII. If the said Consumer shall be at any time desirous of discontinuing the use of the said Meter he shall give to the Board fourteen days' notice to that effect, and at any time after receipt of such notice the Board may remove the said Meter from the said premises, but the said Consumer shall be and remain liable to the said Board for the rent of the said Meter at the rate beforementioned until the end of the half year current at the time of the expiration of such fourteen days' notice.

XIII. Upon breach or non-observance of any Clause or condition of these presents the said Board shall be at liberty without a previous notice to discontinue the supply of water and remove the said Meter, and to immediately sue for and recover from the said Consumer the amount of any loss or damage which the said Board may have sustained through such breach or non-observance and of any money which may be then due to them for water supplied or otherwise, and the said Consumer doth hereby for himself, his heirs, executors, and administrators covenant with the said Board and their successors that he the said Consumer, his executors and administrators will well and truly observe, perform, fulfil, and keep all and singular the covenants, conditions, and agreements hereinbefore contained, and will duly and punctually make all payments as hereinbefore appointed, and further will observe in connection with such supply of water all the provisions of the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Act of 1880, the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Act of 1888, the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Act Amendment Act of 1889, and any further Amending Act hereafter to be passed and any By Laws and Regulations of the said Board in force at the date of these presents, or which the said Board may hereafter from time to time make or apply in connection with water supplied by them or any matter relating thereto.

No. 2.

F. B. Freehill, Esq., to The Secretary to the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage.

(96-7,357.)

Devon Chambers, Hunter and O'Connell Streets,

Dear Sir,

Sydney, 24 June, 1896.

The Lady Superior of the Mount St. Margaret Hospital for the Insane has handed me a notice demanding payment of the water rates upon the said Hospital. This Institution is conducted by the religious Order of Nuns known as the Little Company of Mary, the same Order which conducts the Lewisham Hospital for Women and Children and the Night Refuge in William-street, Sydney, and the said Hospital is for the reception of insane patients, who are provided with accommodation and necessaries by the Sisters without charge, these ladies having devoted their lives to the service of their patients. The Institution is exempt from the payment of water rates under the provisions of the 63rd section of the Act 43 Vic. No. 32.

It seems singular that the Board should find it necessary to harass the conductors of these various Institutions by making demands for rates, and then on the claim for exemption being pointed out admitting it, and subsequently making a fresh claim; and I shall be glad if the Board will deal once for all with these matters, and thus prevent an amount of unnecessary correspondence.

Yours truly,

FRANK B. FREEHILL,

Hon. Sec.

Assessor for report.—W.H., 25/6/96. S/C.—F. PAWLEY, 25/6/96. Mr. Pringle to defer.—K.V., 28/6/96 Reg. No. 102,560, Ryde.—H. C. DE WITT, 26/6/96. 102,560.—E.L.C., 4 p.m., S.C. Deferred 173.—J. PRINGLE, 26/6/96. Position showing any arrears. D.C. for report on "form."—K.V., 26/6/96. Report attached.—H. C. DE WITT, 17/7/96.

S.C. This property is shown in Meter Clerk's book of Charitable Institutions, and I am told by the Mother Superioress that they have been informed that the Board have exempted them from the payment of rates, provided they fix a meter, which they have done.—HENRY C. DE WITT, 18/7/96.

No. 3.

Minute Paper.

Subject:—Rates—Mount St. Margaret Hospital, Ryde.

Sydney, 10 November, 1896.

HEREWITH is forwarded a report on the Mount St. Margaret Hospital for Insane, Glebe-street, Ryde, which Mr. Freehill, in his attached letter, contends should be relieved from liability for rates.

H. J. B.,

Assessor.

The Secretary.

Submitted to the Board, 12/11/96. Deferred for a week, Mr. Taylor promised to make some inquiries.—W.H., 13/11/96. Submitted to the Board, 17/11/96. The

The Vice-President reported that he had made some inquiries into this matter and found that this Institution could not, in any sense, be classed as a charitable one. It was a convent school, and although there were two insane patients there, they were each paid for, and therefore the place should be treated in the same way as other similar institutions, and charged. He had also ascertained that the premises were not exempt, as reported by the Assessor, from the payment of Municipal rates. The Board therefore resolved to reply that the request for exemption could not be complied with.—W.H., 18/11/96.

Inform. Informed.—No. 7,220 of 18/11/96. Assessor to note, and for report as to error in report. D.C. Who made this report?—H.J.B., 19/11/96. H. C. de Witt.—K.V., 20/11/96.

I am only able to say, in reply to this report, that I received the information contained in my report from the lips of the Lady Superior in charge of the Institution herself, and she impressed upon me the fact that Mr. Freehill had received a notification from the Board stating the Hospital should be exempt, and actually showed me a post-card from Mr. Freehill to her to that effect.—HENRY C. DE WITT, 20/11/96. The Assessor.

Name and address of Institution—Mount St. Margaret Hospital, Glebe-street, Ryde.
 Object of Institution—Care of insane females.
 How many inmates?—Four.
 What work is done by inmates for their support?—None.
 What amount is realised by work?—Nil.
 What other sources of revenue?—Nil.
 What Government endowment?—Nil.
 What fees are charged inmates?—What they can afford.
 Are any salaried persons employed?—Medical attendant and two male servants.
 Is this Institution self-supporting?—Supported from their own resources.
 Is the water used as a matter of profit?—No.
 Estimated quantity of water used per annum—Domestic only.
 Is the property owned by Institution?—Yes.
 Is the property exempted by Municipal Council?—Yes.
 Register No.—102,560.
 Meter No.—Meter fixed, but no number quoted.
 Annual assessment—£126.

Name and address of Institution—Mount St. Margaret Hospital, Glebe-street, Ryde.
 Object of Institution—Care of insane females.
 How many inmates?—Four.
 What work is done by inmates for their support?—Nil.
 What amount is realised by work?—Nil.
 What other sources of revenue?—Nil.
 What Government endowment?—Nil.
 What fees are charged inmates?—Nominally what they can afford.
 Are any salaried persons employed?—Medical attendant and two men servants.
 Is this Institution self-supporting?—Only from their own resources.
 Is the water used as a matter of profit?—No.
 Estimated quantity of water used per annum—Domestic only.
 Is the property owned by Institution?—Yes.
 Is the property exempted by Municipal Council?—Yes.
 Register No.—102,560.
 Meter No.—Meter fixed, but no number quoted.
 Annual Assessment—£126.

This property is shown in Meter Clerk's book of Charitable Institutions, and I am told by the Mother Superior that they have been informed that the Board have exempted them from the payment of rates, provided they fix a meter, which they have done.—HENRY C. DE WITT, 18/7/96.

I cannot trace these papers—F. PAWLEY, 14/9/96. Mr. Roseby. Assessor.—T.R., 15/9/96.
 Mr. Pawley. These papers must be found.—H.J.B., 15/9/96.

I interviewed the Lady Superior of the Convent *re* this matter, 9th inst., and saw a letter from Mr. Freehill to her, dated July 8th, stating that he had received a communication from this Department informing him that the authorities would not be further troubled for these rates, as they were exempt from payment of water rates.—HENRY C. DE WITT, 13/10/96. Assessor.

Received.—30/10/96. Record Clerk. Let me see a copy.—T.R., 30/10/96. Assessor. Mr. Parker states no letter left the Secretary's Branch stating these premises were exempt.—F. PAWLEY, 31/10/96.

(91/172-245.)

22 January, 1891.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of 14th instant, stating that a demand had been made by the Board for water rates on the Children's Hospital, Petersham, I have the honor to inform you that the account was sent in error. The Institution is exempt from the payment of rates, and a credit has been passed for the amount.

I have, &c.,
 F. B. Freehill, Esq., Solicitor, 25, Castlereagh-street.

R. BLOXSOME.

Having read the previous records, I find that this Institution—"The Mount St. Margaret Hospital for the Insane," Ryde—has never been exempted by the Board. The attached report shows that it is devoted to charitable purposes, and exempted by the local Council. Perhaps this might be considered as an application for exemption. In reference to the last part of Mr. Freehill's letter, it appears that subsequent to the exemption of the Lewisham Hospital a rate-notice was served there in error, and the error acknowledged.—T.R., 2/11/96. Assessor.

Write minute to Board for exemption.—H.J.B., 2/10/93. Written.—W. PURCELL, 10/11/96.

Mr. Freehill states that when he received the notice for rates he immediately wrote and protested against the payment, as the premises were exempt, being for charitable purposes. The Sisters who have charge of St. Margaret Hospital have also under their charge Lewisham Hospital and the Night Refuge, Sydney. Mr. Freehill handed me a letter from Mr. Bloxsome, No. 91/171-245, which was as follows:—"In reply to your letter of 14th, *re* payment of rates, I beg to state that we sent notice in error, as the premises are used for charitable institutions." Freehill says he would be glad if the Board were to make a test case of this. Under the Act the premises are exempt, being charitable institutions.

No. 4.

F. B. Freehill, Esq., to The Secretary to the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage.

Devon Chambers, Hunter and O'Connell Streets,
Sydney, 25 November, 1896.

Sir,

Re Mount St. Margaret's Hospital, Ryde: I beg to acknowledge having received, on the 20th inst., a reply to my letter addressed to you on the 24th June last, in reference to exemption of above Institution from water rates, in which you inform me that the Board regret that the request cannot be complied with.

As there is no matter of favour in the application, but as the exemption is claimed as a matter of right, I shall be obliged if you will let me know upon what grounds the Institution is held not to be exempt.

I have, &c.,

FRANK B. FREEHILL.

Submitted to the Board, 1/12/96. The Board saw no necessity for furnishing their reasons for the action they have taken in this matter.—W.H., 2/12/96. Ackg. and inform. Written, No. 7,534, of 2/12/96.

No. 5.

F. B. Freehill, Esq., to The Secretary to the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage.

Devon Chambers, Hunter and O'Connell Streets,
Sydney, 3 December, 1896.

Dear Sir,

Your letter No. 96-7,534,14,446. As the Board have determined to charge the water rates on the Mount St. Margaret Hospital for the Insane, and as the Board is unwilling to give the reasons for its determination—the matter being an important one—I would propose, so as to have the rights of the parties decided beyond question, that these overdue rates should be sued for by the Board in the District Court at Sydney, the defendants consenting to the jurisdiction of that Court.

Yours truly,

FRANK B. FREEHILL.

Assessor. What is the amount owing?—W.H., 4/12/96. Mr. H. SOLOMON.—F. PAWLEY, 4/12/96. E.C., Registered No. 102,560.—H. SOLOMON, 4/12/96. To December, 1896—M. 8,440; water, £3 13s. 6d.; rent, 5s. 6d.—C. T. HANCOCK, 4/12/96. Detailed account herewith.—H. SOLOMON. Mr. Roseby. The Secretary.—T.R., 5/12/96. Submitted to the Board, 8/12/96. The Board resolved that Mr. Freehill be informed that if the rates due are not paid the water supply will be shut off from the premises.—W.H., 9/12/96. Informed, No. 7,639, of 9/12/96. Assessor, for report as to the distance which these premises are from the main (give sketch).—W.H., 9/12/96. Distance from main in Glebe-street, 254 feet. Sketch herewith attached.—LOUIS E. THOMAS, N.M.C., 15/12/96. The Assessor. The Secretary.—H.J.B., 15/12/96.

Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage, 341, Pitt-street, Sydney, 4th December, 1896.

The Secretary, Mount St. Margaret Hospital, Ryde,—

Dr. to the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage for rates for the half-year hereunder named, on the property numbered in the Rate-book as under:—

Register No. 102,560.

Nature and position of property.—Mount St. Margaret Hospital, Ryde.

	£	s.	d.
For the half-year commencing 1st January, 1896	1	16	9
„ „ 1st July, 1896	1	16	9
M. 8,440; rent	0	5	6
Total	£3	19	0

No. 6.

F. B. Freehill, Esq., to The Secretary to the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage.

Devon Chambers, Hunter and O'Connell Streets,
Sydney, 10 December, 1896.

Dear Sir,

Re Mount St. Margaret Hospital: I am very much surprised to find that your Board should be unwilling to have a matter of principle settled in the only way in which it can be settled, *i.e.*, by a competent Court. As you state that you intend to cut off the water supply, I have to warn you that should such a step be taken, I shall apply to the Supreme Court for an injunction restraining you, and for damages.

Yours, &c.

FRANK B. FREEHILL.

Attach papers.—W.H., 14/12/96. Submitted to the Board, 15/12/96. Further action deferred until Assessor's report on the general question is received, when a special meeting of the Board will be held to deal with the matter.—W.H., 16/12/96. Assessor.

No. 7.

F. B. Freehill, Esq., to The Secretary to the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage.

Devon Chambers, Hunter and O'Connell Streets,
Sydney, 11 March, 1897.

Dear Sir,

Referring to previous communications, I beg to inform you that a rate-paper has been served at St. Margaret's Hospital at Ryde, claiming water-rate, £1 14s. 11d., and arrears, £3 13s. 6d.

As I have already intimated, this Institution is entitled, I contend, to exemption under the provisions of the Act of Parliament under which the Board has been called into existence. It seems to me

me extraordinary that there should be so much trouble in settling this question. In previous communications it was promised that the matter should be taken into consideration at an early date, and I shall be glad to know what your Board intends to do in the matter.

If you take legal proceedings, I shall be very glad to accept service of process.

Yours, &c.,

FRANK B. FREEHILL,
Hon. Secretary,
(per W. KNIGHT).

Assessor states his report on Charitable Institutions will be ready for next Board meeting.—E.P., 12/3/97.

No. 8.

Minute Paper.

Subject:—Hospital for Mental Invalids, Mount St. Margaret, Ryde.
Sydney, 20 March, 1897.

I THINK it advisable that a letter be sent to the Chief Secretary, asking whether this Institution is registered as a private asylum for lunatics, and if so, the number of patients resident there.

I visited the Hospital on Wednesday last, for the purpose of obtaining all possible information to enable me to complete my report on the Charities, called for by the Board, and was told by the Superior that she had been advised to give no further particulars.

W. J. BEAUMONT,
Assessor.

The Secretary. Write Principal Under Secretary.—W.H., 22/3/97. Written No. 1,959 of 24/3/97. Resubmit in a week.—W.H., 24/3/97. Resubmitted.—E.P., 1/4/97. Secretary. In another week.—W.H., 2/4/97. Letter from Colonial Secretary herewith.—H.J.B., 2/4/97. The Secretary.

The Principal Under Secretary to The Secretary to the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage.

Sir, In reply to the inquiry contained in your letter of the 24th ultimo, I am directed by the Chief Secretary to state that the house known as "Mount St. Margaret," Ryde, is a licensed house for the reception of the insane, and at the time the license was renewed, on the 20th October last, for a further period of twelve months, it was understood that there were five patients in the house.

Chief Secretary's Office, Sydney, 1 April, 1897.
I have, &c.,
CRITCHETT WALKER,
Principal Under Secretary.

Assessor.—W.H., 2/4/97.

No. 9.

F. B. Freehill, Esq., to The Secretary to the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage.

Devon Chambers, Hunter and O'Connell Streets,
Sydney, 30 August, 1897.

Dear Sir,

The Rev. Mother Antonio O'Daly has handed me a notice from your Board with respect to College and land on the Gladesville-road. As your Board must be aware, there is not any such thing as a college. The Institution is a charitable one for the reception of female insane, and I have already informed you that it claims to be exempt from the payment of water rates under the provisions of the Act under which your Board operates.

Some time since, I applied to you in order to have some steps taken to have a definite settlement of the question of the exemption from liability of this and other similar institutions, and would be glad if your Board would have the matter settled one way or the other.

Yours, &c.,

FRANK B. FREEHILL
(per W. KNIGHT).

Assessor.—W.H., 31/8/97. I cannot identify this property. I have telephoned several times to Mr. Freehill, but I cannot catch him now.—C. SMITH, 1/9/97. Papers herewith.—E.P., 9/9/97. Meter Clerk please supply account showing consumption of water since first laid on.—H.J.B., 12/9/97.

Meter No. 8,440, Convent of St. Margaret (Hospital), Gladesville-road, Ryde; fixed 13th August, 1895:—From August 13, 1895, to June 29, 1896—62,000 galls., at 1s. per 1,000, £3 2s; Cr. by allowance (assessment), £3 2s. From June 29, 1896, to June 16, 1897—105,000 galls., at 1s. per 1,000, £5 5s.; Cr. by allowance, £5 5s. To rent of meter to—Dec., 1895, 5s. 6d.; June, 1896, 5s. 6d.; Dec., 1896, 5s. 6d.; June, 1897, 5s. 6d.; Dec., 1897, 4s. 3d.; total, £1 6s. 3d. By payments, 11s., leaving balance owing of 15s. 3d.—E.R.A. (per W. G. HUGHES), 20/9/97. Assessor.

This property has not been exempted by the Board as a charity: I would therefore suggest that Mr. Freehill's request be complied with, viz., that a writ be issued for the recovery of the rates due.—H.J.B., 21/9/97. The Secretary.

Submitted to the Board, 29/9/97. Recommendation of Assessor adopted.—W.H., 29/9/97. Assessor. S.C. proceed.—H.J.B., 30/9/97. D.C., serve final notice, giving forty-eight hours.—J.P., for Assessor, 1/10/97. What amount is owing to December, 1897? Reg. No. 119,115.—HENRY C. DE WITT, 7/10/97. Summons Clerk. Accountant, for amount due.—K.V., 7/10/97. Rec., 9/10/97. Rates, £7 7s.; meter 8,440, rent 15s. 3d.; £8 2s. 3d.—J.H.F., 9/10/97. Assessor. S.C., H.J.B., 11/10/97. D.C., for final.—K.V., 12/10/97. Final notice served to-day, to expire on 20th inst.—HENRY C. DE WITT, 13/10/97. Assessor. P.S.—The only name I can get as tenant of this house is Rev. Mother Joseph. The nun in charge would give me no other information. Is this sufficient for the purpose?—H.C. DE W.

No. 10.

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No. 10.

F. B. Freehill, Esq., to The Secretary to the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage.

Re the Licensed House for the Insane, Mount St. Margaret, Ryde.
Devon Chambers, Hunter and O'Connell Streets,

Sydney, 14 October, 1897.

Dear Sir,

The Rev. Mother Joseph has handed me a notice in reference to the water rates which your Board claims to have the right to recover in respect of water supplied to the Licensed House for the Insane, Mount St. Margaret, Ryde. As there is only one possible way in which the matter can be set at rest, and as I understood from a report I read in the daily Press that your Board was willing to have the matter submitted to legal decision so that the rights of the parties could be established, my clients are prepared to consent to have the matter tried at the Metropolitan District Court, so that a District Court Judge could give a decision which would settle the matter once for all. The necessary facts could be admitted, and a final result arrived at without delay or inconvenience.

I shall be glad if you will let me know whether the Board is prepared to take this course.

Yours, &c.,

FRANK B. FREEHILL.

Assessor,—What has been done?—W.H., 15/10/97. H.C. de Witt reports that the only name he can get as tenant is Rev. Mother Joseph, and that the nun in charge would not give her own name, nor any further information. Final expires on 20th instant.—K.V., 15/10/97. At the expiration of the final notice, action will be taken; final expires on 20th instant.—H.J.B., 18/10/97. The Secretary. Assessor please see me.—W.H., 19/10/97. S.C. for account.—H.J.B., 29/10/97.

Final served in name of Rev. Mother Joseph, and Mr. Freehill in his last letter gives the name of Rev. Mother Antonio O'Daly. Acting under instructions, I called at Mr. Freehill's office this date for further particulars *re* name, and find that Mr. Freehill is in Melbourne, and will not return to Sydney until Monday week. Can matter stand over until then?—K.V., 29/10/97.

S.C.—Are not the two Mothers one and the same person?—H.J.B., 1/11/97. D.C.—K.V., 1/11/97. No; Rev. Mother Antonio O'Daly is the proper authority to be sued.—HENRY C. DE WITT, 5/11/97.

No. 11.

Memorandum.

RATES due on Mount St. Margaret Home, Ryde: What action is being taken?—W.H., 22/11/97. Assessor. Final notice served on Rev. Mother Joseph; Rev. Mother Antonio O'Daly is the lady (D.C. says) to be sued. Summons herewith. S.C.—L. SOLOMON, 24/11/97. Assessor,—Summons and papers, 97-11,445. sent to solicitor.—K.V., 25/11/97. The Secretary.—H.J.B., 25/11/97. Assessor,—What was the result?—W.H., 28/12/97. Other papers.—K.V., 5/1/98. Assessor,—Summons withdrawn from the Ryde Court (see papers), and sent to District Court. Hearing February next.—K.V., 7/1/98. The Secretary.—H.J.B., 8/1/98. Assessor,—When will this case come on?—W.H., 15/3/98. The Board solicitor is awaiting reply from Mr. Freehill as to date of hearing. I think it will be heard about beginning of next week.—H.J.B., 16/3/98. The Secretary.

No. 12.

Memorandum.

Board *v.* St. Margaret's Home.

341, Pitt-street, near Bathurst-street, Sydney, 2 December, 1897.

Ask Mr. Freehill to kindly say on this paper if he will admit the service of a final notice in the above matter; and, if he will not, whether he will accept a final notice on behalf of the parties liable.

I will accept service of final notice on behalf of all trustees.—FRANK B. FREEHILL. K.V. P.T.C. for summons.—K.V., 2/12/97.

Trustees, Mount St. Margaret, Ryde:—Most Rev. Patrick Francis Moran, Cardinal Archbishop of Sydney; Right Rev. Joseph Higgins; Very Rev. J. J. Carroll; Venerable Samuel Austin Sheehy; Hon. Thomas Dalton, M.L.C.; Gerald Thomas Dalton; Francis Bede Freehill.

Memorandum.

From the Ryde Municipal Council to Mr. Beaumont.

Council Chambers, Ryde, 2 November, 1897.

Dear Sir,

The name on our Assessment-book for house and land, St. Margaret's, is Sister Antonio O'Daly; owner, Cardinal Moran.

Yours, &c.,

JOHN FORSYTH,

Acting Council Clerk.

Final served on Rev. Mother Joseph. Rev. Mother Antonio O'Daly is in charge, and is the Lady (D.).

Assessor,—This case might be taken in the Small Debts Court. Please ask Mr. Freehill whether he will admit the service of a final notice, and, if he will not, whether he will accept a final notice on behalf of the parties liable.—H.S.W., 26/11/97.

S.C.—Final served this day on Mr. Freehill, to expire on 15th December, 1897. Butt with Mr. Solomon.—P. BOLAND, 8/12/97. Assessor,—Final served on Mr. Freehill, and expires on 15th.—K.V., 9/12/97. S.C.—I understood this summons was issued over a week ago.—H.J.B., 10/ 2/97.

Assessor,—See solicitor's minute, 26/11/97, and Freehill's reply, on front herewith. A number of calls had to be made at Mr. Freehill's office before he could be seen, and a fresh final also served.—K.V., 11/12/97.

S./C.—Proceed without delay.—H.J.B., 13/12/97. P.C., for action on expiry.—H.V., 14/12/97. Summonses herewith.—L. SOLOMONS, 17/12/97. S./C. Mr. Pearce.—K.V., 17/12/97. Date of hearing, Jan. 4, 1898, Ryde Court.—A. H. PEARCE, 28/12/97. Board's solicitor.—K.V., 28/12/97.

Assessor.—Mr. Freehill called to-day and stated that he objects to accept service of summonses in the Police Court, as he agreed that the case should be heard in the District Court. As the defendants live in various districts, I think you had better withdraw this summons and sue in the District Court.—H.S.W., 29/12/97.

No arrangements were made as stated.—K.V., 29/12/97. Mr. Purcell (*per* Assessor).—Write withdrawing case from Ryde Court, inform Mr. Freehill, and return papers for further action.—K.V., 29/12/97. Written.—T. PURCELL, 30/12/97. Mr. Pearce.—Hold for Court. See that everything is ready. Asst. Bks. Signed, &c.—K.V., 19/1/98.

No. 13.

F. B. Freehill, Esq., to The Secretary to the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage.

Devon Chambers, Hunter and O'Connell Streets,
Sydney, 29 December, 1897.

Dear Sir,

Re Mount St. Margaret's, Ryde. Without prejudice. I have received a summons to attend the Small Debts Court for the recovery of the rates herein, at Ryde. I never, under any circumstances, agreed to have this question submitted to the adjudication of magistrates. I did agree to have the matter decided in the District Court, which would procure an authoritative decision, and be more satisfactory to all concerned. I therefore object entirely to the jurisdiction of the Court at Ryde, and have seen Mr. Williams, the Board's solicitor, and have informed him that I am prepared and still ready to agree to have a case tried at the District Court in February next, and thus to secure a judicial interpretation of some value.

I shall be glad, therefore, if you will make arrangements to withdraw the proceedings at Ryde.

Yours, &c.,

FRANK B. FREEHILL,
(*per* F. W. KNIGHT.)

Papers, 97-14, 037. Board solicitor, 29/12/97. Board solicitor.—W.H., 30/12/97. Case withdrawn. Assessors instructions.—K.V., 30/12/97. Secretary. I have already advised the Assessor that the proceedings at Ryde had better be withdrawn.—H.S.W., 30/12/97. Assessor.—W.H., 31/12/97.

No. 14.

Account.

Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage,
341 Pitt-street, Sydney, 3 December, 1898.

Most Rev. Patrick Thomas Moran, Right Rev. Joseph Higgins, Very Rev. J. J. Carroll, Venerable Samuel Austin Sheehy, Hon. Thomas Dalton, M.L.C., Gerald Thomas Dalton, and Francis Bede Freehill.

Dr. to the Board of Water Supply and Sewerage, for Rates for the half-year hereunder named, on the property numbered in the Rate-book as under:—

Register No.—119,115; M., 8,440.			
Nature and position of property—House and land, Gladesville Road, Ryde.			
For the half-year commencing 1 January, 1896	...	£1 16 9	
" " 1 July, 1896	...	1 16 9	
" " 1 January, 1897	...	1 16 9	
" " 1 July, 1897	...	1 16 9	
			£7 7 0
Meter 8,440—Rent to December, 1896	...	0 5 6	
" " June, 1897	...	0 5 6	
" " December, 1897	...	0 4 3	
			0 15 3
			£8 2 3

Final notice served on 8 December, 1897, by D. C. Boland on Mr. Hoy, clerk to Mr. Freehill.

Attention is directed to the following:—Act 43 Vic., No. 32, clause 90.
If any tenant of any premises be called on to pay, and pay or be distrained for a greater amount of any rate, charge, or sum due to the Board under this part than is due for the period of his occupancy . . . such tenant may deduct any sum so paid or recovered from the rent from time to time becoming due to such owner in respect of such premises, or, after demand, may recover the same from such owner.

N.B.—If this amount, together with the costs of summons, be paid into the Police Court before the day of hearing, further costs will thereby be avoided.

Mount St. Margaret Home for Mental Invalids.—C.C. The Board solicitor says we cannot recover this amount (£7 7s.), which was sued for in the District Court. Cancel same, also 9s. costs of Small Debts summonses incurred prior to District Court proceedings.—T.R., 18/8/98. By direction from Mr. Beaumont. Please attach papers.—J.R.N., 18/8/98. Mr. Pawley. C./C. Why not credited before.—H.J.B., 22/8/98.

Amount entered in Credit-book (to be posted by R. L. keeper) on the 19/8/98, under instructions from Assistant Assessor. Application herewith for authority to credit the amount, as under, Reg. No. 119,115, Water, £7 7s., and Dist. Fee, 5s. Papers might be passed to Summons Clerk for credit of 9s. costs.—J.R.N., 23/8/98. The Assessor.

Credit approved and entered C.B. No. 4, folio 190. Reg. No. 119,115. Water, £7 7s., Dist. Fee, 5s.—£7 12s.—J.R.N., 2/9/98. The Assessor. S./C. to note.—H.J.B., 2/9/98. Noted.—K.V., 5/9/98. Attached to papers.—H.J.B., 6/9/98. Attached.—F. PAWLEY, 7/9/98.

No. 15.

The Solicitor to the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage to The Secretary.

Re case "Board v. Mount St. Margaret's Home, Ryde."

Sir,

Sydney, 25 March, 1898.

I have the honor to report that this case came on for hearing at the District Court to-day and resulted in a verdict being entered for the defendants.

The action was brought by the Board against the Trustees of Mount St. Margaret's Home for Female Insane, Ryde, to recover £8 2s. 3d. due for water rates and rent of meter in respect of such premises, and was defended on the ground, "That the premises in question being used as a public hospital and a charitable institution the plaintiff is compelled by the provisions of the Act 43 Vic. No. 32, sec. 63, to supply water without charge."

It was in the first instance arranged between Mr. Frechill, the defendant's solicitor (and one of the trustees of the Institution), and myself, that the case should be tried on admissions, and a set of admissions were prepared by me and submitted to him for approval; but as he required admissions by me that the Institution is a non-sectarian charitable institution, which makes no charge to patients, but is open for the reception of female insane persons without respect of creed, and without condition, and relies for its subsistence on voluntary donations only, and as I refused to make such admission this arrangement fell through.

In the course of preparing the case for hearing, I saw the late Mayor of Ryde, Mr. Potts, and the present Council Clerk of that municipality, Mr. Short, and questioned them as to the nature of the Institution, and although they were not in a position to give very much information on the subject, I learnt from them that the Council's rates had been paid under an informal protest up to last year, and that a day-school for children is conducted on part of the property, but they could not say whether or not fees were charged the school children; however, the defendants admitted that in the case of some children small fees are charged.

I could, however, obtain no evidence as to whether fees are charged for the insane patients. I contended, on the hearing of the case, that the property is liable for rates, inasmuch as it cannot be regarded as a public hospital or charitable institution.

Firstly,—Because it pays rates to the local Council, from which it would be exempt under the Municipalities Act if it were a charitable institution.

Secondly,—Because school fees are charged to certain of the children attending a day-school conducted on part of the property.

Thirdly,—Because being a registered lunatic asylum the friends of patients can be made to contribute to their support under lunacy law.

Fourthly,—Because the Institution is not supported out of municipal rates, as apparently required by the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Act, before it can claim exemption.

Fifthly,—Because the Lady Superior of the Institution had signed an agreement for the hire of a meter to the property, and therein agreed to pay all moneys due under such agreement and abide by the provisions of the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Acts.

And Sixthly,—Because the name of the Institution, viz., "The Convent of Our Lady of Good Counsel," indicates that it is a Roman Catholic institution and not a public hospital.

Mr. Frechill, the defendant's solicitor, in the capacity of a trustee of the Institution, gave evidence in the case, and stated that, to his own personal knowledge, the Institution is entirely charitable, and is conducted by some five or six Sisters of Charity for the care of female insane persons. That it makes no charge for admission, but that persons up to the licensed number (six or thereabouts) are admitted unconditionally and without reference to creed, the place being entirely unsectarian, and its objects being public charity. He added that the rates to the Council had been paid under protest, and produced letters from the Council acknowledging his protest, but insisting upon payment, as they had been advised that the Institution was ratable. He stated that the defendants are willing to pay a fair rate on the part of the property used as a school, but contended that the assessment cannot be divided, and that if it is bad in part it is bad altogether. He repudiated the authority of the Lady Superior to bind the trustees by her agreement for hire of meter, and stated that the trustees never had any knowledge of such an agreement, and that it had been sprung upon him in this case, and contended that his letters to the Board, as one of the trustees, repudiating the liability of the trustees for rates must be taken as notice to the Board of termination of the agreement. I cross-examined Mr. Frechill, and elicited that the land on which the Institution stands had been given to the Church by the late Mr. Thos. Dalton for the formation of this Institution, but could not shake his evidence, which was given in a most decided and emphatic manner.

I contended that in any case the agreement must stand, as the occupier, who might fairly be treated as the agent of the trustees, had signed it, and even if the place had been admitted by the Board to be a charity (which it was not), such an agreement would be required, because of the school conducted on part of the property.

After considerable argument on the cases quoted. His Honor held that he must accept Mr. Frechill's uncontradicted evidence that the Institution for the insane is entirely a charity, relying entirely upon voluntary support, as conclusive that it is a charity, and stated his opinion to be, under such circumstances, that it is entitled to exemption under the provisions of the Act. He did not think that the Act required a hospital or charitable institution to be supported out of municipal rates to bring it within the exemption from rates, and he considered that the provisions of the Lunacy Act do not apply to a private lunatic asylum, such as this. (I have since learnt privately that the Master-in-Lunacy does deal with the property of an insane lady in this same institution under the provisions of the Lunacy Act.) His Honor further held that he could not give the Board a verdict for rates on that part of the property on which the school is conducted, because he has no power to divide the assessment of the whole property. He also held that the payment to the local Council being (according to Mr. Frechill's evidence) under protest could not be regarded as a payment at all. He also held that the agreement for hire of meter signed by the Lady Superior became nullified by Mr. Frechill's letters protesting against payment of rates, even if it were binding on the trustees at all, and that even if it were binding, it was for payment of

of moneys due, and as he held the place to be a charitable institution entitled to exemption from rates no moneys became due. Under these circumstances His Honor held that the Board could not recover, and found a verdict for defendants.

From His Honor's decision no appeal lies, as the amount in dispute does not exceed £10, and I do not see that the Board can take any further action until they are in possession of evidence as to the true nature of the Institution, and I have already advised the Assessor to have a searching inquiry made in the matter, and suggested that a letter be written to the Master-in-Lunacy for information as to the character of the Institution. I could see that both the Council Clerk and the late Mayor knew in their own minds that fees are charged at this Institution, and that the Institution is not such as Mr. Freehill swore it to be, but they had no authority on which they could give evidence on the point, but (as indicating his opinion on the matter), the Council Clerk stated to me that "he never would have thought Mr. Freehill would have the audacity to swear what he did in his evidence." The impression both the Mayor and Council Clerk have is that the Institution is for the reception of wealthy insane ladies of the Roman Catholic faith, who can pay well for the care they receive at the Institution.

I certainly do not think that the matter should be allowed to rest in its present state, but that the Board should direct that no pains be spared in ascertaining the true nature of the establishment, and if it be ascertained that as is thought, and as I believe it will be found, fees are charged for treatment of patients in the Institution, I would have no hesitation in advising that the water should be disconnected from the place until the rates have been paid.

As the amount in dispute was under £10 no costs are payable. I may add that the 63rd section of the Act is a complicated and difficult section to understand, and that the sooner it is amended by legislation which may be clearly understood such as is contained in the present amending Bill, the better for both the Board and the ratepayer. I return all papers.

Yours, &c.,
H. S. WILLIAMS.

Submitted to the Board, 30/3/98. Read and ordered to stand over pending receipt of further information from Master-in-Lunacy.—W.H., 30/3/98. Resubmit on Monday, 4th April.

In the Metropolitan, Suburban, and Hunter }
District Court, holden at Sydney. }

No. 98-139.

Between the Board of Water Supply and Sewerage, plaintiff, and His Eminence Patrick Francis Cardinal Moran and others, defendants.

TAKE Notice that we intend to defend this action and to rely upon the following grounds of special defence, namely,—

1. Not indebted.

2. That the premises in question being used as a Public Hospital and a Charitable Institution, the plaintiff is compelled by the provisions of the Act 43 Vic. No. 32 section 63, to supply water without charge.

Dated this 27th day of January, A.D. 1898.

FRANK B. FREEHILL,
Attorney for Defendants.

Devon Chambers, Hunter and O'Connell Streets, Sydney.

No. 16.

Minute Paper.

Subject :—Rates. Hospital for Mental Invalids, Mount St. Margaret, Ryde.

Sydney, 26 March, 1898.

In company with the Board solicitor I had an interview yesterday with the Master-in-Lunacy regarding this Institution, and I should be pleased if you would cause a letter to be sent to the Master, asking him whether the authorities of the Hospital make any charge on him for any of their patients, and also whether any payments are made by him in respect of the same.

H. J. BEAUMONT,
Assessor.

The Secretary,—Write at once and request reply to-day.—W.H., 28/3/98. Written No. of 28/3/98.

I have the honor to request that you will kindly state, for the information of the Board, whether the authorities of the Hospital for Mental Invalids, Mount St. Margaret, Ryde, make any charge upon you in connection with the maintenance of any of the patients housed in that Institution, and also whether any payments have been made by you in respect of the same. As this matter is an urgent one, I would be pleased if you could let me have your reply to-day. The Master-in-Lunacy.

No. 17.

The Chief Clerk, Master-in-Lunacy's Office, to The Secretary to the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage.

Master-in-Lunacy's Office, Supreme Court, Chancery Square,
Sydney, 30 March, 1898.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 28th instant (No. 98/2,183), I am directed to inform you that in the case of Kathleen Dowley, a patient in the licensed home for the insane, Mount St. Margaret, Ryde, the Master-in-Lunacy pays maintenance to the Lady Superior from funds to the patient's credit in this office at the rate of £18 10s. per quarter.

I am to add that the records of this office show that in other cases the relatives of patients at Mount St. Margaret defray the cost of their maintenance.

I have, &c.,
H. EDWARDS,

Submitted.—W.H., 1/4/98. Board.—T.R., 1/4/98.

Chief Clerk.

It was resolved that Board solicitor should communicate with Mr. Freehill, informing him of the particulars now in the possession of the Board regarding this Institution, and requesting payment of the rates.—W.H., 6/4/98. Board solicitor.

Letter as instructed. Matter delayed until date, pending further inquiries made by Assessor.—H.S.W., 14/4/98. Resubmit in a week.—W.H., 18/4/98.

No. 18.

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No. 18.
Minute Paper.

Subject:—Board against Trustees, Home for Mental Invalids, Ryde.

Sydney, 4 April, 1898.

I HAD a conversation with the Board's solicitor this afternoon as to the advisability of procuring a copy of Judge Backhouse's notes herein, and would suggest that this paper be referred to him for his opinion.

H. J. BEAUMONT,

Assessor.

The Secretary. Board solicitor.—W.H., 5/4/98. Secretary. In my report on this case I have stated in effect the evidence given by Mr. Freehill. It will depend on the further action resolved upon by the Board whether the Judge's notes are required or not.—H.S.W., 6/4/89.

No. 19.

F. B. Freehill, Esq., to The Solicitor to the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage.

Devon Chambers, Hunter and O'Connell Streets,

Sydney, 16 April, 1898.

Dear Sir,

Re Mount St. Margaret's, Ryde. I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 14th inst., and must express my astonishment that the Board should have the audacity to attempt to override a judicial decision. It seems to me to be a very fortunate thing that this Board cannot trample upon the rights of the public, as they evidently feel inclined to do in the case of the various institutions which I have the honor to represent. It is a notorious fact that the Board dare not proceed against an institution, such as the Prince Alfred Hospital, although a claim is made for a very substantial sum for water supplied to that institution.

I am prepared to fight the Board in every possible way, and shall take the earliest opportunity of exposing the contemptible manner in which the Board has endeavoured to treat, not only the Mount St. Margaret's Home, but also the Lewisham Hospital, the St. Patrick's Blind Asylum, and the Night Refuge in William-street, Sydney.

As one of the public, I would suggest that the Board might get a measure passed through Parliament enabling it to trample upon the rights of all the citizens, irrespective of the denomination to which they belong.

Yours, &c.,

FRANK B. FREEHILL.

Received.—H.S.W., 19/4/98.

Secretary.—I understand that a further sum of £1 16s. 9d. is due for rates upon this property, and would suggest that the matter be brought to a determination in the Supreme Court, by a formal notice that the water will be disconnected unless such sum be paid; otherwise, I presume, the matter will remain in abeyance until the liability or otherwise of institutions, such as the present, for rates has been more clearly defined by legislation. The object of a notice that the water will be disconnected is to give Mr. Freehill an opportunity of applying to the Supreme Court in Equity for a mandamus to compel the Board to supply water free of charge to the Institution. On such a motion the matter would be finally settled by an authoritative decision.—H.S.W., 19/4/98.

Submitted to the Board, 4/5/98. It was resolved to adopt the advice of the Board's Solicitor.—W.H., 4/5/98. Assessor attach account. Account herewith.—W. J. PURCELL, for Assessor, 5/5/98. Board's solicitor. Secretary.—The usual rate notice should first be served upon the property—has this been done?—H.S.W., 6/5/98.

No. 20.

Minute Paper.

Subject—*Re* Home for Mental Invalids, Mount St. Margaret, Ryde.

341, Pitt-street, near Bathurst-street, Sydney, 5 May, 1898.

As the District Court decision in *re* rates hereon has been against the Board, will you please say whether the amount sued for can yet be recovered, as, if not, I think it would be well to write off the same.

To Board Solicitor.

H.J.B.

Assessor.—This amount cannot be recovered, but it would be well not to write it off at present until it is seen how the matter develops. It should not, however, be charged in any accounts rendered.—H.S.W., 6/5/98. S/C. and C/C., also D/C. to note.—H.J.B., 18/5/98. Noted.—K.V., 19/5/98. Register No. 119,115. Solicitor's remarks noted in Register.—J.R.N., 20/5/98. The Assessor. D/C., to note. Noted.—HENRY C. DE WITT.—21/5/98. Attach papers.—H.J.B., 23/5/98. Assessor. Attached.—W. H. DANSEY, 26/5/98.

No. 21.

Memorandum.

I SEE that a rate notice was served on 2nd March last for—

Current rates	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1 16 9
Arrears	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7 7 0
Costs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0 9 0
									£9 12 9

Have another notice served for the current half-year's assessed rates only, and do not mark it "duplicate;" the District Clerk to serve it personally on the lady in charge, and record this fact on these papers. This to be done at once.

Assessor.

W.H.,

6/5/98.

D/C. to carry out at once.—H.J.B., 6/5/98. These instructions I have carried out, on Saturday, as instructed by you.—HENRY C. DE WITT, 9/5/98. Assessor. The Secretary.—T.R., 9/5/98. Board solicitor.—W.H., 11/5/98., Secretary. Letter to Mr. Freehill. Copy herewith.—H.S.W., 13/5/98. Submitted.—W.H., 16/5/98. Noted.—T.R., 16/5/98. S/C. to note.—H.J.B., 26/5/98. Noted.—K.V., 1/6/98.

RYDE.

RYDE.

(Duplicate.)

No. 119,115.



Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage, 341, Pitt-street, near Bathurst-street, Sydney.
To Sister Antonio O'Daly, or the present Occupier, Lessee, Owner, Agent, Trustee, &c., &c., of the undermentioned Property.

Notice is hereby given that by virtue of the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Acts of 1880 and 1888, the Amendment Act, 1889, and the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Act Extension Act of 1894, the Board of Water Supply and Sewerage have ordered and directed the undermentioned premises to be rated for the half-year commencing 1st January, 1898, at the sums and for the purposes hereunder set forth:—

Premises Rated.	Assessed Value.	Charges.	Description of Rates.	Amount for Half-year.
	£ s. d.	Particulars of Water and Sewerage Charges can be obtained at the Head Office.		£ s. d.
College and Land, Gladesville Road	126 0 0		Water Rate	1 16 9
			Sewerage or Drainage Rate .....	.....
L. A. No. 127.			Total	£

You are requested to pay the amount of the above rates at the Office of the Board of Water Supply and Sewerage, 341, Pitt-street, near Bathurst-street, within one month from date of service of this notice. If the same be not paid by that date, legal proceedings will be taken for the recovery of the amount due with costs.

WILLIAM HOLMES,
Secretary.

Date of service, 1898.

N.B.—You are requested to bring this notice with you when you come to pay, and, to prevent inconvenience, the exact amount of change.

Office hours—9 to 3; Saturday, 9 to 12.

None but the official receipt on printed form bearing the Board's stamp will be recognised.

Rates for special fees are not included in this notice.

The right of the Board to proceed for recovery of arrears (if any) of rates overdue not to be prejudiced by the service of this notice.

Cheques, Postal-notes and Post Office Orders will be received and duly acknowledged; and when sending remittances please state where the receipt is to be sent.

REMITTANCES SENT BY POST MUST BE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY.

No. 22.

The Solicitor to the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage to The Secretary.

Re Mount St. Margaret Home, Ryde.

Sir,

39, Castlereagh-street, Sydney, 31 May, 1898.

I have the honor to report that I have not received any reply from Mr. Freehill to my letter to him of 14th instant, and to suggest that a further letter be now written him, limiting a time for payment of the rates owing, and notifying that the water will be disconnected from the property after the day named unless the rates be paid.

Yours, &c.,

H. S. WILLIAMS.

Submitted.—W.H., 1/6/98. Board recommend.—T.R., 2/6/98. Submitted to the Board, 8/6/98. The suggestion of the solicitor was adopted, and it was decided that fourteen days be given in which to pay.—Board solicitor.—W.H., 8/6/98. Letter written to Mr. Freehill.—H.S.W., 9/6/98. Secretary. The fourteen days' notice given has expired, and I have had no reply. I suppose that nothing remains now but to disconnect the water if the Board intend to press the matter.—H.S.W., 24/6/98. Submitted for approval.—W.H., 25/6/98. Approved; take action.—T.R., 27/6/98. Please write Mr. Freehill, saying that as rates are still unpaid, the water will now be cut off.—W.H., 27/6/98. Board solicitor. Secretary. Letter written.—H.S.W., 29/6/98. Assessor.—W.H., 30/6/98.

No. 23.

F. B. Freehill, Esq., to The Solicitor to the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage.

Devon Chambers, Hunter and O'Connell Streets,

Sydney, 29 June, 1898.

Dear Sir,

Re Mount St. Margaret Hospital for Female Insane. Referring to previous correspondence herein, I see no reason whatever to withdraw anything that I have written with regard to this matter.

The Board propose to disregard a judicial decision, which was arrived at after agreement between the Board and the trustees of the Institution that the matter should be left to the decision of a Judge of the District Court. You seem to consider that the Board is justified in charging this Institution for water because the Master-in-Lunacy has paid some money for the support of a patient. If Mount St. Margaret's Home does not come within the Act, then it seems to me that the long list of institutions which are supplied free of charge by the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage are not entitled, because, as far as I know, all the large hospitals do receive money from patients, and in some instances actually have rooms which are only let to persons who are able to pay a weekly sum.

I have written strongly on the matter because I can only come to the conclusion that the manner in which the Board has treated the Institution at Ryde, and the other institutions conducted by the same Order, is so different from the manner in which many of the other public institutions in the metropolitan area have been treated.

It seems to me to be a most outrageous thing for the Board to cut off the water.

Yours, &c.,

FRANK B. FREEHILL,

(per F. W. KNIGHT.)

Secretary.—I have already written Mr. Freehill so fully on this matter that I do not consider that this letter needs a reply.—H.S.W., 30/6/98. Submitted.—W.H., 30/6/98. Noted.—T.R., 1/7/98.

No. 24.
Memorandum.

Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage.

DR. to W. Short.

Ryde, 22/7/98.

To attendance at District (two days) as witness in Board v. Mount St. Margaret's Institution...£1 1 0

Assessor,—W.H., 23/7/98. This might be referred to Board solicitor.—H.J.B., 23/9/98.
The Secretary. Board solicitor,—W.H., 25/7/98. Secretary,—No witnesses fees were allowed, and I think that as this case is equally of importance to the Council as to the Board these expenses should not be claimed.—H.S.W., 26/7/98. Seen.—W.H., 28/7/98. Assessor,—What action have you taken in this case?—W.H., 28/7/98. S/C. for report.—H.J.B., 28/7/98. Assessor see papers herewith.—K.V., 3/8/98. Received. Assessor instructs that water is to be cut off at once. Check carefully.—K.V., 12/8/98. 119,115-M8440. £9 3s. 9d.; 9s. costs; 12s. 6d. meter; 4s. 3d. rent; 19s. 6d. arrears. Solicitor. Position to June, 1898.—J.P., 16/8/98. J.N.E., 16/8/98. Water shut off at path cock.—J.S., 16/8/98. Dis. fec. 5s. charged and noted in Dis. Bk.—J.P., 17/8/98. Assessor.—K.V., 17/8/98. The Secretary.—T.R., 19/8/98.

No. 25.

The Superioress, Convent of Mercy, North Sydney, to The Secretary to the
Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board.

Convent of Mercy, "Monte Sant Angelo,"

North Sydney, 22 July, 1898.

Dear Sir,

We have given land at Waitara (on the Peat's Ferry Road) for a foundling hospital, and I have been desired to write and ask you to place it on the list of charitable institutions exempt from water rates. Apologising for troubling you,

I am, &c.,

S. M. ALOYSIUS,

Superioress.

Assessor,—W.H., 25/7/98. I cannot identify.—S.O.C., 25/7/98. D/C.—K.V., 25/7/98. 57,291. Gordon. There are papers *re* this.—HENRY C. DE WITT, 26/7/98. Papers herewith.—F.P., 28/7/98. Other papers. I cannot trace.—F.P., 2/8/98. S/C. D/C.—K.V., 3/8/98.

A paper was marked to me from you to ascertain the number of inmates and all particulars of this institution, a few weeks back, which paper I returned, as the authorities were not then in possession. The Meter Clerk sent an officer to get the same information.—HENRY C. DE WITT, 4/8/98.

Papers. S/C. Inspector Wilson.—A.M., 5/8/98. Report attached.—H. A. WILSON, 9/8/98. Assessor,—A.M., 9/8/98. Papers herewith.—W. H. DANSEY, 9/8/98. Assessor,—T.R., 10/8/98. Report herewith.—H.J.B., 12/8/98. The Secretary.

Reg. No. 57,291, Foundling Hospital, Peat's Ferry Road, Gordon.

The above new building has been assessed, and a permit issued this day for domestic purposes, without reference to rates, the owners claiming exemption from water rates, on the grounds that it is a charitable institution. A report as to the nature of the Institution, &c., might be obtained in the usual way.—S.E., 23/6/98.

The Assessor. Defer. D/C. Report on usual form.—K.V., 23/6/98. Deferred. Please return for further action. 57,291.—J. PRINGLE, 27/6/98. The authorities are not yet in occupation of this place, please resubmit in a week.—HENRY C. DE WITT, 28/6/98. The Assessor. One week. Resubmitted.—F. PAWLEY, 5/7/98. D/C.—K.V., 6/7/98.

Inspector Wilson has been instructed to report on this case, and has, I believe, sent in his report. Will you please ascertain from Mr. Absell what are the particulars, or shall I make an independent report. The authorities have not yet entered into possession, nor will do so for another three weeks.—HENRY C. DE WITT, 5/6/98. Assessor.

Mr. Wilson's report will suffice; this paper can now be filed.—T.R., 7/7/98.

Name and address of Institution?—Foundling Hospital, Waitara.
Object of Institution?—To rescue foundling children.
How many inmates?—Thirty-eight infants and twelve adults (six servants included).
What work is done by inmates for their support?—Not any.
What amount is realised by work?—Not anything.
What other sources of revenue?—Charitable contributions only.
What Government endowment?—Not any.
What fees are charged inmates?—5s. per week each child, if friends are able to pay.
Are any salaried persons employed?—Yes; six servants at 3s. per week.
Is this Institution self-supporting?—No.
Is the water used as a matter of profit?—No.
Estimated quantity of water used per annum?—546,000.
Is the property owned by Institution?—Yes.
Is the property exempted by Municipal Council?—Not any Council at Gordon.
Register No. 57,291.
Meter No. 10,201.
Annual assessment, £80.

—H.J.B., 12/8/98.

Submitted.—W.H., 15/8/98. Board—T.R., 15/8/98. Submitted to the Board, 17/8/98. It was resolved that these premises be exempted.—W.H., 17/8/98. Inform. Informed, No. 5,657 of 18/8/98. Assessor. C/C.—T.R., 19/8/98. Regr. No. 57,291, Water, £1/3/1. Credit entered, folio 214. Will this come under the 50 or 30 gallons per head allowance?—S.E., 22/8/98. The Assessor. Noted.—H.J.B., 23/8/98. Same as St. Ann's, Liverpool.—H.J.B., 24/8/98. Noted (30 gallons per head) entered in Charity-book; Meter Inspector might note.—S.E., 25/8/98. The Assessor. Meter Clerk.—H.J.B., 25/8/98.

No. 26.

No. 26.

Extracts.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—*Hansard*, 24th August, 1898.

METROPOLITAN WATER AND SEWERAGE BOARD.

Mr. LYNE: It will be in the recollection of the Secretary for Public Works that a few nights since I asked him a question with regard to the action of the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board in cutting off the supply of water to an institution at Ryde. The honorable gentleman said that he was going to bring in a Bill to amend the law. I wish to draw his attention to the fact that the Board has taken the extreme course of cutting off the water supply, and that the Institution is now actually without water.

Mr. YOUNG: I have a perfect recollection of what took place the other evening. Yesterday I received a letter from a gentleman, who, on behalf of the Institution, pointed out the exact state of affairs. It appears that there is some difference of opinion as to whether it is or is not a charitable institution. I have sent this letter on to the Board for such statement as it may choose to make, and after that I will consider if it is my duty to interfere with the administration of the Board in reference to this matter.

Mr. LYNE: I wish to know whether the honorable gentleman will suspend the action of the Board until a Bill to amend the law is brought in?

Mr. YOUNG: It is somewhat difficult to do that, because I do not know how long it will be before the Bill is brought in. I unhesitatingly say that the Board has no right to treat one charitable institution differently from another charitable institution. I understand that the Institution does a great deal of work—washing, or something of that kind—for payment. I am not sure whether the money is used for charitable purposes. It is a matter which requires serious consideration, and I should not be justified in interfering with the discretion of the Board without having a full knowledge of the whole subject.

Put with papers. JNO. P.—30/8/98.

Sydney Morning Herald, 18th August, 1898.

Mr. LYNE said he would like to ask the Minister for Works to make an effort to prevent the Water and Sewerage Board at Ryde from cutting off the supply of water from certain institutions. The supply had been cut off on the ground that the Water Board could not legally grant the supply free of the cost. It had been promised to introduce an amending Bill, in which the illegality would be removed. He desired that the Water Board should take no action pending the introduction of the proposed Bill.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS said he would inquire into the matter immediately, and he would introduce a Bill, as promised, at the earliest opportunity.

The motion was carried, and the House at 10:35 p.m., adjourned till the usual hour on the following day.

Daily Telegraph, 25th August, 1898.

WATER FOR BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS.

The leader of the Opposition asked the Minister for Works, in the Legislative Assembly yesterday afternoon, why the Water and Sewerage Board had stopped the supply of water to a charitable institution at Ryde. Mr. Young, in the course of his reply, said that there appeared to be some difference of opinion as to whether this particular Institution could come under the general definition, inasmuch as it was supposed to do some work for payment. But the matter had been referred to the Water and Sewerage Board, and when the reply was received it would be for him to decide as to how far he would be justified in interfering with the decision of the Board in the matter.

Daily Telegraph, 26th March, 1898.

A CLAIM FOR WATER RATES.

The Mount St. Margaret Hospital.

In the District Court, before Judge Backhouse, the Water and Sewerage Board brought an action against the trustees of Mount St. Margaret Hospital for Female Insane, which is situated on the Gladesville Road at Ryde, for the recovery of £8 2s. 3d. for rates and rents for a water meter for two years, ending December, 1897. Mr. H. Williams appeared for the Board, and Mr. F. B. Freehill for the trustees of the Hospital.

The Board claimed payment of the water rates as stated, and a contract, which was signed by the Mother Superior of the community, agreeing to pay what rates were due, was submitted. It was claimed that this contract was binding on the trustees, and it was further pointed out in support of the Board's case that municipal rates had been paid, showing that the Hospital was not regarded as a charitable institution.

Mr. Freehill, for the defence, pleaded not indebted, with the special defence that the premises in question being used as a public and a charitable hospital, the plaintiffs were compelled, under section 63 of the Water and Sewerage Act, to supply water without charge. He pointed out that the Institution was non-sectarian in character, and was supported entirely by voluntary contributions. The average number of inmates was between five and six. The point for his Honor to decide was whether the Institution was a charitable one, and, if so, whether it was not exempt under Act. In June, 1896, he had written to the Board, repudiating any claim they might have against the trustees for rates; and in December of that year a communication was received from the Board to the effect that if the rates were not paid the water would be cut off. He had replied, stating that if the water were cut off he would bring the matter before the Supreme Court. Some further correspondence had passed between them, and he invited the plaintiffs to take proceedings in the matter in order that the question might be settled.

His Honor ruled against the plaintiffs. He pointed out that the covenant which had been signed by the Mother Superior was binding on the trustees, as she was a responsible person connected with the Institution. But the covenant was to pay rates which were due, and he (His Honor) held that no rates were due, as, in his opinion, the Hospital was exempt, being a charitable institution. The verdict would be for the defendants.

Daily

Daily Telegraph, 26th March, 1898.

CLAIM FOR WATER RATES.

The right of Mount St. Margaret's Hospital for Female Insane at Ryde to the free use of water was determined by Judge Backhouse in the District Court yesterday. The Water and Sewerage Board brought an action against the trustees of that Institution for two years' water rates and rent of meter, and based their claim on the fact that the Mother Superior of the Hospital had covenanted to pay rates, and that as municipal rates had been paid, it could not be claimed that the Hospital was exempt from the payment of water rates on the ground that it was a charitable institution. The demand for rates was opposed, it being argued that the Hospital was maintained by voluntary subscriptions, was non-sectarian in character, and was in every respect a charitable institution. The Judge sustained the contention raised by the defence, and with regard to the covenant pointed out that the contract entered into by the Mother Superior was to pay rates which were due. As there were no rates due the covenant did not touch the case at all.

No. 27.
Rate Notice.

RYDE.

(Duplicate.)

No. 119,115.



Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage, 341, Pitt-street, near Bathurst-street, Sydney.
To Sister Antonio O'Daly, or the present Occupier, Lessee, Owner, Agent, Trustee, &c., &c., of the undermentioned Property.

Notice is hereby given that by virtue of the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Acts of 1880 and 1888 the Amendment Act, 1889, and the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Act Extension Act of 1894, the Board of Water Supply and Sewerage have ordered and directed the undermentioned premises to be rated for the half-year commencing 1st July, 1898, at the sums and for the purposes hereunder set forth :—

Premises Rated.	Assessed Value.	Charges.	Description of Rates.	Amount for Half-year.
	£	Particulars of Water and Sewerage charges can be obtained at the Head Office.		£ s. d.
College and Land, Gladsville	126		Water Rate	1 16 9
			Arrears	1 16 9
			Sewerage or Drainage Rate ...	.....
L. A. No. 127.			Total	£ 3 13 6

You are requested to pay the amount of the above rates at the office of the Board of Water Supply and Sewerage, 341, Pitt-street, near Bathurst-street, within one month from the date of service of this notice. If the same be not paid by that date, legal proceedings will be taken for the recovery of the amount due with costs.

WILLIAM HOLMES,

Secretary.

Date of Service, August 25th, 1898.

N.B.—You are requested to bring this notice with you when you come to pay, and to prevent inconvenience the exact amount of change.

Office hours—9 to 3 ; Saturday, 9 to 12.

None but the official receipt on printed form bearing the Board's stamp will be recognised.

Rates for special fees are not included in this notice.

The right of the Board to proceed for recovery of arrears (if any) of rates overdue not to be prejudiced by the service of this notice.

Cheques, Postal-notes, and Post Office Orders will be received and duly acknowledged, and when sending remittances please state where the receipt is to be sent.

REMITTANCES SENT BY POST MUST BE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY.

No. 28.

F. B. Frechill, Esq., to The Secretary for Public Works.

Devon Chambers, Hunter and O'Connell Streets,

Sydney, 23 August, 1898.

Sir,

Re Mount St. Margaret's, Ryde, and the Water and Sewerage Board. On behalf of the trustees of the Institution known as Mount St. Margaret's, Ryde, I have the honor to place before you the following facts :—

The Institution in question was established for the purpose of forming a Hospital for Female Insane, to be conducted by the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary. The Sisters give their services entirely without any charge or salary whatsoever. They receive patients whether they are able to pay or not. Where they can get some payment on account of the maintenance of the patients they accept it. In one particular instance they receive some payment from the Master-in-Lunacy in respect of a patient under their charge.

The Water and Sewerage Board have for some time past contended that the Institution is not entitled to receive water free of charge, and the trustees believe that the Institution is so entitled. Correspondence between the Board and myself (on the part of the trustees) was carried on for some time, with the result that the Water and Sewerage Board, on the 9th December, 1896, wrote, saying that they would cut off the water supply immediately unless the rates claimed were paid. I wrote in reply, protesting against this action, and threatened to apply to the Supreme Court for a mandamus to compel the water to be so supplied. Before this letter of the 9th December, 1896, I had written to the Board, inviting them to take proceedings in some competent Court for the recovery of the rates for the purpose of

of having a judicial decision on the subject. On the 17th January, 1898, a plaint was issued by the Board in the Metropolitan and Hunter District Court, holden at Sydney, to recover the sum of £8 2s. 3d. for rates and hire of meter. Certain admissions were made and certain evidence was given, and the case was heard before His Honor Judge Backhouse on the 25th March, 1898, when he decided, on the evidence and admissions, that the Institution was entitled to exemption from payment of water rates, and accordingly he gave a verdict against the Water and Sewerage Board.

For some reason or other, the Water and Sewerage Board have again made a claim for rates, and on the 17th instant cut off the water from the Institution.

According to the return furnished towards the end of last year by yourself, although the Board supplies almost every conceivable institution of a charitable nature in the metropolitan area with water, it makes an exception with regard to this particular Institution. If the fact of the Institution being in receipt of payments from some patients who are able to pay is sufficient ground for refusing the exemption, then I think, in fairness, that all institutions which receive any payment on behalf of any patients should likewise be excluded. The Board, however, apparently draws a distinction, but upon what grounds I am unaware.

The trustees of the Mount St. Margaret's Home do not receive any State aid whatever. The majority of institutions which do receive water free from the Board are in the habit of accepting payment from any person who may be in a position to pay. In their case, apparently, the Board does not consider this circumstance as in any way destroying the right given to charitable institutions, under the Act, to receive water free of charge.

As I understand an Act of Parliament is to be introduced dealing with the whole question shortly, the trustees ask me to appeal to you to compel the Water and Sewerage Board to continue to supply the water pending the introduction of a Bill to deal with the whole matter. I send herewith copy of the report of the case heard before His Honor Judge Backhouse.

I have, &c.,

FRANK B. FREEHILL.

See Water and Sewerage Board.—R.H., Under Secretary Public Works and Commissioner for Roads, 24/8/98. Urgent. Received 27/8/98.—W.H. Board solicitor,—Will you please prepare a reply to this for the Minister's information.—W.H., 27/8/98. Secretary,—Draft of reply containing full information herewith.—H.S.W., 30/8/98. Letter to U.S.P.W., No. 6,021 of 31/8/98.

No. 29.

The Secretary to the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage to The Under Secretary for Public Works.

Sir,

Sydney, 31 August, 1898.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt on 27th instant of Mr. Freehill's letter on the above matter, addressed to the Hon. the Secretary for Public Works, and referred to me by you on 24th instant, and am directed to supply you with the following information in connection with the matter:—

On the 12th August, 1895, the Lady Superior of the Mount St. Margaret's Convent, Ryde, signed an agreement with the Board to hire a water meter at 11s. per annum, and take a supply of water for the Institution through meter, and the Board accordingly fixed a meter and supplied water to the Institution. No payments were received by the Board for the water supplied to the Institution, but upon service of the usual rate notice in about the month of June, 1896, the Board received a letter from Mr. Freehill claiming exemption from rates for the Institution.

The Board thereupon made inquiry as to the true character of the Institution, the result of which has made it clear to the Board that the property rated cannot properly be considered to be a charitable institution or public hospital and entitled to exemption from rates.

Under the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Act the Board is authorised to supply water free to "public hospitals" or "charitable institutions."

On inquiry of the local Municipal Council the Board ascertained that the Council did not regard or treat the Institution as a charitable institution, but had always insisted upon and received payment of municipal rates by such Institution, from which it would be exempt under the Municipalities Act if it were a charitable institution, and that such rates had been paid to the Council up to the end of last year. Further the Board found that a day-school is conducted on part of the property, and that school fees are charged for the children attending such school. Again, subsequently, on inquiry of the Chief Secretary, the Board learned that the Institution is registered as a licensed house for the reception of the insane, and that at that time there were five patients in the house.

The name of the Institution as appearing on its gates being "The Convent of our Lady of Good Counsel," the Board considered as indicating that the place was a Roman Catholic convent and not a public hospital or charitable institution in any proper sense. The Council Clerk of the municipality, further, informed the Board that the Institution was really a Roman Catholic convent, in which Roman Catholic insane ladies were taken for treatment.

The Board having informed Mr. Freehill that it could not comply with his request for exemption of the Institution, insisted upon payment of the rates and rent owing, and subsequently (in December, 1896) as the amount due had not been paid, the Board gave notice of its intention to disconnect the water supply from the property unless such moneys were paid, and Mr. Freehill then wrote the Board threatening to apply to the Supreme Court for an injunction to restrain the Board from cutting off the water from the property for non-payment of rates. Eventually it was agreed that the Board should sue the trustees of the Institution in the District Court for the rates owing. In January last an action was commenced by the Board, and the case was heard on 25th March last, and resulted in a verdict, on Mr. Freehill's evidence, for the defendant; but the Board considers that this case cannot be regarded as settling the question of liability at all, inasmuch as further information, which the Board has since the hearing of the case obtained, with reference to the Institution, appears to make it clear that the facts of the matter were not correctly represented to the Judge by Mr. Freehill's evidence.

In

In giving evidence in the case, in the capacity of a trustee of the Institution, Mr. Freehill swore that to his own personal knowledge the Institution is entirely charitable, and is conducted by some five or six Sisters of Charity for the care of female insane patients; that no charge is made for admission; but that persons up to the licensed number (six or thereabouts) are admitted unconditionally and without reference to creed, the place being unsectarian, and its objects public charity. Mr. Freehill repudiated the authority of the Lady Superior to bind the trustees by her agreement for hire of a meter, and further swore that the Council's rates had been paid under protest.

Although the Board had as witnesses the Mayor and Council Clerk of Ryde, who stated that they knew that the Institution was not such as Mr. Freehill had represented it to be (the Council Clerk going so far as to state that "he never would have thought Mr. Freehill would have the audacity to swear what he did in his evidence"), neither witness had really any authority on which he could contradict Mr. Freehill's evidence; and although legal argument was used on the Board's behalf, the Judge held that he must accept Mr. Freehill's uncontradicted evidence that the Institution was entirely charitable, relying entirely upon voluntary support, as conclusive that it was entitled to exemption. It was argued on behalf of the Board that this Institution being registered as a lunatic asylum, the relatives of patients could, under the Lunacy Act, be compelled to pay for their treatment and support; and further, that as a day-school, for which fees were charged, was conducted on the property, it could not properly be considered a hospital or charitable Institution; and the case of the "Attorney-General v. the Borough of Newcastle" was referred to in support of the Board's contention, which case decided that a lunatic asylum is neither a public hospital or charitable institution. The Judge, however, held that the provisions of the Lunacy Act do not apply to a private lunatic asylum such as this, and further, that as he held the Institution to be a charity, he could not divide the assessment of the whole property and give the Board a verdict for rates on that portion used as a school. The Judge also held that the payment to the local Council having been made under protest, could not be regarded as payment at all, and further that the agreement for hire of a meter signed by the Lady Superior did not bind the trustees.

From the Judge's decision there was no appeal; but inquiry was afterwards made by the Board of the Lunacy Department as to the nature of the Institution, and it was learned that the Institution and its inmates do come under the provisions of the Lunacy Act, and are dealt with by the Master-in-Lunacy, whose duty is, amongst other things, to ascertain what means exist for payment for the treatment and support of patients and to take such steps as may be necessary to provide or compel provision for the maintenance and support of patients. On the 30th March last the Board received, from the Chief Clerk in Lunacy, a letter in the following terms, viz. :—

Reg. No. 98-12,294.

Sir,

Master-in-Lunacy's Office, Chancery Square, 30 March, 1898.

In reply to your letter of the 28th instant (No. 98-2,183), I am directed to inform you that in the case of Kathleen Dowley, a patient in the Licensed Hospital for the Insane, Mount St. Margaret's, Ryde, the Master in Lunacy pays maintenance to the Lady Superior from funds to the patient's credit in this office, at the rate of £18 10s. per quarter. I am to add that the records of this office show that in other cases the relatives of patients at Mount St. Margaret's defray the cost of their maintenance.

I have, &c.,
H. EDWARDS,
Chief Clerk.

The Secretary, Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage, Sydney.

Upon receipt of this information the Board caused to be written to Mr. Freehill a letter, as follows, viz. :—

Re Case of Board of Water Supply and Sewerage v. Mount St. Margaret's Home, Ryde.

F. B. Freehill, Esq., Solicitor, Sydney,—

Dear Sir,

39, Castlereagh-street, Sydney, 14 April, 1898.

Since the hearing of this case the Board of Water Supply and Sewerage have caused further inquiries to be made relative to the character of the Institution known as Mount St. Margaret's Home, Ryde, and the result of such inquiries has convinced them that the Institution named cannot properly be regarded as a charitable institution, and leads them to believe that you could not have been fully aware of the facts when you gave evidence on the hearing of the case.

Inquiry at the office of the Master-in-Lunacy has disclosed that the Institution is dealt with by the Master under the provisions of the Lunacy Act in the same manner as all other licensed houses for insane persons, and that regular payments are made by the Master for the maintenance of persons in the Institution.

In the case of Kathleen Dowley, a patient in the Institution, the Master has informed the Board that he pays maintenance to the Lady Superior from funds to the patient's credit in his office at the rate of £18 10s. per quarter, and that, according to the records of his office, in other cases the relatives of patients in the Institution defray the cost of their maintenance. It appears that when a return is made to the Master, in terms of the Lunacy Act, of the admission of a patient into the Institution, he forthwith takes steps to provide for the maintenance of such patient in the same manner exactly as he does in the case of all other lunatic asylums, and that this Institution is not regarded by the Master as differing in any way from other registered houses for the insane.

The Board consider that had this evidence been called on the hearing of the late case, His Honor the Judge could not have held that the defendants were a charitable institution; and, in view of the further information now to hand, they cannot regard the decision given by His Honor as binding upon them. The Board consider that the rates lately sued for should be paid, and they instruct me, under the circumstances, to request payment thereof, and, at the same time, to inform you that rates will be charged upon the Institution in the future.

Yours, &c.,
H. S. WILLIAMS.

And in reply thereto, the Board received from Mr. Freehill a letter as follows, viz. :—

Re Mount St. Margaret's, Ryde.

Dear Sir,

Devon Chambers, Hunter and O'Connell Streets, Sydney, 16 April, 1898.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, and must express my astonishment that the Board should have the audacity to attempt to override a judicial decision. It seems to me to be a very fortunate thing that this Board cannot trample upon the rights of the public, as they evidently feel inclined to do in the case of the various institutions which I have the honor to represent. It is a notorious fact that the Board dare not proceed against an institution such as the Prince Alfred Hospital, although a claim is made for a very substantial sum for water supplied to that institution.

I am prepared to fight the Board in every possible way, and shall take the earliest opportunity of exposing the contemptible manner in which the Board has endeavoured to treat, not only the Mount St. Margaret's Home, but also the Lewisham Hospital, the St. Patrick's Blind Asylum, and the Night Refuge in William-street, Sydney.

As one of the public, I would suggest that the Board might get a measure passed through Parliament enabling it to trample upon the rights of all the citizens, irrespective of the denomination to which they belong.

Yours, &c.,
F. B. FREEHILL.

H. S. Williams, Solicitor for the Water and Sewerage Board, Sydney.

And in reply thereto the Board caused to be written to Mr. Freehill a letter as follows, viz. :—

Re Mount St. Margaret (or Convent of our Lady of Good Counsel), Ryde.

F. B. Freehill, Esq., Solicitor, Sydney,—

Dear Sir,

39, Castlereagh-street, Sydney, 14 May, 1898.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 16th ultimo, which I have referred to my clients for consideration. I am instructed by the Board to inform you that there is no desire on their part, nor do they wish to attempt, to override any judicial decision—their only wish, on the contrary, being to protect the ratepayers from any charge or burden which should not be made upon or borne by them, and to properly carry out their duties under the Act which they have been appointed to administer.

The Board desire me to state, although they think it hardly necessary to do so, that no question of denomination enters into the case so far as they are concerned, and to add that they do not feel called upon to reply to or notice the insulting and intemperate expressions and statements contained in your letter, beyond saying that they think that there is altogether no occasion for the remarks which you have thought fit to make.

The position of the Board is that since the hearing of the case in the District Court they have received information which appears to prove that the evidence given by you, on which such case was decided in your client's favour, did not truly represent the circumstances of the case, and they therefore desire to have the matter determined upon the further facts which they are now in a position to place before the Court, so as to obtain a decision by which they may be guided in all matters similar to the present. The Board consider, and are advised, that the best way of doing this will be to give you an opportunity of bringing the case before the Equity Court, where an authoritative ruling may be obtained. In the course of previous correspondence you stated your intention of applying to the Supreme Court for an injunction to restrain the Board from disconnecting the water supply from the premises, and with the above object the Board now invite you to do this. The Board are unwilling to actually discontinue the supply of water to the Institution, which might cause harm; but for the purpose of enabling you to proceed for an injunction, if you think fit to do so, I beg to give you notice, under the Board's instructions, that unless the rates now due, and for payment of which notice has been served upon the premises, be paid forthwith, the water will be disconnected from the premises.

Yours, &c.,

H. S. WILLIAMS.

Some further correspondence ensued, but the foregoing really shows the position of the matter. On the 8th June last, further rates having accrued, due for water supplied to the property since the District Court decision, fourteen days' notice to pay such rates was given, and no reply having been received, or payment made, a further notice was given on 27th June last that the water would be disconnected if the rates were not paid. No notice having been taken of this further intimation, the water was disconnected from the property on the 16th of August instant.

I trust that the foregoing facts will clearly place the circumstances of the case before you, and prove that Mr. Freehill is fully aware of the reason of the Board's action.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM HOLMES,

Secretary.

(per E.P.)

Mr. Freehill might be informed that, from inquiries made, it would appear the Board has acted within its rights, and under these circumstances the Minister sees no reason why he should interfere.—R.H., Under Secy. Public Works and Commissioner for Roads, 6 Sept., 1897. Approved,—J.H.Y., 6/9/98. Inform.—Jno. P., 7 Sept., 1898. Francis B. Freehill, Esq., 9/9/98.

Sir,

9 September, 1898.

With reference to your letter of 23rd ultimo, respecting the action of the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage in cutting off the water supply from Mount St. Margaret's Convent, Ryde, on account of non-payment of water-rates, and asking, on behalf of the trustees of the Institution, that the Minister compel the Board to continue to supply the water pending the introduction of a Bill in the Legislature to deal with such matters, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Young to inform you that, from inquiries made, it appears the Board has acted within its rights, and that under these circumstances he sees no reason why he should interfere.

I have, &c.,

Francis B. Freehill, Esq.,

Under Secretary and Commissioner for Roads.

Devon Chambers, Hunter and O'Connell Streets, Sydney.

No. 30.

The Superioress, Licensed House for Insane, Mount St. Margaret, Ryde, to The Secretary to the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board.

Licensed House for Insane, Mount St. Margaret, Ryde,

23 September, 1898.

Sir,

I enclose cheque for amount of rates, £3 13s. 6d., charged by the Water and Sewerage Board to this Institution, and demand a return of supply, which doubtless you know has been cut off some time.

I do this under protest, and without prejudice to the action taken by the trustees in the matter.

I have, &c.,

SISTER M. ANTONIO (O'DALY).

Assessor to see me at once and attach copy of account rendered.—W.H. Rec. 12.767 posted — W.R., 24/9/98. Forward receipt, and send cut to day and turn on the water.—W.H., 24/9/98. Inspector Robertson,—I understand the water was turned on on Saturday last by the local turncock.—T.R., 27/9/98. Inspector of Water Service for report as to whether water was turned on by turncock.—C.W.S., 28/9/98. Water turned on last Saturday.—J.S. Assistant Engineer. Assessor to note.—C.W.S. These papers might now be filed till called for again.—T.R., 6/10/98. The Secretary.

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No. 31.

F. B. Freehill, Esq., to The Secretary for Public Works.

Sir,

40, Hunter-street, Sydney, 8 October, 1898.

I have the honor, on behalf of the Superioress in charge of the Hospital for Female Insane (known as Mount St. Margaret, Ryde), to forward herewith the enclosed declaration.

The information furnished to you that the Institution is being carried on as a laundry, and doing work for the receipt of money, is entirely without foundation.

I trust that this will enable you to have the Institution declared entitled to receive water free of charge.

I have, &c.,
FRANK B. FREEHILL,
Hon. Secretary.

[Enclosure.]

STATUTORY DECLARATION.

I, MARY JOSEPH O'REGAN, of Mount St. Margaret, Ryde, in the Colony of New South Wales, do hereby solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:—That I am the Superioress-in-charge of the Hospital for the Female Insane, known as Mount St. Margaret, at Ryde; that the said Institution is conducted by myself and other members of the religious order known as the Little Company of Mary, and all of us give our services to the work of the Institution without any fee or reward whatsoever; that the Institution depends for its support upon the voluntary contributions of the friends of the Institution and of the patients, and that some of the patients have never paid anything whatsoever for their support or maintenance; that it is utterly untrue that the Institution in any way engages in any work other than attending to the patients of the Institution, and that it is also absolutely untrue that the Institution does any kind of work whatsoever—washing for instance—for payment; that the Institution is a purely charitable one, inasmuch as it is not conducted for gain, and no one is paid in connection with the Institution except the gardener. And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of an Act made and passed in the ninth year of the Reign of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act for the more effectual abolition of Oaths and Affirmations taken and made in various departments of the Government of New South Wales, and to substitute Declarations in lieu thereof, and for the suppression of voluntary and extra-judicial Oaths and Affidavits."

MARY JOSEPH (O'REGAN).

Subscribed and declared at Sydney, this 7th }
day of October, 1898, before me— }

THOMAS DALTON, J.P.,
A Justice of the Peace.

Submitted. Might be forwarded to the Water and Sewerage Board, and Mr. Freehill so informed.—R.H., Under Secretary and Commissioner for Roads, 14 Oct., 1898. Approved.—J.H.Y. 14/10/98. Inform.—Jno. P., 14 Oct., 1898. F. B. Freehill, Esq., 17/10/98. The Secretary Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage—Jno. P., 17/10/98.

Under Secretary for Public Works, &c.—There appears to be some misunderstanding in this matter, as the Board's officers have never reported that laundry work was carried on at this establishment; on the contrary, the papers clearly show that the water is not used as a matter of profit. The only reference I can find in the papers to the supposed use of water for laundry purposes, is the extract from *Hansard*, of 24 August last, containing a reply of the Minister to a question asked in Parliament by Mr. Lyne. This reply was no doubt given under a misapprehension, as the Minister had not then received the Board's full explanation of the whole case.—W.H., Secretary, 20/10/98.

Ask Mr. Williams to see me.—R.H., Under Secretary for Public Works and Commissioner for Roads, 25 Oct., 1898. H. S. Williams, Esq., 26/10/98. On the general question of this being a charitable institution, the Minister would like the Board's opinion.—R.H., 4/11/98. The Secretary to the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage.

Sir,

26 October, 1898.

I shall be glad if you will kindly call and see me with reference to the matter of supply of water to Mount St. Margaret, Ryde.

I have, &c.,

H. S. Williams, Esq., 39, Castlereagh-street, Sydney. Under Secretary and Commissioner for Roads.

17th October, 1898. 8th instant, forwarding a declaration from the Superioress in charge of the Hospital for Female Insane (known as Mount St. Margaret, Ryde) with reference to work performed therein. This is a matter for the consideration of the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage, to whom your communication has been forwarded.—Under Secretary and Commissioner for Roads. F. B. Freehill, Esq., 40, Hunter-street, Sydney. Submitted to the Board, 8/11/98.

Minute Paper.

Subject:—Mount St. Margaret, Ryde.

It was resolved to reply that the opinion of the Board on this matter was so fully and clearly set forth in their letter of 31st August last, addressed to the Under Secretary, that they desire to add nothing further to the same.

W.H.

Under Secretary for Public Works, &c.

Submitted for approval, to say the Minister sees no reason to depart from previous decision, conveyed in letter of Sept. 9.—R. H., Under Secretary for Public Works and Commissioner for Roads, 12 Nov., 1898. Approved.—J.H.Y., 14/11/98. Inform.—Jno.P., 14 Nov., 1898. F. B. Freehill, Esq.—B.R., 15/11/98.

15 November, 1898.

Sir,

With further reference to your letter of the 8th ultimo, forwarding a declaration from the Superioress in charge of the Hospital for Female Insane (known as Mount St. Margaret), Ryde, in regard to work performed there, and asking that the Institution may be declared entitled to receive water free of charge, I have the honor to refer you to my letter of the 9th September last, and to inform you that the Minister sees no reason to depart from his decision conveyed therein.

I have, &c.,

F. B. Freehill, Esq., 40, Hunter-street, Sydney.

Under Secretary and Commissioner for Roads.

No.

Extract from *Evening News*, 15 October, 1898.

MOUNT ST. MARGARET, RYDE.

IN the pleasant, healthy suburb of Ryde the "Sisters of the Little Company of Mary" are carrying on a most important work, too little known to the general public. In a beautiful house, standing on a splendid elevation, amidst 32 acres of ground, they are gently and tenderly caring for those so unfortunate as to be mentally afflicted. The Rev. Mother Joseph and her assistant, Rev. Mother Antonio, have been trained for this special work in the best institutions in Europe, "The Crichton" Royal Institution, Scotland, being one.

They are assisted by the nursing sisters from Lewisham Hospital, also of the "Little Company of Mary," who come and go at intervals from the Hospital, only the rev. mothers being permanently established in the home; and truly a home, in the real meaning of the word, they seem to make it for their afflicted charges.

Fourteen inmates can be accommodated at one time, either women or children; and such is the care bestowed that within one year five patients were discharged cured—really cured.

Every care and thought is taken for the comfort and relief of the invalids. They are encouraged to employ themselves in various ways, a piano and organ being provided for those musically inclined. Walks and drives are arranged to take them out into the fine fresh air. Even picnics are organised, one taking place on St. Patrick's Day down to the river.

Great care is taken to provide tempting, well-cooked food, so as to coax the too often capricious appetite. Some needing great attention, as far as possible they are trained to eat nicely; for lack of reason, alas! makes one fall back on untrained habits. So much constant, incessant watchfulness and patience are required that one wonders at and admires the unceasing devotion of the good Sisters. To develop their instincts of affection, pets of all kinds are provided—dog, cats, cockatoo.

Visitors to this pretty home are warmly welcomed, and shown through the house and grounds—such pleasant rooms, so nicely furnished, four sitting-rooms, corridors, double and single bedrooms, all lofty, well ventilated, and nicely shaded from heat and glare, and most scrupulously clean. The views from the windows are very pretty, and add to the charm of the dainty rooms. The bedsteads are so constructed that they are free from iron posts or framework, against which it might be possible for excited inmates to inflict bodily injury to themselves.

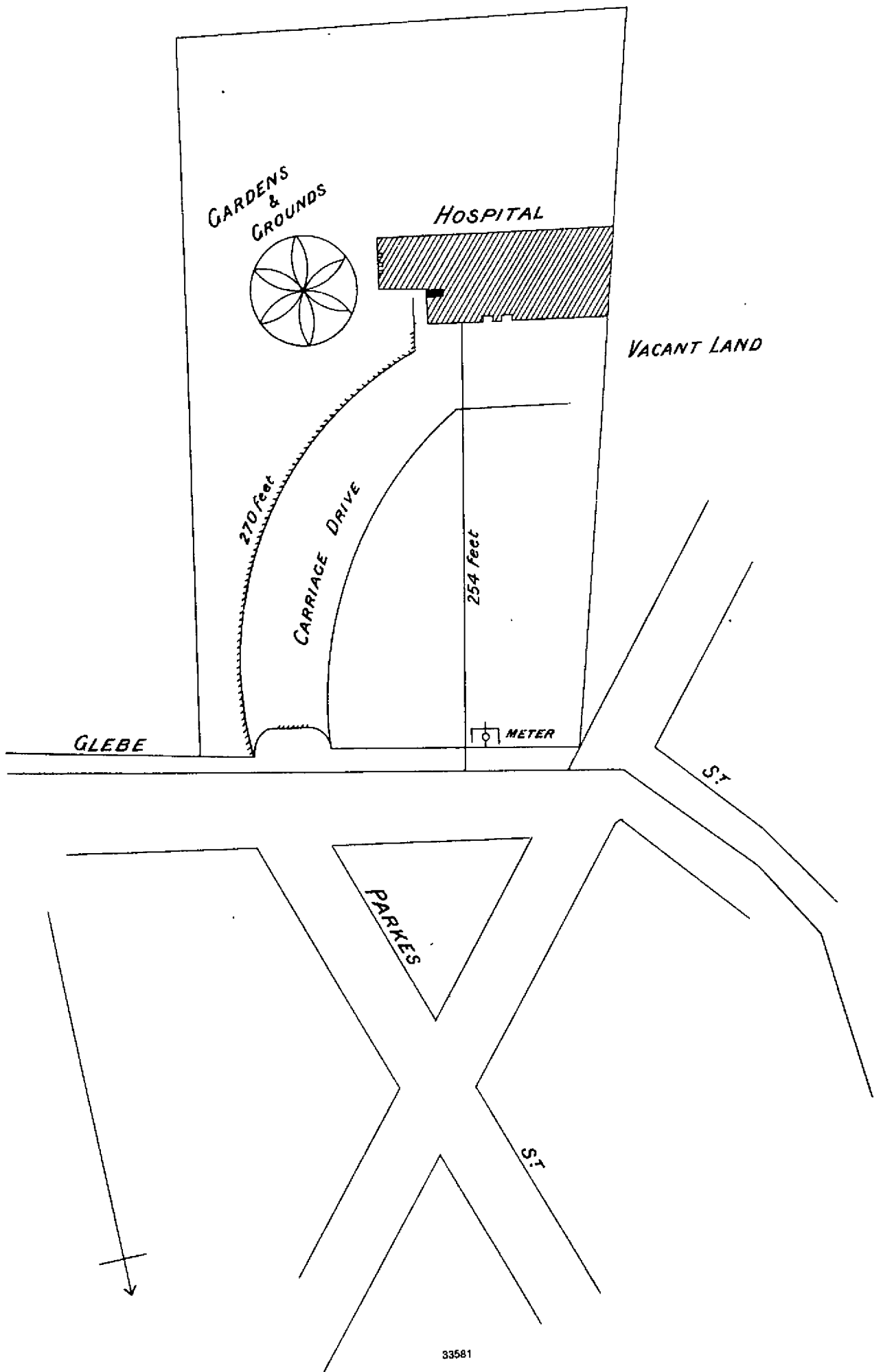
For a small extra fee a Sister sleeps with a patient, and, if desired, meals can be taken alone, the charge being very moderate—2 guineas a week. The home is under the patronage of His Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop and the Right Rev. Bishop Higgins. It is under Government, but receives no grant. When Dr. Manning, whose portrait hangs on the walls of the reception-room, was in New South Wales, he was a frequent visitor at the home, and expressed his appreciation of the system adopted for the relief of the afflicted. Of course medical attention is provided, Dr. W. C. Gordon Smith giving individual attention to each case.

The house and grounds were the generous gift of the Hon. T. Dalton, and cost between £6,000 and £7,000. Since its establishment more has been expended on needed improvements by the Sisters.

The home is easily reached from Sydney by rail, steamboat, or omnibus. If by rail, get out at Meadow Bank Station; it is the nearest. A pretty walk leads from it to the home, and every inhabitant seems interested in directing one's steps towards the home.

All creeds are received, and in one of the rooms a beautiful little chapel is arranged; but it is found it is not always wise to allow the patients to attend the services, as it intensifies some forms of derangement.

[Two plans.]



S.c. 232

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Sydney, N.S.W.



Mount St. Margaret, Ryde.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

MILITARY FORCES OF THE COLONY.(REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE, 1898, BY MAJOR-GENERAL G. A. FRENCH, R.A., C.M.G.,
COMMANDING MILITARY FORCES.)*Printed under No. 15 Report from Printing Committee, 8 December, 1898.*

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MILITARY FORCES OF THE COLONY.

REPORT for the Year ending 30th June, 1898, by Major-General
G. A. FRENCH, R.A., C.M.G., Commanding Military Forces.

To the Principal Under Secretary,
Chief Secretary's Office,—

Sir,

I have the honor to submit the following Report on the Forces and Defences of the Colony for the year ending 30th June, 1898, for the information of the Chief Secretary:—

PERMANENT FORCES.

(1.) "A" Battery Field Artillery has received a complete equipment of six 15 pr. guns, with cordite ammunition; pole harness. The strength of the battery is only sufficient to man four guns, but it is hoped that ere long provision will be made for a full six-gun battery. Colonel Smith strongly recommends it now, and, while sympathising with his wish, I am forced to the conclusion that extra training for the whole Force is a more pressing claim.

PERMANENT GARRISON ARTILLERY.

(2.) A considerable addition was made to this Force during the year, and a very excellent class of recruits engaged. This branch is now strong enough to man all the principal guns of the Defence.

It is organised in three complete Companies of five Officers and 130 Non-commissioned Officers and men each, in addition to District Staff, Artificers, Bandsmen, &c.

Two Officers and one Non-commissioned Officer are under instruction in England.

Two Non-commissioned Officers returned from England this year, having attained the high position of 1st and 2nd at the Long Course of Instruction, Shoeburyness.

A local Long Course is carried out at South Head, open to all Australia, and several of the other Colonies are again represented this year.

PERMANENT SUBMARINE MINERS.

(3.) I have nothing new to remark of this Branch, except that the necessity for a Submarine Mining Steamer has become still more marked.

It seems highly desirable that some provision should be made for educating a Junior Officer in this special work. A Major in charge of twenty-five men is, in proportion, a somewhat expensive luxury.

PARTIALLY-PAID FORCES.

MOUNTED FORCES.

(4.) In my Report last year, I went fully into the *pros* and *cons* as regards Cavalry and Mounted Rifles for service in Australia, and summed up the case as follows:—"I have no hesitation in advising that any extension of our Mounted Forces should be in the direction of Mounted Riflemen, and that every encouragement should be given for the formation of Volunteer Mounted Corps, in which the fire-arm would be the only, or at least the primary, weapon."

(5.) Since then the 1st Australian Volunteer Horse has been formed (reported on under head of "Volunteers"), and we now have three full regiments of Mounted men—grand material for the Service, and actuated by the best spirit. All ranks find
horses

horses for the Public Service without remuneration; and so anxious are many of them to become proficient in their duties, that 100 men of the Lancers have volunteered to go to England for six months to serve there at English rates of pay, to pay £10 per man towards general expenses, asking nothing from the Government but their passages (£25 per man return).

(6.) The present size of the Mounted Branch, and its prospective extension, makes it highly desirable that an Officer should be placed at the head of it, whose duty it would be to look exclusively after its drill and training, and take command in camp or elsewhere.

FIELD BATTERIES.

(7.) Here we have an entirely different state of affairs for a Mounted Force. Few of the members possess horses, and not alone has Government to find horses for the guns, but for Officers and Non-commissioned Officers to ride. Since my last report, we have managed, instead of hiring horses for the guns, to purchase them, turning them out to grass when not wanted; and by continuing this system during the present year, we will be able at last to horse all the guns without using hired horses.

(8.) In future it should be the object to engage in this portion of the Force to a large extent those whose occupations require their keeping horses, and thus having them available for the Public Service, as in the Cavalry and Mounted Rifles.

Further particulars as to the Artillery generally will be found in Appendix "A."

ENGINEERS.

(9.) I would again draw attention to the recommendation of the Commandants' Conference of 1896, advising the engagement of an Officer of the Royal Engineers to supervise the Submarine Mining Defences, Electric Lighting, and Engineer Work generally.

(10.) A large amount of important work was carried out under the supervision of Captain Owen, including the erection of very fine Magazines at Newington. This Officer is deserving of great credit for the zeal and attention shown, and for his constant supervision of all works under construction.

INFANTRY.

(11.) In my remarks last year on this Branch, I alluded to the organisation of the Infantry Regiments of ten companies each, with several Companies at Headquarters, and the others along a line of railway, as a very suitable one. Unfortunately, it seems to have been so expressed that the Colonial Defence Committee concluded that the gist of the matter, from my point of view, was the ten-company organisation, and consequently, in a long Memorandum, have pointed out the superior advantages of an eight-company organisation.

(12.) As a matter of fact, I strongly agree with them on this point, and should not be sorry to see our four Regiments of ten Companies converted into five of eight Companies, adhering to the present general principle, viz., a strong nucleus at the Headquarters of the Regiment, the detached Companies along one main line of railway. The advantages of this change of organisation would be considerable, and the cost not much, involving only the provision of an Adjutant, Sergeant-Major, and Quartermaster-Sergeant on the Permanent Staff, a Partially-paid Lieutenant-Colonel and Major, and a small sum for offices, &c.

(13.) I should much like to see all our Infantry Companies raised to a strength of 75 instead of 60 as at present; but more training seems to be requisite at present rather than more men to train; and if funds cannot be found for both purposes, I should prefer to arrive at the Minimum Annual Training laid down by the 1896 Conference of Commandants at Melbourne, viz., 16 days for Infantry, and 20 for other Branches, instead of 12½ for all, as now the rule in New South Wales.

(14.) The issue of magazine rifles to our Infantry, now about to take place, will necessitate something more than two half-days for "Musketry." The provision of musketry prizes for each Infantry Company I look on as an absolute necessity. A sum has been placed on the Estimates for the purpose, which I hope will meet a better fate than a similar sum last year.

VOLUNTEERS.

VOLUNTEERS.

(15.) The development of this Branch still goes on, the principal feature of the past year being the formation of the First Australian Horse under Lt.-Colonel K. Mackay.

This Corps seems to have been raised on a thoroughly sound footing. The immediate appointment of inexperienced Captains and Majors has been avoided, and no Regimental Officer has been given higher rank than Lieutenant, nor is it intended to promote any till their qualifications for promotion are apparent. Officers and men are almost wholly taken from employes on stations—men who ordinarily live in the saddle, and who, with a little training, should form ideal Mounted Troops. Apart from the military point of view, I am informed by persons outside the Force that the formation of this Regiment has had an important social aspect on the stations where there are detachments, bringing masters and men into close intercourse, class prejudice and distrust being supplanted by a feeling of *camaraderie* and *esprit de corps*.

Though the youngest of the Volunteer Corps, this regiment set all the others an example by remaining in camp for eight days instead of four.

(16.) My remarks as to musketry prizes for Infantry Companies apply with still greater force to Volunteer Companies. Men who serve the public without pay of any sort should certainly be found in the means necessary for encouraging rifle shooting under Service conditions.

(17.) Although the Volunteer Infantry only attended camp from Good Friday to Easter Monday, their attendance compared very unfavourably with the Partially-paid Infantry, as the following table shows:—

	Present.		Absent.			
	Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.		
1st Regiment	34	566	...	37		
2nd Regiment	34	601	...	4		
3rd Regiment	31	554	...	47		
4th Regiment	32	562	...	34		
5th Regiment	{	Scottish Rifles	10	227	1	131
	{	Irish Rifles	7	131	3	158
6th Regiment	17	316	1	221
7th Regiment	21	337	1	220

I am of opinion that inducements should be held out to Volunteers to attend camp for the full time. A small bonus would, I have no doubt, have the desired effect in most cases.

CAMPS.

(18.) In April last, after a lapse of seven years, a general encampment of the whole Force again became possible. A heavy price had to be paid for it—not in cash at the expense of the public, but in drills lost at local head-quarters. It was, however, well worth the price.

(19.) According to our system, pay is provided for twelve and a half days drill and training in the year. As two half-days are allowed for musketry and one for Queen's Birthday parade, this leaves eleven for all other purposes; taking eight of these for a camp left three days, or six half-days, or in other words, half a day every second month for local drill and instruction. What I want to arrive at is eight days in camp and eight days local training, or sixteen in all. This is the minimum recommended by the Commandants of Australia.

(20.) It was only possible to have a camp by the Treasurer finding a sum of £4,000 above what was provided on the Estimates. This was mainly required to pay the Railway Commissioners for the transport of men and horses by rail. As they also carried some tens of thousands of visitors to see the Encampment, it is to be hoped that they made an honest penny out of the Encampment one way or another. The Forces in this Colony are at a very great disadvantage as compared with those in Victoria and Queensland in thus having to pay for all services rendered by the Government Railways.

(21.)

(21.) In my remarks on "Camps" last year, I pointed out the manner in which our old Rifle Range at Paddington had been cut up, that we had no place for the Troops to parade, and that I hoped "before it is too late the Church and School Lands beyond Randwick, which still remain public property, may be reserved as a training-ground for our Defence Forces." I regret that since that Report a large part of the Church and School Lands, and even a portion of the Randwick Rifle Range Reserve, have been offered for sale. A portion of the lands subdivided for sale are sites of proposed Field Works in case of invasion from the south—the most probable quarter.

(22.) The Main Camp at Rookwood at Easter, extending over a period of nine whole days, represented the largest concentration of men and horses which has ever taken place in Australia.

It has not been possible since 1891 to mobilise the Troops owing to the lack of funds, and it was only by forfeiting a large proportion of the detached drills throughout the year that sufficient were retained for Camp.

(23.) Among the visitors who attended were the Principal Staff Officers from the Queensland Defence Force, viz. :—

Lieut.-Colonel Lyster, Assistant Adjutant-General.

Lieut.-Colonel Ricardo, Staff Officer, Mounted Rifles.

Brigade-Surgeon Lieut.-Colonel Thompson, Principal Medical Officer.

PARADES, MANŒUVRES, &C.

(24.) During the Camp the Troops, in addition to the duties attendant on the ordinary routine, were exercised in Divisional, Brigade, and Battalion Parades and Manœuvres.

Two Reviews were held, one in the presence of His Excellency the Governor and Commander-in-Chief, who at the conclusion desired the General Officer Commanding to convey to the Troops his appreciation of their general turn out and steadiness on parade. He considered the marching of all branches showed such marked improvement on previous parades at which he had been present that he could only attribute it to the beneficial effect of steady, continuous training in Camp; and he sincerely hoped that the nine days camp, now introduced after a lapse of seven years, would for the future be an annual fixture in the interest of the Force and of the defence of the Colony.

Portions of the Troops were detailed for Outpost Duties, which were carried out fairly well.

On Easter Monday the attack on a selected position was practised by the whole Division—seven Infantry Regiments, two Mounted Regiments, and two Field Batteries. The advance was steadily made, beginning some 2 miles away, and was well carried out, though at the finish the instructional value of the work was marred owing to the vast crowds of spectators breaking through the lines.

(25.) On Thursday, the 14th, the Troops were exercised in attack and defence by advanced and rear guards. By 7 a.m. on that morning all the Troops had breakfasted and left the Camp in the direction of Prospect Reservoir, one portion representing a retiring force under Lieutenant-Colonel Ranelaud, the other a pursuing force under Lieutenant-Colonel Waddell. The retiring force halted and defended several naturally strong positions till driven out by the superior numbers of the attack, the whole finally forming up in some paddocks near the Reservoir, where they rested and had dinner. On the return to Camp the following idea was carefully carried out, and as the troops were working over ground which very probably would have to be defended in case of invasion, the practical lesson was most valuable. Most of the men marched over 20 miles this day.

IDEA.

(26.) An enemy has landed to southward, and is advancing rapidly towards Sydney; it is not clear whether he may not try to destroy the Prospect Dam.

The enemy is known to be very strong in Infantry, but has few mounted troops or guns, and comprise—

4 Battalions of Infantry (1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Infantry Regiments).

1 Squadron of Cavalry.

4 Field Guns.

The

The defence, the balance of the Mounted Brigade, and such details as can be got together, including Engineers and 1st Garrison Division Artillery available.

It will be assumed that the attacking Forces are followed by other Troops, and that therefore the Cavalry of the Defence cannot swing round their rear.

For the Defence, it will be assumed that the enemy's landing has been in the nature of a surprise, that the Mounted Brigade has been hurriedly pushed forward to find and delay the enemy, and that Infantry and other Troops are being sent forward with all despatch to strengthen and hold the line from Saltpan Creek to Duck River.

Attack—Colonel Holborow, C.M.G.

Defence—Colonel Smith, R.A.

It will be for the Officer commanding the Defence, by reconnoitring, to divine the intentions of the attack, and act accordingly.

REMARKS OF THE MAJOR-GENERAL COMMANDING WITH REFERENCE TO THE ABOVE "IDEA."

(27.) Infantry Advanced Guard not pushed far enough ahead, and leading files not extended enough.

Cavalry Scouts were pushed well ahead but did not watch the flanks; they found the Defenders and reported in good time.

Attack commenced in the vicinity of Cumberland Farms, and apparently the Defence was somewhat taken by surprise at this point, there being no guns available and but few Mounted Troops. This showed bad scouting by Cavalry Defence, and the Infantry of the Attack had no difficulty in brushing away the small forces at this point and advancing along Park Road, where they had practically little opposition.

Their advance along this road might have been stopped by a couple of guns on the hill firing down this road, but the Artillery of the Defence were, by the nature of the country, forced to retire by the Prospect Road, and head the enemy further back. The guns of the Attack, however, enfiladed this road, firing over their Infantry, and owing to the narrowness of the frontage available it is quite likely they could have held their own with the Artillery of the Defence, even if they had been on the opposite hill.

Considering the small opposition, the Infantry should not have reinforced their firing line when in the hollow, and lost much valuable time in doing so.

In the advance up the hill more men should have been extended in the woods to the left, and the supports formed in echelon on that flank to reply to the small parties of Mounted Infantry that occasionally attacked from that quarter.

On topping the hill the Infantry of the Attack came at once under a heavy fire of eight guns from Denham Farm on left front and from a company and a half of Mounted Infantry, the latter at a range of about 800 yards. The Infantry must have suffered severely.

The guns of the Defence were well posted, horses and limbers were well under cover. The guns of the Attack (which were very slow coming up), assisted by the heavy Infantry fire, forced the guns of the Defence to retire to their second position; the retirement was well executed. The Mounted Infantry and Cavalry (dismounted) remained too long, and eventually had to retire across left front of Infantry firing line, and must have suffered heavily at a range of about 700 yards.

It is but fair to state that under Service conditions these men might have retired direct to their rear and under cover by pulling down fences.

In the further advance from this point the attack missed a good chance by not bringing up guns to enfilade the road leading to Merrylands Crossing which here became a defile.

The Newcastle Company of the 4th Regiment, however, did good work by firing volleys down the road at a range of 800 yards.

The Artillery of the Defence did good service in covering the retreat of their men beyond the railway.

The advance from the railway was well done by the portion of the 2nd Regiment on the right, but it was pushed too rapidly, getting too much in advance of the Companies of the 4th on their left. On topping the hill the 4th Regiment
came

came under Artillery fire at a range of 1,200 yards, and two Companies were kept in what was called "open order." This consisted of four ranks of men about a yard apart, and an ideal target for shrapnel shell; even when pointed out no change was made, and half the men were placed out of action.

Moving on from this point the attack on the guns, supported by the Mounted Infantry on Park Hill, was pushed home, with the result that on topping the hill the Infantry had the guns in column of route below them at a range of 800 yards, and Lancers and Mounted Rifles at about 400 yards in close formation. The latter kept their close formation, and were retiring at a deliberate pace, and apparently considered themselves safe when formed up in full view about 1,000 yards off. Here they remained still in close formation till the guns of the attack topped the hill and opened fire; then they moved off in the same deliberate fashion, but did not clear the ridge till nine rounds had been fired at them.

Beyond Park Hill there is nothing to note except the fact that "C" Company of the 4th Infantry Regiment, managed to get a mile ahead and wage war on its own account at Duck River Bridge, against eight guns, two Companies of Mounted Infantry, and a Squadron of Lancers.

It was quite wrong of this Company to fix bayonets when charged by Cavalry at Manœuvres. A Company of the 1st Infantry Regiment was also noticed doing this previously in the day.

GENERAL REMARKS.

(28.) Cavalry dismounted kept horses too close to firing line, commonly in close formation. Mounted Rifles little better in this respect.

Section Commanders of Infantry in several instances were heard giving Range 800 when it was about 1,500 hundred yards, and *vice versa*.

The Infantry had so little opposition that they need not have brought up either second or third lines. Flanks were not properly watched. One Company Commander was heard giving the command to a Company of extended order, "Right Form," though within 500 yards of the enemy firing. Movements direct to a flank of men when in firing line were noticed.

Patrols sent out to get information should consist of only a few men in extended order; whole troops in close order were observed on this duty.

In the last Artillery position the guns seemed to be firing on their own men. Generally speaking it would seem:—

(1.) That for want of proper scouting on the part of the Defence, the guns were not in position at first to oppose the advance.

(2.) That as the attack took three hours to cover 3 miles, Colonel Smith was successful in holding and delaying the advance.

(3.) That the advance was well carried out by Colonel Holborow.

(4.) That the attack could not have passed Duck River Bridge, even if darkness had not put a stop to operations, and that several hours must have been lost in forcing the crossing at some other point.

ANNUAL FIELD FIRING.

(29.) The Annual Field Firing of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Infantry Regiments was also carried out in Camp.

DISCIPLINE.

(30.) The discipline throughout the whole Camp was excellent, and there was a general absence of crime, grumbling, or complaints.

SICKNESS AND CASUALTIES.

(31.) The medical arrangements throughout were complete.

There were no deaths, and the number of admissions of Non-Commissioned Officers and men into the Field Hospitals was comparatively small, being only forty-six during the whole period of the Encampment.

The casualty list was also light, in view of the large number of troops (nearly 6,000), four serious cases only being treated, viz. :—One gunshot wound, one broken collar-bone, one fracture of left ankle, and one fracture of left leg.

MOBILISATION.

MOBILISATION.

(32.) The mobilisation of the Forces, with the co-operation of the Railway Authorities, was well and smoothly carried out, especially considering the large number of men and horses that were carried, in addition to the ordinary railway traffic at Easter time, the busiest holiday season of the year.

TRANSPORT.

(33.) The transport in connection with the camp equipment and stores to and from Darling Harbour Railway Station, and from and to Rookwood Railway Station and Camp, was satisfactorily performed by "A" Battery, Brigade Division Field Artillery, assisted by the Permanent Section of the Army Service Corps, under the supervision of Major Miller.

Consequently a very considerable saving was effected, as compared with cost of similar services at previous camps, when the work was performed by hired horses.

A great deal of unnecessary labour and transport was entailed owing to the authorised scale of baggage in many instances being greatly exceeded, with the result that the horses were overworked. Orders relative to indents did not receive sufficient attention. In requisitioning for transport on day when troops arrived in camp, 8½ tons were demanded by Lancers and Australian Horse, while the amount actually carried was 29 tons.

SUPPLIES.

(34.) The demands upon the supply branch of the Army Service Corps were exceedingly heavy and harassing, owing to the fact that certain regiments, in camp for the first time, were inexperienced in this department.

The supplies were of excellent quality, and gave general satisfaction.

Complaints were made by some of the newly-raised regiments that the rations were insufficient; but this was owing to the inexperience of those whose duty it was to cut them up and make divisions in messes.

The necessity for affording instruction in cooking was very apparent through the camp; frequently good and sufficient food was wasted or spoiled in the cooking.

In connection with the scale of rations, I would point out that it far exceeds that of the English or any Foreign Army, as Appendix E will show.

The water supply, which was excellent, was laid on to the various branches of the camp from the mains. One or two regiments in the Volunteer camp were short for the first day or so. This was, however, due in a large measure to the recognised allowance being very largely exceeded, and the transport being overworked was unable to keep the tanks continuously full; but as the stand-pipe was within a short distance of the camp, a little foresight on the part of Commanding Officers in detailing a few men as water-carriers would have quickly overcome the difficulty.

CAMP SITES.

(35.) The sites chosen for the various camps were good; but the nature of the ground (clay soil) would have made it very uncomfortable for men and horses if much rain had fallen, especially in the case of the Infantry Brigade.

(36.) Very great credit is due to the Army Service Corps for the work performed by it in the face of great difficulties, officers and men working fourteen hours at a stretch.

That the present Establishment of the Corps is totally inadequate to carry out the duties devolving upon it is evident from the fact that the Corps does not represent 1 per cent. of the Forces (which, since its first formation, have been increased by, approximately, 3,289 officers and men), which proportion is out of all comparison with similar Services in any other Army.

GENERAL REMARKS.

(37.) Thanks are due to the Officers who acted as Umpires on the different Field Days, to the Railway Authorities for the facilities afforded in bringing men and horses from all parts of the Colony at a time when their Service was congested with a large holiday traffic, and also to Post and Telegraph Department for the efficient assistance they rendered.

(38.) The general muster and turn out of the Partially-paid Troops were excellent, and the purely Volunteer Regiments and Corps deserve credit for the manner in which they profited by the short time (four days) in Camp.

The 1st Australian Horse showed great energy and zeal, which alone rendered it possible for the Corps to attend the Camp under conditions and difficulties that were almost insuperable in consequence of the short time which had elapsed since its formation.

It is hoped that the nine days' Camp reintroduced this year may become a permanency, and that in future there will be no necessity for a forfeiture of parades during the year to admit of sufficient funds being retained from the Annual Vote in order to secure a Camp.

(39.) On the breaking up of the Encampment the Troops were marched through the city.

A Military Rifle Meeting, the Matches chiefly made up of those under "Service Conditions," was very successfully carried out, a large percentage of Troops in Camp competing, and generally evincing great interest in the Meeting.

Military Sports were also held. The entries were numerous, and the many events on the programme were keenly contested.

A Military and Naval Tattoo took place on the Agricultural Society's Grounds on the Monday evening following the breaking up of Camp, when all the principal Bands took part.

DRILL-HALLS AND ARMOURIES.

(40.) I am glad to say that a good deal has been done in the provision of these most necessary adjuncts.

Drill Halls have been erected at Paddington, Parramatta, Bathurst, Kiama, and one is in course of erection at Richmond.

Provision is made for Drill-halls at Goulburn, Wagga, Cooma, Maitland, Penrith, and work will be gone on with when sites can be obtained.

(41.) The introduction of the magazine rifle and cordite ammunition necessitates a change in the system by which every man was allowed to take his rifle home and clean it or not, as he felt disposed. Neglect of this sort would be ruinous to these weapons, and now arrangements have to be made whereby they will be constantly under the eyes of the Permanent Staff. This necessitates the further development of Drill-halls and Armouries till every corps has one. A very large one is much required in the vicinity of Chancery-square, Sydney, where so many corps have their headquarters. The money is available, but the site is the difficulty.

RIFLE ASSOCIATIONS.

(42.) I went into this subject thoroughly last year. Affairs have now reached such a head that I think the Government must come to a decision in the matter.

I maintain that the encouragement of rifle shooting in the Military Forces of the country is a matter for the Military Authorities rather than for a civil body, over whose actions neither the Military Authorities nor the Government have any control whatever. If the Government think it an advantage to furnish a number of prizes for the *sport* of rifle-shooting, well and good; but this should not interfere with prizes for those whose *business* it is. Furthermore, Government having put definite sums on the Estimates for Rifle Associations, I distinctly object to their having, in addition, *from the Military Vote* some £880 worth of free ammunition and £675 worth of free railway passes, although we cannot move any of our men by Railway for military matches for want of funds.

(43.) The interest taken by the so-called National Rifle Association of New South Wales in the encouragement of the shooting of the Defence Forces may be judged by the fact that, although notified last April that some five regiments would be armed with the '303 rifle before their October meeting, they flatly refused to place on the programme even one match for men so armed.

(44.) There is a widespread fight at present going on throughout the Empire between those who put "defence before diversion" and those who do not. Some of our Rifle Associations appear to have got into the hands of rings, who make the programmes for the advantage of themselves or their friends. It seems to me that

it is about time for the Government to step in and insist that the public money granted to these Associations should be expended in the manner best calculated to advance the public interests.

(45.) The National Rifle Association of England receives no Government grant, and is wholly dependent on private subscriptions, and consequently its Council may be considered free to expend their funds as they think fit; but our Associations are on a very different footing, and it ought not to be possible to say of them: "As for the influence of the National Rifle Association for good on the musketry of the mass of Volunteers, it is simply nil; and it will continue so until some more encouragement is given to collective practices under proper military conditions."

(46.) As to my mind the encouragement of rifle shooting under Service Conditions is a matter of primary importance, I submit the following extracts, which I hope will show the necessity for this matter being taken in hand and finally dealt with by the Government.

EXTRACT from Report of a Committee appointed by the General Officer Commanding the Military Forces of New South Wales to report upon the subject of "Rifle Shooting under Active Service Conditions," in connection with a Question asked in Parliament by Mr. Price, M.L.A., on the 9th December, 1897.

IX. THE "RESPONSIBILITY" OF THE NATIONAL AND OTHER RIFLE ASSOCIATIONS.

(47.) As already explained, it is absolutely necessary that radical changes be made before match-shooting can be considered to be of any military value. The Committee can conceive no justification for the large annual expenditure (£3,307), which now keeps in existence the various Rifle Associations of the Colony, unless these bodies are prepared to recognise the grave responsibility devolving upon them as national institutions.

They must, moreover, be prepared and able, by an entire reformation of their present system, to elevate what they themselves regard as a "pastime," to the status of a valuable adjunct to the peace training of our soldiers.

The Committee regret that they cannot hope to see the needed reforms carried out by the existing Council of the Rifle Associations of New South Wales.

This opinion is based upon the present constitution of these governing bodies, their responsibility in reality to the voters who have elected them, and their actual personnel. The last point, although but the natural result of the two former, is of such importance as to call for special analysis.

The Council of the National Rifle Association at present consists of 20 members, of whom—1 is an active member of the N.S.W. Mounted Rifles, 3 are active members of the N.S.W. Infantry, 5 are active members of the N.S.W. Naval Forces, 8 are civilians or members of Civilian Rifle Clubs, and 3 are retired officers of the N.S.W. Military Forces.

Thus it will be seen at a glance that those branches of the land Forces (Cavalry, Mounted Rifles, and Infantry) which are pre-eminently expected to be expert with the rifle or carbine, and who, numbering 6,000, form two-thirds of the whole Defence Force, are represented on the Council by only four out of twenty members.

Again, the Naval Forces, numbering under *six hundred* are represented by five members, as compared with four from the *six thousand* (6,000) before-mentioned.

It is most inadvisable, too, that an Association formed "for the encouragement of rifle shooting in the Defence Forces of the Colony," *eight* out of the *twenty* members (nearly half the Council) should be civilians.

The three retired officers can scarcely be taken to represent any section of the present Defence Force; and, however enthusiastic they may be individually, it is a question whether officers who have ceased to be active members of the Force for several years, and are inexperienced in the progress of later reorganisation, can be expected to be in touch with the present requirements of military training.

It is not, under such circumstances, difficult to understand the repudiation by this body of their responsibility for the soldier's training in shooting.

The Committee are of opinion that, in the best interests of the Colony, and to ensure a proper return to the Government for the public money devoted to rifle shooting, one-half of the members of the Council should, to ensure expert knowledge and experience, be appointed by the General Officer Commanding the Military Forces of New South Wales, the remainder to be elected by the members of the Association as heretofore.

Under any circumstances, the Committee consider that a portion (say £500) of the aid at present granted to rifle shooting should be devoted to a Rifle Meeting of an entirely Service character.

X. SUMMARY.

(48.) It appears to the Committee that the prejudicial conditions which obtain in the present system of match-shooting may be summarised as follows:—

- (1.) Irresponsibility of Rifle Associations to the Military Authorities.
- (2.) Defective constitution of the Councils of these Associations.
- (3.) Absence of any control over the expenditure of Government aid to Rifle Associations.
- (4.) Failure of Rifle Associations to keep pace with the progress of military training.
- (5.) Almost entire neglect of controlled and collective fire.
- (6.) A general absence of a proper attempt to shoot under service conditions.
- (7.) The almost universal adoption of a most pernicious system of slow aiming.
- (8.) Habitual reliance upon ridiculous and unserviceable adjuncts to the rifle.
- (9.) The disproportionate appropriation of prize money to matches for professional shots, as compared with those for beginners, and also those under Service conditions.
- (10.) Unsatisfactory method of distributing railway passes.
- (11.) The encouragement of professional shots from other Colonies to the discouragement of our own beginners.
- (12.) Denial by Rifle Associations of any encouragement to young shots by a judicious system of handicapping.

XI.—PRIZES FOR MUSKETRY.

(49.) In the Imperial Service, regiments are granted 2s. 6d. for each soldier who fires through his musketry, and 1s. for each recruit so exercised. The total sum thus obtained is distributed throughout the regiment in prizes, for the encouragement of shooting generally, as the Commanding Officer thinks best; but it is directed that *at least one-half* of the total is to be devoted to the encouragement of shooting in *sectional practices*—that is, controlled fire and other means of improving fire-discipline. Even the balance must not be wholly devoted to individual shooting, but is also to include rapid individual fire and moving target practice.

The Committee are strongly of opinion that if such grants were made in New South Wales the annual musketry course would be popularised, and an interesting means of further instruction and competition provided. If a portion of the sums annually granted to Rifle Associations were devoted to this purpose, it is considered that, from a military point of view, the result would be out of all proportion greater than that now secured.

EXTRACT from *The Brisbane Courier*, dated Thursday, 11 August, 1898.

THE RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

(50.) "Among the subjects of importance which have to be discussed with an eye upon developments in the Far East and elsewhere, is the condition of the Colony as regards defence. Invasion may be nearer than the average onlooker at the war game supposes. The world has drawn closer during the last decade of the century, and Queensland finds herself uncomfortably near a quarter of the globe in which the mother country may be attacked, or where attack may be necessary, at any moment. Such being the case, it is imperative to count up our munitions of war, and take stock of our possible defenders. The efficiency of the latter as marksmen must receive a prominent place in the general review. An invader is not likely to come upon us with his worst men, but rather with a picked contingent; and, if we are to make anything like successful resistance, our soldiers must be good shots under modern service conditions. It is fair to insist that everything should lead up to that. . . . Interest is increased, moreover, by the knowledge that elsewhere in the Empire a debate is in progress between those who would put defence before diversion, and those who would perhaps place profitable diversion first. It is not intended to discredit crack shots by this statement of the case; but, as we understand the position, experts think that Rifle Associations should give more help to the majority of the men who must fight when an enemy lands, and less to the minority who find profit in cultivating a hobby, and who may not be called out in an emergency till last. This view of the case is supported by an extract from an authoritative Home journal, the *Broad Arrow*, of 4th June, which runs:—'It cannot be denied that the present operations of the National Rifle Association are chiefly directed to the providing prizes for the comparatively few expert individual rifle shots who year after year find their way to Bisley. It is true that additional encouragement is given to tyros, but the fact remains that collective firing is not encouraged—indeed, it is generally known that such military practices are discouraged by the management, because they give some trouble and are not so remunerative as the unlimited individual competitions. As for the influence of the National Rifle Association for good on the musketry of the mass of the Volunteers, it is simply nil, and it will continue so until some more encouragement is given to collective practices under proper military conditions.' May not this be accepted as true of New South Wales and Queensland? Is it not a fact that the representatives of Rifle Clubs or Volunteers—the crack-shot class—carried off most of the prizes at the recent meeting of our own Rifle Association. We do not argue from this that discredit attaches to the prize winners. Far from it. But the question is, whether the interests of the Colony cannot be better served, and whether the prizes which are offered year by year should not be so distributed that young shots would be more inclined to spend and be spent in qualifying as marksmen, though they may have hobbies in other directions."

EXTRACT from the *Singleton Argus*, dated Saturday, 11th June, 1898.

A PECULIAR BODY.

(51.) The vagaries of the Council of the Northern Rifle Association, and the conduct of its paid officer, are matters so generally known to the public, and so universally condemned, that there would be no excuse for further reference thereto but for the fact that this is a public institution, subsidised by the State, hitherto recognized by the Military Authorities, and therefore a fair subject for public scrutiny. We will admit here that the Council is composed of estimable gentlemen personally, and it is in their capacity as a governing body that we find fault with their extraordinary conduct. The taxpayer has a right to demand that such an institution should be so conducted that the disbursement of State funds should be made in the best possible manner, and that its management shall be economical and efficient. That during the last of its eight years' existence the first condition has been observed is certainly not to be placed to the credit of the Council as a body, because a majority of the members fought bitterly against the reform. That the second condition is being most flagrantly disregarded is a matter which should bring down upon the Council the blame of every taxpayer whose money is being dealt with. When the "Service" programme was agreed upon some time ago, the Secretary proceeded, publicly and privately, to bring about its abandonment, and, failing that, its failure. Every device, every subterfuge, by which he could injure the authors of the reform, or the reform itself, was resorted to. . . .

EXTRACT from the *Daily Telegraph* (Sydney).

NEW ZEALAND.—THE DEFENCE FORCES.

(52.) Wellington, Tuesday.—The Commandant of the Military Forces, in his Annual Report, says he cannot recommend that any assistance be given in future to the New Zealand Rifle Association, because, from a defence point of view, the results of the meetings are disappointing." . . .

WARLIKE

WARLIKE STORES.

(53.) The methods of supply of warlike stores is still unsatisfactory. Not merely months but years elapse before we can get stores from the Imperial Government. This is specially applicable to our electric search light equipment.

We are still waiting for ammunition for our magazine rifles, which, instead of being issued at once out of Imperial stores when indented for last February, had to be contracted for specially, without regard to the loss of time and extra cost incurred.

These Colonies are put to sufficient disadvantage geographically in the matter of supply of warlike stores without the added delays of the War Office, which I venture to assert are quite unnecessary, unless departmental convenience is to be considered of more consequence than the defence of the more distant portions of the Empire.

The above forms an additional reason for our making our own ammunition. I sent a full report on the probable cost, &c., on 25th July, 1898, and I hope an early decision may be arrived at.

RIFLE CLUBS.

(54.) While strongly in favour of encouraging rifle shooting, I am equally averse to the proposition that the members of these clubs, who for the most part have no military experience whatever, should be considered the first reserve of an active Force. The Colonial Defence Committee have plainly shown the futility of this idea, and I thoroughly agree with them. A reserve of men already trained can readily be formed, and, in my opinion, should be formed without further delay.

DEFENCES, THURSDAY ISLAND AND ALBANY.

(55.) The condition of affairs at these outposts of Australian defence are known to be unsatisfactory. I am not aware of any improvement having been made since the matter was referred to in my last Report.

NAVAL BRIGADE AND NAVAL ARTILLERY VOLUNTEERS.

(56.) Suggestions for the conversion of the Naval Artillery Volunteers into Garrison Artillery have been repeatedly put forward, and is again recommended by Colonel Smith in his report (*Appendix A*). I hope that the Government will take some decided action in the matter.

Last year I pointed out how the Naval Brigade might be utilised in manning one of the spare vessels of the Australian Squadron, and the Colonial Defence Committee purposed dealing with that question in a separate memorandum (which has not yet been received).

(57.) I believe, myself, that the best solution of the matter is to utilise the services of the Naval Brigade afloat, and the Naval Artillery Volunteers ashore, and that these latter should be converted to Garrison Artillery, and instructed properly in matters pertaining to coast defence. It is lamentable to see the manner in which these fine bodies of men waste their time in work of little or no use towards the defence of the Colony, and to think that this goes on year after year at an expense of over £10,000 per annum.

DISCIPLINE.

(58.) The general discipline of the Force is satisfactory. The main exceptions are the Imperial "old soldier," who desires to take advantage of the comparatively easy conditions of our service here, and occasionally the Volunteer Officer, suddenly jumped from civil life into a comparatively high military position, and who imagines he can carry with him all the freedom of civil life without being hampered by any of the rules and regulations which centuries of practical experience have shown to be necessary for the maintenance of military discipline.

(59.) I am sorry to say that military offenders have too great facilities for ventilating trifling grievances in the Press; and some of them, who ought to know better, seem to think that a Member of Parliament, and not their Commanding Officer, is the person to apply to.

I may mention that during the past year, when a Court of Inquiry was taking evidence with regard to a complaint against a sergeant-instructor, for using objectionable language to Volunteer recruits, he calmly informed the Court, "Parliament will decide this!"

(60.) It seems scarcely necessary for me to point out how destructive to military discipline it would be if members of this Force were encouraged in the idea that they could appeal to Parliament regarding every little grievance, real or imaginary. Instead, however, of putting forward any views of my own on the subject, I would respectfully submit for consideration the following extracts, showing how such matters have been dealt with by the Imperial Parliament; and I sincerely trust that the sound ruling therein laid down may be considered a sufficient precedent for similar action by the Parliament of this Colony.

CLUDE'S MILITARY FORCES OF THE CROWN.

Vol. 1, Chap. VIII, paras. 89-90, pp. 175-176.

(61.) 89. It is of course open to any Member of either House of Parliament to move an Address to the Crown for a copy of the proceedings of any Court-Martial to be laid before it, but it may lead the House beyond the legitimate sphere of duty. Earl Russell, in opposing the appointment of a Select Committee of the House of Commons in Captain Robeson's case, laid down the constitutional rule in these words:—"There can be no doubt that under that kind of superintendence and supervision which this House ought to exercise there might arise cases which which would require such a proceeding as I have hinted at; but I can hardly believe it possible that any case whatever should induce this House to say, 'We think the proceedings before this Court-Martial were not justifiable; that the conduct of the officers composing it was not according to military law; and therefore we will appoint a committee of our own number, to whom these proceedings shall be referred, and before whom this case shall be tried over again.'"²

Not to Parliament.

² 30 H.D. (3), p. 147.

(62.) 90. I think almost the only cases—there may be others—but I think the only cases in which this House should call for the proceedings of a Court-Martial are those of gross corruption, or of some very gross violation of the law. . . . What I wish to guard the House against is assuming an authority which is properly given to Courts-Martial of this country, without extraordinary necessity, and without any sufficient reason, so that any person who may hereafter be led into improper conduct which may expose him to a Court-Martial, may be told that he may have the whole question reopened before this House, by whom there will be a different finding and a different sentence, not acknowledged by the tribunal which had formerly tried and condemned him. Sir, I think that to establish such a precedent would be to shake the discipline of the Army, and not only to relax obedience, but to make all officers on Courts-Martial afraid to do their duty, in certain cases, under the apprehension of their being retried before a Committee of this House.

Grounds on which Parliament should ever interfere.

³ The interference of Parliament in Sergeant-Major Lilley's case occasioned an expenditure of money and official labour that must be reckoned in thousands, besides inflicting a heavy blow to the discipline of the Army

Vol. II, Chap. XXV, paras. 29-31, pp. 328-330.

(63.) 29. The power of appointing and dismissing officers and soldiers is vested solely in the Crown (?); but though this constitutional rule is incontrovertible, none in its exercise is more imprudently canvassed in Parliament. The Secretary of State is plainly responsible; while the interference of Parliament, except by vote of censure against the Minister, relaxes the discipline of the Army and tends to weaken the authority of the Crown. Of all the Royal prerogatives, this was unquestionable the one which a well-informed and well-intentioned House of Commons would be the least inclined to meddle with; for he was sure that the House would see that the gradation between the frequent interference with the exercise of that prerogative and taking the prerogative entirely into their own hands, was so easy, that if they indulged in the former they would soon virtually do what substantially they would never be disposed to agree to. Before the House could be induced to enter into any investigation of the exercise of the prerogative connected with the command of the Army, there must be a strong presumption of abuse in that exercise (?).

As to appointment and dismissal of officers.

(64.) 30. In all matters of discipline the Royal authority is supreme and the decisions of the Crown final; but after the sentence of a Court-Martial has been confirmed, Parliament is often invited to review and constitute itself a Court of Appeal from the decisions of the Court and of the Crown. In Captain Robeson's case Earl Russell prevailed upon the House to refuse such an inquiry (1): "I do not think that were the House convinced of the existence of such circumstances in this case it would proceed in the manner proposed, viz., the appointment of a Select Committee, but that it would rather proceed by asking for the minutes of a Court-Martial, and then, addressing His Majesty, to take such steps as might be necessary in case of injustice, partiality, or illegality of sentence." There can be no doubt that, under that kind of superintendence and supervision which this House ought to exercise, there might arise cases which would require such a proceeding as I have just hinted at, but I can hardly believe it possible that any case whatever should induce this House to say, "We think the proceedings before this Court-Martial were not justifiable; that the conduct of the officers composing it were not according to military law; and therefore we will appoint a committee of our own number, to whom these proceedings shall be referred, and before whom this case shall be tried over again."

In matters of discipline—Court-Martial sentences.

(65.) 31. In other cases the House of Commons has sought to punish officers that have not been brought to Court-Martial. A motion for inquiry into the conduct of an officer was alleged to render him fit to serve Her Majesty was resisted by Lord Macaulay on these grounds:—"His first objection

For inquiry into conduct of officers.

was

(2) Chap. XV, para. 111. XVI, paras. 129-141.

(3) Lord Palmerston, 6 H.D. (2), p. 311

was a very obvious one. It was a constitutional objection. While there was no prerogative of the Crown which that House was not entitled to offer its advice upon, yet, in offering advice upon such points, it should be guided by a very sound discretion. Indeed, none but the most imperious reasons, in the most extreme cases, could warrant such interference with the Royal prerogatives; and he believed that, above all other prerogatives, in all well-organised States, the control of the Army, and the awarding of rewards and punishments to military men, were considered most exclusively to belong to the supreme executive authority; that such matters ought not to be submitted to large popular assemblies of men, who are too apt to be influenced by party and factious impulse. . . . Into the merits and demerits of the officer's conduct he would not go; but, viewing that conduct in whatever light it might deserve, he still said that the "present motion was highly objectionable because, in all matters of this kind, they should be guided by rules; they should beware how they hastened to take advantage of the unpopularity of an individual to induce a precedent which, if once established, would lead to the most fatal effects to the whole of our military system, and work a great injustice to all officers in Her Majesty's service. . . . As to the proposition for erecting that House into a penal Court of Inquiry, he must protest against it as a species of tribunal dangerous and revolutionary. It would make that House, which had not the power to administer an oath to witnesses (?), or punish them if they prevaricated, a Court for passing a sentence which might ruin a poor man, in the shape of a pecuniary fine, or in attaching a stigma to his name almost worse than death itself." By the division the House adopted this view.

(1) Parliamentary Committees now have power to administer oaths. (2) 53 H. D. (3), p. p. 339-41.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

G. A. FRENCH, Major-General,

Commanding N.S.W. Forces.

Sydney, October 5th, 1898.

APPENDIX A.

Colonel S. C. Smith, R.A., Commanding Artillery, to The Assistant Adjutant-General.

Sir,

Artillery Staff Office, 9 July, 1898.

(1.) I have the honor to forward a report on my command for the past twelve months.

BRIGADE DIVISION, FIELD ARTILLERY.

"A" Battery (Permanent).

(2.) This Battery has, during the last year, been equipped with six 15-pr. B.-L. guns, and in this respect is as up to date as any Imperial Field Battery. It is, however, now my duty to point out that the strength of the Battery in personnel is quite inadequate. Its strength of 76 officers and men renders it impossible to give proper effect to the excellent armament it possesses, and I strongly advocate the addition of 12 Drivers and 12 Gunners, together with a few N.-C. Officers, necessary to convert it from its late establishment of a 4-Gun Battery to a 6-Gun Battery.

Under present circumstances, in order to raise the Battery to war strength, either the whole of "B" Battery would be absorbed, and one-third of "C" Battery (thus practically eliminating "B" and "C" Batteries from the effective strength of the Colony), or close on 100 Reservists and Recruits would have to be taken on, thus entirely cancelling the efficiency of this Battery.

I have, during the past year, had to attach 8 men of the Garrison Artillery to this Battery, simply to ensure the proper care of the armament and equipment. This arrangement, although doubtless an assistance, is, of course, unsatisfactory.

(3.) In the matter of horses, a successful beginning has been made to the proposal made last year of gradually increasing the number of permanent horses. We have now a strength of 88, and this has been attained without any initial increase of expense to Government, they having been purchased out of the sum allowed for "hire of horses," and the permanent gain to the Colony is considerable. Not only is a permanent gain effected, but there has been a gain during this the first year of its trial. The transport work for the Easter Camp was performed almost entirely by utilising these horses, thus saving a sum of about £1,000, which would have otherwise been claimed by a contractor.

(4.) The feeding of this increased number of horses has been kept within the sum passed on the Estimates for sixty horses. This has been effected by the hire of a grass paddock, into which some thirty horses have been turned out, and where they have been fed at about 2s. per head per week. The paddock has not turned out quite the success anticipated, as it carries so small a crop of grass, and the £75 a year paid for it is rather exorbitant. It has been necessary to supply extra grass from the Forage Vote to supplement the deficiency.

(5.) I was enabled at the Easter Camp, with the number of horses now on charge, to turn out all three Batteries with four guns each and four horses in each gun, without having recourse to the previous unsatisfactory plan of hiring.

I would, however, still like to increase the number to at least 100, which might then remain the permanent establishment in peace time. For the increase on mobilisation the system of registration, as adopted in England, should be in vogue. The local omnibus proprietors keep the stamp of horses required.

(6.) I have postponed the Field Battery Annual Course and Camp this year until September, when the weather is more suitable for camping out, both for horses and men, than in the winter. I hope in the meantime to discover some suitable ground where practice can be carried out under Service conditions in conjunction with tactical movements, a combination which is essential to the efficiency of Field Artillery.

(7.) I have great pleasure in reporting that the discipline of this Battery is highly satisfactory, a fact particularly evidenced during the incessant hard work and long hours required of it doing transport work immediately preceding the Easter Camp.

(8.) The detachment that went to England for the Jubilee Celebrations went subsequently to Aldershot, where it was attached to an Imperial Battery, and the reports received from the Home Authorities were most satisfactory.

"B" and "C" Batteries.

(9.) These Partially-paid Batteries, as reported last year, suffer from the paucity of parades allotted to them. I fear that the majority of the personnel join, not so much from the love of soldiering, as from a desire to receive the small extra emolument to be obtained.

The result is, that it is only on a recognised parade for which pay is received that any appreciable number will turn out.

As I reported last year, I am unable to convey the impression that these Batteries are efficient.

The Easter Camp was made up of sixteen half-day parades, leaving only nine half-day parades throughout the year. This Camp, though doubtless of great instructive value to them on many heads, consisted to some extent of tactical manœuvres in conjunction with troops of all arms, a very important part of their training, but one which requires thorough preliminary Artillery training to enable full value to be extracted. They had the great advantage of being horsed by permanent trained horses, instead of, as heretofore, by hired horses, which added greatly to the interest taken in the work by the men, and eliminated the time usually wasted in attempting to break the horses to Artillery work.

I would strongly urge the necessity of increasing the parades for this branch.

(10.) In addition to the increase of personnel advocated for "A" Battery, it would be a great advantage to have one permanent gunner and one permanent driver to each subdivision of the P.-P. Field Batteries. This would ensure a better care of the guns, harness, &c.—a point in respect of which these Batteries are undeniably weak.

(11.) The riding and driving in these Batteries is not good, due to the fact that the men forming these Batteries are all Sydney men, and have, with few exceptions, neither the facility nor opportunity of riding, except on parade.

On the other hand, the men are, as regards physique, intelligence, and keenness (when paid), all that could be desired, and constitute material equal to any in the Imperial Service, and with greater encouragement in the matter of parades, would form the ground-work of two very useful Batteries.

(12.) I have applied for four more 15-pr. B.-L. guns, to replace the R.M.-L. armament of one of these Batteries, and hope later on, if the Howitzer proves a success, to try and get four 5-in. B.-L. Howitzers for the second. These latter would be of great use, particularly for the defence of the Hawkesbury Bridge.

In the meantime, possibly Q.-F. armament for field guns may have developed sufficiently to justify its adoption in this Colony.

1ST GARRISON DIVISION.

(Permanent.)

(13.) Since last year the Permanent Garrison Artillery have had a much needed increase in personnel and now numbers 460 of all ranks, and I trust that any tendency to altering this figure may only be one of increasing it. For the present this strength is sufficient; but should in the future further defences be erected, either on the Hawkesbury or to protect the proposed harbour at Kembla, a suitable increase will be required.

(14.) The three companies have been satisfactorily organised, and each consists of 135 of all ranks.

(15.) The recruiting for the increase commenced in January last and was extended over four months, and the result has been most satisfactory, an exceptionally good lot of men having been enrolled.

(16.) With three Service Companies now complete, I have inaugurated a system of exchange of station, by which each company will serve two years at either Middle or South Heads and one year at Headquarters.

(17.) I have also been enabled to increase Newcastle and Bare Island detachments, and these will become Captains' Commands and are allotted to the two Outlying Companies.

(18.) The months of May, June, and July have been selected for the Company Courses, one month to each company, the Competitive Practice to take place early in August.

No Competitive Practice has taken place since my last Report owing to the above alteration.

It was found last year that, in order to get this practice over before the end of the financial year, (30th June), Company Courses had to be compressed into fourteen days, which did not prove satisfactory.

(19.) The Long Course of Gunnery lasted from the beginning of July to the middle of December, and proved very satisfactory, as already reported on, the principal feature being the inclusion of N.C. Officers from Victoria, Queensland, and Western Australia, in which the Victorian representatives especially distinguished themselves.

This year this Course commenced in June, in order that it may conclude before the weather becomes oppressive. Victoria and Queensland have again answered to our invitation.

(20.) The detachment sent to England for the Jubilee Celebrations went subsequently to the Isle of Wight, and the Imperial authorities reported most favourably on the work done by them.

(21.) Two N.C. Officers of the Regiment, Sergeant McNamara and Sergeant Foy, returned from England, where they had been sent by the local Government to go through the Long Course at the School of Gunnery. With considerable credit to themselves and to this regiment they obtained the first and second places at the conclusion of the Course; and I am glad to say the local Government saw fit to emphasise their satisfaction at the result by giving each of them a small present.

(22.) Two officers are still in England undergoing instruction—Captain Sandford and Lieutenant Lamb. The former passed through the last Long Course with credit and is now qualifying as a Fire-master; the latter is going through the present Long Course. Both these officers will return in February next and should be of great use to the regiment.

(23.) The conduct of the Permanent Artillery has been good throughout the year. Desertions have diminished, due, to a certain extent, to the adoption of my recommendation last year that the sum required to purchase discharge should be lowered. As I stated last year, desertions in certain numbers are bound to take place in a localised corps.

(24.) As the result of further experience on the subject of the men being allowed to wear plain clothes, I am gradually restricting the privilege, which, from a disciplinary point of view, will be to the advantage of the regiment.

(25.) I think it would be advisable to periodically "cry down" credit, as I am inundated with tradesmen's bills which are alleged to be unpaid, principally for plain clothes supplied to the men. Although, for the credit of the regiment, I am prepared to assist tradesmen to recover money due to them by my men, still I prefer not to be considered a bill collector for those who are opposing my wishes and the men's own interest by supplying goods on credit.

(26.) As a tentative measure, I have inaugurated, on a small scale, a school for the educational improvement of such N.C. Officers and men as care to avail themselves of it. A civilian teacher attends in the small lecture room of the Headquarters School of Gunnery three nights a week. I think the idea will become popular, and will, I am sure, be of considerable advantage to the men.

2ND GARRISON DIVISION.

(Partially Paid.)

(27.) This branch has benefited greatly by an eight days' camp which took place the week before Easter, at South and Middle Heads. Although fourteen half-days were taken from the annual allowance of parades, which of course is greatly to be regretted, still I consider that the advantage gained by this continuous training is much greater than when the fourteen half-days are distributed over the year.

If only this eight days' camp could be granted as an addition to the usual allotment of parades we should then have made great strides towards efficiency.

The improvement noticed in the men after the few days in camp has made it clear to me that such a period of continuous training is worth more than four times the number of half-day parades.

It was very gratifying to see the great interest in the work taken by all ranks, and the strenuous and uncomplaining manner in which all strove to satisfactorily get through the somewhat severe programme.

All four companies arrived with a very large proportion of, their Establishment, and in this connection I have to thank all employers who so readily gave the men leave of absence at a time that must in many cases have been most inconvenient.

The men were, unfortunately, so backward on commencement of the Camp, and so much preliminary work had to be brushed up, that very little shot practice could be carried out, but still much useful work was done.

Two night attacks were arranged, the first representing a few cruisers approaching the harbour from various directions and entering the same, running up the Eastern and Western Channels respectively, the second representing a combined attack of two squadrons, one engaging the seaward forts and the other running up the harbour. The co-operation of the Submarine Miners and the working of all the search-lights was of great instructive value.

(28.) In the Competitive two Companies qualified for 3rd-class prizes. Although the shooting was hardly an improvement on last year's, the fire discipline and drill generally was a great advance in the right direction.

(29.) In the new Manning Details for the defences, certain guns have been told off complete to this portion of the Force, who are capable of undertaking all the duties in this connection and is more satisfactory. The guns told off are those second in the scale of importance and which are not likely to require great rapidity of service.

(30.) The strength of this Division has been slightly reduced, and is now 430 of all ranks; but the abolition of the band and its conversion into fighting men has only caused the reduction in fighting strength to be about forty men.

(31.) The physique of the men of this Division is not quite what it should be, and it is found difficult to keep the standard up. This used not to be the case, from all accounts, in the days when more parades were allowed, and would doubtless again be satisfactory when these days are reverted to, as I hope will shortly be the case.

GENERAL.

(32.) I think it would be advisable to contemplate a different system of pay for partially-paid troops. By the present system each man attending a parade is paid a certain sum for such parade, with the result that only on paid parades do the men turn out. In addition to this, men can become efficient on a smaller number of parades than are allowed to the particular branch.

I would suggest that the pay be a certain fixed sum per annum, or per quarter, and that the number of parades represented by such sum be the minimum number of parades for efficiency. This would ensure at least two or three casual parades per quarter being fairly well attended. This, of course, is only a suggestion, but I think something in this direction should be done.

(33.) The question of the Naval Brigade should again be pressed on the Government. About 150 of these men are allotted to the Artillery Defence, and it is only reasonable to insist on their method of drill being the same as that of the other men with whom they are associated. It would be preferable to increase the Partially-paid Artillery by the number required.

(34.) I would also again urge the advisability of some retirement scheme for the Permanent Officers of the Forces.

(35.) I append a few general remarks of the Forts and Armament (Confidential).

I have, &c.,

S. C. SMITH, Colonel,
Commanding Artillery.

APPENDIX B.

NEW SOUTH WALES MILITARY FORCES.

Report of the School of Musketry, 1897-98.

(1.) Three Courses of Instruction were held at Randwick during the year 1897-1898, two being Class A for Staff Officers, and one Class C for Warrant and Non-Commissioned Officers.

Courses.	Numbers.		Results of Examination.					
			Officers.			W. & N.-C. O's.		
	Officers.	W. & N.-C. O's.	Class A Certificate.	Failed.	Total.	Class C Certificate.	Failed.	Total.
No. 1. Staff Officers Sept. 6-21, 1897.	2	.....	2	.....	2	.....	.....	.....
No. 2 Staff Officers Nov. 29-Dec. 21, 1897.	3	.....	3	.....	3	.....	.....	.....
No. 1. Staff W. and N.-C. O's April 25-May 17, 1898.	.....	10	.....	.....	.....	6	4	10
Total	5	10	5	.....	5	6	4	10

(2.) The instruction given at Randwick to the Officers and Warrant and Non-Commissioned Officers attending the Classes in the theory and practice of Musketry, during the year 1897-98, comprised, in addition to the theory of Musketry, thorough grounding in firing exercise drills; also, how to instruct others, and practically to drill and instruct a squad of recruits.

Fire discipline and control of fire.

Range finding with the Mekometer.

Judging distance by sight and sound.

Complete courses of individual range practices with both the Lee-Enfield and M.-H. Rifles.

Collective firing in all its branches, including long range volleys at distances of 2,000 yards and upwards, volleys at unknown ranges, &c.

Revolver practice.

Care of arms and ammunition, and special instruction in the mechanism of the Lee-Enfield and Martini-Henry Rifles and Webley Pistol.

Aiming drill.

Testing rifles and ammunition, and working out the diagrams in connection with same.

Selection and construction of rifle ranges.

Morris Tubes,

And instruction in the practical keeping and completion of the various Returns, Registers, &c.

(3.) Special interest in these Courses has arisen from the same individuals firing with the Lee-Enfield and Martini-Henry rifles; the results show the superiority of the new weapon, both as regards its accuracy and as a Service weapon. Not one case of a jamb has arisen with the Lee-Enfield, whilst many have occurred with the M.-H.

(4.) The following is the result of the shooting:—

Individual Practices.
Lee-Enfield.

	Recruits' Course.			Trained Soldiers' Course.			
	1st C.	2nd C.	3rd C.	M.	1st C.	2nd C.	3rd C.
Officers	4	1	0	0	2	2	1
W. and N.-C.O's.	10	0	0	4	2	3	1

Martini-Henry.

	Recruits' Course.			Trained Soldiers' Course.			
	1st C.	2nd C.	3rd C.	M.	1st C.	2nd C.	3rd C.
Officers	2	3	0	0	1	1	3
W. and N.-C.O's.	8	1	1	1	5	4	0

From this Table, the marked superiority of the Lee-Enfield rifle as regards its accuracy is very apparent, more especially when it is taken into consideration that this Course is more severe than that of the Martini-Henry.

Collective Practices.
Lee-Enfield Rifle.

	Number of Rounds.	Number of Hits.	Percentage.
Officers	590	176	30
W. and N.C.O's.	1,200	664	55

Martini-Henry Rifle.

	Number of Rounds.	Number of Hits.	Percentage.
Officers	479	155	32
W. and N.-C. O's.	630	336	53

In these practices the superiority is not so noticeable; but taking into consideration the more difficult Course of the Lee-Enfield, and the fact that the weapon is a new one, the result is extremely satisfactory.

23 July, 1898.

M. BOAM,
Captain and Brevet-Major, D.A.A.-G.

APPENDIX C.

The Principal Medical Officer to The Assistant Adjutant-General.

Medical Department, Victoria Barracks, Sydney, 11 August, 1898.

SUBJECT:—YEARLY REPORT ON MEDICAL SERVICES.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward, for the information of the General Officer Commanding the New South Wales Military Forces, the Annual Report on the Medical Services for the year ending 30th June, 1898:—

1. *Garrison Hospital.*

Admissions.

There were 364 admissions to the Garrison Hospital during the year, which were contributed from the Permanent and Partially-paid Corps as under:—

General Staff (Staff Sergeant)	1
Brigade Division, Field Artillery	82
N.S.W.A. Regiment, 1st Garrison Division, No. 1 Company	96
No. 2 "	71
No. 3 "	98
Engineers, No. 3 Company, Permanent Section	6
Permanent Army Service Corps	1
Medical Staff Corps	2
N.S.W. Lancers	2
Mounted Rifles	1
1st Infantry Regiment	1
2nd " "	2
Victorian Permanent Artillery	1
Total	364

Cases

Cases admitted for treatment were detained as follows:—

Duration of cases
in Hospital.

Not over				Over
1 day.	3 days.	7 days.	14 days.	14 days.
9	60	144	85	65
Total, 364.				

There was one death in the Garrison Hospital.

No. 1690, Gunner William Wright, No. 1 Company, 1st Gar. Div., N.S.W.A. Regiment, was killed accidentally at South Head by 80-pr. gun on 19th September, 1897.

Three men were discharged from the N.S.W. Artillery Regiment as "medically unfit" for further military service.

There were 189 attendances on officers, 31 on their wives, and 24 on their children.

There were 1,063 "daily sick," in addition to cases admitted for treatment. This number was made up as follows:—Five hundred and sixty attendances on Warrant Officers, Non-commissioned Officers, and men, 208 attendances on their wives, and 295 attendances on children, either at the Garrison Hospital or at their own residences and quarters within the Head-quarters District.

In addition, as in previous years, cases of women and children requiring special or operative treatment were admitted, under my care, at St. Vincent's Hospital.

2. Recruits.

Three hundred and eight recruits presented themselves, of whom 241 were passed as "fit," and 67 rejected as "medically unfit" for military service. Of those accepted, 33 were re-engagements, and 14 had seen service other than in the New South Wales Military Forces. For their distribution and physical averages, see Appendix No. 1.

The number of recruits who presented themselves, together with all particulars, is given in Appendix No. 2, and by which it will be seen that a fine physical standard has been maintained in the recruiting of the Partially-paid Forces.

The Recruit Registers, with one exception, viz., the New South Wales Corps of Engineers, in which the weights of recruits have been omitted, have been very well kept.

The total number of recruits examined for the Partially-paid Services during the year throughout the Colony amounted to 1,026, of whom 965 were accepted as "fit," and 61 as "unfit."

3. Schools of Instruction.

Two Schools of Instruction for Officers of the Medical Staff Corps were held during the year, one at Head-quarters, in which 7 Officers attended and 3 Officers passed with honors (the 4 Officers who did not pass did not go up for examination, but intend to go through next School and then do so), and a second at Newcastle, in which 4 Officers passed with honors.

Nine Classes of Instruction in First Aid and Stretcher Drill for regimental stretcher-bearers were also held, made up as follows:—

	Officers.	N.C.O's.	Men.
Mounted Rifles (2)	3	8	14
2nd Garrison Division Artillery ... ..	...	2	4
1st Infantry Regiment ... ..	...	2	7
3rd " (2) ... ..	...	9	11
6th Volunteer Infantry Regiment ... ..	...	2	13
National Guard... ..	...	...	7
Railway Volunteer Corps ... ..	...	2	14
Total	3	25	70

The above having duly qualified by examination, were granted the usual Certificate of Efficiency in "First Aid and Stretcher Drill."

4. Continuous Training.

The benefit which all ranks of the Medical Staff Corps derived from the Continuous Training was very marked, and every endeavour was made to bring it as nearly under Service conditions as was possible; but, owing to the necessity of the curtailment of a number of parades in each quarter, everyone came into Camp more or less rusty, and time was taken up in regaining lost ground, which time could have been well spent in more advanced work.

5. Mobilisation.

The distribution and details of Mobilisation for the Medical Services (Partial and Full) have been worked out and adapted to the amended Scheme of Defence.

On a War Mobilisation, the present establishment of the Medical Staff Corps, Partially-paid Service, of two Companies would be quite inadequate, as it only numbers 113 all ranks, and would require at least another Company to work in efficiently with the Reserve System; otherwise the proportion of Reservists to the Partially-paid Force would be too great for the service to be considered highly efficient and reliable.

6. Ambulance Equipment.

(1.) Provision has been made during the past year to complete the ambulance waggons for the Bearer Company, and also to equip a Half-field Hospital for the Sydney Fortress Movable Column, and the Newcastle Defences.

(2.) In the last Annual Report, I pointed out that some provision would require to be made for Regimental Ambulance Field Equipment for the newly formed purely Volunteer Regiments at a cost of £130; but as this has not yet been carried out, I would suggest that it may be included in the Warlike Stores indent of this year.

(3.)

(3.) I also pointed out in last year's Report that the four Infantry Regiments (1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th) each require 10 stretchers (1 per Company), and suggested that this expenditure might be met from the capitation savings of each Regiment, about £30 from each; but, as far as I know, nothing has been done in this direction. These stretchers can be made locally, equal to imported, and as cheap.

7. Reserves.

Reserves. (a) The Reserve system of the Medical Staff Corps is now in good working order, becoming more popular every day, and shows every sign of really becoming an efficient adjunct to the Service.

The inexpensive but serviceable khaki drill uniform has given every satisfaction.

Army Nursing Service Reserve. (b) The Regulations for the conduct of the Army Nursing Service Reserve have been submitted, and when approved of candidates will be enrolled.

I anticipate that this movement will be very popular, and its practical value to the Service in time of war would be incalculable.

8. Medical Inspection of Recruits of purely Volunteer Regiments and Corps.

When the purely Volunteer movement was started, I wrote on the question of the medical examination of the recruits, but was informed that it was not intended to have any medical examination of recruits for this branch of the Service.

From what I saw of the purely Volunteer Regiments during the four days of the continuous training at Easter, and from the number that paraded sick—in fact requiring more medical attention than the remainder of the troops put together—I was convinced that some medical inspection was necessary prior to enlistment; otherwise, were they in their present condition to be called out for active service, the proportion of those “unfit,” and the number who would soon become ineffective from illness, would be a matter of great import.

I would submit that a somewhat lower standard of physique than that governing the Partially-paid Forces be laid down, and that, in future, the medical inspection of recruits be carried out by the Medical Officers attached to the purely Volunteer Regiments; and as these officers do not receive any pay nor allowances for their services, that they be granted the usual Government rate of 2s. 6d. for each recruit examined.

9. Vaccination.

Out of the 308 recruits examined for the Permanent Services, 88 were found to have never been vaccinated, principally young men from the country districts. This is a very serious question, and in the event of any small-pox epidemic is fraught with danger.

Vaccination in New South Wales is not compulsory; but it might be insisted that any recruit not showing satisfactory evidence of previous vaccination should submit to be vaccinated immediately, or otherwise not be accepted.

A return of those not previously vaccinated can be furnished; and I have no doubt that the bulk of them would willingly be vaccinated, when it was pointed out that there is a constant, fresh, and ample supply of pure calf lymph now available in Sydney from the Pasteur Institute.

Conclusion.

The present general efficiency of the Medical Service is, I believe, of a higher standard than in previous years, all ranks having endeavoured to do their best; and were more opportunities afforded for drills and exercises, a still better condition would maintain.

I have, &c.,

W. D. C. WILLIAMS, Surgeon-Colonel,
Principal Medical Officer.

APPENDIX No. 1.

RECRUIT Averages, Permanent Forces, from 1st July, 1897, to 30th June, 1898.

Regiments or Corps.	Pre-sented.	Ac-cepted.	Re-jected.	Height.		Chest Mea-surement.	Previous Service.	Re-engage-ments.
				ft. in.	st. lb.			
Permanent Staff... ..	8	8	...	5 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	10 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{4}$	6	.....
Brigade Division Field Artillery, Gunnery	6	6	...	5 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{4}$	.....	.....
N.S.W. Artillery Regiment—Brigade Division Field Artillery, Drivers...	23	20	3	5 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	9 12 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{4}$	1	4
1st Garrison Division, Gunnery ...	253	192	61	5 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	38 $\frac{3}{4}$	6	26
N.S.W. Corps of Engineers, No. 3 Company (Submarine Miners), Per- manent Section	8	5	3	5 8	9 8 $\frac{3}{4}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	1
Permanent Army Service Corps ...	8	8	...	5 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	38 $\frac{1}{4}$	1	.....
Permanent Medical Staff Corps ..	2	2	...	5 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	11 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....	2

W. D. C. WILLIAMS, Surgeon-Colonel,
Principal Medical Officer.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX No. 2.

RECRUIT Averages, Partially-paid Forces, from 1st July, 1897, to 30th June, 1898.

Regiment or Corps.	Presented.	Accepted.	Rejected.	Height.		Weight.		Chest Measurement.
				ft.	in.	st.	lb.	in.
N.S.W. Lancers	116	111	5	5	9 $\frac{1}{8}$	10	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mounted Rifles	80	77	3	5	9 $\frac{7}{8}$	11	0 $\frac{3}{4}$	36 $\frac{1}{8}$
Brigade Division Field Artillery	37	34	3	5	7 $\frac{1}{8}$	10	1	35 $\frac{1}{4}$
2nd Garrison Division, N.S.W. Artillery Regt.	29	28	1	5	7 $\frac{3}{4}$	10	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{3}{8}$
Engineers	68	62	6	5	8	.....	.....	36 $\frac{1}{2}$
1st Infantry Regiment	154	148	6	5	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	10	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$
2nd Infantry Regiment	171	152	19	5	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	10	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$
3rd Infantry Regiment	169	161	8	5	8 $\frac{5}{8}$	10	10 $\frac{3}{8}$	35 $\frac{3}{8}$
4th Infantry Regiment	137	131	6	5	8 $\frac{3}{8}$	10	10 $\frac{3}{8}$	35 $\frac{3}{8}$
Army Service Corps	12	10	2	5	9 $\frac{1}{8}$	11	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$
Medical Staff Corps	68	51	7	5	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	10	7	35 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total	1,031	965	66	5	8$\frac{1}{2}$	10	10$\frac{1}{2}$	35$\frac{1}{2}$

W. D. C. WILLIAMS, Surgeon-Colonel,
Principal Medical Officer.

APPENDIX D.

CAMPS OF INSTRUCTION, 1897-98.

Place.	Date.		Numbers present in Camp.					Remarks.
	From	To	Officers.	N.-C.O's. and Men.	Horses.	Guns.	Wag- gons.	
Rookwood	8/4/98	16/4/98	246	3,779	1,314	12	42	Number of troops encamped for whole nine days.
Supernumeraries	8/4/98	11/4/98	10	54	...	...	...	Number encamped for first four days before withdrawal of purely Volunteer Infantry Regts.
Rookwood			297	4,890	1,322	12	42	
Middle and S'th Heads	4/4/98	11/4/98	28	462	...	...	...	Garrison Artillery.
Chowder	8/4/98	23/4/98	4	83	...	...	...	Sub-marine Miners.
Total ... ..	.....	.....	329	5,435	1,322	12	42	
Supernumeraries ... ..	.....	.....	*10	54	...	...	...	*Includes Hon. Staff, 6.

These totals do not include National Guard, Railway Volunteer Corps, and Naval Brigade, who were present in Camp one day for Review in the following proportion:—

National Guard	2 officers	78 men.	
Railway Volunteer Corps	5	163	..
Naval Brigade	25	475	..
Total	32	716	..
1st Garrison Division Artillery	14	272	.. On duty at various Stations.
Total	46	988	..
Grand Total, Camp ... ..	...	6,576	
Artillery elsewhere on duty ... ..	...	286	
		6,862	

APPENDIX E.

APPENDIX E.

SOLDIERS RATIONS OF EUROPEAN ARMIES AND NEW SOUTH WALES COMPARED.

	New South Wales.	British.	French.	German.	Russian.
Meat	24 oz fresh, or 16 oz. preserved meat.	*16 oz. fresh or preserved meat.	14.11 oz. fresh, or 8.82 oz. preserved meat, or 8.82 oz. salt pork.	13.226 oz. fresh or salt meat, or 7.053 oz. smoked beef, pork, mutton, or salt pork, &c., or 7.053 oz. tinned meat.	7½ oz. fresh meat, or 3½ oz. ham.
Bread or biscuit ...	20 oz. bread, or 16 oz. biscuit.	20 oz. bread, or 16 oz. biscuit.	35.27 oz. bread, or 33.51 oz. biscuit-bread, or 25.92 oz. biscuit.	26.35 oz. bread, or 17.63 oz. biscuit	29 oz. biscuit or flour or bread.
Tea	¼ oz.	½ oz. ....	.....	*8817 oz. coffee (in roasted berries), or 1.058 oz. if unroasted, or 1.763 oz. tea.	¾ oz.
Coffee	¾ oz.	½ oz.	55 oz. (roasted) ...	.....	.....
Sugar	3 oz.	2 oz.	74 oz.	5996 oz.	¾ oz.
Salt	½ oz.	½ oz.	55 oz.	8817 oz.	½ oz.
Pepper	⅓ oz.	⅓ oz. ....	.....	.....	⅓ oz. pepper, and 18 pint vinegar may be issued when ordered by Commander-in-Chief.
Potatoes	16 oz. ....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Fresh Vegetables ...	8 oz., 1 oz. compressed.	8 oz. fresh vegetables when procurable, or 1 oz. compressed	3.53 oz. dried vegetables or rice.	4.408 oz. rice, groats, or barley meal, or 8.817 oz. peas, beans, or lentils, or 8.817 oz. flour or meal, or 52.7 oz. potatoes, or 7.053 oz. tinned vegetables.	.....
Groats .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4½ oz.
Lard .....	.....	.....	1.06 oz. ....	.....	.....

* May be increased to 20 oz. when the supply of cattle is abundant.

New South Wales	72.53
French	55.81
German	50.93
British	47.02
Russian	42.56

APPENDIX F.

RETURN showing the Expenditure on Defence, and the Expenditure *per capita* of each Australian Colony, for latest dates available.

Colony.	Mean Population, 1897.	Total Sums expended on Defence.	Amount <i>per capita</i> expended on Defence.
		£	s. d.
New South Wales ...	1,310,550	211,627	3 3
Victoria ...	1,172,790	182,042	3 1
South Australia ...	358,445	32,345	1 10
West Australia ...	155,749	16,629	2 2
Tasmania ...	168,916	10,092	1 2
Queensland ...	484,700	91,830	3 9½

NOTE.—In the case of Great Britain the annual expenditure for the Naval and Military Services reaches a sum of £1 ls. per head for about 40 millions of people.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

NEW SOUTH WALES.

MILITARY.

(PAPERS RESPECTING RIFLE-SHOOTING UNDER ACTIVE SERVICE CONDITIONS.)

Printed under No. 13 Report from Printing Committee, 24 November, 1898.

R. A. Price, Esq., M.P., to The Chief Secretary.

Dear Sir,

Parliament House, Sydney, 7 December, 1897.

I forward herewith an article from the Sydney *Daily Telegraph* of the 2nd instant, and shall be pleased if you cause an inquiry to be instituted into the subject, and a report prepared *re* same.

The importance of this matter cannot be over-estimated, as upon the inducements offered to the Volunteer Forces will they become good shots.

I desire to direct your attention particularly to the urgent necessity for a fair proportion of the matches being carried out under similar conditions to those which would occur in actual service, being convinced that you will cause an alteration to be made in the present system.

Yours, &c.,

R. ATKINSON PRICE.

[Enclosure.]

The Daily Telegraph, 2 December, 1897.

A PLEA FOR PROGRESS IN RIFLE-SHOOTING.

To the Editor.

SIR,—In your issue of the 29th ultimo there appeared some remarks by "One of the Officials of the National Rifle Association of New South Wales," which, taken generally, may be accepted as a protest against that portion of the Annual Report of the General Officer Commanding the Military Forces which referred to this and other similar Rifle Associations in this Colony.

The New South Wales Government grants annually to the several Rifle Associations the following sums:—The National Rifle Association of New South Wales, £1,000; the Northern Association, £250; the Western Association, £250, and the Southern Association, £250; railway passes, £675; free ammunition, £882; making a total of £3,307 paid by the Government to encourage rifle-shooting. I propose to show how this money is spent, and I take it that the public expects to find some useful return for their money.

In the Report mentioned, the General points out that, whatever the cause may be, the proportion of soldiers, as compared with civilians and others, and more especially Infantry and Mounted Rifles, who avail themselves of these Rifle Meetings is so small as to lead to the conclusion that there must be some good reason for their absence. The facts are that at the last Rifle Association Meeting, in October, the individual prize money was distributed as follows:—New South Wales Infantry, £159; New South Wales Forces (other than Infantry), £358; New South Wales Civilian Rifle Clubs, £687; other Colonies, £654; Out of 264 prize-winners, twenty-eight belonged to the Infantry and Mounted Rifles of the Colony, who between them won £167; so that more than one-third of the total individual prize-money was secured by the crack shots of the other Colonies, and only one-tenth by those members of the New South Wales Forces who are armed and would fight with the rifle. The General further points out in his Report that at these meetings "there is no pretence at handicapping; the same crack shots are allowed to enter match after match on equal terms with beginners, the consequence of all this being that very few of the rank and file of the Defence Forces have much chance of obtaining good prizes. From all this I infer that, if it is the desire of the Government to bring up the general average of the shooting of the Defence Forces, rather than furnish fancy prizes for a favoured few, it will be necessary to modify considerably the conditions on which grants are now given to Rifle Associations." Nearly all the prizes fall to those individuals who make a profession of shooting at known distances and stationary objects, which are quite distinct

from soldier conditions. A very large proportion is won year after year by gentlemen who make a business of attending these meetings all over this and other Colonies, and who certainly do not by such means become more useful to their country. The professional rifle shot of this kind is characterised by the General as a "pot-hunter," to which term the Rifle Association takes exception. They claim that rifle-shooting of the kind they provide is a "sport" which is taken up by a large number who practice assiduously from year to year at considerable inconvenience and loss of time to make themselves expert, not from motives of gain, but simply out of patriotism and love of sport." Is the Government of this country justified in spending a large sum of money annually upon what is described by the Rifle Association themselves as a "sport" and "an expensive pastime"? Might they not, with equal reason, endow our cricket and football clubs, who, at all events, spend their time in healthy exercise? I maintain that the conditions of shooting at these meetings cannot be accepted as of value from a soldier's point of view; and, if not, should the public funds be devoted to encourage the efforts of a few professional match shots? In my opinion there are two very sound reasons for the want of interest that appears to be taken in these meetings by our Colonial soldiers—first, because the delicate machinery introduced, the Verniers, coloured lines, ventometers, patent sights, &c., has brought target shooting to a gallery science, in which only a few can ever hope to excel; and, in the second place, because the nature of the shooting is so absurdly limited that it naturally conveys no idea to a soldier that by becoming a competitor he may also expect to become more useful to his country; and this opinion I am convinced is held by the thinking portion of the public. Who for a moment supposes that any of the rifleman's paraphernalia carried about at our matches and meetings could or would be used in the face of an enemy? And if these things are not of any practical value in the field, are we not wasting time in perfecting a few men in impossible details, and neglecting that kind of training without which no soldier can lay claim to be truly called an expert rifleman? In the last number of *The Journal of the Royal United Service Institution* (October, 1897) there is a paper "On the instruction of our soldiers in shooting under active conditions of service," by Colonel Browne, commanding the 21st Regimental District. The writer argues that, after the recruit has been instructed in individual firing at known ranges and under conditions which will satisfy him of the accuracy of his rifle, he should spend every round fired at his subsequent musketry courses in a variety of practices as nearly as possible under active service conditions. (In the discussion which followed Colonel Browne's paper, Sir James De Hoghton, Bart., an officer who for twenty-one years was connected with musketry training in the Army, and who also served as D.A.A.G. at the School of Musketry, Hythe, expressed himself as follows:—"I quite agree with Colonel Browne in his remarks, but he rather disguises the question of shooting at Bisley. I am fond of shooting, but I never decline to speak my thoughts, and to say that I consider Bisley one of the great enemies to progress of musketry in the Army. Our men fire there under conditions which can never obtain on service, and they gradually get the impression that if they have not favourable conditions, if they do not know the range, if it is a cloudy day, and there is a changing light, they cannot shoot. It also produces this effect: that the men consider that if they are not amongst the prize-winners of the great shows they are of no use as soldiers. I do not think that is right. I am certain it is wrong. I am certain that in practice the well-trained man, the ordinary shot of the battalion, is in action every bit as useful and good as is the marksman. I have tried it practically. I have taken sections of marksmen and tried them against sections of ordinary shots in the field under service conditions. The difference is nothing.")

General Sir Gerald Graham, V.C., apropos of range rifle-shooting, has expressed himself as follows:—

Fire discipline requires special training and much practice in peace time. It will not do to assume that because a man moves with faultless precision on parade, or makes good practice at a fixed target, that he will be able to control himself so as to expend his cartridges with judgment in the excitement of action, or listen coolly to orders from his officer under conditions entirely unlike those of his ordinary musketry practice. The conditions could indeed be scarcely more dissimilar than those of ordinary target practice and a battlefield. Let anyone visit the Wimbledon Camp on a fine July afternoon, and watch the perfect order and composure that prevails in that admirably organised shooting exhibition. He may perhaps notice a veteran champion, who looks as if he were laying himself down for a comfortable nap, but whose piece presently goes off with good result at 1,000 yards. Can anything be more unlike the crashing roar, confusion, and excitement of a fighting-line, when life is most intense in the presence of death, and when the strongest bonds of discipline and confidence in authority are necessary to draw men to listen for commands and to obey them?

Colonel Brownrigg, formerly Commandant of the Victorian Volunteer Forces, on the occasion of the presentation of prizes won at a former meeting of the Victorian Rifle Association, said:—

When he arrived in the Colony nothing in military matters struck him more than the advanced state of rifle shooting. Since then it had continued to improve, and he could congratulate volunteers upon having just completed one of the most successful meetings held in Australasia. He, however, regretted to see that some of the purely military matches had not received the support to which he thought them entitled. He alluded to the rapid firing match, the firing at unknown distances, and, above all, the volley and skirmishing competitions. He wished the volunteers to ask themselves what was the aim and object of rifle shooting. Was it simply to make money? He did not think so, because no charge was felt by volunteers to be more opprobrious than that of being a "pot-hunter." The object of the Forces should rather be to strive for such proficiency with the rifle as would enable them to meet an enemy on equal terms, at all times, and under all circumstances. They were told by the newspapers that his Celestial Majesty intended to invade the Colonies in three years' time. They were also reminded by what were called war scares, which did much good—only the term "scare" was inappropriate—that the Colonies might be also invaded at any time by even a more formidable foe. It was not likely that Corporal Ah Sin or Colonel Menchikoff would, when landing at Port Phillip, place himself on a little mound at 800 yards distance, and expose the regulation length of body, while Private John Brown assumed a prone or backward position, fired off a shot to warm his barrel, and threw up pieces of paper to ascertain the direction of the wind. To have a body of men who could do good shooting with twenty rounds of volley firing, twenty rounds at skirmishing, advancing, and retiring, thirty rounds at disappearing objects, and thirty rounds at unknown distances, would be more gratifying to a commander than to know that he had a Corporal Dick or Bombardier Harry who could make 98 out of a possible 100. He did not wish to cry down individual firing, but it was desirable that the men should get out of the recruit stage. There was not a single range that he had yet visited in the Colony on which unknown distance firing could not be practised.

Both Lord Wolseley and General Roberts have repeatedly solicited the English Rifle Associations to encourage service matches, and exclude unsoldierly conditions from their meetings, and yet the British Government give no monetary assistance to these bodies. It is recognised by every military authority all the world over that under modern conditions of warfare individual firing is of very small value against an enemy armed with the modern breechloader, and that independent firing by moving troops is positively dangerous. For this reason three-fourths of the number of rounds expended in the musketry training of our soldiers is devoted to controlled fire and field practice under service conditions. Let us see, then, in what way the Rifle Association keeps pace with modern ideas. At the late meeting sixteen matches were fired

fired under shooting-gallery conditions (*i.e.*, one round per minute time allowance, painted paper sights, Verniers, sighting shots, &c.), and all in the lying-down position. For these the prize money and medals amounted to £2,267. On the other hand, only four matches were arranged to be shot under service conditions, and the prizes for these totalled £286. Can such shooting ever be termed "sport"? Range shooting as a "sport" (compared, *i.e.*, with shooting game in the field) bears the same relation as bowls to cricket, and is best suited to elderly gentlemen who cannot take violent exercise. Are our riflemen never to get beyond the recruit stage? Can it be said that because we have a few crack shots who can hit a bull's-eye under conditions absolutely impossible in war, that the country receives anything like a fair return for its large expenditure of money at Rifle Meetings? It is pointed out by the Rifle Association that £1,560 was divided in prizes in the "A" series open to the Empire, and of this amount £1,440 was subscribed by the competitors themselves, with the result that the Association was only put to the cost of £85 in one particular series of matches. If these figures are correct, whence the necessity for a Government subsidy? Under the heading of cost, should there not be added the expenses of these matches, which have been met by Government grant? It would appear from the statistics quoted by the representative official of the Rifle Association that this body is really independent of Government aid, and that the subscriptions received from the crack shots who take part in their meetings are really in the nature of sweepstakes, to which the Government subsidy is added. This sort of "expensive pastime" is quite beyond the reach of the average soldier of the New South Wales Forces. If the Government are prepared to accept a satisfactory balance-sheet as indicative of good work done, then the Rifle Association is beyond comment. On the other hand, if the *raison d'être* of these Associations is as stated in their Rules, *viz.*, "To encourage the members of the Defence Forces of the Colony to become proficient in the use of the weapons with which they are armed," it can hardly be said that the result is satisfactory.

At the meeting held last October, fifty-one individuals secured £894 in prizes, of which thirteen members won £435. Perhaps the fifty-one gentlemen referred to are identical with those fifty fortunate match-shots whom the New South Wales Association anticipates have only repaid themselves for the money and loss of time involved in practising. I have noted that at a former meeting, out of £3,417 given away in prize money, £1,000, or nearly one-third of the total sum, was won by forty members, and over £400 by six members—that is to say, that half of the £2,000 granted by the Government that year went to forty men. Similar results will be found in any previous year. Are we to be satisfied that out of a force of 6,000 men we have about a dozen who can hit a bull's eye oftener than any other dozen in Australia? If this is "sport," I rather think that the proverbial Frenchman who goes out to shoot sparrows *a la chasse* is employed in a more sportsmanlike and useful, if less profitable, manner than the habitual range rifle-shot.

I find that the New South Wales Rifle Association set apart the sum of £850 to two competitions (for which they charge entrance fees)—*viz.*, the "Association Aggregate" and the "Queen's Champion Aggregate." As a matter of fact, not a single shot is fired in these two competitions; but the sum named is divided exclusively among those riflemen who have scored successfully in previous matches during the meeting. It is claimed by the Association that these aggregate prizes are intended to reach such steady shots as have not secured prize places in matches, but who have shot up to a good average standard. A little investigation, however, will show that this large sum of money is merely an additional inducement to our so-called crack shots. In the "Association Aggregate" this year only £11 out of £200 was awarded to men who had not already profited by previous prizes. The "Queen's Champion Aggregate," of £650, which is only open to the 150 highest scorers in previous matches, and in which those who have already profited in the "Association Aggregate" are allowed to participate, I notice that only £21 went to men who had not already gained considerable sums individually at this meeting.

It is claimed that certain matches, such as the Nursery and Tyro, are set aside for the encouragement of young shots. The magnanimity of the Association is displayed in this direction in the outlay of about £350 out of £2,565, which includes £125 in the "Richardson Aggregate," confined to the best of the so-called young shots. Whether it is really the inexperienced shot who receives encouragement may be judged from the following data:—The Paddington Match, which is open to the whole of the Defence Forces and civilian riflemen of the British Empire, was won with 42 points out of a possible 50, the lowest scorer obtaining 37 points. Compare these figures with those in the Sheridan Match, which is open to the young shots, and it is found that the top scorer there scored 42 out of a possible 50, and the lowest scorer got 37. If the Rifle Association is sincerely anxious to encourage young shots, why does it not, as suggested by Major-General French, handicap the crack shots, who are at present allowed to enter on equal terms with beginners? In what possible way can it be considered that this Colony is advantaged, for instance, by paying big prizes to such as the Officers Commanding the Victorian Artillery and a few others, principally civilians and non-combatants? It will be argued by the Association that although the other Colonies have taken away one-third of the prize money, they, nevertheless, have paid a large sum in entrance fees. I maintain, on the other hand, that the exclusion of our own men from the prize list must have a discouraging effect. It is argued that the service matches do not pay, and, therefore, by inference, do not deserve encouragement. The extent of the encouragement given to them appears from the following data:—It is open to any member of the Association who chooses to enter in the Individual shooting to obtain prize money to the amount of at least £100; whereas the best shot who fires under service conditions can at the most obtain £10 in the Rapid Firing Matches, or in the Battle Firing £4, and in the Duff £3. In 1894, twenty-six teams entered for the Battle Firing Matches, whereas this year only sixteen competed. For the Duff, in 1894, thirty-five teams entered to compete for a total of £24. For this match 140 men came to Sydney, paid forage for their own horses, and accepted risk to themselves and their mounts, in order to participate in the soldiers' event over jumps and at targets placed at unknown distances; but because the results brought no pecuniary advantage to the Association, the mounted men of the Colony were told this year that they could compete if they themselves paid the freight on their horses to and from Sydney, and three-fourths of each team subscribed £2 5s. as entrance fees to other matches competed for by the crack shots of the Colonies. The result was that, instead of thirty-five teams being entered, as was the case formerly, only five put in an appearance this year. Owing to a similar disability only fifteen men of the Mounted Rifles competed this year, as compared with 110 who were present in 1896. It has cost the officers of the New South Wales Mounted Rifles £100 annually towards accommodation and forage whilst their men attended this meeting in Sydney. I hardly think that this indicates "an utter want of interest taken by officers generally in rifle shooting," as stated by an official of the Association.

At a recent meeting, by dint of repeated request, the New South Wales Cavalry persuaded the Rifle Association to add a carbine match to encourage their men to become proficient in the weapon with which they are armed. This match was, however, thrown open by the Association to members of Civilian Rifle Reserves, who, by borrowing the necessary weapon, were enabled to compete in this event; and thus the professional shots again secured the prizes to the exclusion of those for whom they were rightfully intended.

Can the Association justify the result achieved in the Rifle Clubs' Match, for which £250 was devoted? This match is open to teams of five from any *bonâ fide* Rifle Club in the British Empire. The first prize was won by a club of "Queensland Rifles," who competed against the *bonâ fide* Rifle Clubs of this Colony. I understand that the "Queensland Rifles" consisted in men who came from different parts of Queensland, and who would, therefore, appear to have been formed into a club for the occasion.

In conclusion, let me urge those members of the Council of the New South Wales Rifle Association who are known to be opposed to the unsoldierly, ridiculous, and impossible conditions which have crept into match shooting to continue the fight for progress and utility to the bitter end. Though they are in the minority on the Council, they have the moral support not only of every true soldier in the Colony, but also of a very large proportion of the members of the Civilian Rifle Clubs; and I say this as one who has had a more than ordinary opportunity of discussing the subject with riflemen in most parts of the Colony.

Small blame to any man who has the inclination and time to devote to the necessary practice if he elects to attend every Rifle Meeting that is held, and go home with his pockets full of money again and again; but the ruling majority of the Council of the New South Wales Rifle Association are very wide of the mark if they imagine that those who collar the prizes from year to year believe for a moment in one-round-per-minute shooting as a means of training for war. It is only a question of time when the Government of the day will come to realise the true state of affairs, and refuse to encourage, by an annual distribution of large sums of the people's money, what is acknowledged to be an "expensive pastime."

Thank God, their military adviser, General French, has put the matter before them quite plainly, and without reserve.

Yours, &c.,

SMALL-BORE.

The Principal Under-Secretary to R. A. Price, Esq., M.P.

Sir,

In reply to your note of the 7th instant, I am directed by the Chief Secretary to refer you to certain replies given to questions asked in the Assembly, which will perhaps afford you the information you desire.

Chief Secretary's Office, Sydney, 10 December, 1897.

I have, &c.,

CRITCHETT WALKER,

Principal Under Secretary.

Question.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 9 DECEMBER, 1897.

(11.) Grants to the New South Wales Rifle Association:—*Mr. Carroll*, for *Mr. Price*, asked the Colonial Secretary,—

(1.) What amounts have been granted to the New South Wales Rifle Association during the years 1895-6, 1896-7; and also the amount proposed for 1897-8; and for what purpose have such amounts been granted?

(2.) Is it the intention of the Government, when issuing such grants, that the amounts shall be applied to the encouragement of rifle shooting, with a view to developing the marksmanship of civilians and members of the Defence Forces under what is known as "active service conditions" (or such conditions as would exist during actual service), or are such amounts given for the purpose of advancing club shooting under conditions which would be inapplicable in modern warfare, viz., the use of wind-gauges, Verniers, coloured lines, &c.?

(3.) Has his attention been directed to the extracts from the report and speeches of Colonel Brown; Sir James de Hoghton, D.A.A.G., School of Musketry, Hythe; General Sir Gerald Graham, V.C.; Colonel Brownrigg, Lord Wolseley, General Roberts, and others, forwarded to his office by *Mr. Price*, on the 7th instant; if so, will he be good enough to have a report prepared upon the subject during the recess, and published in the newspapers for public information prior to the meeting of Parliament in March next?

(4.) Is it a fact that out of the sum of £3,417 given as prize money, nearly one-third of the amount was won by forty persons under such conditions as would be practically useless in active service?

(5.) What is the reason that the amounts allotted for "battle firing" and "shooting under conditions of active service," such as "judging distances," "disappearing targets," "volley firing," &c., are so disproportionate when compared with the prizes given for individual shooting under club rules?

(6.) Will he be good enough to cause an inquiry to be instituted into this matter also, with a view to developing the "fire discipline" and "fire efficiency" of our Defence Forces?

(7.) Is he aware that the individual expenses incurred by country corps and mounted troops, desirous of competing at the Rifle Association Meeting, debars a large number from entering the military competitions?

(8.) Will he take steps to inquire into the advisability of making provision for the issue of free passes by rail for the infantry and mounted troops desirous of participating in such Rifle Meetings?

(9.) In view of the importance of the subject, will he be good enough to cause a full inquiry to be made into the various matters, with a view to encouraging our Defence Force to become more efficient in rifle-shooting under such conditions as would apply in active service?

Mr. Brunker answered,—

(1.) £1,000 in each year for prizes.

(2.) The amount granted was for prizes, no condition being attached.

(3.) Yes; and the matter will receive consideration.

(4.)

- (4.) No.
- (5.) Because the amount received for entrance fees does not cover the expense of conducting these matches; whereas in the matches for individual shooting the entrance fees and revenue from "sighters" pay the cost of conducting the matches and more than 80 per cent. of the prizes.
- (6.) This is very desirable, and will be carried out at an early date.
- (7.) I am not aware, but probably it is so.
- (8.) This has been dealt with as regards the present year, and the necessary free passes were granted.
- (9.) The matter will receive attention.

The Major-General Commanding the Military Forces.—C.W., P.U.S., B.C., 10/12/97. The A.A.G.—Major Bayly and Major Boam to be a Committee to go thoroughly into these matters, and prepare a report for my consideration.—G.A.F., 14/2/98.

REPORT of a Committee, appointed by the General Officer Commanding the Military Forces of New South Wales, to report upon the subject of "Rifle-shooting under Active Service Conditions," in connection with a Question asked in Parliament by Mr. Price, M.P., on the 9th December, 1897.

THE Committee, having carefully considered the subject, submit the following Report for the consideration of the General Officer Commanding.—

I.—GOVERNMENT GRANTS FOR RIFLE-SHOOTING.

We find that the Government grants for the encouragement of rifle-shooting in New South Wales, outside the ammunition supplied for annual musketry courses, are as follows:—

- (1.) Free ammunition to "efficient" of the Defence Forces for practice purposes, not exceeding 50 rounds per efficient soldier annually.
- (2.) Free grants of ammunition to reservists, not exceeding 150 rounds per efficient reservist, and a bonus of 200 rounds to each during his first year of service.
- (3.) Monetary grants annually to the National Rifle Association, and the Northern, Western, and Southern Rifle Associations, of £1,750, railway passes to the value of £675, and free ammunition costing £882.

These Associations are further assisted by the free use of Government ranges and equipment (where available), as well as the services of any supervising staff they may require.

II.—MODERN FIRE-DISCIPLINE.

The experience of modern warfare shows that when troops become engaged the result of the combat almost entirely depends upon the better "fire-discipline" maintained on either side.

"Of all the incidents of a modern fight, that of which it is the hardest to give any conception to anyone who has not seen infantry possessed of the enormous facilities for firing which are supplied by modern arms, is the intense absorption, in the mere fact of firing, which, almost like a catalepsy, takes possession of the man who is using his weapon against an enemy, or, as may often happen in close country, against nothing at all. We want to educate men so that they do not fire under the conditions of catalepsy. Experience has shown that this can only be done by having men, who are not themselves firing, trained to look after those who are firing, so that the fire may be regulated. The men themselves must be trained only to fire under orders, and never under the influence of a tendency to relieve their feelings. We cannot put better what is involved in these necessities than in the words of Colonel J. H. A. Macdonald of the Queen's Edinburgh Rifle Volunteer Brigade (now Lord Kingsburgh). How is this to be done? How, but by so regularly, consistently, and persistently putting the soldier through the action of firing by orders, that it shall be a second nature to fire only under control of his superior, and not otherwise. What is wanted is the conviction in the mind of every instructor, from the highest to the lowest, that his men should never leave a parade without having gained something in fire discipline—that is, that fire control drill be one of the main points in view as a necessary part of the work to be performed on every occasion when men are being drilled; exercised, or inspected, from the moment that they know the rifle exercises until the day when they leave the Service. Let some of the time which formerly was spent in a perpetual form drill to produce a military machine, that had a steadiness in formation which nothing could shake, be now spent in producing, by a perpetual control drill, a fire organism which shall have a steadiness in the use of fire which nothing can shake. The troops that shall be found most in the hands of the commander in the matter of fire will, *ceteris paribus*, be invincible."—(From the article "War" in the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, by General Maurice, late Professor of Military Art and History, Royal Staff College.)

It has been found in every war since 1870 that the natural tendency of the troops engaged is to expend vast quantities of ammunition in wild *uncontrolled fire*, and that this kind of fire, when once begun, is most difficult, if not impossible, to check, produces a minimum effect, is demoralising to troops using it, and encouraging to the enemy.

In order to subdue this state of indiscipline, every endeavour is now made, by peace organisation and training, to accustom men to fire by word of command, until by constant habit it becomes a second nature. It is further recognised that control is more difficult, and is yet more important, when troops come into closer contact; hence fire-groups of fifteen to twenty men have been organised, this being the largest number that can be directly kept in hand by one commander during the later and decisive period of the fight. On these principles the independent fire of individuals is not only discouraged but prohibited, and is only practised in peace training in order that, when it is no longer possible to prevent it, it may be regulated to a certain extent. (In *Appendix A* the comparison between the effect of controlled and uncontrolled fire is more fully explained.)

III.—MUSKETRY PROGRESS IN RECENT YEARS.

It should be borne in mind that, when Rifle Associations were first formed, musketry training was not only generally regarded as quite distinct from drill, but even as a troublesome adjunct to a soldier's routine work, and it was almost entirely left to these Associations to endeavour to popularise rifle-shooting.

"The whole of our old system of musketry (1877) was based on the assumption that every man with good eyesight could be made a good shot, and the individual fire of a single man was accordingly raised to the highest place. The falseness of this hypothesis was amply proved in our late campaigns, where our shooting is reported to have been as bad as it could possibly be." (This was written in 1888.) "The fact of the matter is that only *very few men are individually good shots*, especially when under fire, and those that are such have *their skill nullified* in the field by the excitement of the fight and by *not knowing the ranges exactly*, the almost *all-important point* for accurate shooting." (*Mayne's Infantry Fire Tactics*.)

Considerable progress has been made during recent years in musketry instruction in the British Army, and, following continental precedent, the various courses for the recruit and trained soldier have been amended, in order to bring the shooting as nearly as possible up to modern conditions of warfare. Thus, whereas in former days individual fire was considered all that was necessary for a soldier to learn, it is now recognised that this portion of his training can only be regarded as preliminary to his further instruction in controlled fire and shooting under varying and difficult conditions.

We have to consider, therefore, whether the assistance given by the Government in the present day towards the encouragement of rifle-shooting is expended in conformity with these modern principles.

Up to 1887 the Imperial musketry course consisted almost entirely in individual deliberate shooting, and this was the class of shooting carried out by the National and other Rifle Associations.

The musketry training which came into force in 1892 introduced essential changes. The recruit was allowed to fire only 84 out of 200 rounds in individual deliberate shooting, and the trained soldier only 45 out of 200.

A still greater proportion of the rounds fired by the Imperial soldier is now devoted to controlled fire and rapid shooting, and it is yet in contemplation by the Imperial authorities that this proportion shall be further increased.

Following the Imperial Regulations, the military authorities of New South Wales have directed that only 49 rounds out of 151 are to be expended in deliberate uncontrolled fire—*i.e.*, to teach the soldier to readily adopt the various military positions in firing, standing, kneeling, and lying down, and to give him, by aiming deliberately at a fixed target, sufficient confidence in the accuracy of his rifle. The whole of the remaining rounds are now expended in instruction in rapid, controlled, and collective firing—that is, under conditions resembling those to which a rifleman would be subject in the face of an enemy.

There being no prizes in connection with the annual musketry courses, as obtains in the Imperial Service, it naturally follows that the nature of the shooting conducted by Company, Regimental, and Civilian Rifle Clubs is confined almost wholly to the one class of match which is encouraged by the various Rifle Associations. It is to be regretted that these bodies, who it will be seen (para. 1) monopolise Government aid, not only in respect to cash subsidies, but also in the matter of free railway passes, and who, being thus favoured, are also endowed with the greatest responsibility—should virtually be quite beyond any control by the Military Department.

IV.—RIFLE MEETINGS OF TO-DAY.

Until the year 1887 the deliberate individual firing carried out at the meetings of the several Rifle Associations could hardly be considered other than in conformity with the authorised musketry course then laid down by Regulations. On the other hand, it must be recognised that, in continuing to devote nearly the whole of their meetings to very deliberate individual fire, these bodies are not now at all in touch with the later principles, which regulate the peace training of a soldier in the use of his rifle for war purposes.

In order that this distinction may be clear, it is necessary to point out in what essential ways the matches now conducted at Rifle Meetings are not of the character required by a soldier in peace training.

(1.) *Slow Aiming.*

Excepting the five so-called service matches, the whole of the ammunition expended is in slow shooting—*i.e.*, within their time limit of one round per minute, *vide* General Regulations of the National Rifle Association, 13 (e).

Until a soldier understands the elementary principles of shooting, it is necessary that he should have *ample time*, not only to aim, but to fire. This, however, is a matter for *recruit instruction*.

On the other hand, as soon as his preparatory training is complete, and he becomes a portion of a fire-unit—*i.e.*, a number of men firing by one man's word of command—the soldier's individuality must give place to disciplinary action, his will being entirely subordinated to that of his commander; otherwise he becomes not only useless, but an encumbrance and a source of danger to his comrades.

A soldier, therefore, who habitually takes very deliberate aim, is quite unable to comply with service conditions which require instant obedience and immediate action. It is very seldom, indeed, that a man who is successful as a deliberate firer shows to advantage in rapid shooting.

"I am certain that in practice the well-trained man, the ordinary shot of the battalion, is, in action, every bit as useful and good as is the marksman. I have tried it practically. I have taken sections of marksmen and tried them against sections of ordinary shots in the field under service conditions. The difference is nothing."—(Sir J. De Hoghton, Bart., late D.A.A.G. at the School of Musketry, Hythe.)

In fact, the slow aimer refuses almost invariably to compete in rapid-firing matches, because he knows that constant practice in the former not only avails him nothing in the latter, but even unfits him for the change.

However

However pleasing it may be to the old and conservative rifle-shot to take his own time in aiming and pressing the trigger, his peaceful effort cannot, by any stretch of imagination, be taken to represent a rifleman's duty when faced by an impatient foe. This manner of shooting is, of course, not practicable in war. At the last meeting of the National Rifle Association, in the Rapid-firing Match, about two-thirds of the prize money went to men who had been altogether unsuccessful in the deliberate competitions, although opposed by many of the so-called "crack shots" of *six colonies*.

Out of 124 rounds fired in individual competitions, 112 rounds were fired in slow shooting, and twelve rounds in rapid.

Out of £2,015 5s. allotted for prizes in individual competitions, £1,937 5s. were for slow shooting, and £78 for rapid.

This unsoldierly condition of shooting which prevails at Association meetings, viz., slow aiming (that is, an allowance of one minute for each round fired), has further reduced the nature of shooting to a gallery science, in which artificial aids have been introduced in order to make the result of each shot more profitable to the firer. The slow aim and artificial aids are equally impossible from a military point of view.

(2) Artificial Aids.

A permanent rest for his rifle not being allowed, the match rifleman adopts every other contrivance that will assist him, regardless of its applicability, not only in war, but even in shooting game.

Thus, not satisfied with the weapon issued to him, notwithstanding that it has passed the most severe tests and been adopted by experts as best fulfilling a soldier's requirements, the match rifleman is invariably accompanied by the following elaborate paraphernalia:—A cedar box or leather case containing cartridge-racks, grease-pot to oil his cartridges, black and white paints with camel-hair brushes to nullify the effect of the varying natural conditions of light and atmosphere upon his sights; chalk pencils by which, with the aid of a mathematical instrument, known as a *ventometer*, he marks a new sight upon his rifle, gauged to one-hundredth part of an inch as an allowance for the strength of the breeze; a *Vernier* similarly accurately gauged to give the elevation to a minute fraction; a *blow-tube*, with which he moistens his barrel after each shot; an *orthoptic*, or specially-constructed metal screen, to concentrate his vision on the target; coloured glasses to protect his eyes from the strain of ordinary daylight; and a *temporary rest* to support his elaborately garnished weapon between rounds, and to prevent it from undue contact, which, by accident or otherwise, would derange its minute appointments, and result in the discomfiture of the "crack shot."

With all these aids, the match rifleman, under Regulations laid down by his own representatives on the Rifle Association's Councils, objects to shoot in any but the "prone" or lying-down position at all ranges, notwithstanding that the Musketry Regulations forbid this position, except at ranges over 500 yards. He, as a matter of course, vilifies any unfortunate comrade whose passing shadow may derange his equanimity, and a range official further protects his nerves from desultory conversation in his vicinity.

Is it likely that a soldier, imbued with a knowledge of what will be required of him on service, will consent to have recourse to these utterly impossible conditions and adjuncts, except with a view to monetary advantage?

Can such pastime, which is unworthy of the name of sport, appeal to the soldier as either worthy of his time and attention, or calculated to improve him as a part of a military machine? The kangaroo-shooter is infinitely more entitled to Government aid.

Constantly firing with a slow aim, and relying upon artificial aids, renders a soldier unfit to cope with the varying conditions which he must meet with on service, and to which he should endeavour to be accustomed by peace practices.

V.—SERVICE MATCHES.

In the Annual Meetings of the various Rifle Associations of New South Wales we notice that service matches are in a very undue minority.

They are even acknowledged by the governing bodies as undesirable, because, to them, unprofitable items. Thus, at the last meeting of the National Rifle Association in 1897, out of a total of twenty-seven competitions, only five (viz., the Regimental Bugle, Battle-firing, "Duff" Rapid-firing, and Running-man events) could be considered as approaching service conditions, and three of these were service matches rather in name than reality, inasmuch as they were conducted under conditions and with accessories impossible to a soldier in war.

In the Regimental Bugle Match a bull's eye target was employed instead of a figure; slow aiming and artificial aids to the rifle were permitted.

In the Rapid-firing Match a bull's eye target was employed, and artificial aids were permitted.

In the Running-man Match artificial aids were also permitted. Even the remaining two events, under so-called service conditions, viz., the "Duff" and Battle-firing Matches, were not under service conditions in many respects. The ranges were known in the latter, and it was conducted with a deliberation, 45 seconds for two volleys, which would have been suicidal to men under fire; the targets in both cases were stationary; fire concentration, casualties, and delegation of command were not practised; and in the "Duff" the target (6 feet x 6 feet, bull's eye, &c.) was arranged as for slow individual fire, and could not be conceived to represent any enemy, either in size or position.

Out of a total of at least £2,483, distributed in prizes (excluding Continuous Matches) at the 1897 meeting of the National Rifle Association, the Council saw fit to devote only £286 to the matches approaching service conditions.

Thus, the kind of shooting that should have formed the main portion of the meeting was valued at only one-ninth ($\frac{1}{9}$) of the whole.

It will further be noted that in the matches arranged by the Council of the National Rifle Association, there is an abnormal disproportion between the amounts which it is open to an *individual* to win as first prize in the individual slow-shooting contests, as compared with those under so-called service conditions.

The total amount devoted to each of these events is also worthy of comparison :—

Slow Individual Matches.	First Prize.	Total Prizes.	So-called Service Matches.	First Prize.	Total Prizes.
<i>A Series.</i>					
Randwick	£ 6	£ 70	Regimental Bugle, Teams	£ 2/10/-	£ 90
Paddington	7	85	Battle-firing, Teams	3/10/-	96
Sydney	8	100	“ Duff ” Teams.....	2	20
Association, Aggregate	15	200	Rapid-firing	8	78
Members.....	10	100	Running-man, Continuous.....	1	50 per cent. of entrance fees.
Jaques.....	10	110			
Manning.....	10	115			
Dangar	25	130			
Queen's, Aggregate	50	650			
<i>B Series.</i>					
Nursery	5	50			
Sheidan.....	6	60			
Lewington	7	70			
Richardson, Aggregate	10	125/5/-			
Tyro	5	40			
Rifle Clubs.....	8	250			
Parliamentary	3	7			
Affiliated Clubs.....	5	25			
Continuous.....	1	50 per cent. of entrance fees.			

Thus one individual can in the individual slow-shooting matches win a total sum of £187 (exclusive of Continuous Matches), or if ineligible, by former success, for the B series, a total of £152; whereas in the service matches the highest possible total is £16 (inclusive of Continuous), the proportion being again as 9 to 1.

Quoting from the results of the Annual Meetings of the National Rifle Association, we find that, in—

1896	£	1897	£
24 of the competitors won...	693	19 of the competitors won...	537
1st man won	119	1st man won	72
2nd man won	81	2nd man won	51
3rd man won	51	3rd man won	42

It will be found that certain individuals continue to win large sums from year to year—*e.g.*, Lieutenant * * * at the annual meetings of the National Rifle Association in 1895-96-97, and exclusive of prizes won by him at Association meetings in the country districts and other Colonies, won £49, £81, and £51, a total of £181, averaging £60 a year.

The following may be taken as instances of the large amounts that have been won since 1891, by individuals at single meetings of this Association :—£143, £119, and £100.

The whole of the above figures exclude prizes in the Continuous and some of the Teams Matches.

Is it intended that the Government should continue to subsidise individuals, who have apparently long since acquired all that can be learnt about this kind of shooting?

It has often been stated by members of the Council of the National Rifle Association, as a reason why they devote so small a portion of their meetings to service matches, that, as compared with other events, the receipts for entrance fees in the former do not realise so large a proportion of the prize money. This may be so; but can a large number of entries be expected for a series of matches, the prize money of which is so out of proportion to that given for shooting under the slow-aiming and unsoldierly regulations of the National Rifle Association, especially when the style of shooting is so absolutely different as almost to debar a good “service” shot from any chance of winning distinction in these gallery practices?

It is worthy of note that the soldier is further impeded in his effort to win the small prizes offered for service matches, by the refusal of the National Rifle Association to issue him a railway pass until he has expended a sum of at least 15s. in entrance fees for the individual slow-shooting matches, in which, as already pointed out, he can hope to meet with small, if any, success.

This disability is so pronounced as almost to be prohibitive in the case of the country units of the mounted troops. Thus, a team of four men, belonging to the Cavalry, who desire to enter for the “Duff” competition, which is the only match in which their own firearm (the carbine) is used, are either refused railway passes, or compelled, in order to obtain them, to enter three men for *at least* the series of matches included in the “Richardson Aggregate.” This means that, in addition to the entrance fee of 10s. for the “Duff,” a further sum of at least £2 5s. must be paid, attendance and shooting for an extra day and half is rendered compulsory, and the Cavalry soldier is expected to compete under disadvantageous conditions with men armed with rifles, and aided by the many contrivances so repugnant to a service shot.

Under the same rules, a team of infantry desiring to shoot in their special event, the Battle-firing Match, must pay, in addition to the entrance fee of £1, a similar additional sum of at least £5 5s., or pay their own railway fares.

At the last meeting of the National Rifle Association, twenty-seven men of two country companies of the Second Infantry Regiment were refused railway passes in this way, and obliged to pay their own fares to and from Sydney. How many others were debarred from attending for the same reason?

Would not the expenditure in bringing a professional shot from the Victorian Border to Sydney be laid out to more advantage by the issue of railway passes to a number of our own men, resident within the Colony?

It militates greatly, moreover, against the number of entries in service matches, that general attention is concentrated upon the results of the other matches by means of “aggregate” prizes, and that service

service matches are set down for a time when the other matches are in progress, with the result that, as men have to fire in the latter or stand out of the aggregates, they are naturally led to pass by the service matches, which have thus been rendered a sort of side-show.

It is not always impossible, certainly, for men to shoot in both classes of match; but the conditions are so inconvenient as to prejudice a man's chances in both, and cause him to declare, as has often been heard lately, that he would avoid any service matches in future.

VI.—AGGREGATES.

The Committee are of opinion that the so-called competitions which appear under the name of "aggregates" are undesirable and quite unworthy of Government support. Generally, their views are expressed in the following quotation from a letter by "Small-Bore," published in the *Sydney Daily Telegraph* of the 2nd December, 1897:—

"I find that the New South Wales Rifle Association set apart the sum of £850 to two competitions (for which they charge entrance fees), viz., the 'Association Aggregate' and the 'Queen's Champion Aggregate.' As a matter of fact, not a single shot is fired in these two competitions, but the sum named is divided exclusively among those riflemen who have scored successfully in previous matches during the meeting. It is claimed by the Association that these aggregate prizes are intended to reach such steady shots as have not secured prize places in matches, but who have shot up to a good average standard. A little investigation, however, will show that this large sum of money is merely an additional inducement to our so-called crack shots. In the Association Aggregate this year only £11 out of £200 was awarded to men who had not already profited by previous prizes. The Queen's Champion Aggregate of £650, which is only open to the 150 highest scorers in previous matches, and in which those who have already profited in the Association Aggregate are allowed to participate, I notice that only £21 went to men who had not already gained considerable sums individually at the meeting."

The system thus alluded to of giving additional bonuses to individuals who have, in the opinion of the Committee, already won enough money in the single matches, appears to be quite unwarranted, and even without reason, unless it is assumed that the Council of the National Rifle Association find the Government subsidy (together with entrance fees, &c.,) amounts to a much larger sum than they require as prize money for the number of matches they can get through in a week. Even if this is so, is the National Rifle Association justified in distributing any surplus money among the so-called crack shots, when this amount could be well devoted, even under their own system, to reducing entrance fees or multiplying the small prizes? *The inducement to the so-called crack shots to attend would be less, but their presence does not appear to the Committee to be any importance from a national point of view.*

VII.—ADMISSION OF RIFLEMEN FROM OTHER COLONIES AT THE MEETINGS OF THE RIFLE ASSOCIATIONS OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

The inducement to riflemen of other Colonies to compete against those in New South Wales is no encouragement to the young shots of those Colonies, and, on the other hand (on account of the expense involved in attendance), serves merely as an annual attraction to the ubiquitous and professional pot-hunter. The Committee are furthermore of opinion that outside competition of this nature eventuates only in the discouragement of our own inexperienced men, and is of no profit to the Colony. Out of about £2,483 paid in prize money at the last annual meeting of the National Rifle Association, at least £654 was won by riflemen from other Colonies—*i.e.*, considerably more than one-fourth ($\frac{1}{4}$) of the total, and one-third of the amount in prize money offered for those competitions which were open to them.

VIII.—HANDICAPS.

From the point of view that the Government grants in money, &c., to Rifle Associations are with the object of some return being given, in the improvement of rifle-shooting *generally* throughout the Colony, rather than, as in sporting competitions, when, for spectacular purposes, it pays to offer large sums to induce champions to give an exhibition of their prowess, it appears to the Committee that every reasonable encouragement should be afforded to the largest number—first, in order that beginners may be induced to enter, and second, that the medium men may have opportunity to improve. With a view to popularity, and to attract large numbers, the medium and young shots must be given an equal chance with those who have had greater experience.

This can only be done, in individual matches, by a judicious system of handicapping competitors by their previous performances.

IX.—THE "RESPONSIBILITY" OF THE NATIONAL AND OTHER RIFLE ASSOCIATIONS.

As already explained, it is absolutely necessary that radical changes be made before match-shooting can be considered to be of any military value. The Committee can conceive no justification for the large annual expenditure (£3,307), which now keeps in existence the various Rifle Associations of the Colony, unless these bodies are prepared to recognise the grave responsibility devolving upon them as national institutions.

They must, moreover, be prepared and able, by an entire reformation of their present system, to elevate what they themselves regard as a "pastime" to the status of a valuable adjunct to the peace training of our soldiers.

The Committee regret that they cannot hope to see the needed reforms carried out by the existing Councils of the Rifle Associations of New South Wales.

This opinion is based upon the present constitution of these governing bodies, their responsibility in reality to the voters who have elected them, and their actual personnel. The last point, although but the natural result of the two former, is of such importance as to call for special analysis.

The Council of the National Rifle Association at present consists of 20 members, of whom—1 is an active member of the N.S.W. Mounted Rifles, 3 are active members of the N.S.W. Infantry, 5 are active members of the N.S.W. Naval Forces, 8 are civilians or members of Civilian Rifle Clubs, and 3 are retired officers of the N.S.W. Military Forces.

Thus it will be seen at a glance that those branches of the land forces (Cavalry, Mounted Rifles, and Infantry) which are pre-eminently expected to be expert with the rifle or carbine, and who, numbering 6,000, form two-thirds of the whole Defence Force, are represented on the Council by only four out of twenty members.

Again, the Naval Forces, numbering under *six hundred*, are represented by five members, as compared with four from the *six thousand* (6,000) before mentioned.

It is most inadvisable, too, that an Association formed "for the encouragement of rifle shooting in the *Defence Forces* of the Colony," *eight* out of the *twenty* members (nearly half the Council) should be civilians.

The three retired officers can scarcely be taken to represent any section of the present Defence Force; and, however enthusiastic they may be individually, it is a question whether officers who have ceased to be active members of the Force for several years, and are inexperienced in the progress of later reorganisation, can be expected to be in touch with the present requirements of military training.

It is not, under such circumstances, difficult to understand the repudiation by this body of their responsibility for the soldier's training in shooting.

The Committee are of opinion that, in the best interests of the Colony, and to ensure a proper return to the Government for the public money devoted to rifle shooting, one-half of the members of the Council should, to ensure expert knowledge and experience, be appointed by the General Officer Commanding the Military Forces of New South Wales, the remainder to be elected by the members of the Association as heretofore.

Under any circumstances, the Committee consider that a portion (say £500) of the aid at present granted to rifle shooting should be devoted to a rifle meeting of an entirely service character.

X.—SUMMARY.

It appears to the Committee that the prejudicial conditions which obtain in the present system of match-shooting may be summarised as follows:—

- (1.) Irresponsibility of Rifle Associations to the Military Authorities.
- (2.) Defective constitution of the Councils of these Associations.
- (3.) Absence of any control over the expenditure of Government aid to Rifle Associations.
- (4.) Failure of Rifle Associations to keep pace with the progress of military training.
- (5.) Almost entire neglect of controlled and collective fire.
- (6.) A general absence of a proper attempt to shoot under service conditions.
- (7.) The almost universal adoption of a most pernicious system of slow aiming.
- (8.) Habitual reliance upon ridiculous and unserviceable adjuncts to the rifle.
- (9.) The disproportionate appropriation of prize money to matches for professional shots, as compared with those for beginners, and also those under service conditions.
- (10.) Unsatisfactory method of distributing railway passes.
- (11.) The encouragement of professional shots from other Colonies to the discouragement of our own beginners.
- (12.) Denial by Rifle Associations of any encouragement to young shots by a judicious system of handicapping.

XI.—PRIZES FOR MUSKETRY.

In the Imperial Service, regiments are granted 2s. 6d. for each soldier who fires through his musketry, and 1s. for each recruit so exercised. The total sum thus obtained is distributed throughout the regiment in prizes for the encouragement of shooting generally as the Commanding Officer thinks best; but it is directed that *at least one-half* of the total is to be devoted to the encouragement of shooting in *sectional practices*—that is, controlled fire and other means of improving fire-discipline. Even the balance must not be wholly devoted to individual shooting, but is also to include rapid individual fire and moving target practice.

The Committee are strongly of opinion that if such grants were made in New South Wales the annual musketry course would be popularised, and an interesting means of further instruction and competition provided. If a portion of the sums annually granted to Rifle Associations were devoted to this purpose, it is considered that, from a military point of view, the result would be out of all proportion greater than that now secured.

XII.—SUGGESTED MILITARY RIFLE MEETING.

As an immediate step towards the encouragement of useful rifle shooting, the Committee suggest that a rifle meeting should be held of an entirely military character, and arranged by the Military Authorities.

With a view to avoiding additional railway expenses, this meeting should take place immediately after the encampment at Easter; and, to obviate unnecessary transport and loss of time, somewhere in the vicinity of the selected camping ground—by preference on a Government site. The Committee do not anticipate any difficulty in securing ground suitable for such purpose.

While the date suggested is probably well suited to country troops, it may be that some of those employed in the metropolis will have some difficulty in prolonging their absence from work.

This could be met, if found advisable, by holding a meeting on subsequent and more convenient dates specially for metropolitan men. The expenses of the latter meeting, at which tentage, rations, and forage would not be required, would be so small as probably to render it self-supporting.

A fatigue party of sufficient strength would be required, which might be furnished by the New South Wales Artillery, to carry out preliminary arrangements (fix targets, tentage, &c.), as also during the meeting to find the necessary picquets and fatigues.

The

The arrangements which obtain at Shoeburyness Rifle Meetings might be taken as a guide in these details.

Discipline should be maintained under regimental and corps administration.

The additional cost of rations and forage would be inconsiderable.

It is believed that the programme submitted could be carried out in two days, and that a variety of interesting and instructive competitions, of a tournament character, could be included for the benefit of men when not actually engaged in shooting.

PROGRAMME SUGGESTED.

No.	Name of Match.	Nature of Fire.	No. of Rounds	Distance in Yards.	Time.	Position.	Nature of Target
1	Beginners ..	Individual deliberate	10	400 and 500	1 minute per round.	Lying down	Second-class Musketry target, 6 ft. x 6 ft. bull's eye, &c.
2	Do ... do	do do (carbine)	10	400 and 500	do do ..	do	do do
3	French	Individual deliberate.....	6	800	2 minutes...	do	Three standing men.
4	Do ... do	do do (carbine)	6	600	do	do	do do
5	Roberts ...	Individual rapid	7	500	70 seconds..	Kneeling ..	Three kneeling men.
6	Do ... do	do do (carbine)	7	500	do	Sitting	do do
7	Scouts	Individual	5	Unknown, 800 to 500	4 minutes...	Any military	Kneeling and lying men.
8	Darghai ...	Section deliberate volleys...	6	Unknown, 800 to 600	2 minutes	Lying down	Three standing men.
9	Ulundi	do rapid volleys	7	Unknown, 700 to 400	70 seconds..	Any military	A company in column.
10	Coomassie ...	do attack.....	15	Unknown, 700 to 250	.....	As laid down	Kneeling men disappearing.
11	Duff	do attack mounted ...	15	Unknown, 600 to 200	.....	do	Three kneeling men.
12	Malakand ..	Company attack..	15	Unknown, 800 to 300	.....	do	Disappearing targets.
13	Hutton	Controlled fire mounted ...	15	Unknown, 600 to 200	.....	do	Three kneeling men.
14	Luck	Mounted pistol practice ..	6	25	At gallop ..	.....	Onestanding man (vitals to count 2, rest 1 point).
15	Burnaby ..	Dismounted pistol practice	12	25	.....	Standing ..	do

Details of Matches.

No. 1. *Beginners*.—Open to members of the Defence Forces who have not fired through Table B in musketry, or who are 3rd-class shots. To be fired under musketry conditions, 5 rounds each at 400 and 500 yards. Target and scoring as in musketry.

No. 2. Same name and conditions as No. 1, but for carbine only.

No. 3. *French*.—This match represents the fire of selected shots on outpost duty, firing at an enemy's patrol, the approximate range having been obtained by the range-finder. Six shots will be fired at about 800 yards, in 2 minutes, at a target representing 3 standing men, from a lying down position. Other conditions as in musketry.

No. 4. Same name and conditions as No. 3, but for carbine only, and at 600 yards.

No. 5. *Roberts*.—This match will instruct a soldier to load rapidly and fire as he would have to do against an enemy at decisive ranges. Seven rounds will be fired in 70 seconds, kneeling, at about 500 yards, the target representing 3 kneeling men.

No. 6. Same name and conditions as No. 5, but for carbine only, and in a sitting position.

No. 7. *Scouts*.—This match displays the fire of men selected for scouting duty, on account of their aptitude as field shots and in estimating ranges. Five shots will be fired at selected points, the ranges being unknown and between 800 and 500 yards, in 4 minutes, and from any military position and at targets representing kneeling and lying men. Other conditions as in musketry.

No. 8. *Darghai*.—This consists of section deliberate volleys, such as would be employed for the covering fire of Infantry against an enemy in position, at an unknown range. Six volleys will be fired as in musketry, at unknown ranges between 800 and 600 yards, in 2 minutes, at 3 standing men.

No. 9. *Ulundi*.—Section rapid volleys. These would be employed at any time against an unusually exposed enemy, if within reasonable range. Seven volleys will be fired in 70 seconds at unknown distances between 700 and 400 yards, position as laid down for the distance. The target will be standing men arranged as a Company of Infantry in column.

No. 10. *Coomassie*.—Section attack—representing the advance of assaulting Infantry within decisive ranges. To be carried out as in musketry; distances unknown and between 700 and 250 yards; targets, kneeling men disappearing, and with 15 rounds per man; teams of 8 men and a commander. There is no time limit, but a certain number of points will be deducted from the score for each appearance of the target.

No. 11. *Duff*.—In accordance with musketry instruction for Martini-Henry rifle, 1894, section 138. Conditions as at National Rifle Association Meeting, but 50 points for time, and kneeling men targets.

No. 12. *Malakand*.—Similar to section attack, except that the Company commences the advance beyond decisive ranges, and it is therefore left to the Company Commander to determine when he is justified in opening fire. Ten rounds to be carried by the men, and five per man by ammunition carriers, who will not start before the first line reach 600 yards range; nature of fire to be at discretion of the commander. Four sections will be in the firing line throughout. Otherwise as for No. 10. Points will be deducted for unnecessary exposure of individuals or part of the command. (It is hoped in future years to include supports, casualties, &c.)

No. 14. *Luck*.—Mounted pistol practice. Three targets, standing men: three shots to be fired to the right advancing and three to the left returning at these; distance 25 yards.

No. 15. *Burnaby*.—Dismounted pistol practice. To run 100 yards, and load and fire 6 rounds with each hand as in musketry instructions.

APPENDIX A.

ACCORDING to Captain Mayne (Infantry Fire Tactics), "there are two methods of allowing men to fire:—

1. *Uncontrolled or independent fire*, in which each man fires at his own convenience and judgment as to *range and objective*.
2. *Controlled or collective fire*, in which the independency of the fire of the individual man is *controlled and directed* according to the will of their commander.

Controlled fire can only be executed when the men are collected into organised tactical groups. . . . as "units of fire," because under an enemy's fire one leader alone cannot control a large number of individual men, although he can a smaller number of organised groups, each under a recognised subordinate leader.

Uncontrolled individual fire is naturally independent fire, and anything *independent* should be avoided in war as much as possible. Practically, it has been found that uncontrolled fire is very pernicious, is conducive to great waste of ammunition, and, what is far worse, to great loss of moral force in the men using it.

1. Uncontrolled fire, when once begun, especially when near the enemy, can neither be regulated nor moderated.

The late Colonel Brackenbury, describing the action of Iscadio, in the Ashantee War, 1873, writes (p. 274):—"For some time all proceeded favourably, but a few shots fired by the enemy upon the left flank immediately drew a most terrific fusillade from the Cape Coast allies, which the officers vainly endeavoured to stop, and in which Abrahs soon joined. Fire of this nature once commenced spreads rapidly, and both Houssas and Kossoos, as well as the others, had soon expended nearly all their ammunition (p. 275). We subsequently heard that as many as fifty of the Cape Coast allies were missing after this action; if so, it is probable that a large number of the casualties among them were due to their own fire."

Captain Bromhead, being ordered to remain in the track of the Ashantis, found it quite impossible to do so. "In the first place, in a two hours' action his men had fired away all their ammunition; and in the next place, in their wretchedly demoralised condition, it would have been impossible to keep them close upon the trail of the enemy."

"In Ashanti, our men in the bush-fighting sometimes fired away 100 to 150 rounds with independent firing, with very small result—that is, they fired away more ammunition individually than in some of the most hotly-contested European battles."—(Mayne, p. 416.)

2. Further, in uncontrolled fire there is no check as to what the men are firing at, if they are using the proper sights, or even if they are aiming.

After the action on Majuba Hill, in the Boer War (1881), many of our men's rifles were found to have been sighted for 800 yards, yet the fight really began under 100 yards. The English fired independently throughout.

3. It soon produces in front of stationary men such a thick smoke that the object fired at is completely hidden.
4. It renders any offensive advance almost impossible.
5. It has a very bad effect on the moral spirit of the men, as it tends to increase the excitement by causing an impression that danger is near, and as the ammunition decreases so does the courage of the men engaged.
6. The fire cannot be readily directed from one object to another, and therefore the power of concentration is lost.
7. It is the least terrifying to an enemy, especially at the longer ranges, both because it gives poor results, and also because it is scattered.
8. Its efficacious use at all ranges requires a higher state of discipline and training than is usually possible.

Prince Kraft, in "Letters on Infantry," p. 78, says:—"It seems to me that a line of skirmishers which, during a hot fight, pays so much attention to the shrill whistle of the lieutenant that it ceases firing for a moment, looks towards him, and obeys his sign to rise and rush on, or his order to fire on another object, or with another sight, *proves at once that it has attained to a high degree of fire discipline.*"

9. Once an uncontrolled fire is allowed to begin, especially if the enemy is near at hand, it will continue unchecked until the last round has been spent, from the natural tendency of the men to fire as hard as they can.
10. In very heavy firing neither bugle nor voice can be heard to put a stop to it.

"When once the fire of skirmishers has grown hot it is no longer possible to exercise any influence over it. . . . When the fighting-lines have got so close to each other that each individual skirmisher can see his enemy aiming at him, when losses begin to get heavy, and when certain sections have lost their leaders, then, at first in these sections, but soon along the whole front, a hot fire begins to 'roll,' as those men say who have experienced it. Then all directions with regard to economy in ammunition cease, since no word of command can be heard above the noise of battle. I do not wish to say anything against the courage of our excellent infantry soldiers, but there are always some among them who are but too glad to keep up their pluck by a noise, for no one wants to be killed, and most men feel the need of silencing the fear of death by a shock of some other kind, such as a great noise. At times, when it would be premature to charge in with a cheer, this uproar will continue, in order that the excitement created by it may compensate for the chilling effect of the fear of death."—(Kraft.)

11. To practice independent fire at drill is considered by some writers not only needless but positively harmful. At short ranges, in close contact with the enemy, controlled fire will of itself degenerate into rapid uncontrolled fire; the men will no longer pay any attention to orders for control. There is no need to order independent fire, for no prohibition will prevent it.

On the other hand, by the use of *controlled fire*—

1. Not a round of ammunition can be fired without orders.
2. It gives the means of seeing that all the rifles are directed on the same spot, and that the men use the sites ordered, and the fire can be rapidly directed from one object to another.
3. The fire can be stopped to allow the smoke to clear off, and the pauses in the fire can be as long as the commander pleases.
4. The pauses have a quietening effect upon the men when they are getting out of hand.
5. As the fire can be stopped at will on an order, an immediate offensive advance can be conducted.
6. It gives a better result at *all* ranges.
7. It has a very terrifying effect on the enemy when the range is found and the fire is well delivered, as it suddenly pours in at once a searching, concentrated mass of bullets at one spot, while uncontrolled fire cannot be concentrated, and so the bullets fall here and there.
8. It shakes the moral force of the enemy by the sudden loss of a number of men.
9. It requires less discipline and training on the part of the men to get good results.

"All the advantages of volley-firing must not be expected in war. It is none the less certain that the more troops have been trained in time of peace to pay attention to the slightest sign or gesture of their leaders, the greater will be the discipline and power of control in the fight. *It is a matter of peace-training and constant practice.*

"*Troops which have not been broken in to it will not possess fire discipline, however much they may have been disciplined in other respects.*"

These statements are not the outcome of theoretical conjecture. They are based on the experiences of modern warfare, and supported by the musketry regulations of the leading armies of Europe. Prince Kraft, one of the most experienced soldiers of the present day, says (p. 74):—"I have very often observed how in battle, in the presence of danger, troops which are not properly instructed do not aim—they do not even shoot—they simply make a noise. Even before I had ever seen an action, men with experience of war assured me that it was a proof of a certain standard of training in infantry if, in a hot fight, they put their rifles to their shoulders before firing. During the battle of Koeniggratz I witnessed some most irregular fire, which, as the rifles were held vertical, all went up into the air."

It is quoted as an instance of extraordinary presence of mind that, in one of the actions in the 1870 war, a non-commissioned officer was observed, throughout an attack, to caution his men from time to time how to adjust their sights.

"In the battle of the Solferino it is estimated that 8,400,000 shots were fired by the Austrians, occasioning a loss to the French and Sardinian troops of 2,000 killed and 10,000 wounded; so that 4,200 shots were required to kill and 700 to wound *one man*, showing an expenditure of 278 lb. of lead for each man killed. In the Franco-German war, however, the Germans appear to have shot much better, for the average number of shots required to kill a Frenchman was reduced to 1,300."

Can we Australians arrogate to ourselves any superiority over the German or any other nation in respect to fire discipline? If not, by all means let us remember that it will take a good many more than a handful of our crack shots to account for a single company of the enemy.

"At present our men and non-commissioned officers, and even officers, do not know the true necessity for working in groups. It has not been impressed on them by fire experiments, as is done abroad, and the whole duty of fire direction may be said to be almost unknown among us, as the question of infantry fire tactics has been sadly neglected in England." (This was written in 1888.) "*Now that such a system has been instituted, let us hope that it will be rigorously insisted on, and then it will be found that wild firing will cease, or, at least, be minimised.*"

"The whole of our old system of musketry (1877) was based on the assumption that every man with good eyesight could be made a good shot, and the individual fire of a single man was accordingly raised to the highest place. The falseness of this hypothesis was amply proved in our late campaigns, where our shooting is reported to have been as bad as it could possibly be. The fact of the matter is, that only *very few men are individually good shots*, especially when under fire, and those that are such have their skill nullified in the field by the excitement of the fight, and by *not knowing the ranges exactly*—the almost *all-important point* for accurate shooting."

Lord Wolseley has said that he does not believe 10 per cent. of the soldiers of an army can see at 1,000 yards, much less hit an object at that distance.

"In Afghanistan our troops, as a rule, opened an independent fire at ranges between 700 and 900 yards (as we had not then any such thing as fire discipline in our service), and killed very few for the number of rounds fired."

"One notable instance was at Del Sarak, when 28,000 rounds were expended on fifty killed, at ranges under 400 yards."

"Two hundred of the enemy were really killed that day, but 100 were shot down by a *single volley* from one company at about 100 yards range, and another fifty were killed in a cavalry charge. Except the one volley, this was wholly independent firing."

"In this action there was no fire discipline, control, or direction. Officers were to be seen taking rifles from the men and making practice for themselves. The result was that the whole of the ammunition with the force was fired away, and the troops had to retire back to camp for want of ammunition, followed up by the enemy the whole way."

"When our troops were shut up in Sherpur, on several occasions when independent fire began, it increased to such a pitch that neither bugle nor voice could be heard, and the men did not stop until they had fired their last round."

"In Egypt, in 1882, complaints invariably came after every action of the bad shooting of our troops; and why? Because it was independent, unconcentrated fire."

Six hundred and ninety-three men were engaged in the action on Majuba Hill, every man having received seventy rounds of ammunition. The official statement of the affair makes no reference to the Boer casualties, who, however, acknowledge to have lost *one* man killed, and *five* wounded.

About 1,000 British troops attacked the Boer position at Lang's Nek. The Boer casualties are estimated at sixteen killed, and twenty-four wounded.

At the Ingogo River, about 550 men, after fighting from mid-day to 7 p.m., accounted for nine Boers.

Certainly,

Certainly, in the Zulu War, our men made better shooting; but no one would claim that the Zulus, however brave, were a well-armed body.

Numerous instances of individual bravery and traditional British pluck have been recorded in every recent war in which our troops have been engaged. May we not accept this as an indication that it is to the system of peace-training adopted in past years, and recently revised, rather than to the men themselves, we should attribute our reverses.

"The independent firing of the French in 1870, and of the Turks in 1877, may be taken to heart by all as a warning of how not to act."

Let us see then what our Regulations say on this all-important subject of fire-discipline:—

(Infantry Drill, 1889, p. 338):—"To ensure that fire is always under control, *independent firing* will be *deferred* as long as possible. The march before the fight, the subsequent rapid advances, and the fatigues of frequent firing, will tax to the utmost the physical strength, endurance, and courage of all concerned. It is, therefore, evident that prompt obedience to orders, and strict fire discipline are of *paramount importance*. These ends can only be obtained by *constant practice during peace*

(Infantry Drill, 1889, p. 205):—"The more carefully troops are trained to do during peace what will be required of them in time of war, the more efficient they will prove when they take the field."

(Infantry Drill, 1892, p. 177):—"No time should be wasted by attention to details which are not of practical use in the field, and the aim of teaching should be to imbue all ranks with a knowledge of the principles upon which movements under fire are conducted."

Signed this 20th day of January, 1898, at Victoria Barracks, Sydney, New South Wales.

MONTAGU W. BAYLY, Lt.-Colonel,
Commdg. purely Vol. Regts. and Corps, President.

M. M. BOAM,

Capt. and Brevet-Major, D.A.A.G.

G. L. LEE, Capt.,

Adjt., N.S.W. Lancers.

J. G. LEGGIE, Capt.,

Adjt., 2nd Inft. Regt.

G. J. GRIEVE, Lieut.,

Adjt., 6th Regt.

} Members.

Military Rifle Meeting at Randwick.—Saturday, 16th April, and Monday, 18th April, 1898.

FINAL PROGRAMME.

1. The Duff.—(Mounted Section attack).

Open to teams of four men, which must not include more than one Non-Commissioned Officer, from any Mounted Corps in New South Wales.

Entrance, 4s. per team.

Six prizes.—£20, £12, £6, three at £4; total, £50.

Trophy, value £3 3s., presented by Messrs. F. Lasseter & Co., to the leader of team winning 1st prize.

New South Wales Mounted Challenge Cup, or "Section Firing" Prizes.—Individual Practice.

A Challenge Cup, presented by the late Right Hon. Sir Robert Duff, P.C., G.C.M.G., to the best Half-Squadron or Half-Company team of New South Wales *Cavalry or Mounted Rifles, each team to consist of four, including Group Leader, for riding and shooting, to be competed for annually under the following conditions:—

The Cup to be held for one year by the Half-Squadron or Half-Company of the winning team, and finally by any Half-Squadron or Half-Company winning it for three years in succession; previous wins to stand good.

Half-Squadrons and Half-Companies may enter as many teams as they please.

Dress.—Drill Order.

Course.—About 2 miles.

Target.—Life-size figures, each hit to count two points.

Distances.—Three firing points; hurdles or ditches between each firing point. Distances unknown, between 600 and 200 yards.

Shooting.—Five rounds to be fired at each distance by dismounted men in individual practice.

Fire Discipline and Command.—An Umpire, who will award points to each team for fire discipline and command, will be stationed at each firing point. Maximum points—five.

Time.—The team doing the course in best time will receive twenty points; one point will be deducted from this total by each team completing the distance for every five seconds more than best time.

Winning Teams.—The teams making the highest aggregate total points for (a) Shooting; (b) Fire discipline and command; (c) Time,—will be the winners in the order in which they stand.

The Match will be carried out in accordance with Cavalry Drill.

2. "Coomassie" Battle Firing (Infantry Section attack).—Representing the advance of assaulting Infantry within decisive ranges.

Open to teams of eight, commanded by a Troop, Battery, or Company Sergeant-Major, Colour-Sergeant, Sergeant, Lance-Sergeant, or First Class Petty Officer, from any Half-Squadron of *Cavalry, Half-Company of Mounted Rifles, Battery of Field Artillery, or Company of Naval Forces, Garrison Artillery, Engineers, or Infantry serving in the New South Wales Defence Forces (the Royal Marines or the Blue-jackets on any of Her Majesty's ships to be considered a "Company of Naval Forces").

Entrance.—9s.

Seven

* Includes Australian Horse.

Seven prizes.—£45, £27, £18, and four at £9; total, £126.

Trophy, value £3 3s., presented by Captain Oldershaw, to the N.C.O. of the winning team.

Silver Trophy, value £10 10s., presented by Major-General French, C.M.G., Commanding Military Forces, to be held for one year by the Officer Commanding the Company to which the winning team belongs, and to become the property of any Company or Half-Company winning it twice. (Previous wins to count.) After being won finally by a Company or Half-Company the Trophy to be disposed of in the Company, under such conditions as the Committee may approve.

Challenge Cup, presented by Mr. Charles Anderson, to be held till Easter, 1899, by the Officer Commanding the Company to which the winning team belongs.

The object of this competition is to find the team which makes the greatest number of hits in an attack on a small position, represented by disappearing targets, after marching a distance of about 5 miles, and firing at various unknown ranges between 700 and 250 yards. In the preliminary march, points will be deducted for marching at a slower rate than that laid down by regulation in Infantry Drill. In the rank and file two may be Corporals or Second-class Petty Officers, but not more. (Corporals does not include Lance-Sergeants.)

Dress.—Field Day Order.

Targets.—Life-size, disappearing. Kneeling men.

Position.—Any Military, to 500 yards inclusive; kneeling or standing at shorter distances.

Hits.—To count five points each.

Conduct of Match.—Teams will fall in at a place to be indicated, and will be inspected and marched off. The time allowed for the march, and the method of conducting it, will be explained previous to marching off. Fifteen rounds of ammunition will be issued to each man.

Teams will be halted by an Umpire upon arriving in the vicinity of the position to be attacked, and will receive final instructions. The general direction and position of the targets will be indicated. The first appearance of the targets will be the signal to commence.

During the advance the targets will appear and disappear at intervals of ten seconds; this will continue for a period of about three minutes, after which the targets will appear and disappear at intervals of five seconds. Each appearance of the targets will count eight points against the team, and will be deducted from their score.

Section Commanders may open fire whenever they consider it advisable, but no team will be allowed to advance more than 50 yards between volleys; any team exceeding this distance will be disqualified.

The number of rounds to be fired at each halt, as well as the rate of advance, will be optional.

All loading must be from the pouch.

Firing to be by volleys only. Words of command in accordance with "M.-H. Rifle and Carbine Musketry Regulations, 1894."

As soon as a section has completed firing the fifteen rounds (per man), the Section Commander will order it to "cease fire" and "order arms," after which, the appearance of the targets will not count against the Section.

Points, not exceeding twenty, will be deducted for careless or unnecessary exposure of the Section. A deduction of two points will be made for a "very" bad volley, and of one point for each bad volley.

3. The "Beginners."—(Individual deliberate fire.)

Open to any member of the Defence Forces under the following restrictions, viz., that—

- (a) He must have been enrolled subsequent to the 1st January, 1897.
- (b) He has never shot out of the third-class, Table B, of the Musketry Course.
- (c) He has not won a prize at any recognised Rifle Meeting.

Entrance, 1s.

Thirty-seven prizes, for men armed with rifle—£5, £4, £3, three at £2, six at £1 10s., eighteen at £1; total, £45.

Eleven prizes, for men armed with carbine (if number of entries justify)—£3, two at £2, eight at £1; total, £15.

Distances. }
Rounds. } 400 and 500 yards; five rounds at each distance; time limit, one minute per round.
Time. }

Position.—Lying down.

Target.—2nd Class Musketry.

Scoring.—As in Musketry.

4. The "French."—(Individual deliberate fire.)

Represents the fire of selected shots on outpost duty, firing at an enemy's patrol, the approximate range having been obtained by the Range Finder.

Open to all members of the Defence Forces and H.M. ships.

Entrance, 1s. 6d.

Distance.—Within 800 yards.

Rounds, Time, and Targets.—Six rounds will be fired in two minutes at a target representing three standing men.

Position.—Lying down.

Scoring.—Each hit on any of the figures to count five points.

Thirty-seven prizes, for men armed with rifle—£5, £4, £3, three at £2, six at £1 10s., eighteen at £1; total, £45.

Eleven prizes, for men armed with carbine (if number of entries justify)—£3, two at £2, eight at £1; total, £15.

5. The "Roberts."—(Rapid-firing.)

To instruct a soldier to load rapidly, and fire as he would have to do against an enemy at decisive ranges.

Open to all members of the Defence Forces.

Entrance, 1s. 6d.

Distance.—About 500 yards.

Rounds and Time.—Seven rounds, to be fired in seventy seconds.

Position.—Kneeling.

Target.—Representing three kneeling men.

Scoring.—Each hit on any of the figures to count five points.

Thirty-seven prizes, for men armed with rifle—£5, £4, £3, three at £2, six at £1 10s., eighteen at £1; total, £45.

Eleven prizes, for men armed with carbine (if number of entries justify)—£3, two at £2, eight at £1; total, £15.

6. The "Scouts."—(Individual rapid fire at various unknown ranges.)

Representing the fire of men selected for scouting duty, on account of their aptitude as field shots, and in estimating ranges.

Open to all members of the Defence Forces. Entrance, 1s.

Rounds.

Distance.

Time.

} Ten rounds to be fired in six minutes from selected points at unknown ranges between 800 and 500 yards.

Position.—Any Military.

Targets.—Representing men kneeling and lying down.

Scoring.—Each hit to count five points.

Forty-three prizes—£10, £6, £4, £3, five at £2, fourteen at £1 10s., twenty at £1; total, £74.

7. "Ulundi."—(Rapid volleys at an unknown range.)

This fire would be employed at any time against an unusually exposed enemy, within reasonable range.

Open to teams of eight, commanded by a Troop, Battery, or Company Sergeant-Major, Colour-Sergeant, Sergeant, Lance-Sergeant, or First-class Petty Officer, from any half squadron of Cavalry (which will include Australian Horse), half company of Mounted Rifles, Battery of Field Artillery, or Company of Naval Forces. (The Royal Marines or the Blue-jackets on any of Her Majesty's Ships to be considered a "Company of Naval Forces.") Garrison Artillery, Engineers, or Infantry serving in the New South Wales Defence Forces. Entrance, 9s.

Five prizes—£18, two at £13 10s., two at £9; total, £63.

Target.—Standing men, arranged as a Company of Infantry in column of fours.

Rounds,

Distance, and

Time.

} Seven volleys to be fired in seventy seconds at an unknown distance between 700 and 400 yards.

Position.—Kneeling.

Scoring.—Each hit to count five points.

GENERAL REGULATIONS.

1. Should the number of entries exceed the estimate of the Committee, additional prizes may be provided.

2. In the event of ties, prizes will be divided at the discretion of the Committee.

3. All firing will be carried out with the Martini-Henry rifle or carbine as issued, and as regards "sights," subject to the conditions laid down in the "Musketry Regulations, M.-H. Rifle and Carbine, 1894," section 130 (f), and "Musketry Instruction, N.S.W. Military Forces, 1896," chapter IV, section I, paragraph 33.

4. Except in Match No. 2 the dress will be Drill Order.

5. In Nos. 4, 5, and 6, and 7 matches, every shot fired after the time limit will be penalised by the deduction of the value of one hit for each shot so fired.

6. Matches Nos. 1 and 2 will, if possible, be completed on Saturday, 16th April. Match No. 3 will be fired on the 16th April. Matches Nos. 4 to 7 on 18th April.

7. The General Officer Commanding trusts that Officers will take part in the individual events, and specially desires that inter-regimental teams of Officers may be arranged for Matches 1 and 2.

As the amount of money at present available for this meeting is limited, Officers will not be eligible to compete for prizes. Special Trophies will be provided if funds permit.

8. In order that arrangements may be duly completed, it is necessary that the names of intending competitors should be submitted forthwith as per entry form enclosed.

9. Register-keepers will be responsible that each competitors' rifle is tested immediately before or after firing in each match. Any score obtained with a rifle which does not stand the test will be disallowed. Rifles of teams will be similarly tested before shooting. Minimum pull, 6 lb.

10. Arrangements have been made for a caterer to supply meals at 9d. per meal. Accommodation for Officers will be similarly provided at 1s. 6d. per meal.

11. Tentage and camp equipment for Officers, N.C. Officers, and men will be provided free of charge.

12. Forage can be obtained on the ground at contract rates.

13. Officers Commanding Regiments and Corps are requested to make arrangements for the sale of service tram tickets to competitors.

14. No. 1, "The Duff."—Competing teams will proceed by the march route from Rookwood on Saturday, 16th April, at an hour to be notified.

15. No. 2, "Coomassie."—Teams other than those encamped at Rookwood will assemble at the Redfern Railway Station Goods Yard on Saturday, the 16th April, at an hour to be hereafter notified. Teams proceeding from Rookwood will entrain as may be ordered, and will march thence to the position indicated by an Umpire.

16. No. 3, "The Beginners."—Competitors in this match from the Camp, other than those taking part in "The Duff" or "Coomassie," will entrain at Rookwood on Saturday, 16th April, proceed to Redfern, and thence to Randwick by tram. Time of departure from Rookwood to be hereafter notified. Other competitors in this match will proceed direct to Randwick and report themselves on the Rifle Range by 8 a.m. that day.

17. Competitors in matches to be fired on Monday, 18th April, other than those encamped at Randwick, will report themselves to their Regimental Adjutants at the Range by 8 a.m. that day.

By Order,

Head-Quarters, Victoria Barracks,
Sydney, 24 March, 1898.

M. M. BOAM,
Captain and Brevet-Major, D.A.A. General,
Secretary, Military Rifle Meeting Committee.

Report of a Committee appointed to carry out a Military Rifle Meeting, April 16th and 18th, 1898.

THE Committee of the Military Rifle Meeting, appointed by G.O. 33, of 16th March, 1898, have the honor to submit, for the information of the General Officer Commanding, the following report upon this year's Rifle Meeting, the first held in New South Wales under service conditions:—

A report upon rifle shooting under entirely service conditions having been drawn up by a committee appointed under the G.O.C.'s authority, which included certain suggestions for a Rifle Meeting under military conditions, the same committee, with the addition of Captain Oldershaw, 1st Infantry Regiment, were then directed (G.O. 33 of 1898) to carry out a meeting on the lines suggested. A programme of matches was drawn up, and promulgated by authority. Notwithstanding that this took place only three weeks before the matches, it is very gratifying to note that the Defence Forces of this Colony took advantage of the opportunity to an extent quite beyond what might have been expected for an innovation of this character. The matches were carried out upon Saturday and Monday, 16th and 18th April, 1898, immediately following the annual Easter encampment.

Eight hundred and seventy-three (873) individual officers, N.C.O.'s, and men entered for the seven (7) competitions which comprised the programme. This far exceeds the average number of competitors at the National Rifle Association's Meetings, among whom civilians are included.

The several naval and military units were represented as follows:—

N.S.W. Lancers	...	...	...	...	...	...	101 entries.
First Australian Horse	...	...	...	...	...	...	7 "
Mounted Rifles	...	...	...	...	...	...	221 "
1st Garn. Div., N.S.W. Artillery	...	...	...	...	...	...	67 "
2nd Garn. Div., N.S.W. Artillery	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 "
Corps of Engineers	...	...	...	...	...	...	24 "
1st Infantry Regt.	...	...	...	...	...	...	375 "
2nd Infantry Regt.	...	...	...	...	...	...	683 "
3rd Infantry Regt.	...	...	...	...	...	...	255 "
4th Infantry Regt.	...	...	...	...	...	...	123 "
5th V.I. Regt., Scottish Rifles	...	...	...	...	...	...	32 "
6th Vol. Infantry Regt.	...	...	...	...	...	...	9 "
7th Vol. Infantry Regt.	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 "
Railway Vol. Corps	...	...	...	...	...	...	9 "
National Guard	...	...	...	...	...	...	141 "
Naval Forces	...	...	...	...	...	...	125 "
Staff	...	...	...	...	...	...	9 "
Post entries	...	...	...	...	...	...	152 "

It may be reasonably concluded that if longer notice had been given, which would have afforded better opportunity for previous practice, the number of competitors would have been yet more satisfactory, and representative of the keen interest taken in this class of shooting by the members of the Defence Force generally.

The several competitions were conducted in the manner and with the results given hereunder:—

Saturday, 16th April, 1898.

The "Coomassie."—(Infantry section attack.)

Representing the advance of assaulting Infantry within decisive ranges.

The exceptional interest shown in this event is worthy of record. This was evidenced by the entry of sixty-five teams, representing twelve warships, regiments, and corps—in all 535 officers, non-commissioned officers, and men.

The ground selected was about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the south of the Randwick Rifle Range enclosure, being rough and undulating, with bushes, heath, and long grass.

The targets, five groups, 50 yards apart, each of four figures, were of disappearing pattern, designed by Lieut.-Col. M. W. Bayly, and made of steel and canvas. The figures were shaped and painted to represent kneeling men in blue uniform, height 3 feet, breadth 2 feet. The groups of figures appeared and disappeared simultaneously, and were worked from pits in the intervals. Upon the conclusion of the 5-miles' march in field-day order, the competing teams arrived, in batches of five, at a hollow 700 yards from the targets, and out of sight. Here they received ammunition and final instructions, which gave to every section-commander the widest possible discretion as to method of advance and conduct of fire. Upon a signal from the umpire, teams moved to the nearest crest, about 50 yards to their front, and opened fire upon the figures, which had just appeared. (For the first three minutes these figures appeared and disappeared at intervals of 10 seconds, and afterwards, the distances being less, at intervals of 5 seconds.)

It was noticeable, on the first appearance of the targets, that their life-like character and action caused no little astonishment. The objective was so unusual, that in several instances fire units failed to seize the earliest opportunity to open fire.

On the first disappearance of the targets the teams moved rapidly half-right to the next crest, where they again came under fire, and, for the remainder of the advance, were more or less exposed. The targets were placed immediately before the match, and teams had therefore no possible opportunity of ascertaining the distances, which were between 650 and 250 yards.

No team was allowed to approach closer than 250 yards from the objective; but the majority were satisfied to remain at distances between 450 and 350 yards, when they found their fire was effective. The intervals between teams allowed of their advancing independently without risk.

To simulate the effect of an enemy's fire, and to prevent unnecessary delay, eight points were deducted from scores for each appearance of the targets, and five points credited for every hit; these deductions ceased when the team had expended its allotted number of rounds. Section-commanders who did not take advantage of their opportunities to fire, or who unnecessarily exposed their commands, naturally found their credit in hits reduced to a minus quantity by the points given against them.

Further details and the list of prize-winners will be found in *Appendix A*.

The "Duff"—(Mounted section attack.)

The course for this event was selected in rough and hilly ground to the south-east of the Randwick Rifle Range, about two (2) miles in length, and with three separate firing points and corresponding objectives, at different unknown ranges and in different directions. Solid timber fences, brushed, and ditches were distributed throughout the course, which was marked by flags. The targets in each instance were groups of three (3) standing men, of steel and canvas, 6 feet high and 21 inches wide, in red and blue uniforms. The match was conducted in accordance with cavalry drill and special attention paid to the horse-holder of each section taking cover.

Twenty-six teams entered, representing 101 N.C.O.'s and men, from the N.S.W. Lancers and Mounted Rifles. No doubt, next year, entries from the newly established First Australian Horse will considerably augment the numbers.

For further details and prize-list, see *Appendix B*.

The "Beginners."—(Individual deliberate fire for young and 3rd class shots.)

This match was intended to encourage young shots to become proficient in elementary musketry training. The shooting and targets were as laid down in the Musketry Regulations for individual deliberate fire.

For further details and prize-list, see *Appendix C*.

Monday, 18th April, 1898.

The "Scouts."—(Individual rapid fire at various unknown ranges.)

This match was arranged for the encouragement of individual field shots, under strictly service conditions. The ground was similar to that for the "Coomassie" Match, and the ranges entirely unknown to the competitors, who were drawn up, out of sight of the targets, with considerable intervals, and five at a time. The line of advance was marked for each man by five small flags, which became visible successively during the advance. The course extended from 650 to 250 yards from the targets, and a maximum of 6 minutes was allowed for the practice, during which two rounds were to be fired at each flag. For the first 3 minutes, targets representing a kneeling enemy in size, shape, and colour were visible to the competitors, and for the remainder of the time head and shoulder targets only; the latter, however, were nearly hidden by the long grass.

Considering the exceptional and unaccustomed difficulties under which they fired, a highly satisfactory standard of shooting was displayed by the competitors.

For further details and prize-list, see *Appendix D*.

The "Ulundi."—(Rapid volleys at unknown ranges.)

The objective represented a small company of Infantry, advancing in fours at a slight angle from the firing point, and consisted of life-size figures, in red and blue uniforms, with the usual intervals and distances. The range, which was nearly 900 yards, was unknown to the competing teams, and the intervening ground not only difficult in estimating the distance, but of such a character as to preclude the observation of fire, except when the distances named were approximately correct. The majority of the section-commanders showed a not unnatural inexperience in judging the distance, which, from the nature of the ground, could only be estimated by the size and appearance of the targets, and was therefore of undoubted difficulty.

For further details and prize-list, see *Appendix E*.

The "French."—(Individual deliberate fire.)

This competition was intended to represent the fire of selected shots on outpost duty, firing at an enemy's patrol, the approximate distances having been found by the range-finder. Six rounds were fired, at a range of about 800 yards, from the prone position, the maximum time limit being 2 minutes.

The targets were steel frames, canvas covered, shaped like standing men, and painted to represent red and blue uniforms. Each competitor fired at a group of three of these targets, which were separated by small intervals, and of the same dimensions as in the "Duff."

For further details and prize-list, see *Appendix F*.

The "Roberts."—(Rapid firing.)

The object of this competition was to instruct the soldier to load and fire rapidly, as against an enemy at decisive ranges. Seven rounds were fired at about 500 yards, in the kneeling position, and with a maximum time limit of 70 seconds.

The targets were three kneeling men, similar to those used in the "Duff" and "Ulundi," but only 3 ft. 9 in. high, and painted steel-grey.

For further details and prize-list, see *Appendix G*.

It was laid down by the Committee, in the General Rules, that:—

- (a) That the Committee were empowered to increase the number of prizes if the number of entries justified it.
- (b) In the event of ties, the Committee were to exercise a discretion in respect to dividing the prizes.
- (c) All firing was to be carried out with the M.-H. rifle, or carbine, as issued, subject to the provisions as regards sights laid down in the Musketry Regs., 1894, sec. 130 (f), and Musketry Instruction, N.S.W., 1896, c. 1V, s. I, para. 33.
- (d) The dress was drill order, excepting the "Coomassie," in which field-day order was laid down.

The

The umpiring and scoring throughout were carried out by the Committee, with the assistance of a large number of officers and N.C.O.'s of the Staff, Permanent, and Volunteer Forces, who were not among the competitors.

The Committee desire to especially record their thanks for the assistance rendered by Capt. Honey, 2nd Inft. Regt.; Capt. Leggatt, 1st Inft. Regt.; Lieut. Deed, R.M.L.I.; Lieut. Lamb, 5th Dragoon Guards; Lieut. Jenkins, N.S.W. Art.; Lieut. Griffiths, R.M.L.I.; and W. O. Cooper, assistant superintendent at Randwick Rifle Range.

Notwithstanding that a rifle meeting under service conditions was somewhat of an experiment, when it is considered that the entries were entirely voluntary, and that other Rifle Associations had constantly alleged this class of shooting to be unpopular, it has now been established, beyond doubt, that the riflemen of our Defence Forces keenly appreciate the advantages of such practice. We have had, so far as can be ascertained without knowing the names of members of non-winning teams, at least 873 *separate competitors*, of whom over 600 were Partially-paid Infantry. This branch of the Defence Force, which must rely entirely on the rifle in the field, was represented by one-fourth of its numbers at the meeting; and another year it may be reasonably expected that a similar proportion of entries will be received from the purely Volunteer Regiments.

Many difficulties were experienced by the Committee in arranging and carrying out all the details of the matches at very short notice; but it is a source of congratulation that everything was performed as arranged, and within the time allotted.

The Committee have experienced the greatest encouragement from the members of the Defence Forces generally, and the many remarks expressed during and since the meeting augur a still larger number of competitors if this series of matches is continued next year.

In the hope that such may be the case, and that the Government assistance may be increased, it is submitted that, in addition to the matches carried out this year, at least two others should be added, of such a character as to bring about competition between larger bodies of men than individual sections. It is suggested that, for the Mounted Troops, this should take the form of the present "Duff" competition, each team being composed, however, of four sections, with an officer and N.C.O.; and, for the Infantry, a competition between teams composed of three sections of ten men each and a N.C.O., the whole under an officer, and with details so arranged as to afford a test of fire discipline, in addition to practice in different methods of fire and at different objectives.

Revolver pistol practice, mounted and dismounted, might also be included with advantage.

The attendance at the meeting was doubtless aided by the fact that the Defence Forces were at that time assembled for continuous training, and were therefore available as competitors without loss of time in travelling.

On the other hand, from the same cause, no expense was incurred in railway passes.

A statement of accounts is attached (*Appendix H*), made up to date, there being still a few small amounts outstanding.

Signed at Victoria Barracks, this 25th day of May, 1898,—

M. W. BAYLY, Lieut-Colonel,	Comdg. P. Vol. Corps, President.
M. M. BOAM,	
Captain and Brevet-Major, D.A.A.G.	} Members.
G. L. LEE, Captain,	
Adjutant, N.S.W. Lancers.	
W. OLDERSHAW,	
Captain, 1st Infty. Regt.	
J. G. LEGGE, Captain,	
Adjutant, 2nd Infty. Regt.	
G. J. GRIEVE, Lieutenant,	}
Adjutant, 6th Regt.	

Remarks by the General Officer Commanding N.S.W. Military Forces.

From what I saw of the Rifle Meeting I am of opinion—

- (1) That, for a first meeting, when men had little opportunity to practise under new conditions, it was a mistake to have targets appearing and disappearing every 5 seconds, with heavy penalties in case of the team failing to fire during any appearance of the targets, with the result that in most cases the penalties exceeded the score.
- (2) The "Beginners" I think a very sound match for encouraging young shots.
- (3) "Ulundi."—It was a mistake to have a firing point close to the 700 yards mound, when the range was nearly 900 yards. Most of the teams naturally supposed that the range must have been somewhere about 700 yards. The ground selected for this match was not to my mind at all satisfactory, as owing to the quantity of scrub and undergrowth it was impossible to observe the effect of fire.
- (4) On the whole, I consider the meeting, got up at such short notice, was a great success, some 873 men competing, and prizes being well distributed.

APPENDIX A.

THE "COOMASSIE."

Conditions.

Open to teams of 8, commanded by a Troop, Battery, or Company Sergeant-Major, Colour-Sergeant, Sergeant, Lance-Sergeant, or First-Class Petty Officer, from any Half-Squadron of Cavalry, Half-Company of Mounted Rifles, Battery of Field Artillery, or Company of Naval Forces, Garrison Artillery, Engineers, or Infantry serving in the New South Wales Defence Forces (the Royal Marines or the Blue-jackets on any of Her Majesty's ships to be considered a "Company of Naval Forces").

Entrance—9s.

Seven Prizes—£45, £27, £18, and 4 at £9; total, £126.

Trophy, value £3 3s., presented by Captain Oldershaw to the N.C.O. of the winning team.

SILVER TROPHY, value £10 10s., presented by Major-General French, C.M.G., commanding Military Forces, to be held for one year by the Officer Commanding the Company to which the winning team belongs, and to become the property of any Company or Half-Company winning it twice (previous wins to count). After being won finally by a Company or Half-Company, the Trophy to be disposed of in the Company, under such conditions as the Committee may approve.

CHALLENGE CUP—Presented by Mr. Charles Anderson, to be held to Easter, 1899, by the Officer Commanding the Company to which the winning team belongs.

The object of this Competition is to find the team which makes the greatest number of hits in an attack on a small position, represented by disappearing targets, after marching a distance of about 5 miles, and firing at various unknown ranges between 700 and 250 yards. In the preliminary march points will be deducted for marching at a slower rate than that laid down by regulation in Infantry Drill. In the rank and file two may be Corporals or Second-Class Petty Officers, but not more. ("Corporals" does not include Lance-Sergeants.)

Dress—Field Day Order.

Targets—Life size, disappearing. Kneeling men.

Position—Any Military to 500 yards inclusive, kneeling or standing at shorter distances.

Hits—To count 5 points each.

Conduct of Match—Teams will fall in at a place to be indicated, and will be inspected and marched off. The time allowed for the march and the method of conducting it, will be explained previous to marching off. 15 rounds of ammunition will be issued to each man.

Teams will be halted by an Umpire upon arriving in the vicinity of the position to be attacked, and will receive final instructions. The general direction and position of the targets will be indicated. The first appearance of the targets will be the signal to commence.

During the advance the targets will appear and disappear at intervals of 10 seconds; this will continue for a period of about 3 minutes, after which the targets will appear and disappear at intervals of 5 seconds. Each appearance of the targets will count 8 points against the team, and will be deducted from their score.

Section Commanders may open fire whenever they consider it advisable, but no team will be allowed to advance more than 50 yards between volleys: any team exceeding this distance will be disqualified.

The number of rounds to be fired at each halt, as well as the rate of advance, will be optional.

All loading must be from the pouch.

Firing to be by volleys only. Words of command in accordance with "M.H. Rifle and Carbine Musketry Regulations, 1894."

As soon as a section has completed firing the 15 rounds (per man) the Section Commander will order it to "cease fire" and "order arms," after which the appearance of the targets will not count against the Section.

Points, not exceeding 20, will be deducted for careless or unnecessary exposure of the Section. A deduction of 2 points will be made for a "very" bad volley, and of 1 point for each bad volley.

Entries.

There were 65 teams entered: in all, 585 officers, N.C.O.'s, and men.

Prize List.

Order of Merit.	Commander of Team.	Company.	Corps.	Prize.
1	Sgt. Boles	E	2nd Infantry Regiment.....	£ 45 0 0
2	Cr.-Sgt. Finlayson	E	2nd " "	27 0 0
3	Cr.-Sgt. Robinson	G	1st " "	18 0 0
4	Cr.-Sgt. Creary	J	2nd " "	9 0 0
5	Sgt. Seymour	D	1st " "	9 0 0
6	Sgt. Edney	G	1st " "	9 0 0
7	Sgt. M'Veigh	I	1st " "	9 0 0
Total				£126 0 0

APPENDIX B.

THE "DUFF."

Conditions.

Open to teams of four men, which must not include more than one Non-Commissioned Officer, from any Mounted Corps in New South Wales.

Entrance, 4s. per team.

Six Prizes—£20, £12, £6, three at £4; total, £50.

Trophy, value £3 3s., presented by Messrs. F. Lassetter & Co., to the leader of team winning 1st prize.

N.S. WALES MOUNTED CHALLENGE CUP, OR "SECTION FIRING" PRIZES.—Individual Practice.

A Challenge Cup, presented by the late Right Hon. Sir Robert Duff, P.C., G.C.M.G., to the best Half-Squadron or Half-Company team of New South Wales Cavalry or Mounted Rifles; each team to consist of four, including Group Leader, for riding and shooting, to be competed for annually under the following conditions:—

The Cup to be held for one year by the Half-Squadron or Half-Company of the winning team, and finally by any Half-Squadron or Half-Company winning it for three years in succession; previous wins to stand good.

Half-Squadrons and Half-Companies may enter as many teams as they please.

Dress—Drill Order.

Course—About 2 miles.

Target—Life-size figures, each hit to count 2 points.

Distances—Three firing points; hurdles or ditches between each firing point. Distances unknown, between 600 and 200 yards.

Shooting

* Includes Australian Horse.

Shooting—Five rounds to be fired at each distance by dismounted men in individual practice.

Fire Discipline and Command—An Umpire, who will award points to each team for fire discipline and command, will be stationed at each firing point. Maximum points—5.

Time—The team doing the course in best time will receive 50 points; 1 point will be deducted from this total by each team completing the distance for every 5 seconds more than best time.

Winning Teams—The teams making the highest aggregate total points for:—(a) Shooting; (b) Fire discipline and command; (c) Time—will be the winners in the order in which they stand.

The Match will be carried out in accordance with Cavalry Drill.

Entries.

There were twenty-six entries, aggregating 104 N.C.O.'s and men.

Prize List.

Order of Merit.	Commander of Team.	Company.	Corps.	Prize
1	Sgt. Small	Camden.....	Mtd. Rifles	£ 20 0 0
2	Sgt.-Maj. Underhill	Bega	"	12 0 0
3	Cpl. Armstrong	Bega	"	6 0 0
4	Sgt. McAlister	Tenterfield..	"	4 0 0
5	(L.-Cpl. Zeigler	Bega	"	4 0 0
6	(L.-Cpl. Miller	Molong	"	4 0 0
Total				£ 50 0 0

APPENDIX C.

THE "BEGINNERS."

Conditions.

Open to any member of the Defence Forces under the following restrictions, viz., that—

(a) He must have been enrolled subsequent to the 1st January, 1897.

(b) He has never shot out of the third class, Table B, of the Musketry Course.

(c) He has not won a prize at any recognised Rifle Meeting.

Entrance, Is.

Thirty-seven prizes for men armed with rifle, £5, £4, £3, three at £2, six at £1 10s., eighteen at £1; total, £45.

Eleven prizes for men armed with carbine (if number of entries justify), £3, two at £2, eight at £1; total, £15.

Distances

Rounds } 400 and 500 yards; five rounds at each distance; time limit, one minute per round.

Time

Position—Lying down.

Target—2nd Class Musketry.

Scoring—As in Musketry.

Entries.

There were 211 individual entries in this match.

Prize List.

Order of Merit.	Rank and Name.	Company.	Corps.	Points.	Prize.
1	Pte. Collins, L.	A	2nd Inf. Regt.	35	£ 5 0 0
2	" Gunnel, J.	K	3rd "	32	4 0 0
3	" McCaffery, D.	C	3rd "	32	3 0 0
4	Cpl. Taylor, P. R.	A	2nd "	31	2 0 0
5	Pte. Matters, J. W.	H	4th "	31	2 0 0
6	Lt. Newton, J. A.	D	Scottish Rifles	31	2 0 0
7	Pte. Faux, E.	E	2nd Inf. Regt.	30	1 10 0
8	" Lake, P.	No. 4.....	Mounted Rifles	28	1 10 0
9	" McLelland, E.	G	2nd Inf. Regt.	28	1 10 0
10	" Purcell, J.	K	3rd "	27	1 10 0
11	" Hawes, W.	Bega	Mounted Rifles	27	1 10 0
12	" Bastick, P.	J	3rd Inf. Regt.	27	1 10 0
13	" Cowan, C. ....	.....	2nd "	26	
14	Sgt. Heness, J. ....	.....	Railway Vol. Corps.....	26	
15	Pte. Leary, M. ....	.....	Mounted Rifles	25	
16	" Hooker, P.	C	4th Inf. Regt.	25	
17	" Cooper, R. E. ....	.....	Mounted Rifles	24	
18	L.-Cpl. Warran, J. ....	.....	Railway Vol. Corps	24	
19	Gnr. Meadows.....	3rd	1st Gar. Div.	23	
20	Pte. Cook, E. ....	.....	4th Inf. Regt.	21	
21	" Dixon, H. ....	.....	Mounted Rifles	21	
22	" Wood, P.	Bega	4th Inf. "	21	1 0 0
23	" Grimmond, H. ....	.....	2nd "	20	each.
24	" Shanahan, M. ....	.....	St. George's	20	
25	L.-Cpl. Fewkes .....	.....	" .....	20	
26	Pte. Cartwright, H.	D	"	20	
27	" Seckold, F.	G	1st Inf. Regt.	19	
28	Gnr. Seymour	3rd	1st Gar. Div.	19	
29	Pte. Key, C.	D	1st Inf. Regt.	19	
30	Cpl. Barnard, A.	D	Australian Rifles	18	
31	Pte. Blackall	A	4th Inf. Regt.	18	
Total				£ 46 0 0	
<i>Additional prizes for Carbine.</i>					
1	Q.M.-Sgt. Hackett, J. ....	.....	Aust. Horse	19	3 0 0
2	Cpl. Mills, H. A. ....	.....	" .....	19	2 0 0
Total				£ 5 0 0	

APPENDIX D.

THE "SCOUTS."

Conditions.

Open to all members of the Defence Forces. Entrance, 1s.
 Rounds }
 Distance } Ten rounds to be fired in six minutes from selected points at unknown ranges between 800 and 250 yards.
 Time }
 Position—Any Military.
 Targets—Representing men kneeling and lying down.
 Scoring—Each hit to count 5 points.
 43 Prizes—£10, £6, £4, £3, five at £2, fourteen at £1 10s., twenty at £1; total, £74.

Entries.

There were 350 individual entries in this match.

Prize List.

Order of Merit.	Rank and Name.	Company.	Corps.	Hits.	Prize.	
1	Pte. Schons	G	3rd Inf. Regt.	9	£ 8 0 0	
2	" Wilson	E	2nd "	9		each.
3	" Wedd	D	1st "	8	2 10 0	
4	" Kefford, A.	B	3rd "	8		each.
5	" Voss	H	2nd "	8	2 0 0	
6	L.-Cpl. Krahl		Mounted Rifles	8		each.
7	Pte. Lennox	K	3rd Inf. Regt.	8	2 0 0	
8	" Grey, H.	E	2nd "	7		each.
9	Sgt.-Maj. Underhill	Bega	Mounted Rifles	7	1 10 0	
10	Sgt. Oxley	H	1st Inf. Regt.	6		each.
11	Q.M.S. Draper		1st "	6	1 10 0	
12	Pte. Kirkland	Bega	Mounted Rifles	6		each.
13	" Kelly	Tenterfield	"	6	1 5 0	
14	L.-Cpl. Loudon	J	2nd Inf. Regt.	6		each.
15	Sgt. Butson	F	2nd "	6	1 5 0	
16	Pte. Sommers	H	1st "	5		each.
17	" Curry	E	2nd "	5	1 5 0	
18	Sgt. McAlister		Mounted Rifles	5		each.
19	Cpl. Birse	J	2nd Inf. Regt.	5	1 5 0	
20	Pte. Gribble, J.	K	4th "	5		each.
21	Cpl. Fraser, J.	B	3rd "	5	1 5 0	
22	" Dingwall	H	1st "	5		each.
23	S.C. Sgt. Goble		4th "	5	1 5 0	
24	Pte. Ward, M.	F	2nd "	5		each.
25	Sgt. Braun, C.	C	2nd "	5	1 5 0	
26	Pte. Geoghegan, G.	E	2nd "	5		each.
27	" Powe	B	1st "	5	1 5 0	
28	" Perry		Mounted Rifles	5		each.
29	" Clark		2nd Inf. Regt.	4	1 5 0	
30	Cpl. Hogan		2nd "	4		each.
31	Pt. Boniface	E	2nd "	4	1 5 0	
32	" Ettinghausen, P.	E	2nd "	4		each.
33	" Sim, J.	C	3rd "	4	1 5 0	
34	Pte. Moyes	" J "	2nd "	4		each.
35	Cpl. Taylor, P. R.	A	2nd "	4	1 5 0	
36	C.P.O. Windfield		N. A. Vol.	4		each.
37	Pte. Jervis	E	2nd Inf. Regt.	4	1 5 0	
38	" Trethewey	C	3rd "	4		each.
39	" Monk	G	1st "	4	1 5 0	
40	" Oakroot	G	1st "	4		each.
41	Sgt. Lindfield	C	3rd "	4	1 5 0	
42	Pte. Smith	D	1st "	4		each.
43	" Clark, B.		National Gd.	4	1 5 0	
44	Cpl. Bignall	J	2nd Inf. Regt.	4		each.
45	" Walker	E	2nd "	4	1 5 0	
46	A.B. Fenn		Nav. Brigade	4		each.
47	Pte. Beaver	C	3rd Inf. Regt.	4	each.	
Total.....					£	76 15 0

APPENDIX E.

THE "ULUNDI."

Conditions.

Open to teams of eight, commanded by a Troop, Battery, or Company Sergeant-Major, Colour-Sergeant, Sergeant, Lance-Sergeant, or First Class Petty Officer, from any Half-Squadron of Cavalry (which will include Australian Horse), Half-Company of Mounted Rifles, Battery of Field Artillery, or Company of Naval Forces, [the Royal Marines or the Blue-jackets on any of Her Majesty's Ships to be considered a "Company of Naval Forces"], Garrison Artillery, Engineers, or Infantry serving in the New South Wales Defence Forces. Entrance, 9s.
 Five prizes—£18, two at £13 10s., two at £9; total, £63.

Target—Standing men arranged as a Company of Infantry in column of fours.

Rounds,

Distance, and } Seven volleys to be fired in 70 seconds at an unknown distance between 900 and 400 yards.

Time.

Position—Kneeling.

Scoring—Each hit to count 5 points.

Entries.

Thirty-one teams were entered, aggregating 279 N.C.O.'s and men.

Prize

Prize List.

Order of Merit.	Commander of Team.	Company.	Corps.	Prize.
1	Sgt.-Maj. Underhill	Bega	Mtd. Rifles	£. s. d.
2	Sgt. Bushell	G	2nd Inf. Regt.	18 0 0
3	Sgt. Oxley	H	1st "	13 10 0
4	L.-Sgt. Gay	D	1st "	9 0 0
5	L.-Sgt. Byrne	H	2nd "	9 0 0
Total				£ 63 0 0

APPENDIX F.

THE "FRENCH."

Conditions.

Open to all members of the Defence Force and H.M. ships.

Entrance, 1s. 6d.

Distance—Within 800 yards.

Rounds, Time, and Target—Six rounds will be fired in two minutes, at a target representing three standing men.

Position—Lying down.

Scoring—Each hit on any of the figures to count 5 points.

Thirty-seven prizes for men armed with rifle—£5, £4, £3, three at £2, six at £1 10s., eighteen at £1; total, £45.

Eleven prizes for men armed with carbine (if number of entries justify)—£3, two at £2, eight at £1; total, £15.

Entries.

There were 417 officers, N.C.O.'s, and men entered for this match.

Prize List.

Order of Merit.	Rank and Name.	Company.	Corps.	Points.	Prize.
1	Pte. Puxley	National Gd.	25	£ s. d.
2	" Kefford, G.	B	3rd Inf. Regt.	25	2 10 0
3	" Plowman	3rd " "	25	2 10 0
4	Cpl. Hibberd	Mtd. Rifles	25	2 10 0
5	C.-Sgt. Finlayson	E	2nd Inf. Regt.	25	2 10 0
6	Bomb. Palmer	No. 3.	1st Gar. Div.	25	2 10 0
7	Pte. Smith	A	1st Inf. Regt.	25	2 10 0
8	Sgt. Seymour	D	1st " "	25	2 10 0
9	" Thomas, J.	A	1st " "	25	2 10 0
10	Q.M.S. Hackett	Aust. Horse	25	2 10 0
11	Pte. Clarke, E.	E	2nd Inf. Regt.	20	} 1 0 0 each.
12	" Higgins, F. ....	.....	2nd " "	20
13	" Voss, A. H.	H	2nd " "	20	
14	" Jarvis, R.	E	2nd " "	20	
15	" Jones, G. ....	.....	2nd " "	20
16	" Leos, R. ....	.....	2nd " "	20
17	" Rutter, C. ....	.....	2nd " "	20
18	Cpl. Ferris .....	.....	Mounted Rifles	20
19	Sgt. Lindfield	C	3rd Inf. Regt.	20	
20	Pte. Schons .....	.....	3rd " "	20
21	" Wischeart .....	.....	National Gd.	20
22	Sgt. Wright, E. A. ....	.....	3rd Inf. Regt.	20
23	Cpl. Kent .....	.....	1st " "	20
24	Sgt. Howard .....	.....	1st " "	20
25	" Hamilton .....	.....	1st " "	20
26	Cr.-Sgt. Cleary, A.	J	2nd " "	20	
27	Cpl. Purser, H.	B	3rd " "	20	
Total				£ 42 0 0	

Additional Prizes for Carbine.

1	Tpr. Humphries .....	.....	Lancers	30	3 0 0
2	Sgt. O'Grady, H. ....	.....	" .....	15	1 0 0
3	Tpr. Pritchard, W. ....	.....	" .....	15	1 0 0
4	" Campbell .....	.....	" .....	15	1 0 0
5	" Woods .....	.....	" .....	15	1 0 0
Total				£ 7 0 0	

APPENDIX G.

THE "ROBERTS."

Conditions.

Open to all members of the Defence Forces.

Entrance, 1s. 6d.

Distance—About 500 yards.

Rounds and Time—7 rounds to be fired in 70 seconds.

Position—Kneeling.

Target—Representing three kneeling men.

Scoring—Each hit on any of the figures to count 5 points.

37 Prizes for men armed with rifle—£5, £4, £3, three at £2, six at £1 10s., eighteen at £1; total, £45.

11 Prizes for men armed with carbine (if number of entries justify)—£3, two at £2, eight at £1; total, £15.

Entries

Entries.

There were 393 Officers, N.C.O.'s, and men entered in this match.

Prize List.

Order of Merit.	Rank and Name.	Company.	Corps.	Points.	Prize.
1	Sgt. Wright, E. A.	B	3rd Inf. Regt.	30	£ s. d. 3 10 0
2	Sgt.-Maj. Underhill, J.		Mounted Rifles	30	3 10 0
3	Sgt. Edney	G	1st Inf. Regt.	30	3 10 0
4	Sgt. Butson, J.	F	2nd "	30	3 10 0
5	Pte. Thornton	J	2nd "	25	} 1 10 0 each.
6	S. Sgt. Falconer		1st Gar. Div.	25	
7	Pte. Bastick, J.		3rd Inf. Regt.	25	
8	" Bates, G.	G	2nd "	25	
9	" Kelly, J.		Mounted Rifles	25	
10	" Searle, G.		1st Inf. Regt.	25	
11	L.-Cpl. Smillie, W.	E	2nd "	25	
12	S.-C. Sgt. Goble		4th "	25	
13	L.-Cpl. Madden	H	2nd "	25	
14	S.C. Sgt. M'Donald		2nd "	25	
15	Cpl. Wilson	F	1st "	20	} 0 15 0 each.
16	Pte. Bradford, J.	G	2nd "	20	
17	" Grant	G	2nd "	20	
18	" Kell, E.		3rd "	20	
19	" Hawkes, G. H.	D	1st "	20	
20	C.-Sgt. Hynes	A	2nd "	20	
21	Sgt. M'Alister		Mounted Rifles	20	
22	S.-Sgt. Breakspeare		1 Gar. Div.	20	
23	L.-Cpl. Lohse, H.		Mounted Rifles	20	
24	Pte. Owens, F.		" "	20	
25	Sgt. Boles	E	2nd Inf. Regt.	20	} 0 15 0 each.
26	Pte. Smith, W.	Camden	Mounted Rifles	20	
27	Q.M.S. Draper		1st Inf. Regt.	20	
28	Pte. Newton, J. G.		2nd "	20	
29	Cpl. Armstrong, A.	Bega	Mounted Rifles	20	
30	Bomb. Palmer, W.		1st Gar. Div.	20	
31	Pte. Lennox, J.	K	3rd Inf. Regt.	20	
32	" Cooper, R.		Mounted Rifles	20	
33	Cpl. Boles, W.		2nd Inf. Regt.	20	
34	Capt. Honey	E	2nd "	20	
35	Sgt. Latta	F	2nd "	20	
36	Pte. Devine, W.	J	2nd "	20	
37	Cpl. Fraser, J. C.		3rd "	20	
Total				£	46 5 0

Additional Prizes for Carbine.

Order of Merit.	Rank and Name.	Company.	Corps.	Points.	Prize.
1	Tpr. Daley, A.	Lismore	Lancers	15	£ s. d.
2	" Hermann		"	15	} 1 0 0 each.
3	Sgt. Kennedy		"	15	
4	Tpr. Sherlock	Lismore	"	15	
5	" Riley, E.		"	15	
6	Cpl. Humphries		"	15	
7	Tpr. Thomas, G.		"	15	
Total				£		7 0 0

APPENDIX H.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

Receipts.		Expenditure.	
Government subsidy	£ s. d. 250 0 0	Prizes	£ s. d. 469 10 0
N. R. Assn. subsidy	140 0 0	Markers and incidental expenses	55 1 0
Donations. <i>per</i> Maj. Gen. French—		Targets	33 5 0
Hon. H. Dangin	10 0 0	Fees outstanding	4 18 0
Hon. E. Knox	5 5 0	Balance in hand	27 17 0
E. Bradley, Esq.	5 0 0		
Messrs. Dalton Bros.	2 2 0		
Sale of canteens, Easter Camp, Rookwood	42 0 0		
Entrance fees	64 7 0		
	136 4 0		
	£590 11 0		£590 11 0

R. A. Price, Esq., M.P., to The Chief Secretary.

My dear Mr. Brunker,

Parliament House, Sydney, 28 June, 1898.

In reference to our conversation in Parliament last evening, *re* "Rifle Shooting under Service Conditions," I desire to bring under your notice the value of a peace training in volley-firing in connection with Infantry in action; to quote the words of a high authority, "Fire is everything."

I submitted certain extracts to you some time since bearing on this subject, and a very valuable report was furnished by the Military authorities in reply to a series of questions submitted by me to Parliament. I desire to supplement the arguments in favour of volley-firing, and forward herewith an extract from *Cassell's Saturday Journal*. I cannot too strongly urge upon you the value of this branch of training in connection with our Defence Forces; and, knowing the deep interest you have always felt in connection with the Forces of the Colony, I shall be glad if you will make the necessary provision for an increase in the subsidy towards the holding of a series of rifle competitions under "service conditions."

Yours, &c.,

R. ATKINSON PRICE.

May be referred to the Major-General.—C.W., 15/7/98. Approved.—J.N.B., 15/7/98. The Major-General Commanding the Military Forces.—C.W., P.U.S., B.C., 18/7/98. I strongly support Mr. Price's recommendation, and hope provision will be made for prizes for matches under Service conditions.—G.A.F., 21/7/98. The Principal Under Secretary. May be considered with Estimates.—C.W., 22/7/98. Approved.—J.N.B., 22/7/98.

[Enclosure.]

HOW THE RUSH IS STOPPED.

Volley-firing and its Effect.

AN old soldier, who served in the Zulu, Afghan, and Nile campaigns, explained to the writer how, on several occasions in his personal experience, British forces have been saved from annihilation by well-directed volley-firing.

"At Abu Klea," he says, "not a man would have escaped but for the coolness of a musketry instructor. The British were firing wildly in all directions, when this instructor rallied a company on a face of the square, and coolly, as if on parade, insisted upon his men firing in volley. This had a strong moral and physical effect on the Arabs, and since Abu Klea desultory firing is not permitted, and the fire discipline largely consists of volley-firing.

"At Rorke's Drift the little company of British were saved from extermination by the same means. At every rush of the Zulus, a well-directed simultaneous volley drove them back time after time, until the savages, thoroughly disheartened, sulkily withdrew.

"At Maiwand, for a couple of hours, a company of the gallant 66th, by means of volley-firing, kept at bay thousands of Ayoub Khan's fierce tribesmen, and it was only by sheer weight of numbers that the little band fell. Had our native troops fought with the same determined united efforts, the name of Maiwand would have been the symbol of a glorious victory instead of a disaster."—*Cassell's Saturday Journal*.

1898.
(SECOND SESSION).

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

TRAWLING EXPEDITION.
(COST, &c., OF.)

Printed under No. 15 Report from Printing Committee.

RETURN to an *Order* made by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 22nd November, 1898, That there be laid upon the Table of this House, a Return showing,—

- “ (1.) The total cost of the trawling expedition conducted by Mr. Frank Farnell.
“ (2.) To whom the moneys were paid.
“ (3.) The value of the returns from the expedition.”

(*Mr. Chanter.*)

Nos. 1 and 2.
Trawling Expedition.

Claimant.	Amount.	Remarks.
	£ s. d.	
C. A. Neilson	194 3 9	
Neilson Patent Deep-sea Fishing Co. (Limited) ...	75 0 0	
A. Metson	7 0 0	
J. Savage	14 4 7	
A. K. Tornaghi	20 3 9	
R. Alward	15 16 0	
J. Ellis	6 0 8	
D. Anderson	0 5 8	
Public Works Department	554 2 0	Stores and Wages.
D. O'Keefe	5 7 4	
A. Morganson	135 18 0	
F. Gooden and Sons	1 5 0	
A. Madsen	17 18 0	
W. T. Broomfield	6 11 0	
J. and A. Brown	132 8 3	
T. M. Goodall	59 15 1	
Buzacott & Co.	65 13 1	
Baker and Rouse	0 14 6	
S. Dark	1 5 0	
New South Wales Fresh Food and Ice Co.	1 7 6	
Briscoe, Drysdale, & Co.	0 8 9	
T. Allerding	2 0 0	
Mort's Dock	8 11 5	
Lands Department	13 0 0	1,000 copies of Chart of Coast Line.
Total	£ 1,388 19 4	

No. 3.

The expedition was not undertaken as a commercial enterprise, consequently the value of the returns cannot be accurately estimated; but there is no doubt that if the fish that were caught had been sold the proceeds would have gone far to recoup the expense incurred by the Government. It was not, however, considered advisable to interfere with the livelihood of the licensed fishermen.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CLUBS IN THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT.

(RETURN RESPECTING.)

Printed under No. 6 Report from Printing Committee, 13 October, 1898.

RETURN of Clubs in the Metropolitan District on 30th September, 1898, that are selling Liquor without paying any license.

Name.	Address.	Name.	Address.
Sydney Athletic	15, Castlereagh-street.	Bowling	Phillip Park, Sydney.
Athenaeum	19, Castlereagh-street.	Fitzroy Social	744, William-street, Sydney.
Commercial Travellers	173, Pitt-street.	Oxford	143, Oxford-street, Sydney.
Civil Service Co-operative Society.	154, Pitt-street.	Hardmans	Belmore Road, Randwick.
Tattersall's	204, Pitt-street.	Australian	Macquarie and Bent Streets.
City Tattersall's	248, Pitt-street.	German	89, Phillip-street.
Democratic	274, Pitt-street.	Warrigal	145, Macquarie-street.
Masonic	289, Pitt-street.	New South Wales	31, Bligh-street.
Golden Gate Athletic	525, George-street.	Balmain Bowling	136, Dowling-street.
Amateur Sports	23, Rowe-street.	Ashfield Bowling	Ashfield Park, Ashfield.
Civic	175, Pitt-street.	Wardell	Illawarra Road, Marrickville.
Federal	200, Pitt-street.	Petersham Bowling	Brighton-street, Petersham.
Deutscher Verein Concordia	393, Pitt-street.	Annandale Bowling	Johnston-street, Annandale.
Victoria Park Bowling	Victoria Park.	Burwood	Belmore Road, Burwood.
Glebe Bowling	Wentworth Park.	Redfern Bowling	Redfern Park.
New South Wales Gun	North Botany.	Reform	Walker-street, North Sydney.
Waverley Bowling and Recreation.	Waverley.	North Sydney Social	Walker-street, North Sydney.
Aquarium	Coogee Bay.	St. Leonards Bowling	St. Leonards Park, North Sydney.
Randwick Bowling	Cross-street, Randwick.	Warringah Social	Military Road, Neutral Bay.
Coogee	Coogee Bay.	Warringah	Folly Point, Middle Harbour.
Cricket Association	Sydney Cricket Ground.	Neutral Bay	Neutral Bay.
		Port Jackson	Athol Gardens.
		Union	2, Bligh-street.

Central Police Office,
Sydney, 30th September, 1898.W. E. LENTHALL, Inspector,
District Inspector,
Metropolitan District.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

SUNDAY TRADING BILL.

(PETITION FROM HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, AGAINST.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 19 October, 1898.

To the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the Council of Churches, a body comprising the official heads and accredited representatives of six (6) of the largest Protestant Churches,—

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:—

That your Petitioners see with deep regret that a proposal, by the Honorable the Member for Phillip Division, is before your Honorable House to consider the expediency of introducing a Bill to regulate and restrict Sunday trading.

That your Petitioners earnestly protest against any alteration of the law that will open public-houses on Sunday and give increased facilities for Sunday trading.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honorable House will be pleased to withhold consent to the introduction of this Bill.

And your Petitioners will, as in duty bound, ever pray.

Signed on behalf of the Council of Churches,

WM. SZ. SYDNEY,

Chairman.

Sydney, 18th October, 1898.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

SUNDAY TRADING BILL.

(PETITION FROM WILLIAM BAIN, PRESIDENT, AND RICHARD MORRISON BOWLES, SECRETARY OF THE MINISTERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEWCASTLE AND DISTRICT, AGAINST.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 26 October, 1898.

Unto the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the Ministers' Association of Newcastle and District,—

HUMBLY SHOWETH:—

1. That your Petitioners have observed with much concern and regret the introduction into your Honorable House of a Bill by Mr. Copeland having for its objects the opening of public-houses for the sale of intoxicating drinks on the Lord's Day; also the opening of shops for the vending of articles on the Sunday as on any other day of the week.

2. That the opening of public-houses on Sunday is sure to result in drunkenness and crime, resulting in the demoralisation both of publicans themselves and their unhappy customers.

3. That the opening of shops on Sunday will deprive a large number of shop employees of the requisite weekly rest ordained by God for man, resulting in the demoralisation of his soul, and disease and early death of his body.

4. That instead of opening shops on the Sunday, your Honorable House should enforce the law against the Sunday opening of shops, which practice is chiefly pursued by foreigners and aliens, by which not a few of our own citizens are compelled to open their shops too, in order to protect their trade and themselves from the ruin arising from the loss of their customers.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray your Honorable House to refuse to pass the aforesaid Bill into law, and thus to save our Colony from the Continental Sunday.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

By the authority of the Association,—

WILLIAM BAIN, President.

RICHARD MORRISON BOWLES, Secretary.

17/10/98.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

SUNDAY TRADING BILL.

(PETITION FROM E. A. RENNIE, PRESIDENT, AND ROBERT DEY, HON. SECRETARY, OF THE COUNCIL OF NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH OF THE EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE, AGAINST.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 2 November, 1898.

To the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the Council of the New South Wales Branch of the Evangelical Alliance,—

HUMBLY SHOWETH:—

That your Petitioners deprecate the proposal of the Honorable Member for the Phillip Division of the City of Sydney to introduce a Bill giving increased facilities for Sunday trading. They object to this both on grounds of humanity and religion. The opening of the shops on the weekly rest day will go to deprive many of that respite from toil which the Sabbath Day is so eminently adapted and intended to secure. They solemnly feel that it is a serious thing for any legislative body to enact a law in open and direct opposition to a law of the Supreme Being.

They very earnestly protest against the proposed opening of the public-houses on any part of Sunday, believing that such a course will be the taking of a retrograde step, and will result disastrously to the morals and social well-being of the community.

Your Petitioners, therefore, pray your Honorable House not to pass the said Bill.

And as in duty bound your Petitioners will ever pray.

Signed on behalf of the Council,

E. A. RENNIE, President.

ROBERT DEY, Hon. Secretary.

Similar Petitions were received,—

On 2nd November, 1898, from William H. George, President, and James Ernest Francis, Secretary, of the Grafton Band of Hope.

Do do from William H. George, President, and Percival John Young, Secretary, of the Grafton Wesleyan Young People's Society of Christian Endeavour.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

SUNDAY TRADING BILL.(PETITION FROM JAMES MILROY, CHAIRMAN OF A MEETING OF THE "HASTE TO THE RESCUE"
LODGE OF INDEPENDENT ORDER OF GOOD TEMPLARS, AGAINST.)*Received by the Legislative Assembly, 3 November, 1898.*

To the Honorable the Speaker and Honorable Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South
Wales in Parliament assembled.

Your Petitioners, members of the "Haste to the Rescue" Lodge of Independent Order of Good
Templars, meeting in Balmain, Sydney, humbly pray that your Honorable House will not sanction the
opening of public-houses on Sundays, but that you will at an early date adopt such provisions as are
necessary to make the Sunday-closing clauses of the existing Licensing Act more effective.

Humbly praying that your Honorable House will give the subjects of this Petition your favourable
consideration.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Signed on behalf of the meeting,

JAMES MILROY,

Chairman.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

SUNDAY TRADING BILL.

(PETITION FROM A. M. PORTER, CHAIRMAN OF A MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE "SNOWDROP" LODGE OF INDEPENDENT ORDER OF GOOD TEMPLARS, HELD IN EAST MAITLAND, AGAINST.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 11 November, 1898.

To the Honorable the Speaker and Honorable Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled.

YOUR Petitioners, members of the "Snowdrop" Lodge of Independent Order of Good Templars, meeting in East Maitland, humbly pray that your Honorable House will not sanction the opening of public-houses on Sundays, but that you will at an early date adopt such provisions as are necessary to make the Sunday-closing clauses of the existing Licensing Act more effective.

Humbly praying that your Honorable House will give the subjects of this Petition your favourable consideration.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Signed on behalf of the meeting,

A. M. PORTER,

Chairman.

Similar Petitions were received,—

On 10th November, 1898, from George W. Marks, Chairman of a meeting of the Dayspring Lodge of Independent Order of Good Templars, held in St. David's Hall, Surry Hills.

Do do from John P. Williams, Chairman of a meeting of members of the Light in the Valley Lodge of Independent Order of Good Templars, held in Lithgow.

Do do from Frank Chapple, Chairman of a meeting of the Jubilee Union Lodge of Independent Order of Good Templars, held in Union Church, Ladevale, on 2nd November, 1898.

Do do from Nellie Phillips, Presiding Officer of a meeting of members of the Hope of Stockton Lodge of Independent Order of Good Templars.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

SUNDAY TRADING BILL.

(PETITION FROM ASHTON J. SMITH, CHAIRMAN OF A MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE "HOPE OF WALCHA" LODGE OF INDEPENDENT ORDER OF GOOD TEMPLARS, HELD AT WALCHA, AGAINST.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 15 November, 1898.

To the Honorable the Speaker and Honorable Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled.

Your Petitioners, Members of the "Hope of Walcha" Lodge of Independent Order of Good Templars, meeting in the Temperance Hall, Walcha,—

HUMBLY PRAY:—

That your Honorable House will not sanction the opening of public-houses on Sundays, but that you will at an early date adopt such provisions as are necessary to make the Sunday-closing clauses of the existing Licensing Act more effective.

Humbly praying that your Honorable House will give the subjects of this Petition your favourable consideration.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Signed on behalf of the meeting,
ASHTON J. SMITH,
Chairman.

Similar Petitions were received,—

On 15th November, 1898, from James Morrison, Chairman of a meeting of the members of the Hope of Bernagui Lodge of Independent Order of Good Templars, held at Bernagui.

- | | | |
|----|----|---|
| Do | do | from T. W. Marriott, Chairman of a meeting of members of the Hope of Wilcannia Lodge of Independent Order of Good Templars, held at Wilcannia. |
| Do | do | from A. de Jersey, C.E., and Thos. A. Sterland, L.D., members of the Lily of the Hill Lodge, No. 728, Independent Order of Good Templars, Balmain West. |
| Do | do | from Thomas Dawson, Chairman of a meeting of members of the John Wright Lodge of Good Templars, held at Tinonee, Manning River. |
| Do | do | from Henry Fowler, Chairman of a meeting of members of the Hope Revived Lodge of the Independent Order of Good Templars, held at Monteagle. |
| Do | do | from certain Members of Hearts of Oak Lodge of Independent Order of Good Templars, in meeting assembled at Oddfellows' Hall, Waverley; 35 signatures. |
| Do | do | from certain Members of the Church of England, Dubbo; 31 signatures. |
| Do | do | from certain Members of the Presbyterian Church, Dubbo; 23 signatures. |
| Do | do | from certain Members of the Dubbo Wesleyan Church; 50 signatures. |
| Do | do | from certain Members of the Independent Order of Good Templars and Sons and Daughters of Temperance of Dubbo; 49 signatures. |
| Do | do | from certain Members and Adherents of the Salvation Army, Dubbo; 51 signatures. |

- On 15th November, 1898, from Joseph Holmes, Chairman of a meeting of members of the Hopeful Lodge of Independent Order of Good Templars, held at Condobolin.
- On 16th November, 1898, from George Barran, jun., Chief Templar, and John Downie Lodge, Electoral Deputy, members of a meeting of the Rosebud Lodge, Islington, near Newcastle, Independent Order of Good Templars.
- Do do from John Wills, Chairman of a meeting of members of Australia's Pride Lodge, No. 250, of the Independent Order of Good Templars at Forest Reefs.
- Do do from J. T. Brandon, Chairman of a meeting of members of the Pride of Wattamolla Lodge of Independent Order of Good Templars at Wattamolla.
- Do do from W. E. Ricketts, Chairman of a meeting of members of the McLaughlan Lodge of Independent Order of Good Templars at Tarce.
- On 17th November, 1898, from Samuel McQueen, junr., Chairman of a meeting of members of the Evening Star Lodge of Independent Order of Good Templars at William Town.
- Do do from certain Residents of New South Wales; 54 signatures.
- Do do from C. Piper, Chairman of a meeting of members of the Gordon Lodge, No. 471, of Independent Order of Good Templars at Bowral.
- Do do from W. G. Butterworth, Chairman, R. Massie, D.G.C.T., members of a meeting of the Perseverance Lodge of the Independent Order of Good Templars at Hay.
- Do do from W. McIntyre, Chief Templar, and other members of a meeting of the Banner of Hope Lodge of Independent Order of Good Templars at Stroud.
- Do do from E. Brown, Chairman of a meeting of members of the Union is Strength Lodge of Independent Order of Good Templars at Wiseman's Creek.
- Do do from John B. Osborne, Chairman of a meeting of members of the Beacon Light Lodge of Independent Order of Good Templars at Cowper, Clarence River.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

SUNDAY TRADING BILL.

(PETITION FROM JAMES EDWARD McMILLAN, CHAIRMAN OF A MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE MINERS' HOPE LODGE OF INDEPENDENT ORDER OF GOOD TEMPLARS AT TIA GOLD-FIELDS, AGAINST.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 22 November, 1898.

To the Honorable the Speaker and Honorable Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled.

Your Petitioners, members of the Miners' Hope of Independent Order of Good Templars, meeting in Tia Gold-fields,—

HUMBLY PRAY :—

That your Honorable House will not sanction the opening of public-houses on Sundays, but that you will at an early date adopt such provisions as are necessary to make the Sunday closing clauses of the existing Licensing Act more effective.

Humbly praying that your Honorable House will give the subjects of this Petition your favourable consideration.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Signed on behalf of the meeting,

JAMES EDWARD McMILLAN,
Chairman.

Similar Petitions were received,—

- On 22nd November, 1898, from Edwin Pigott, Chairman of a meeting of members of Happy Homes Lodge of Independent Order of Good Templars at Rob Roy.
- Do do from Samuel Bonsall, Chairman of a meeting of members of the We Hope to Prosper Lodge of Independent Order of Good Templars at Balmain.
- Do do from John Townsend, Chairman of a meeting of members of the Pioneer Lodge of the Independent Order of Good Templars, held in the Temperance Hall.
- Do do from J. McLachlan, Chairman of a meeting of members of the Rock of Refuge Lodge of Independent Order of Good Templars at Maclean.
- Do do from H. McPherson, Chairman of a meeting of members of the Record Reign Lodge of Independent Order of Good Templars, held in the Protestant Hall, King's Creek.
- On 23rd November, 1898, from John Skelton, Chairman of a meeting of members of the Endeavour Lodge of Independent Order of Good Templars at Boggabri.
- Do do from H. Cook, Chairman of a meeting of members of the Rock Lilley Lodge, No. 772, of Independent Order of Good Templars at Upper Broger's Creek.
- On 24th November, 1898, from A. S. Wheatley, Chairman of a meeting of the Neal Dow Lodge of Independent Order of Good Templars at Mundoonon.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

SUNDAY TRADING BILL.

(PETITION FROM WM. SEE, CHAIRMAN OF A MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE MULTUM IN PARVO LODGE, No. 83, INDEPENDENT ORDER OF GOOD TEMPLARS, AT HINTON, HUNTER RIVER, AGAINST.)

*Received by the Legislative Assembly, 29 November, 1898.*To the Honorable the Speaker and Honorable Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales
in Parliament assembled.Your Petitioners, members of the Multum in Parvo Lodge, No. 83, Independent Order of Good
Templars, meeting in Hinton, Hunter River, New South Wales,—

HUMBLY PRAY:—

That your Honorable House will not sanction the opening of public-houses on Sundays, but
that you will at an early date adopt such provisions as are necessary to make the Sunday-closing clauses
of the existing Licensing Act more effective.Humbly praying that your Honorable House will give the subjects of this Petition your favourable
consideration.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Signed on behalf of the Lodge,

WM. SEE,
Chairman.

Similar Petitions were received,—

- On 30th November, 1898, from Albert Henry Smith, Chairman of a meeting of members of the
Phoenix Lodge, Independent Order of Good Templars, Leichhardt.
- Do do from T. H. Keep, Chairman of a meeting of members of the Pride of St.
Peters Lodge, No. 407, of the Independent Order of Good Templars at
St. Peters.
- On 1st December, 1898, from certain Members of the Christian Endeavour Society, Annandale
Primitive Methodist Church, and Citizens of New South Wales. 124
signatures.
- Do do from certain Citizens of New South Wales. 331 signatures.
- Do do from G. P. Eckley, Chairman of a meeting of members of the Myrtle
Lodge of Independent Order of Good Templars at Nelligen.
- Do do from Darius Brunt, Chairman, and Josiah Smith, Deputy G.C.T., members
of a meeting of Earnest Workers' Lodge of Independent Order of
Good Templars at Waterloo.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

SUNDAY TRADING BILL.

(PETITION FROM J. D. BAKER, CHAIRMAN OF A MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE ARK OF SAFETY LODGE OF INDEPENDENT ORDER OF GOOD TEMPLARS, AT ORANGE, AGAINST.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 6 December, 1898.

To the Honorable the Speaker and Honorable Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled.

Your Petitioners, members of the Ark of Safety Lodge of Independent Order of Good Templars, meeting in Orange,—

HUMBLY PRAY:—

That your Honorable House will not sanction the opening of public-houses on Sundays, but that you will at an early date adopt such provisions as are necessary to make the Sunday-closing clauses of the existing Licensing Act more effective.

Humbly praying that your Honorable House will give the subjects of this Petition your favourable consideration.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting,
J. D. BAKER,
Chairman.

Similar Petitions were received,—

On 7th December, 1898, from certain Citizens of New South Wales; 712 signatures.

Do do from William Saumarez Smith, D.D., Archbishop of Sydney, President of the Standing Committee of the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

SUNDAY TRADING BILL.

(PETITION FROM J. J. PIPER, CHAIRMAN OF A MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE PRIDE OF NAMOI LODGE OF INDEPENDENT ORDER OF GOOD TEMPLARS, AT NARRABRI, AGAINST.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 13 December, 1898.

To the Honorable the Speaker and Honorable Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales
in Parliament assembled.

Your Petitioners, Members of the Pride of Namoi Lodge of Independent Order of Good Templars,
meeting in the town of Narrabri,—

HUMBLY PRAY:—

That your Honorable House will not sanction the opening of public-houses on Sundays, but that you will at an early date adopt such provisions as are necessary to make the Sunday-closing clauses of the existing Licensing Act more effective.

Humbly praying that your Honorable House will give the subjects of this Petition your favourable consideration.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting,

J. J. PIPER,

Chairman.

Similar Petitions were received,—

On 14th December, 1898, from certain Citizens of New South Wales; 1,661 signatures.

Do do from certain Citizens of New South Wales; 273 signatures.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

SUNDAY TRADING BILL.—TOTALISATOR LEGALISING BILL.

(PETITION FROM THE REV. W. M. DILL-MACKY, PRESIDENT OF THE NEW SOUTH WALES CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR UNION, AGAINST.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 22 November, 1898.

To the Honorable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in
Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the undersigned, Chairman of the United Consecration Service, held in the Town
Hall, Sydney, on Friday evening, September 9th, 1898, in connection with the Annual Conven-
tion of the New South Wales Christian Endeavour Union,—

HUMBLY SHOWETH:—

That the following resolutions were unanimously carried by the great gathering of 4,000
persons, representing the 11,209 members of the New South Wales Christian Endeavour Union:—

1. That we express our unabated opposition to the liquor traffic, and deeply deplore the proposal of
Mr. Henry Copeland to legalise the sale of intoxicating liquors on Sunday, and pledge ourselves
to do our utmost to defeat it.
2. That, realising the enormity of the gambling evil, we hereby express our antagonism to it in every
form, and would urge upon our Legislature to emphatically reject any proposal to legalise the
totalisator in this Colony; and we would also urge our societies that they place before their
respective Parliamentary representatives their views on the matter.
3. That we stand for the due observance of the Lord's Day, and deeply regret the apathy of the
authorities in carrying out the law.
4. That the above resolutions be signed by the Chairman and presented to Parliament.

Humbly praying that your Honorable House will give the foregoing resolutions your most favour-
able consideration.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

G. E. BODLEY,
Convention Secretary.

W. DILL-MACKY,
Chairman of Meeting and President of Union.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

DEEP-WATER HARBOUR AT PORT KEMBLA.

(PETITION FROM CERTAIN COLLIERY PROPRIETORS, MINERS, WORKMEN, AND OTHERS, IN FAVOUR OF.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 27 October, 1898.

To the Honorable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, in
Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Colliery Proprietors, Miners, Workmen, and others directly
interested in the progress of Illawarra and the Southern Coal Trade,—

SHOWETH:—

Your Petitioners, the owners of and the workmen employed at the Southern Collieries, humbly pray to bring under the notice of your Honorable House the hardships that they are subjected to on account of the great loss of time occasioned by the impossibility of loading a large class of steamers now seeking cargoes at the colliery jetties.

The loading of such steamers is impossible except during perfectly calm weather, or favourable weather conditions, while the loading of sailing ships is impossible.

Solely on account of the want of protection to the colliery jetties disastrous loss of trade and workmen's wages have been sustained. During the six months ending August last your Petitioners have lost no less than fifty days' work, representing between 80,000 and 90,000 tons of trade, and between £20,000 and £22,000 in wages.

On account of the larger class of steamers that now ship southern coal, the loss of time, trade, and wages is increasing every year, and, we feel, must continue.

We earnestly petition your Honorable House to adopt measures to at once build a deep-water port or harbour at Port Kembla, that the work of loading any class of steamer or sailing ship may proceed constantly and independently of the weather. By so doing your Petitioners would be enabled to work constantly, to their material benefit, while the trade of the southern collieries would be nearly doubled, with a corresponding increase in the number of workmen employed, and this without in any way injuring or interfering with the coal trade at Newcastle, which your Petitioners would humbly remark has been developed and fostered by the liberal and continuous expenditure of money that successive Governments have spent on that port.

The revenue derived from harbour dues, as well as increased royalties to Government, would pay large interest on any outlays which the Government might require to spend in order to protect the loading jetties at Port Kembla from the effects of the wind and sea.

Your Petitioners, who have very large invested interests in the district and the collieries, and who know and can alone supply the traffic of any southern harbour that may be built, would respectfully remind your Honorable House that the proposed private harbour at Lake Illawarra would be of no material, or, in fact, of any service to them. They have for years held the opinion that the formation of a harbour at Lake Illawarra will not obviate the pressing necessity of a deeper and less expensive and more convenient harbour at Port Kembla, and that to delay the work at Port Kembla until a private syndicate can raise funds to begin the former is but imperilling a great and important district, and an industry that employs a very large number of workmen.

The necessity of a protected harbour at Port Kembla is so urgent that we pray your Honorable House will lose no time, and adopt such means as may be necessary to give effect to their request.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[Here follow 911 signatures.]

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF THE INSANE.

(REPORT FOR YEAR 1897.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 42 Vic. No. 7, sec. 73.

Printed under No. 17 Report from Printing Committee, 15 December, 1898.

The Inspector-General of the Insane to The Chief Secretary.

Sir, Lunacy Department, Inspector-General's Office, Gladesville, 30 November, 1898.

I do myself the honor, in accordance with the 73rd section of the Lunacy Act of 1878, to submit for your information a report on the state and condition of the Hospitals and other Institutions for the Insane for the year ending 31st December, 1897.

I have, &c.,

ERIC SINCLAIR,

Inspector-General.

On the 31st December, 1897, the number of insane persons under official cognizance was 3,957, and their distribution was as follows:—

Institution.	Number on Register.			Number on Leave.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Hospital for the Insane, Gladesville	514	324	838	11	22	33
Do Parramatta (Free)	686	375	1,061	5	8	13
Do do (Criminal)	46	8	54	.....	.....	.....
Do Callan Park	448	399	847	14	32	46
Do Newcastle	145	152	297	.....	1	1
Do Rydalmere	351	151	502	2	1	3
Do Kenmore	200	107	307	2	7	9
Licensed House for the Insane, Cook's River.....	15	22	37	1	3	4
Do do Ryde .....	.....	7	7	.....	1	1
Do do Picton—Swiss Cottage .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Do do Picton — Woodland Cottage .....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....
South Australian Hospitals	3	3	6	.....	.....	.....
Total.....	2,408	1,549	3,957	35	75	110

The number at the close of 1896 was 3,845; so that the increase during the year 1897 was 112, made up of 52 males and 60 females.

This increase is considerably less than has been customary during the past few years, and approaches more the average of twenty years.

During the twenty years, 1872 to 1891 inclusive, the proportion of insane to population, though varying slightly from year to year, remained practically stationary; but the six years, 1892 to 1897 inclusive, have added 823, or an average of 137 annually, to the number of insane persons under care.

The proportion of insane to population, which at the end of 1891 was 1 in 371, or 2.69 per thousand, was at the close of 1897, 1 in 334, or 2.99 per thousand. This compares favourably with other countries, the proportions being—for Great Britain, 1 in 308, or 3.24 per thousand; for Victoria, 1 in 271, or 3.69 per thousand; and for Queensland, 1 in 321, or 3.10 per thousand.

Of the total number of insane persons on the register at the close of the year, 3,841 were in the Hospitals and Licensed Houses in this Colony, 110 were absent on leave under the provisions of the Lunacy Act, and 6 were in Hospitals for the Insane in South Australia under the provisions of the Lunacy Convention Act of 1894.

The returns from the hospitals and licensed houses show that there was an increase of 36 at Rydalmere, 153 at Kenmore, 3 at the licensed house at Cook's River, 2 at the licensed house at Ryde, and 2 under care in South Australia, whilst there was a decrease of 30 at Gladesville, 7 at Parramatta, 33 at Callan Park, 9 at Newcastle, and 4 at the hospital for criminals at Parramatta. There was still 1 patient under care at the Licensed House, Picton.

*219—A

Admissions.

[725 copies—Approximate Cost of Printing S L. (labour and material), £8 14s. 8d.]

Admissions.

The number of patients admitted during the year was 692—401 males and 291 females; less than has obtained for several years past. The number of admissions of late years has always exceeded 700 (during 1896 there were 740); and it may be that the reduced number is due to the improvement in the general condition of the Colony and the recovery from the financial depression which undoubtedly was the cause of a large number of cases of insanity.

The ratio of admissions to the general population of the Colony—"occurring insanity"—was 1 in 1,912, a better proportion than last year, and worthy of note as showing that the actual proportion of insanity to the population is not really increasing, although the number in the various hospitals may be.

Transfers.

The number of patients transferred from one hospital to another under the provisions of the Lunacy Act was 304. The larger number of these was transferred to the Hospital for the Insane at Kenmore, where the newly erected hospital buildings were filled by the transfer of patients who had been admitted from the southern districts of the Colony. Other transfers were made to Rydalmere to relieve the overcrowded wards of other institutions, and from one hospital to another to promote the recovery of the patients.

The following return gives particulars of transfers for the year:—

RETURN showing Transfers for year 1897.

Transferred from—	Transferred to—																										
	Gladesville.			Parramatta (Free).			Parramatta (Criminal).			Callan Park.			Newcastle.			Rydalmere.			Kenmore.			Cook's River.					
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.			
Gladesville.....				3		3				2	2	4				15		15	29	36	65						
Parramatta (Free).....	1		1							1		1	1	1	2	10	1	11	13	19	32						
Parramatta (Criminal).....				11	7	18																					
Callan Park.....	1	2	3	3	3	6							2	3	5	45	23	68	12	36	48						
Newcastle.....																											
Rydalmere.....	1		1	2	2	4														13	13						
Kenmore.....				1		1										1		1									
Cook's River.....		1	1																								
Pictou.....		1	1																								
Total.....	3	4	7	20	12	32				3	2	5	3	4	7	71	24	95	54	104	158						

Discharges.

The number of patients discharged during the year was 327, and of those 287 were reported as recovered, and 40 as relieved. The recoveries give a percentage of 41.47, and the cases relieved a percentage of 5.78 on the admissions—a rather smaller recovery rate than has been found in the last few years. This, however, is due to the smaller number of admissions during the year, and should show improvement in the current year. The rate, however, is still a very satisfactory one as compared with other countries, that of Great Britain being 38.35, of Victoria 27.96, and of Queensland 41.

Deaths.

The deaths numbered 249, and the percentage on the daily average number resident was 6.51.

In Table 4 the causes of death are set forth in detail, and it will be seen there that 134 were due to diseases of the brain. The other deaths were due to various bodily diseases, consumption and heart disease being with old age the most common. One death from accident and one from suicide occurred during the year—a very satisfactory result when the large number of dangerous and suicidal patients under treatment in the various hospitals is considered. The suicide occurred at Gladesville Hospital, and was the subject of an inquest at which a verdict was returned that all proper precautions had been taken with regard to the care of the patient. The fatal accident occurred at Kenmore, and was the result of snake-bite. A patient, who was at work at fencing on a distant part of the farm, was bitten in the leg by a brown snake, and returned to the hospital to have it treated. The usual remedies were adopted, and with apparent success, no immediate ill effects resulting. During the following day, however, the more remote symptoms caused by the action of the poison on the kidneys supervened and resulted in death.

Accidents.

In addition to the fatal accident there have been several less serious ones, mainly fractures caused by accidental falls.

All were at once reported by the Medical Superintendents, and were made the subject of such inquiries as were deemed necessary. With the large population of nearly 4,000 patients more or less irresponsible, and many of them violent and suicidal, some accidents must occur, and the smallness of the number is evidence of the care and watchfulness of the staff in the various hospitals.

Leave of Absence.

By the provisions of section 82 of the Lunacy Act, leave of absence was granted to 155 patients during the year, making, with the 58 who were on leave at the end of 1896, a total of 213. Of this number 48 were discharged recovered on or before the time when their leave expired, 54 were returned to hospital, 1 died, and 110 were still on leave at the close of the year.

The following return gives particulars as to leave of absence during the year:—

RETURN showing particulars as to Leave of Absence during the year 1897.

Institution.	Remaining on leave 31st December, 1896.			Number granted leave during the year 1897.			Discharged recovered.			Returned to Hospital.			Died whilst on leave.			Remaining on leave 31st December, 1897.		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Gladesville	1	22	23	15	31	46	1	12	13	4	18	22	...	1	1	11	22	33
Parramatta	7	7	14	5	18	23	4	14	18	3	3	6	...	...	...	5	8	13
Callan Park	9	9	18	20	45	65	6	9	15	9	13	23	...	...	...	14	32	46
Newcastle	1	1	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	1	1
Rydalmore .....	...	...	...	2	2	4	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2	1	3
Kenmore	1	...	1	4	7	11	2	...	2	1	...	1	...	...	2	7	9	
Cook's River .....	...	...	...	1	3	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	4
Ryde .....	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Total	19	39	58	47	108	155	13	35	48	18	36	54	...	1	1	35	75	110

Total number under Care.

The total number of patients under care during the year was 4,837. The average daily number resident was 3,822, of whom 2,355 were males and 1,467 females. These numbers are exclusive of 6 patients belonging to this Colony who are under care in the Hospitals for the Insane in South Australia.

Changes in Staff.

No changes have occurred among the senior officers of the Department.

Mrs. Watson, Matron at Rydalmore, was promoted to the position of Matron of the Hospital for the Insane at Kenmore, and was succeeded by Miss Pope, one of the Sisters on the staff of the Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney. Mr. Charles Jones was appointed as Chief Attendant at Kenmore.

As usual, a number of changes have occurred in the general staff, attendants and nurses resigning their positions for various reasons, and probationers being appointed to succeed them. There has been no difficulty in selecting suitable women for the position of nurse, but to fill vacancies among the attendants the number of desirable applicants has been much smaller. As the financial condition of the Colony improves, it is always harder to get suitable men to apply for these positions. The service is an exacting one and has many drawbacks, and as extreme care is exercised in making a choice a large number of those applying is passed over.

Early this year Dr. F. Norton Manning retired from the office of Inspector-General, which he had held since its creation in 1876. His services are too well known to need recounting here. From his first appointment the improvement of the condition of the insane had been his one aim, and the present high state of efficiency of the hospitals and the intelligent system of treatment carried out in them are entirely due to his untiring energy and ability. On his suggestions the several Lunacy Acts have been largely framed, the more recent hospitals designed, and the older ones remodelled and practically rebuilt. To his great administrative ability is due the organisation of the staff in the hospitals and the system under which they are worked, and the higher officers have been in most cases selected by him. The loss to the Department through his resignation is irreparable, and will be keenly felt by the officers, to whom he was ever accessible and ready to help with advice in emergencies.

The following tables show the admissions, discharges, and deaths; the proportion of recoveries, the rate of mortality, the causes of insanity in those admitted, those who recovered, and those who died; the causes of death, the length of residence in those who recovered and those who died, and also the ages, condition as to marriage, religious profession, nationality, and previous occupation of those admitted and of all under care, as well as the form of mental disorder in those admitted, those who recovered, and those who died during the year:—

TABLE 1.

SHOWING the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges, and Deaths in the Hospitals and Licensed Houses for the Insane during the year 1897.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
In Hospital on 31st December, 1896	2,353	1,488	3,841
Admitted for the first time during the year	342	235	577
Re-admitted during the year	59	56	115
Transferred during the year	154	150	304
	555	441	996
Total under care during the year 1897.....	2,908	1,929	4,837
Discharge or removal—			
Recovered	149	138	287
Relieved	17	23	40
Transferred	154	150	304
Escaped (and not recaptured)	6	...	6
Died	177	72	249
Total discharged or died during the year 1897	503	383	886
Remaining	2,405	1,546	3,951
Average number resident during the year	2,355	1,467	3,822
* Persons under care during the year†	2,907	1,926	4,833
* Persons admitted	530	423	953
* Persons recovered	148	137	285

* Persons, i.e., separate persons in contradistinction to "cases," which may include the same individual more than once.
† Total cases minus re-admission of patients discharged during the current year.

TABLE 3.

SHOWING the Causes of Insanity,* apparent or assigned, in the Admissions and Readmissions in the Hospitals and Licensed Houses for the Insane, during the year 1897.

Causes of Insanity.	Number of Instances in which each cause was assigned.								
	As predisposing cause. †			As exciting cause †			Total. ‡		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
MORAL—									
Domestic trouble (including loss of relatives and friends)	1	1	2	2	18	20	3	19	22
Adverse circumstances (including business anxiety and pecuniary difficulties)	3	1	4	17	6	23	20	7	27
Mental anxiety and "worry" (not included under above two heads), and overwork	4	...	4	2	9	11	6	9	15
Religious excitement	...	...	...	6	8	14	6	8	14
Love affairs (including seduction)	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	2	2
Fright and nervous shock	...	...	...	1	2	3	1	2	3
Isolation	4	...	4	...	...	...	4	...	4
Nostalgia	1	2	3	1	...	1	2	2	4
PHYSICAL—									
Intemperance in drink	2	1	3	51	11	62	53	12	65
Do (sexual)	1	...	1	2	...	2	3	...	3
Veneral disease	2	2	4	...	...	...	2	2	4
Self-abuse (sexual)	...	...	...	10	1	11	10	1	11
Sunstroke	...	...	...	6	1	6	5	1	6
Accident or injury	2	...	2	11	...	11	13	...	13
Pregnancy	...	1	1	...	3	3	...	4	4
Parturition and the puerperal state	...	1	1	...	26	26	...	27	27
Lactation	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	2	2
Uterine and Ovarian disorders	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1
Puberty	1	1	2	2	4	6	3	5	8
Change of life	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Privation and overwork	2	...	2	3	1	4	5	1	6
Phthisis	4	5	9	1	...	1	5	5	10
Epilepsy	5	10	15	17	16	33	22	26	48
Disease of skull and brain	...	...	...	14	...	14	14	...	14
Old age	20	17	37	...	...	...	20	17	37
Other bodily diseases and disorders and chronic ill-health	14	26	40	14	6	20	28	32	60
Excess of opium	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
PREVIOUS ATTACKS	60	52	112	...	...	...	60	52	112
HEREDITARY INFLUENCE ASCERTAINED	15	30	45	...	...	...	15	30	45
CONGENITAL DEFECT ASCERTAINED	21	9	30	...	...	...	21	9	30
OTHER ASCERTAINED CAUSES	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1
UNKNOWN	...	...	...	...	...	...	115	53	173

* These "causes" are taken from the statements in the papers received with the patients on admission, and are verified or corrected as far as possible by the Medical Officers.

† No cause is enumerated more than once in the case of any patient.

‡ The aggregate of the totals exceeds the whole number of patients admitted, the excess being due to the combinations.

TABLE 4.

SHOWING the Causes of Death in the Hospitals and Licensed Houses for the Insane during the year 1897.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
CEREBRAL DISEASE—			
Apoplexy and paralysis	4	4	8
Epilepsy and convulsions	15	8	23
General paralysis	37	3	40
Maniacal and melancholic exhaustion and decay	8	8	16
Inflammation and other diseases of the brain, softening, tumour, &c.	35	12	47
THORACIC DISEASE—			
Inflammation of lungs, pleura, and bronchi	8	4	12
Pulmonary consumption	18	5	23
Disease of heart and blood-vessels	13	7	20
Gangrene of lung	1	...	1
ABDOMINAL DISEASE—			
Inflammation and ulceration of stomach, intestines, and peritoneum	8	2	10
Dysentery and diarrhœa	4	2	6
Albuminuria	1	1	2
Disease of bladder and prostate	...	...	...
Disease of liver	...	1	1
Disease of uterus	...	1	1
ERYSIPELAS	1	...	1
TYPHOID FEVER	...	...	...
GENERAL DEBILITY AND OLD AGE	17	6	23
CANCER	...	5	5
PUERPERAL SEPTICÆMIA	...	1	1
INFLUENZA	5	2	7
ACCIDENT	1	...	1
SUICIDE	1	...	1
Total	177	72	249

TABLE 5.

SHOWING the Length of Residence in those discharged recovered, and in those who have died in the Hospitals and Licensed Houses for the Insane during the year 1897.

	Recovered.			Died.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Under 1 month	5	2	7	10	11	21
From 1 to 3 months.....	51	33	84	16	4	20
" 3 to 6 months.....	39	38	77	17	6	23
" 6 to 9 months.....	20	24	44	13	2	15
" 9 to 12 months.....	11	17	28	10	1	11
" 1 to 2 years.....	11	19	30	23	15	38
" 2 to 3 years.....	4	3	7	11	5	16
" 3 to 5 years.....	6	1	7	21	4	25
" 5 to 7 years.....	2	1	3	13		17
" 7 to 10 years.....				5	4	9
" 10 to 12 years.....				4	4	8
" 12 to 15 years.....				8	3	11
Over 15 years				26	9	35
Total.....	149	138	287	177	72	249

TABLE 6.

SHOWING the Ages of the Admissions and Readmissions, Discharges, and Deaths, and also the Ages of all Patients under care, during the year 1897, in the Hospitals and Licensed Houses for the Insane.

	Admitted and readmitted.			Recovered.			Removed, relieved, &c.			Died.			Patients under care during year 1897.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
1 to 5 years	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	6	8
5 to 10 years	3	3	6	...	...	...	1	1	2	2	1	3	27	16	43
10 to 15 years	4	4	8	...	...	...	1	3	4	1	3	4	35	29	64
15 to 20 years	13	25	38	6	12	18	5	2	7	1	3	4	112	100	212
20 to 30 years	90	63	153	38	45	83	33	28	61	13	5	18	495	348	843
30 to 40 years	110	96	206	37	43	80	55	42	97	41	11	52	723	494	1,217
40 to 50 years	84	53	137	29	26	55	49	42	91	39	15	54	666	427	1,093
50 to 60 years	46	27	73	26	10	36	11	26	37	29	11	40	520	326	846
60 to 70 years	37	11	48	11	2	13	13	24	37	27	10	37	247	125	372
70 to 80 years	11	7	18	2	...	2	8	5	13	16	8	24	66	47	113
80 to 90 years	2	2	4	...	...	...	1	...	1	6	4	10	13	8	21
90 and upwards .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3	2	3	5
Total.....	401	291	692	149	138	287	177	173	350	177	72	249	2,908	1,929	4,837

TABLE 7.

SHOWING Conditions as to Marriage in those admitted and readmitted, and those under care in the Hospitals and Licensed Houses for the Insane during the year 1897.

	Admissions and readmissions.			Under care during the year 1897.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Single	233	122	355	1,993	825	2,818
Married	131	138	269	584	814	1,398
Widowed.....	18	18	36	115	199	314
Unascertained.....	19	13	32	216	91	307
Total.....	401	291	692	2,908	1,929	4,837

TABLE 8.

SHOWING the Religious Professions of those admitted and readmitted, and those under care in the Hospitals and Licensed Houses for the Insane during the year 1897.

Religious Profession.	Admissions and readmissions.			Under care during the year 1897		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Protestant—						
Church of England	173	125	298	1,245	772	2,017
Presbyterian	35	20	55	210	122	332
Wesleyan	17	14	31	108	75	183
Lutheran	10	.....	10	74	14	88
Other Protestant Denominations	13	18	31	92	71	163
Roman Catholic	124	101	225	964	818	1,782
Pagan	4	.....	4	73	.....	73
Hebrew	4	3	7	24	11	35
Mahomedan.....	2	.....	2	13	.....	13
Unascertained.....	19	10	29	105	46	151
Total.....	401	291	692	2,908	1,929	4,837

TABLE 9.

SHOWING the Native Countries of those admitted and readmitted, and those under care in the Hospitals and Licensed Houses for the Insane during the year 1897.

	Admitted and readmitted during 1897.			Under care during 1897.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
British Colonies {						
New South Wales	144	149	293	973	859	1,832
Other Colonies	22	25	47	172	107	279
England	101	50	151	669	331	1,000
Great Britain... {						
Scotland	22	15	37	149	76	225
Ireland.....	35	48	103	550	483	1,033
France	2	.....	2	21	7	28
Germany	15	1	16	88	23	111
China	7	.....	7	84	.....	84
Other Countries	33	3	36	202	43	245
Total.....	401	291	692	2,908	1,929	4,837

TABLE 10.

SHOWING the Form of Mental Disorder in the Admissions, Readmissions, Recoveries, and Deaths of the year 1897, and of Inmates on 31st December, 1897.

Form of Mental Disorder.	Admissions and readmissions.			Recoveries.			Deaths.			Remaining in Hospital 31st Dec., 1897.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
CONGENITAL OR INFANTILE MENTAL DEFICIENCY—												
(a) with Epilepsy	8	12	20	..	..	..	9	10	19	82	64	146
(b) without Epilepsy	17	10	27	5	..	5	14	4	18	239	169	408
Epileptic Insanity.....	14	11	25	3	1	4	13	..	13	96	61	157
General Paralysis of the Insane.....	37	5	42	2	..	2	32	2	34	66	6	72
Choreic Insanity .....	..	1	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
MANIA—												
Acute	53	44	97	25	37	62	12	5	17	82	49	131
Chronic	6	5	11	1	1	2	10	7	17	224	204	428
Recurrent	13	22	35	8	4	12	..	..	..	52	65	117
Delusional	99	51	150	32	31	63	19	11	30	631	265	896
A Potu.....	22	3	25	22	1	23	..	1	1	17	5	22
Puerperal .....	..	12	12	..	11	11	..	4	4	..	31	31
Senile	7	5	12	..	..	..	1	2	3	13	10	23
MELANCHOLIA—												
Acute	19	15	34	..	3	3	9	2	11	28	28	56
Chronic .....	..	..	..	..	1	1	5	3	8	70	53	123
Recurrent	2	6	8	4	1	5	..	..	..	11	16	27
Delusional	66	68	134	41	41	82	15	9	24	339	290	629
Puerperal .....	..	4	4	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	7	7
Senile	1	1	2	..	..	..	2	..	2	8	9	17
A Potu	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	3
DEMENTIA—												
Primary	4	6	10	2	3	5	3	2	5	107	39	146
Secondary	7	1	8	1	1	2	12	2	14	231	121	352
Senile	16	9	25	3	..	3	15	7	22	95	50	145
Organic (i.e., from Tumours, coarse Brain Disease, &c.)	8	..	8	..	..	..	6	1	7	11	4	15
Total	401	291	692	149	138	287	177	72	249	2405	1546	3951

TABLE 11.

SHOWING the Occupations of those Admitted and Readmitted, and those under Care, in the Hospitals and Licensed Houses for the Insane, during the year 1897.

Occupations.	Admitted and readmitted during 1897.			Under care during 1897.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Professional { Clergy, military and naval officers, members of the medical and legal professions, architects, artists, authors, civil engineers, surveyors, &c. }	15	.....	15	59	.....	59
Commercial { Bankers, merchants, accountants, clerks, shopkeepers, shopmen, &c. }	37	.....	37	208	.....	208
Agricultural and pastoral { Farmers, squatters, graziers, free selectors, &c. }	29	.....	29	163	1	164
Mechanics, tradesmen, &c., actively employed, and in out-door avocations { Blacksmiths, carpenters, engine-fitters, firemen, sawyers, painters, police, &c. }	59	.....	59	354	.....	354
Mechanics, tradesmen, &c., employed at sedentary or indoor occupations { Bootmakers, bookbinders, compositors, weavers, tailors, &c. }	36	.....	36	172	9	181
Domestic service { Waiters, cooks, servants, &c. }	19	16	35	82	33	115
Miners, labourers, seamen, shepherds, &c.	176	.....	176	1,491	.....	1,491
Educational and higher domestic duties { Governesses, teachers, housekeepers, trained nurses, &c. }	.....	17	17	9	68	77
Ordinary domestic work { Servants, charwomen, laundresses, &c. }	.....	81	81	.....	539	539
Commercial — actively employed { Shopkeepers, saleswomen, &c. }	.....	2	2	.....	65	65
Commercial — employed in sedentary occupations { Tailoresses, needlewomen, machinists, bookbinders, factory workers, &c. }	.....	13	13	.....	71	71
Wives of professional men { Clergy, military, and naval officers, members of the medical and legal professions, architects, artists, authors, civil engineers, surveyors, &c. }	.....	2	2	.....	16	16
Wives of commercial men { Bankers, merchants, accountants, clerks, shopkeepers, shopmen, &c. }	.....	17	17	.....	65	65
Wives of tradesmen, mechanics, &c. { Blacksmiths, carpenters, engine-fitters, firemen, sawyers, painters, police, bootmakers, bookbinders, compositors, weavers, tailors, &c. }	.....	16	16	.....	92	92
Wives of agricultural and pastoral men { Farmers, squatters, graziers, free selectors, &c. }	.....	14	14	.....	102	102
Wives of { Miners, labourers, seamen, shepherds, &c. }	.....	28	28	.....	230	230
No occupation.....	19	44	63	285	365	600
Unknown.....	11	41	62	135	273	408
Total	401	291	692	2,908	1,929	4,837

Receipts and Expenditure.

The receipts of the Department from all sources amounted to £14,590 19s. 11d., and were made up as follows:—Collected by the Master in Lunacy towards the maintenance of patients in hospitals, £13,849 5s. 1d.; paid by the Imperial Treasury for the maintenance of convict patients, £145 4s.; received from sale of fat and old stores, £533 0s. 10d.; and from rent of land, £63 10s. The details are shown in the following return:—

TABLE showing Total Receipts on account of Institutions for the Insane during the year 1897.

Name of Institution.	Collected for maintenance of Patients.	Paid from Imperial Treasury for maintenance of Patients.	Sale of Fat and old Stores.	Rent of Land.	Total.
Hospital for the Insane, Gladesville.....	£ s. d. 3,671 6 1	£ s. d.	£ s. d. 187 10 9	£ s. d.	£ s. d. 3,858 16 10
Do Parramatta	1,883 4 2	108 18 0	192 11 1	.....	2,184 13 3
Do Callan Park	5,903 18 3	.....	97 14 0	.....	6,001 12 3
Do Newcastle	800 19 9	36 6 0	19 8 3	.....	856 14 0
Do Rydalmere	1,258 4 6	.....	35 16 9	.....	1,294 1 3
Do Kenmore	304 10 11	.....	.....	.....	304 10 11
Do South Australia	21 13 4	.....	.....	.....	21 13 4
Reception House for the Insane, Darlinghurst	5 8 1	.....	.....	.....	5 8 1
Inspector-General's Office .....	.....	.....	.....	63 10 0	63 10 0
Total	£ 13,849 5 1	145 4 0	533 0 10	63 10 0	14,590 19 11

The total expenditure amounted to £109,623 5s. 0d., and was made up as follows:—Maintenance of patients in Hospitals for the Insane, £105,444 17s. 1d.; maintenance of patients in the Reception House at Darlinghurst, £1,487 0s. 6d.; maintenance of patients in South Australian Hospitals, £326 6s. 6d.; and general expenses—including cost of Inspector-General's Office, payments to official visitors, maintenance of steam-launch, &c.—£2,365 0s. 11d.

The average weekly cost per patient was 10s. 8½d., without deducting collections, and 9s. 3d. when these were deducted. The cost at Kenmore is still higher than that at other hospitals, owing to the many initial expenses incidental to a new institution.

The

The following returns show—(1st) the average weekly cost of the hospitals for the last ten years, 1888 to 1897 inclusive; (2nd) the weekly cost at each hospital from 1870 to 1897 inclusive; and (3rd) the particulars of expenditure at the hospitals during the year 1897.

RETURN showing Weekly Cost for Maintenance in Hospitals for the Insane for ten years, 1888 to 1897 inclusive.

Year.	Without deducting Collections.	Deducting Collections.
1888	£ s. d. 0 11 8½	£ s. d. 0 10 2
1889	0 12 9½	0 11 3½
1890	0 11 11½	0 10 4½
1891	0 12 1½	0 10 5½
1892	0 11 11½	0 10 2
1893	0 11 2½	0 9 6½
1894	0 10 7	0 8 11
1895	0 10 11½	0 9 4
1896	0 10 5½	0 9 0½
1897	0 10 8½	0 9 3
Average for ten years	0 11 5½	0 9 10

The following return shows the weekly cost in all hospitals from 1870 to 1897 inclusive:—

TABLE showing Weekly Cost of Maintenance at Hospitals for the Insane during the years 1870 to 1897, inclusive.

Year.	Gladesville.		Parramatta.		Newcastle.		Callan Park.		Rydalmere.		Kenmore.	
	Collections deducted.	Collections not deducted.	Collections deducted.	Collections not deducted.	Collections deducted.	Collections not deducted.	Collections deducted.	Collections not deducted.	Collections deducted.	Collections not deducted.	Collections deducted.	Collections not deducted.
1870	£ s. d. 0 12 6	£ s. d. 0 12 11	£ s. d. 0 9 0	£ s. d. 0 9 1½	£ s. d. 0 16 11	£ s. d. 0 16 11	£ s. d. 0 13 8½	£ s. d. 0 13 11½	£ s. d. 0 12 11½	£ s. d. 0 13 4½	£ s. d. 0 15 4½	£ s. d. 0 15 4½
1871	0 11 1½	0 12 4	0 9 0	0 9 1½	0 16 0	0 16 0	0 13 8½	0 13 11½	0 12 11½	0 13 4½	0 15 4½	0 15 4½
1872	0 12 8	0 18 2	0 9 3	0 9 4	0 16 11	0 16 11	0 13 8½	0 13 11½	0 12 11½	0 13 4½	0 15 4½	0 15 4½
1873	0 12 7	0 13 0	0 11 4½	0 11 4½	0 16 0	0 16 0	0 13 8½	0 13 11½	0 12 11½	0 13 4½	0 15 4½	0 15 4½
1874	0 12 2½	0 12 10½	0 12 3	0 12 4½	0 16 6½	0 16 6½	0 13 8½	0 13 11½	0 12 11½	0 13 4½	0 15 4½	0 15 4½
1875	0 12 2	0 12 0½	0 11 10½	0 11 10½	0 14 1½	0 14 1½	0 13 8½	0 13 11½	0 12 11½	0 13 4½	0 15 4½	0 15 4½
1876	0 12 5	0 18 1	0 10 0½	0 11 2½	0 14 1	0 14 4½	0 13 8½	0 13 11½	0 12 11½	0 13 4½	0 15 4½	0 15 4½
1877	0 12 5	0 15 1	0 11 8½	0 11 10½	0 14 1½	0 14 7	0 13 8½	0 13 11½	0 12 11½	0 13 4½	0 15 4½	0 15 4½
1878	0 11 4½	0 12 3½	0 12 9½	0 12 10½	0 13 3½	0 14 6½	0 13 8½	0 13 11½	0 12 11½	0 13 4½	0 15 4½	0 15 4½
1879	0 11 2	0 12 1½	0 11 2½	0 11 7	0 12 3½	0 13 1½	0 13 8½	0 13 11½	0 12 11½	0 13 4½	0 15 4½	0 15 4½
1880	0 9 5	0 11 2½	0 10 5½	0 11 1½	0 11 6	0 12 0½	0 13 8½	0 13 11½	0 12 11½	0 13 4½	0 15 4½	0 15 4½
1881	0 10 1½	0 12 2½	0 10 2½	0 10 9½	0 10 9½	0 11 8	0 12 10½	0 13 8½	0 12 11½	0 13 4½	0 15 4½	0 15 4½
1882	0 10 11	0 13 0½	0 12 6	0 13 0½	0 10 10	0 11 6½	0 14 2½	0 15 2½	0 12 11½	0 13 4½	0 15 4½	0 15 4½
1883	0 10 4½	0 12 0½	0 10 10½	0 11 4½	0 11 8½	0 12 0½	0 18 4	0 17 3½	0 12 11½	0 13 4½	0 15 4½	0 15 4½
1884	0 10 4½	0 12 0½	0 9 11½	0 10 7	0 10 11	0 12 0	0 17 2½	0 18 8½	0 12 11½	0 13 4½	0 15 4½	0 15 4½
1885	0 10 11	0 13 2	0 9 10½	0 10 7½	0 10 11½	0 12 1	0 15 9	0 17 4	0 12 11½	0 13 4½	0 15 4½	0 15 4½
1886	0 11 8	0 13 9½	0 10 2	0 10 11½	0 10 7½	0 11 0½	0 12 5½	0 14 4½	0 12 11½	0 13 4½	0 15 4½	0 15 4½
1887	0 11 3½	0 13 1½	0 9 7½	0 10 8	0 12 0	0 12 9½	0 10 5½	0 12 4½	0 12 11½	0 13 4½	0 15 4½	0 15 4½
1888	0 9 7½	0 11 10½	0 10 0	0 11 1	0 11 2	0 11 11	0 10 7½	0 12 2½	0 12 11½	0 13 4½	0 15 4½	0 15 4½
1889	0 12 1	0 14 8	0 10 9½	0 11 4	0 11 10½	0 12 3½	0 10 11½	0 12 11½	0 12 11½	0 13 4½	0 15 4½	0 15 4½
1890	0 10 9½	0 13 0	0 10 1½	0 10 11	0 10 12	0 11 2½	0 10 3½	0 12 4½	0 12 11½	0 13 4½	0 15 4½	0 15 4½
1891	0 10 9½	0 12 11½	0 9 10½	0 10 9	0 9 10½	0 11 2½	0 10 1½	0 12 8½	0 15 4½	0 15 4½	0 15 4½	0 15 4½
1892	0 10 8	0 12 11	0 9 4	0 10 3	0 9 8½	0 10 11½	0 10 3½	0 13 0½	0 12 11½	0 13 4½	0 15 4½	0 15 4½
1893	0 10 2½	0 12 4	0 8 8½	0 9 7½	0 9 2½	0 10 6	0 9 10½	0 12 7½	0 9 9½	0 10 5½	0 15 4½	0 15 4½
1894	0 9 6	0 11 6½	0 8 7	0 9 5½	0 8 1½	0 9 2½	0 9 7½	0 11 5	0 10 10½	0 11 0	0 15 4½	0 15 4½
1895	0 9 10½	0 11 10½	0 8 7½	0 9 6½	0 7 10½	0 9 0	0 9 2½	0 12 0½	0 8 10½	0 9 9	0 19 1½	0 19 4½
1896	0 9 0½	0 11 5	0 8 8½	0 9 4½	0 7 0½	0 8 7½	0 8 10½	0 11 6½	0 8 1½	0 8 11½	0 14 7½	0 15 0
1897	0 9 0½	0 11 7	0 8 11	0 9 7½	0 7 5½	0 8 6½	0 8 4½	0 11 2	0 8 3½	0 9 4	0 15 9½	0 16 2½

* First year, and including cost of stores and outfit. † Opening of new Hospital. ‡ Opening of new wards for women.

TABLE showing Annual Cost of Patients in Hospitals for the Insane during the year 1897.

Institution.	Total number under care.	Average number resident.	Total cost.	Amount of collections.	Total annual cost per Patient, without deducting collections.	Annual cost per Patient, deducting collections.
Hospital for the Insane, Gladesville ..	1,056	814	£ s. d. 24,663 19 4	£ s. d. 3,858 16 10	£ s. d. 30 6 0	£ s. d. 25 11 2
Do Parramatta...	1,313	1,109	27,928 16 11	2,184 13 3	25 3 6½	23 4 3½
Do Callan Park...	1,200	820	23,821 17 11	6,001 12 3	29 1 0	21 14 7½
Do Newcastle...	331	307	6,824 19 11	856 14 0	24 4 7	19 8 9½
Do Rydalmere...	561	482	11,723 5 2	1,294 1 3	22 6 5½	21 12 9
Do Kenmore ...	322	248	10,481 17 10	304 10 11	42 5 3½	41 0 9
Total	4,783	3,780	105,444 17 1	14,500 8 6	27 17 10½	24 1 2½

RETURN showing the Average Annual Cost of Maintenance per Patient at the Hospitals for the Insane for the year 1897.

Name of Hospital.	Daily average number of patients resident	Salaries.	Provisions, extra, medical comforts, and forage.	Stimulants—Wines, spirits, beer, &c.	Medicines and surgical instruments.	Stores, including clothing, bedding, and materials for manufacture.	Fuel, light, and water.	Incidental and miscellaneous expenses, including library, amusements, &c.	Total expenditure.	Collections for maintenance, &c.	Annual cost for maintenance per patient.	Annual cost per patient, deducting collections for maintenance, &c.
Gladesville ..	814	£ s. d. 13 5 3½	£ s. d. 19 14 7	£ s. d. 0 1 0½	£ s. d. 0 5 6½	£ s. d. 3 3 4½	£ s. d. 1 4 11½	£ s. d. 1 5 6½	£ s. d. 24,663 19 4	£ s. d. 3,858 16 10	£ s. d. 30 6 0	£ s. d. 25 11 2
Parramatta...	1,109	10 5 2	9 1 2	0 1 4½	0 4 11½	3 5 6	1 5 0	1 0 4½	27,928 16 11	2,184 13 3	25 3 6½	23 4 3½
Callan Park	820	13 4 7	9 13 3½	0 1 10½	0 3 10½	3 4 11	1 10 11½	1 1 5½	23,821 17 11	6,001 12 3	29 1 0	21 14 7½
Newcastle ..	307	9 15 9	6 9 10½	0 0 2	0 5 4	2 14 4½	1 6 3	1 8 9	6,824 19 11	856 14 0	24 4 7	19 8 9½
Rydalmere ..	482	10 10 10	8 11 0	0 0 0	0 2 4½	2 17 5½	1 4 6½	1 0 2½	11,723 5 2	1,294 1 3	22 6 5½	21 12 9
Kenmore...	248	14 4 3½	11 5 9	0 0 8½	0 9 0	10 3 6	1 2 7½	1 19 8½	10,481 17 10	304 10 11	42 5 3½	41 0 9

RETURN showing the Average Weekly Cost of Maintenance per Patient at the Hospitals for the Insane for the year 1897.

Name of Hospital.	Daily average number of patients resident	Weekly cost, calculated on average number resident.							Total weekly cost for maintenance per patient.	Average weekly collections for maintenance per patient.	Weekly cost per patient, deducting collections for maintenance, &c.
		Salaries.	Provisions extras, medical comforts, and forage.	Stimulants—Wines, spirits, beer, &c.	Medicines and surgical instruments.	Stores, including clothing, bedding, and materials for manufacture.	Fuel, light, and water.	Incidental and miscellaneous expenses, including library, amusements, &c.			
Gladesville	814	£ s. d. 0 5 1	£ s. d. 0 4 1½	£ s. d. 0 0 0½	£ s. d. 0 0 1½	£ s. d. 0 1 3½	£ s. d. 0 0 5½	£ s. d. 0 0 5½	£ s. d. 0 11 7	£ s. d. 0 1 0½	£ s. d. 0 0 0½
Parramatta	1,109	0 3 1½	0 2 5½	0 0 0½	0 0 1	0 1 3½	0 0 5½	0 0 4½	0 9 7½	0 0 0	0 8 1½
Callan Park	820	0 5 1	0 3 8½	0 0 0½	0 0 0½	0 1 3	0 0 7½	0 0 5	0 11 2	0 2 2½	0 8 4½
Newcastle	307	0 3 2½	0 2 6	.....	0 0 1½	0 1 1½	0 0 6	0 0 6½	0 8 0½	0 1 0½	0 7 5½
Rydalmere	432	0 4 0½	0 3 3½	.....	0 0 0½	0 1 1½	0 0 5½	0 0 4½	0 9 4	0 1 0½	0 8 3½
Kenmore	248	0 5 5½	0 4 4	.....	0 0 2	0 5 0½	0 0 5½	0 0 9½	0 16 2½	0 0 5½	0 15 0½

Average weekly cost, without deducting collections, 10s. 8½d., or deducting collections, 9s. 8d.

The following return shows the number of Insane Patients under care on 31st December of each year, the number of Admissions for each year, and the Total Expenditure in the Lunacy Department for each of the ten years from 1888 to 1897 inclusive:—

Year.	No. of Patients on 31st December.	Admissions.	Total Expenditure.
1888	2,898	588	£ 89,895
1889	2,974	550	100,302
1890	3,102	611	96,138
1891	3,134	596	100,112
1892	3,312	666	102,519
1893	3,425	688	101,077
1894	3,587	712	99,425
1895	3,720	715	104,846
1896	3,845	740	103,928
1897	3,951	692	109,623

Reception House for the Insane, Darlinghurst.

The statistics of this institution are not included with those for the Hospitals and Licensed Houses, as the patients are for the most part only admitted for temporary care and treatment on their way to the hospitals, or whilst awaiting the signature of the certificates and orders necessary for their admission to these institutions.

The number of patients remaining on December 31, 1896, was 6, and the number admitted during the year 559, making a total of 565 under care and treatment. This number, which was somewhat less than for several previous years, was made up of two classes—those under certificates of insanity (322 in number) and those under remand under section 1 of the Lunacy Act Amendment Act, of whom there were 243. Taking these classes separately—of the 322 under certificate, 8 were discharged recovered, and 314 were sent to Hospitals for the Insane; whilst of the 243 under remand, 115 were discharged recovered, 122 were sent to the Police Court, certified as insane, and returned to the Reception House, 3 died, and 3 remained at the end of the year. It will be seen that 122 of the number were first admitted in one and subsequently in the other class. The Superintendent of the Reception House reports that 2 cases under certificate, and 9 cases under remand, were admitted twice during the year 1897, and that no less than 70 of the patients admitted during the year had in some one of the thirty years during which the institution has been in existence previously been inmates. The large majority of these recurrent cases were suffering from the temporary insanity due to drink. The institution has done good and useful work. The total number of patients discharged as recovered was 123, and the deaths were 3 only. Considering that a very large proportion of the cases was in an acute stage of the malady, the death-rate is a very small one, and the fact that no case of serious accident or suicide has occurred is creditable to the management.

The following table gives the detailed statistics of the Reception House for the year 1897:—

RETURN showing the Admissions, Discharges, Deaths, &c., of Patients in the Reception House for the Insane during the Year 1897.

	Remaining on 31st December, 1896.		Admitted during 1897.		Total Number of Patients under care.		Patients Discharged, Transferred, Died, &c.											Remaining on 31st December, 1897.											
							Discharged Recovered, by Certificate.			Discharged Recovered, from Police Court.			Discharged Relieved.		Sent to Police Court and Returned to Reception House under Certificate.		Transferred to Hospitals or Licensed Houses.			Escaped, and not Recaptured within twenty-eight days.		Died.		Total Number Discharged, Died, &c.					
							Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.			Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
On Remand under Section 1, Lunacy Act Amendment Act	3	1	4	169	70	239	172	71	243	.....	.....	94	21	115	.....	73	49	122	.....	.....	3	3	170	70	240	2	1	3	
Under Lunacy Certificate	2	.....	2	315	165	320	217	105	322	7	1	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	210	104	314	.....	.....	.....	217	105	322	.....	.....
Total	5	1	6	334	175	559	389	176	565	7	1	8	94	21	115	73	49	122	210	104	314	3	3	337	175	562	2	1	3

The Observation Wards at H.M. Gaols, Darlinghurst and Parramatta.

The statistics of these wards are as follows :—There were at the ward at Darlinghurst on December 31, 1896, 15 inmates, and 67 were received during the year, making 82 under care ; 52 were discharged of sound mind, 13 were sent to Hospitals for the Insane, 3 were sent to Police Court and discharged, 3 were transferred to the Observation Ward at Parramatta, and 11 remained at the close of the year.

In addition to these inmates, for whom the ward was specially set apart, 133 other prisoners were for short periods inmates, the majority of these being cases suffering from temporary mental symptoms due to alcohol, whilst serving sentences of a few days, or whilst under remand.

At the ward at Parramatta there were on December 31, 1896, 14 inmates, and 33 were received during the year, making 47 under observation. Of these, 29 were discharged as of sound mind, 2 were sent to Hospitals for the Insane, 1 was discharged at Police Court, 1 died, 3 were transferred to the Observation Ward at Darlinghurst; and 11 remained at the close of the year. Into this ward, also, a number of similar cases to those received at Darlinghurst was admitted, the total number of these being 42.

The Lunacy Act provides that these wards should be visited by the Inspector-General of the Insane, and special visits of inspection were paid to the ward at Darlinghurst on January 27, April 28, June 2, July 12, October 20, and November 30, and to the ward at Parramatta on January 28, April 12, July 22, September 13, October 11, and December 2. The wards have also been visited at other times to see individual prisoners, or at the request of the visiting medical officers. At the visits of inspection care has been taken to see and speak to every prisoner, and to inquire into the circumstances of his case, as well as to make a careful examination into the general management of the ward.

The Comptroller-General of Prisons has courteously furnished the following returns, showing the general statistics of the two wards for the year 1897 :—

RETURNS showing the number of Persons received into the Observation Ward, H.M. Gaol, Darlinghurst, during the year 1897, the places whence received, and their disposal.

Whence received.	Remaining on 31st December, 1896.			Received.			Discharged.												Transferred to Observation Ward, Parramatta			Remaining on 31st December, 1897.				
							Of Sound Mind.			To Hospitals for the Insane.			To Police Courts.			Died.										
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.		
H.M. Gaols—																										
Darlinghurst	6	9	15	38	1	39	32	1	33	2	2	4	2	2	4	2	2	4	1	1	2	1	1	2	7	7
Goulburn	4	4	8	2	2	4	1	1	2	4	4	8													1	1
Bathurst	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2																1	1
Maitland	3	3	6	6	1	7	7	1	8				1	1	2	1	1	2							1	1
Grafton	1	1	2							1	1	2														
Broken Hill				1	1	2																			1	1
Biloela				3	3	6	3	3	6																	
Cootamundra				3	3	6	2	2	4	1	1	2														
Parramatta				3	3	6	1	1	2	1	1	2							1	1	2	1	1	2		
Yass				2	2	4	1	1	2	1	1	2														
Dubbo				1	1	2	1	1	2																	
Mudgee				1	1	2				1	1	2														
Wollongong				1	1	2				1	1	2														
Young				2	2	4	1	1	2										1	1	2	1	1	2		
Albury				1	1	2				1	1	2														
Total	15	9	24	64	3	67	43	3	46	13	2	15	3	3	6	3	3	6	3	3	6	3	3	6	11	11
Awaiting Trial							1	1	2	1	1	2														
Acquitted on the ground of Insanity, and awaiting Governor's pleasure				1	1	2	2	2	4	1	1	2													2	2
From Police Courts							27	1	28	23	1	24	2	2	4										2	2
On Remand				3	3	6	79	17	96				1	2	3	77	15	92							4	4
Total	20	20	40	174	21	195	75	4	79	17	2	19	80	15	95	3	3	6	3	3	6	19	19	38	19	19

RETURN showing the number of Persons received into the Observation Ward, H.M. Gaol, Parramatta, during the year 1897, the places whence received, and their disposal.

Whence received.	Remaining on 31st December, 1896.			Received.			Discharged.															Remaining on 31st December, 1897.							
							Of Sound Mind.			To Hospitals for Insane.			To Police Courts.			Died.			Transferred to Observation Ward, Darlinghurst.										
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.					
Admitted under the provisions of section 63 of the Lunacy Act and section 4 of the Lunacy Act Amendment Act, from	H.M. Gaols—																												
	Darlinghurst			3	...	3	3	...	3	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	4	...	4	
	Parramatta			11	...	11	27	...	27	27	...	27	1	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	7	...	7
	Maitland			...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Grafton			...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pt. Macquarie			...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Total			14	...	14	3	...	33	29	...	29	2	...	2	1	...	1	1	...	1	...	1	3	...	3	11	...	11	
Awaiting Trial			} Supreme Court } Quarter Sessions																										
Acquitted on grounds of Insanity, and awaiting Governor's pleasure			3	...	3	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1
From Police Courts			} Under Sentence... } On Remand																										
Total			17	...	17	72	...	72	38	...	38	4	...	4	28	...	28	1	...	1	4	...	4	14	...	14	...	14	

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

SECOND REPORT

OF THE

ROYAL COMMISSION ON PUBLIC CHARITIES ;

TOGETHER WITH

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE AND APPENDIX.

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

APPOINTED 10TH NOVEMBER, 1897.

Presented to Parliament by Command.

Printed under No. 15 Report from Printing Committee, 8 December, 1898.



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1898.

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Commission.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen,
Defender of the Faith and so forth,—

To Our Trusty and Well-beloved—

JOSEPH BARLING, Esquire, Chairman of the Public Service Board, and one of Our Justices of the Peace of Our Colony of New South Wales, Associate of the Institution of Civil Engineers;

GEORGE ALEXANDER WILSON, Esquire, a Member of the Public Service Board, and one of Our Justices of the Peace of Our said Colony; and

JAMES POWELL, Esquire, Deputy Member of the Public Service Board, and one of Our Justices of the Peace of Our said Colony,—

Greeting:—

KNOW Ye, That We, reposing great trust and confidence in your ability, zeal, industry, discretion, and integrity, do, by these presents, authorise and appoint you, or any two of you, as hereinafter mentioned, to make a diligent and full inquiry into, and report upon the methods of carrying on Government Charitable Institutions, and the way in which Grants of public money to charitable objects under the control of the Government are administered, including Grants for the Aborigines; and to report also upon the methods of administration and relief in force in all charitable organizations which receive aid from the public Treasury, including the Hospitals of the Colony; with further power to suggest desirable changes in the existing state of affairs, with a view to placing the expenditure of public moneys in such directions upon a more satisfactory footing: And We do, by these presents, grant to you, or any two of you, at any meeting or meetings to which all of you shall have been duly summoned, full power and authority to call before you all such persons as you may judge necessary, by whom you may be better informed of the truth in the premises, and to require the production of all such books, papers, writings, and all other documents as you may deem expedient, and to visit and inspect the same at the offices or places where the same or any of them may be deposited, and to inquire of the premises by all lawful ways and means: And We do give you power at your discretion to procure such clerical and other assistance as you may deem necessary for enabling you duly to execute this Our Commission: And Our further will and pleasure is that you do within three months after the date of this Our Commission, certify to Us, in the office of Our Chief Secretary under your or any two of your hands and seals, what you shall find touching the premises: And We hereby command all Government Officers and other persons whomsoever within Our said Colony, that they be assistant to you and each of you in the execution of these presents: And We appoint you the said JOSEPH BARLING, Esquire, to be President of this Our Commission; which said Commission We declare to be a Commission for all purposes of the Act 44 Victoria, No. 1, intituled "*An Act to regulate the taking of Evidence by Commissioners under the Great Seal.*"

In testimony whereof, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent, and the Great Seal of Our said Colony of New South Wales to be hereunto affixed.

Witness Our Right Trusty and Well-beloved Cousin, HENRY ROBERT, VISCOUNT HAMPDEN, Our Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Our Colony of New South Wales and its Dependencies, at Government House, Sydney, in New South Wales aforesaid, this tenth day of November, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven, and in the sixty-first year of Our Reign.

(L.S.)

HAMPDEN.

By His Excellency's Command,

JAMES N. BRUNKER.

Entered on Record by me, in Register of Patents No. 19, page 151, this eleventh day of November, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven.

For the Colonial Secretary and Registrar of Records,

CRITCHETT WALKER,
Principal Under Secretary.

VICTORIA,

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen,
Defender of the Faith, and so forth,—

To our Trusty and Well-beloved—

GEORGE ALEXANDER WILSON, Esquire, a Member of the Public Service Board, and one of Our
Justices of the Peace of Our said Colony,—

Greeting:—

WHEREAS by an instrument under the Great Seal of Our Colony of New South Wales, bearing date the tenth day of November, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven, We did, *inter alia*, appoint JOSEPH BARLING, Esquire, to be a Member, and also President of the Royal Commission of Inquiry in connexion with Charitable Institutions: And whereas the said JOSEPH BARLING has now resigned the Office of President: Now, therefore, know You, that We, of Our especial grace, have thought fit to appoint, and do hereby appoint you, the said GEORGE ALEXANDER WILSON, to be President of such Commission.

In testimony whereof, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent, and the Great Seal of Our said Colony of New South Wales to be hereunto affixed.

Witness Our Right Trusty and Well-beloved Cousin, HENRY ROBERT, VISCOUNT HAMPDEN, Our Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Our Colony of New South Wales and its Dependencies, at Government House, Sydney, in New South Wales aforesaid, this eighth day of February, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight, and in the sixty-first year of Our Reign.

(J.S.)

HAMPDEN.

By His Excellency's Command,
JAMES N. BRUNKER.

Entered on record by me, in Register of Patents No. 19, page 263, this eighth day of February, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight.

For the Colonial Secretary and Registrar of Records,
CRITCHETT WALKER,
Principal Under Secretary.

ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON PUBLIC CHARITIES.

WHEREAS it is necessary to extend the time within which the Commissioners are to make their report in the above matter: Now, therefore, I do hereby, with the advice of the Executive Council, extend the time within which the said Commissioners are to make such report for a period of six months,—to take effect from the 10th February, 1898.

Given under my hand at Government House, Sydney, this second day of March, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight.

HAMPDEN.

By His Excellency's Command,
JAMES N. BRUNKER.

ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON PUBLIC CHARITIES.

WHEREAS the time appointed for the return of the Commission in the above matter was by an Instrument dated the second day of March last, extended for a period of six months; And whereas it is necessary to extend the same still further: Now, therefore, I do hereby, with the advice of the Executive Council, extend the time within which the Commission are to make their return to, and for a further period of three months beyond the time in and by the aforesaid instrument appointed for the purpose,—to take effect from the 10th instant.

Given under my hand at Government House, Sydney, this second day of August, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight.

HAMPDEN.

By His Excellency's Command,
JAMES N. BRUNKER.

ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON PUBLIC CHARITIES.

WHEREAS the time appointed for the return of the Commission in the above matter was by an Instrument dated the second day of August last, extended for a period of three months; And whereas it is necessary to extend the same still further: Now, therefore, I do hereby, with the advice of the Executive Council, extend the time within which the Commission are to make their return to, and for a further period of three months beyond the time in and by the aforesaid Instrument appointed for the purpose,—to take effect from the 10th instant.

Given under my hand at Government House, Sydney, this eleventh day of November, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight.

HAMPDEN.

By His Excellency's Command,
JAMES N. BRUNKER.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON PUBLIC CHARITIES.

SECOND REPORT.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable Henry Robert, Viscount Hampden,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of New South Wales
and its Dependencies.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

We, your Commissioners, appointed by Letters Patent, dated the 10th day of November, 1897, to inquire into and report upon the financial administration and general management of the Government and State subsidised Charities of the Colony, have the honor to submit to your Excellency our second Report.

Although our general Commission is dated 10th November, 1897, our duties were delayed by the issue of a separate Commission, under which it was considered necessary that we should, in view of the importance of the issues involved, make inquiries immediately into the management of the Institution for the Blind at Strathfield. These entailed a protracted investigation, the examination of a large number of witnesses, and the preparation of a separate Report, which was presented to your Excellency on the 22nd March last.

On the 29th March, 1898, we were able to resume inquiries under our general Commission, and we furnished on 29th June our first Report in connection therewith, which dealt with Institutions for the Blind and the Deaf and Dumb.

In that Report it was stated "your Commissioners propose, for the sake of clearness and despatch, to group the institutions as follows, and to furnish interim reports on each group, but not necessarily in the order here given":—

- I. Institutions dealing with the Blind and with the Deaf and Dumb.
- II. Subsidised charitable bodies, such as the Benevolent Societies and kindred institutions.
- III. The Hospitals.
- IV. The Aborigines.
- V. Government Institutions controlled by the Director of Charities, and also the operations of the State Children's Relief Board.

We at the same time mentioned that it may be "found desirable to report separately on any institution in the event of immediate reforms of policy or of management being considered necessary." Such an occasion has arisen in dealing with the second section of the above groups in the case of the Benevolent Society of New South Wales, an institution occupying the important position of being the chief medium for the relief of the poor in the Colony, apart from the Government Institutions, and we have, consequently, to present you with a report dealing solely with its operations.

THE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

Historical Sketch.

The records of the Benevolent Society of New South Wales, which date as far back as the year 1813, have been preserved in a sufficiently continuous form to admit of a reliable history being presented of the origin and development of this the oldest of our existing charitable institutions.

Your

Your Commissioners accordingly present a concise statement of the methods of this Society's operations from its initiation, because these operations now practically constitute the groundwork of the system which generally prevails throughout this Colony for relieving the necessities of that large section of the poor not provided for in Government institutions.

The New South Wales Benevolent Society was originally known as "The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge and Benevolence," and it was founded on the 8th of May, 1813, "because," as stated at the first meeting of its promoters, "notwithstanding the humanity of the Government in providing hospitals, &c., still numerous instances of distress out of the reach of this provision continually occur which it becomes the benevolent to mitigate." The founders of the Society appear to have been much divided as to its scope and objects, one section desiring that relief should be confined to New South Wales, and the other urging that a portion of the funds should be devoted to the protection of the natives, in the neighbouring colonies, from fraud and oppression. The supporters of the latter proposal were, however, in the minority, and the result was that an ordinary system of outdoor relief within the Colony was decided upon. To show the precise nature of the work undertaken, it may be of interest to quote two of the first cases relieved.

The records of May 29, 1813, show that "Robert Jones, 60 years of age, infirm, helpless, and rather deranged in mind, secured trousers and a flannel jacket"; and that "Murray, an old soldier, wounded in Egypt, aged, suffering from dysentery," was allowed "1 lb. sugar, 1½ oz. tea, and 3 oz. of arrowroot weekly."

The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge and Benevolence continued its operations in a limited way until the year 1818, when it was considered desirable to change its title. On May 6, 1818, His Excellency Governor Macquarie presided over a public meeting, at which the leading citizens of the time were present, including Judge Wyldc, Rev. W. Cowper, W. Redfern, S. Terry, Major Antill, Captain Piper, and others, all of whom were members of the Society, and it was then resolved that the organization should be merged into a Society to be thenceforward known as "The Benevolent Society of New South Wales." The resolutions agreed upon at the meeting were published in the *Sydney Gazette*, the semi-official organ of the day, and signed by the Governor, thus indicating that the new Society had been launched under the patronage and with the assistance of the Government, a position which it has ever since held.

One of the principal objects of the Society, as laid down in the original rules, was "to take such measures as may be deemed proper to ascertain the real objects of charity in the respective districts of the Colony, such as the blind, lame, and infirm, who are thus rendered unable to provide for their own support." For two years outdoor relief only was administered to these classes of suffering humanity, but it then became evident that something more was needed to meet the necessities of the helpless poor of the Colony, many of whom required shelter and nursing as well as clothing and food. The Committee therefore determined to pay for lodgings in special cases, and in one year they expended £60 for this purpose. As the population of the Colony increased, this method of housing the poor became inadequate, and the Benevolent Society's Committee, which appears to have been a very energetic body, decided that a central asylum was absolutely necessary in the public interests, on grounds of economy, and to afford opportunities for ready visitation and imparting religious instruction. To this end Governor Macquarie was approached for aid to erect a building somewhat on the lines of the English almshouses, in which the poor of the Colony, who could not be sufficiently provided for under an ordinary outdoor relief system, should be accommodated and properly attended to. In accordance with the Committee's request, His Excellency, who appears to have always willingly responded to appeals for assistance from State funds to carry out the objects of the Society, caused the main building of the present Benevolent Asylum to be erected at the public cost. The original inscription, "This Asylum for the Poor, Blind, Aged, and Infirm was erected 1820, L. Macquarie, Esq., being Governor," still remains over the main entrance, and indicates the purpose to which the institution was first devoted; but, although the building was erected in 1820, it was not occupied until 12th October, 1821, on which date nineteen out-pensioners were received as inmates.

It has already been said that the building was erected at the public expense. The records also show, with regard to the cost of maintaining the institution, that "Major-General Macquarie was pleased to inform the Committee that the master and matron

matron should receive rations from the King's stores, and salary from the Police Fund," and the Governor also approved of the arrangement "that all persons who should be admitted by the Committee to the Asylum who might be considered as chargeable to the Crown, either by former services in Government employ, or from being advanced in age at the expiration of their sentence of transportation, not having become settlers by receiving land or other indulgences, should be victualled from His Majesty's stores."

It appears that, apart from the outdoor relief division, the institution has always been carried on at the cost of the State, in buildings erected from the Consolidated Revenue, on Crown land. Indeed, the statistics show that during a period of twenty-four years, after the occupation of the existing building, the Government contributed altogether £45,000 for the maintenance of inmates. The amounts received from the public, however, for the general purposes of the Society, in response to appeals from the Committee, were very small, "notwithstanding that the Colony was moving forward in opulence." The reason of the smallness of voluntary contributions, which averaged only £400 a year during the seven years, 1820-26, was accounted for by the Committee on the ground "that, as nearly all the beggars were removed from the streets of Sydney into the Asylum, the utility of the Society was lost sight of." The real cause probably was that at that remote time, as at the present day, the liberality with which grants were made from the public Treasury tended to largely stifle private charity, and to leave a burden upon the State which would otherwise have been borne by private philanthropy.

Increase of population caused applicants for admission to the institution to become so numerous that it was found impossible to provide adequate accommodation for them in the Asylum. Representations to this effect were made to the Government, with the result that, in 1851, the use of the Liverpool Hospital was granted to relieve the overcrowding at the Sydney institution, which up to that time had sheltered all the destitute aged men, women, and children of the Colony, as many as 500 persons having been inmates at one time in a building which only possessed sufficient proper accommodation for 190. During the year 1851, 250 aged inmates were accordingly removed from the Sydney Benevolent Asylum to the Liverpool buildings, which were first under the control of the Benevolent Society's Committee as an auxiliary of the main institution in the metropolis.

In 1852 it was found necessary to take further steps to lessen the strain upon the accommodation of the Sydney Asylum; and the evil of permanently associating children with adult paupers was so fully recognised by the Committee that arrangements were made to remove a number of them to Ormond House, Paddington (the present boarding-out depôt of the State Children Relief Department), where they were placed under the control of the Society for the Relief of Destitute Children, which carried on its operations at the Paddington buildings while the institution at Randwick was in course of erection.

Three years later it was considered desirable to more definitely define the relationship of the Government to the Sydney Benevolent Asylum and other institutions with which its operations were to some extent interwoven, and as a consequence, in 1855, a Royal Commission, consisting of Mr. Mayne (Inspector-General of Police) and Mr. E. C. Merewether (Agent for Church and School Lands) was appointed to make investigations "into the operations and general management and condition of the Institution for Destitute Children at Randwick, and likewise the Benevolent Society (as well the Liverpool as the Sydney branch), with the view, amongst other things, to determine the position the Government ought to occupy with respect to charities which are subsidised from public funds."

Nothing practical resulted from the recommendations of the Commission, and the Sydney Benevolent Society continued its work under the old system until 1861, which year is alluded to in the Society's records as "the most important epoch in its history, for it was signalled by the appointment of a Select Committee whose investigations led to most drastic reforms in the work of the institution." Up to the year 1861 the Sydney Benevolent Asylum sheltered the aged poor of the Colony, but as a result of the Select Committee's inquiry it was determined that "the aged persons in the Sydney Asylum were to be removed—the old women to the Hyde Park Barracks, and the old men to the Asylums at Liverpool and Parramatta." The management of these institutions was vested in a Board appointed by the Government, apart from the Sydney Benevolent Society, and this action was practically the initiation of the present system of carrying on the Government Asylums for the infirm and destitute.

It was decided, upon the recommendation of the Select Committee, that the children then remaining in the Sydney Asylum, together with women admitted for lying-in purposes, should be left in charge of the Benevolent Society, and that the Society should also retain the management of the outdoor relief, this being a branch with which it was considered the Government ought not, under any circumstances, to interfere. It was also arranged that the Government should in future annually propose to Parliament that the amount contributed by private subscriptions for relieving outdoor objects of charity should be supplemented by means of Government subsidies under the usual method of "grants in aid" of Charitable institutions; that "all fines and other funds placed by law at the disposal of the Society should not be interfered with"; and official correspondence, dated 11th March and 7th June, 1862, shows that an undertaking was entered into by which the whole cost of maintaining children and lying-in women would be paid by the Government, and that "there would be no objection," on the part of the Government, "to pay for such destitute women having children under two years of age as the Committee of the Benevolent Society might deem it expedient to admit into the Asylum." Although, as stated above, the Government at that time considered that it should not interfere with the administration of outdoor relief, it is now, and has been for some years past, giving assistance to destitute persons in the shape of money allowances and rations, and in providing cost of conveyance. In the year ending June last a sum of over £7,000 was expended in this manner, apart from the amount paid for conveyance of destitute persons by rail, or nearly as much as was spent by the Benevolent Society in outdoor relief in 1897.

In the year 1873 a Royal Commission on Charities, consisting of seven members, of which the late Sir William Windeyer was the President, made an exhaustive investigation into the management of the Society; but beyond drawing attention to defects, under which it was considered possible for the charity to be imposed upon, and the expression of an opinion that it was not desirable for children to be retained at the institution, no recommendations of importance were made with reference to any alteration of the principles adopted by the Society in connection with the administration of the various departments then under its control.

Therefore, since the year 1862, the system under which the Society was then reorganised has not been departed from, although its operations have been enlarged in order to embrace some minor branches, which are fully described in the course of this Report.

Objects of the Society.

In the year 1896 the by-laws were revised, in order to extend the scope of the Society's work in connection with the midwifery division; and the plan and objects which now guide the operations of this charity are as follows:—

1. The purpose of its original foundation, namely, to afford outdoor relief to the poor in the form of provisions, boots, &c., and small sums of money to assist in payment of rent.
2. Temporary receiving depôt for destitute women with children, and for destitute and deserted children (including foundlings).
3. Lying-in hospital for married and single women, in connection with which is carried on,—
 - (I) Training institution for midwifery nurses.
 - (II) School for practical instruction in midwifery for medical students of the University of Sydney.
 - (III) Department for treatment of midwifery cases of poor women in their own homes.

Constitution and Management.

The Society, which is under the control of a Board of Directors, does not possess an Act of Incorporation, but is carried on under regulations and, by-laws which are made, and may be altered from time to time by the Directors, subject to the approval of the subscribers. The constitution provides for the retirement of one-third of the Directors annually. The retiring Directors are to be those who have attended the least number of times during the past year, but such retiring Directors are eligible for re-election. Yearly reports upon the operations of every division of the Society's work are printed and circulated by the Board. Any subscriber of

of £1 per annum is qualified to act as a Director, if elected as such at the annual meetings. The Directors meet as a full body monthly; but sub-committees are appointed from their number, who meet weekly to deal with matters of detail, which are reported to the monthly meetings of the Board for final action by that body. The Directors appoint a Ladies' Committee, which practically directs all matters of domestic economy and internal management, subject to the approval of the governing Board. There are also life Directors, who are qualified for the position by payment personally of £30 or upwards at one time or within twelve months, or by the collection of £50 towards the funds. Any person making a bequest of £50 may nominate a life governor, and, in the event of no such nomination, the executor first named in the will shall be a life governor. The only special privilege attached to this position appears to be a plurality of votes to the extent enjoyed by a contributor of £5. Thus, a member contributing £1 per annum has one vote; £2 per annum, two votes; £5 and upwards, three votes; life Governors have three votes.

One of the by-laws providing for the election of the honorary officers and Directors is as follows:—

Should the number of Members and Governors proposed for the vacant offices be equivalent to the vacancies, the election shall be completed when their nomination is proposed, seconded, and carried by the meeting.

This is evidently the usual manner in which the annual appointments are made, as it would appear from the following evidence of the Hon. Secretary that there has been no contested election for six or seven years; moreover, it would seem that the appointments largely rest with those in office at the time.

231. There is a rule that no member shall be entitled to vote in any election whose subscription has not been paid three months previously;—has that been adhered to? I do not think we have had an election for the last six or seven years, but if there was an election, and anyone attempted to vote who had not paid, I should stop him from voting, or I should drop a note to him beforehand to say that if he wished to vote he must pay up.

234. You say that there has been no election for many years;—the question is, how are vacancies filled? There is an annual meeting, and if A, B, C, and D have attended the lowest number of times they cease to act. If they are good men they are re-elected. We think it far better to have men we know something about than to have strangers. There have been several new ones, men we know to be good men. Sir Arthur Renwick might say I know so-and-so, he will make a very good man. It is a personal guarantee. We want men of a peculiar kind there, men with feeling hearts and intelligence, because there are cases that come before us at times that are very painful, and if we had hard-hearted men to deal with them it would be terrible. We want men with some sort of soul in them.

There is an evident lack of active interest on the part of the subscribers in the election of officers, which, however, is no new feature, for we find it was observed and commented upon by the Royal Commission on Charities in 1873.

All the foregoing offices are honorary; and your Commissioners are of opinion that their duties are performed in a careful and humane manner.

The Official Staff.

The paid official staff consists of a manager, a matron, inspectors, and servants of the outdoor relief division; office clerks, collectors; midwives and nurses of the lying-in department. The salaries are moderate. The duties of the various officers are clearly defined by regulations and by-laws, and they appear to be efficiently performed. The staff is not excessive numerically, and in the outdoor relief department it is insufficient. This matter, which is of very great importance, not only in its bearing upon the requirements of the poor, but in regard to possible imposition upon charity, is, however, more fully dealt with under another heading. All the officials work harmoniously together, and ample evidence was afforded of their uniform kindness to inmates of the Asylum and to the recipients of outdoor relief. The officials who have control of the Society's funds are placed under fidelity bonds. In regard to the nursing staff, there is evidence of a great improvement having been made in recent years. It is mentioned by some of the medical officers as having at one time been very inefficient, and that the nurses in several instances were women who had entered the institution as pregnant patients, and had "assumed the rôle of nurses." The system now being inaugurated is more on the principle of that prevailing in modern hospitals.

The Medical Staff.

Until the last four years a paid medical officer was, in addition to the honorary staff, attached to the institution, at a salary of £250 per annum, whose duties were

confined to the indoor divisions of the Asylum. This system prevailed for many years, during which the medical requirements of the institution were not nearly so large or important as at present. In the year 1894, for reasons which have not been made very clear, beyond the fact that at that time there appears to have been a disagreement between the paid and the honorary officers, it was determined to dispense with the paid medical officer, and leave the medical administration in the hands of an honorary staff. There is a conflict of testimony among the witnesses best qualified to express an opinion as to the efficiency of the present system. The Hon. Secretary says in effect :—

824-6,
Penfold. There are four unpaid medical officers, but as those gentlemen cannot always attend, he would prefer a paid officer (not to reside on the premises). The medical officer was formerly paid £250 a year. Many of the children who have to be attended to are of the lowest class as far as health is concerned; some of them are eaten up with disease from their very birth.

The Manager says :—

668-72,
E Maxted. The medical officers are honorary. The arrangement is not entirely satisfactory. They are very independent, and attend irregularly, except in the case of one, who is most regular. It would be better to go back to the old arrangement and pay one officer a smaller salary than formerly to attend every morning. The change was not made as a matter of money. There was a dispute between the paid medical officer and the two consulting officers and the Directors when puerperal fever broke out, and the staff resigned.

The Matron stated :—

1554-60,
Mrs. Graham. There is not sufficient work for a resident medical officer. It would be a good thing to have a medical officer receiving some small salary to visit the institution daily, especially as there are a number of young children, some of whom may be well one hour and ill the next.

1937-40,
Renwick. The President of the institution, who, both in an official and professional capacity, has had very large experience of the requirements of the institution, approves of the Society having a paid medical officer, but is of opinion that it is desirable to have honorary officers as well—men of large experience, who could give assistance in a critical state of affairs, or when operative interference is necessary.

Sir Arthur's evidence on this point is of exceptional value, as he was the Society's medical officer for some years, during which it was customary for him to attend the institution twice daily, and oftener when required, and to personally take charge of the accouchement cases.

One member of the honorary staff gave the following testimony, which endorses the foregoing evidence :—

Crago,
17-8, 2143. I do not think, on the whole, that the practice of having only honorary medical men quite meets the case; we have in the past recommended that a house-surgeon should be appointed; there is a great deal of work which honorary men can scarcely be expected to do, such as looking after this epidemic of measles, and examining children for boarding-out; they should either appoint a resident house-surgeon, or give someone an honorarium to ensure attendance every day. If there was someone who could visit every day it would be all right. I go myself five or six times a week; on the lying-in side, as a rule, we have to go when we are sent for. I generally study every temperature chart; if the chart shows there is anything out of the normal I investigate the case, but not otherwise.

Another member of the honorary staff expresses a more qualified opinion :—

Foreman,
2209-11. From the point of view of the Benevolent Asylum, the present arrangement of honorary medical officers meets all requirements. It seems to answer fairly well. It is just a matter of opinion as to whether it would be better to have a resident surgeon or house-surgeon; there are always two medical men now on—one for the children and one for the lying-in department.

The evidence, on the whole, indicates *that while the work of the Society is carried on as at present* there should, in addition to the honorary staff, be a paid medical officer, who might have the privilege of private practice, to attend daily at the institution and give that close attention to the sick inmates, and to sanitary matters, and to dietary arrangements, which appears to your Commissioners to be necessary, and which it does not seem reasonable to expect the honorary staff to bestow.

If the Commission's recommendation that the operations of the Benevolent Society of New South Wales be confined in future to the administration of outdoor relief and the casual housing of destitute women and children not otherwise provided for, be given effect to, there will be no necessity for a paid medical officer for Asylum inmates.

The question of medical attendance on the recipients of outdoor relief is dealt with on p. xxvi.

It should be mentioned that while there is no remuneration for medical attendance at the Asylum, an honorarium of £50 a year is given for midwifery lectures delivered to the nurses, and this is received in turn by members of the honorary medical staff, who in rotation undertake the duty of lecturer for one year. The medical students of the University also occasionally receive clinical instruction at the Asylum.

Absence

Absence of Government Supervision.

Although the whole cost of the indoor divisions, and a very large part of the expenses in connection with the outdoor relief department, are defrayed from the Consolidated Revenue, the Government does not exercise any supervision or control over any branch of the Society's work.

Your Commissioners have expressed a very emphatic opinion upon the undesirability of similar conditions in connection with other State-subsidised institutions; and their views in this particular apply with equal force to the New South Wales Benevolent Society.

The functions of the Government officials merely extend to the passing of accounts against the Government for maintenance of inmates and to reviewing claims for subsidies upon voluntary contributions. The Director of Government Asylums has power to issue orders for the admission of women and children to the institution, and, as Chief Boarding-out Officer under the State Children Relief Board, he withdraws children for boarding out, but in no case is any control exercised in regard to management or to the expenditure of funds. In our Reports to your Excellency upon the institutions for the blind we have recommended some reforms in the direction of securing State supervision, and we make similar recommendations in this Report.

Provision is already made under the "Public Institutions Inspection Act of 1886" for inspection, inquiry, &c., in regard to charitable institutions, as follows:—

1. It shall be lawful for the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, to appoint an Inspector of Public Charities, the duty of which officer, under the instructions of the Colonial Secretary for the time being, shall be to visit and inspect all hospitals, infirmaries, orphan schools, and charitable institutions which are wholly or in part supported by grants from the public revenue, and to conduct inquiries and examinations in respect to the management of the same, and also in special cases to appoint with such Inspector any other person or persons to aid in the performance of the said duties: Provided that all such visits, inspections, inquiries, and examinations shall have reference and be directed solely to the proper appropriation of the public grants in aid and the efficient conduct of such institutions.

This Act, however, has only been put in force on special occasions, and it has not been made part of the duty of any officer to systematically visit the institutions.

Financial.

The extent of the financial operations of the Benevolent Society will be realised from the following table of receipts and expenditure for the past four years:—

		<i>Receipts.</i>			
		1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
From Government	... ..	£7,935	4,976	*11,085	5,313
Subscriptions and donations and proceeds of entertainments	... ..	1,016	3,489	2,865	2,035
Legacies	... ..	.....	16	905	1,068
Interest (balance of account)	... ..	834	844	821	679
Midwifery fees (less lecture fees)	... ..	149	119	217	316
Other receipts	... ..	401	207	319	460
		£10,335	9,651	19,242	9,901
		<i>Expenses.</i>			
Provisions, clothing, medicine, &c.	... ..	£5,203	4,434	†11,447	8,022
Rent money, outdoor relief	... ..	1,822	1,648	2,187	2,046
Salaries, commission, gratuities, &c.	... ..	2,252	1,891	2,518	2,294
Gratuities to working inmates	... ..	120	132	152	134
Fuel and light	... ..	245	211	261	235
Printing, stationery, advertising, &c. (less receipts from advertisements in <i>Gazette</i>)	... ..	224	508	595	317
Building and repairs	... ..	366	258	280	215
Other expenses	... ..	428	310	424	332
		£10,660	9,422	17,864	13,595

It will at once be noticed from the above table what a very large proportion of the Society's funds is received from the Consolidated Revenue of the country. We have mentioned elsewhere that the total cost of the indoor Asylum work is borne by the Government, in addition to a large percentage of the outdoor relief expenditure, and we ascertain that in the period of the past ten years the Government has contributed an amount equal to 60 per cent. of the whole expenses.

Masted,
595.

The

* Includes £3,750 grant for unemployed.

† Relief to unemployed included.

The fact that the Government has been willing to so largely support the Institution evidently accounts for the comparatively small interest taken in it by the public. We do not find that it is so richly endowed as might have been expected from its long existence, and the annual subscriptions and contributions are comparatively small. Efforts have been made in recent years to stimulate public interest by circulating pictorial and other pamphlets throughout the country drawing attention to the Society's operations, and appealing for funds. These have been successful for a time, but the response of the public to such appeals appears to decline as their novelty wears off. The ordinary "general subscriptions" in 1896 amounted only to £1,238, and in 1897 to £1,153. Of the first amount, £253 only was received from the country.

Maxted,
599.

Two lady collectors are employed by the Society, and their canvass in 1896 resulted in obtaining £1,049 from the Metropolitan district and £215 from the country. These collectors are paid by salary and commission, and they receive a free railway pass from the Government.

Maxted,
1259-60.

Maxted,
1259-62,
1267.

The Manager states that in canvassing the country they do not go far off the railway line, and they are not away long enough for their work to be done effectually. He points out that in districts where local Benevolent Societies exist it is difficult to obtain contributions, and states that although the argument is used in collecting that many of the recipients of the Society's relief come from the country, it is without effect. The Manager is of opinion that a systematic canvass of the country would be productive of good results.

Maxted,
1270.

The books of account are audited, in an honorary capacity, by three members of the Board of Directors. It is an unsound business principle for any institution to employ its own officials, or those connected with its management, for the audit of accounts. The Honorary Secretary and Manager think the audit should be performed by a professional accountant. This Society would have no difficulty in obtaining a professional auditor, but institutions away from Sydney might experience a difficulty in that direction. In any case, however, there should be a competent, independent audit, and in every instance the accounts of charitable institutions receiving aid from the Government should be subject to the scrutiny of officers of the Audit Department.

Penfold,
262.
Maxted,
556-61.

The salaries and gratuities paid in the past ten years amounted to between 19 and 20 per cent. of the whole expenditure in that period. In 1897 the proportion of salaries and gratuities to total expenses was about 2 per cent. less than that. Bearing in mind that there is a considerable amount of hospital work performed at the Asylum, the amount paid for salaries we do not consider excessive.

The other working expenses are, on the whole, moderate, and one of the largest amounts is for repairs, much of which, no doubt, would not have been incurred but for the age of the buildings.

Maxted,
580-1.

A somewhat heavy charge appears for interest on overdraft on the current account, but we ascertain that arrangements are made with the Bank by which the Society is charged the same rate of interest on its overdraft as it receives on its fixed deposits.

We called for a return from the Society showing the manner in which their invested funds had been derived, and were supplied with the following information:—

Particulars showing sources from which Investment Fund has arisen—position of Fund, 31st December, 1897.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Legacies	9,134	17	3			
Land sold	9,574	4	5			
Bankstown land	480	0	0			
From General Fund	4,079	6	7			
Accumulated interest, estimated	14,971	6	5			
				38,289	14	8
Withdrawn, December, 1893				10,569	12	2
				£27,720	2	6
Total				74	4	6
Add sale debentures						
				£27,794	7	0
Deduct interest, City Bank overdraft				98	1	3
				£27,696	5	9

The

The actual financial position of the Society at the end of last year is then ascertained as follows (excluding from consideration the value of stock, furniture, &c.) :—

Invested funds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£27,696
Due from Government on account of 1897	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,510
Interest due	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	185
Cash on hand	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
										£33,396
Overdraft	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£8,378	
Unpaid accounts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	768	
										9,146
										£24,250

A large amount of interest is shown in the statement on the preceding page to have been added to the invested funds. This practice we are glad to see has been discontinued, and the interest is now put to what, in this case, is its legitimate purpose—that of meeting current expenses. Such was not the case when the Royal Commission on Charities of 1873 inquired into the affairs of this institution, and we find in their report the following remark, with which we quite agree—“It is questionable, in our opinion, how far this system, which is growing up in several of our charitable institutions, is consistent with their annually receiving a large portion of their income from the Government, and we think that it should not be countenanced.”

A certain portion of the invested funds of the Benevolent Society is not available for expenditure, that is to say, the Society is entitled to use the interest only. This applies to £1,050 (as far as is ascertainable) of the amounts received by legacy, and also to the sum of £9,574, proceeds of land sold. This land appears to have been a part of the site occupied by the asylum, and when it was disposed of many years ago the Government allowed the Society to invest the proceeds, and to use the interest. Penfold, 278.

At the beginning of 1888 the working account of the Society showed a debit balance of £7,084. This steadily grew until at the commencement of 1893 it reached the large sum of £13,264. In that year the Society drew from its invested funds £10,569, which was placed to the credit of its current account. The debit balances at the end of each of the following years were—

1893	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£5,052
1894	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,377
1895	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,148
1896	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,480
1897	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,141

and there is a prospect it seems of a further addition during the present year.

The arrangement which the Society has with the Bank in regard to the payment of interest on its overdraft is a satisfactory one, so far as the Society is concerned, but we think that at the end of each year, any debit balance which may arise on the working account should be adjusted by transfer from its free credit balances or fixed deposits.

The question of the accumulation of funds by subsidised charitable institutions has naturally come under our attention.

Sir Arthur Renwick, whose large experience in charitable work lends great weight to his remarks, apparently does not view with any favour the building up of such reserve funds. He says, when referring to some recently established societies, “If you look at their reports, some of which have appeared in the papers, they are putting money to their credit at the end of the year. That I consider a rather objectionable feature.” Renwick, 1977.

So far as the Benevolent Society is concerned, the funds which it has at its credit were mostly received several years back. During the past ten years the reserve funds have been augmented by £1,678—£710 in 1896, and £968 in 1897, being certain legacies bequeathed.

Leaving out of consideration permanent endowments, if a society is able to accumulate funds, it either shows that it is raising more money than is needed for current wants or is not fulfilling its proper responsibilities. We understand that the ordinary yearly Government subsidies upon private subscriptions are intended to meet current requirements, and therefore it is a question for the Government to consider how far its aid should be extended to institutions which are accumulating funds.

OUTDOOR RELIEF.

Method of Administration.

The practice adopted by most of the Benevolent Societies throughout the country in administering outdoor relief is to issue to persons seeking their aid tickets, having a specified face value, to be presented to the local tradespeople in exchange for provisions, &c. This is not the course followed by the Sydney Benevolent Society. That Institution obtains its supplies of food, &c., in large quantities under contract, and distributes them from its own store. The advantages claimed for this method are that the goods can be purchased cheaply, that it gives control over the quality of the stores, and secures to the recipients of relief the full measure of weight allowed. It also affords an opportunity of questioning the recipients on their circumstances when they appear at the Asylum once a week for their provisions. This is regarded by the management as a valuable aid to inspection.

Penfold,
470-1, 498.
Maxted,
1158-66.

On the other hand, the ticket system, in the case of the Newcastle and Northumberland Benevolent Society, an institution distributing a large amount of relief, is said to work satisfactorily. The respective advantages of the two systems depend largely on the extent of the institution's operations, upon local conditions, and the system of inspection adopted. To a Society giving relief on a small scale the store system would be inapplicable. In the case of a larger institution, whose field of operations is divided into small sub-districts under the supervision of visiting members of Committees, having a more or less intimate knowledge of the persons assisted, any abuse of the ticket system on the part of tradespeople would in all likelihood quickly be detected. In the Newcastle district, where the administration is conducted in this way, it is found there is a "disposition on the part of the local storckeeper to behave well," and that "distributing the purchasing" helps to increase the contributions of the Society. The manner in which the ticket system is controlled by the Newcastle Society will be described in our Report dealing with that institution.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society which, we are given to understand, institutes local supervision over each of the different districts covered by its operations, also adopts the ticket system.

There can be no doubt that the store system secures an effective check in regard to the quality of the stores, and we were pleased to note the excellence of the provisions we saw on a visit to the Sydney Benevolent Asylum.

Against the saving, however, which may result in purchasing large quantities of goods, has to be set the cost of providing storage accommodation and of a staff of officials for the management and distribution of the stores.

We feel it necessary to draw attention here to what we consider a serious evil in connection with the Benevolent Society's system. As it would manifestly be too costly to distribute the provisions at the homes of the persons assisted, those whose names are enrolled on the books for the receipt of relief are required to come to the Asylum, unless prevented by sickness or other sufficient cause, in which case relatives or friends may apply on their behalf. The stores are distributed on one day of the week, and it is arranged that the applicants shall, as far as possible, appear before the officer controlling the distribution in the alphabetical order of their names. With from 1,100 to 1,200 cases to deal with in this manner much time is occupied, and there is a large crowd of people gathered together at the Asylum for several hours. The influence of this public dispensation of charity is one which we believe must be highly injurious in its pauperising effects, and the evil is aggravated when children are sent to obtain the provisions, and have to mingle with the crowd around the Asylum doors. The officers of the Benevolent Society have recognised this grave evil in regard to the children, but find a difficulty in coping with it. We quote the following evidence of the Honorary Secretary on this point:—

463. There is another matter: It creates a very painful impression (at least it did on us) to see children come there on the day on which relief is given as boldly as if they were entering a grocer's shop, go up to the counter, and take provisions away without any feeling of shame at all? We have passed resolutions, time after time, to the effect that children are not to be supplied; but mothers come and say, "Wednesday is a day in the week on which I can get work; will you let my boy come, otherwise I cannot obtain the relief?" Mr. Grant (the Chief Inspector) refuses to supply children time after time.

464. Could not the rule be made more elastic, by allowing the parents to come any time they choose? No; we cannot always have supplies and our officers there.

465. You would only have to have one officer there? We could not possibly extend it through the week. We should have to increase our staff to do that.

466. Could not the case of these people be met by giving them the stores in the evening? Our officers are there from 9 until 6 o'clock. The storeman is there from 8 o'clock.

The difficulty exists in regard to the sick and infirm and others who are unable to go to the Asylum themselves on the day of distribution, and who can only obtain their allowances through the assistance of children. For such cases special provision would have to be made if children are not allowed to receive the rations. Even now, the Hon. Secretary admits, there is danger of actual starvation where the people are unable to attend personally at the store, but he says, "We do the best we can under the circumstances." Penfold, 513.

The Manager of the Asylum says the difficulty could be overcome by instituting inquiries at the end of the day to ascertain who had not applied. The next step, of course, would be to deliver the provisions at the homes of the recipients who are not able to attend at the Asylum, which, however, could not be done without an increase in the present staff. Maxted, 1176-7.

The Committee sit once a week to deal with applications for outdoor relief, and upon the information laid before them relief is granted or refused. Urgent cases may be dealt with at once by the officials, but must be reported to the next meeting of the Committee before a continuance of the relief is allowed. The inspector visits the home as soon after as possible. Until the last three months immediate inquiries used to be made, but the Hon. Secretary states this cannot be done so promptly now because of the increased work. Penfold, 207-11.
Grant, 1755-7.

Nature of Relief.

The relief afforded by the Society consists of food, boots, blankets, &c., and allowances of money towards payment of rent. Some idea of the extent and nature of the work will be gained from the following statement of the provisions and clothing issued in 1897:—

Bread, 245,024 loaves.	Oatmeal, 7,695 lbs.
Flour, 119,542 lbs.	Boots, 1,701 pairs.
Meat, 127,695 lbs.	Calico, 10 yards.
Sugar, 64,968 lbs.	Milk, 470 quarts.
Tea, 16,096 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	Blankets and wrappers, 230 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sago, 5,600 lbs.	pairs.
Rice, 4,008 lbs.	Rugs, 50 pairs.
Arrowroot, 59 lbs.	Nestle's Food, 25 tins.

Weekly rations are given in accordance with a scale, which is slightly departed from to meet particular cases. Maxted, 998.

A ration for a single person consists of—2 loaves of bread and 2 lbs. of flour or meat. Grant, 1725-8.

A woman with one child receives—3 loaves of bread, 1 lb. of flour, 2 lbs. of meat.

A woman with two children receives—4 loaves of bread, 2 lbs. of flour, 2 lbs. of meat.

A woman with three children receives—5 loaves of bread, 2 lbs. of flour, 3 lbs. of meat.

A woman with four or more children receives the maximum allowance of—6 loaves of bread, 3 lbs. of flour, and 3 lbs. of meat.

1 lb. of sugar and $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of tea is added in each case, and light food, such as sago, arrowroot, or rice, for infants and invalids.

As a rule, no allowance is made for children over the age of 14, as it is presumed they can obtain employment at that age. There seems to be no difficulty in maintaining this rule in regard to girls, as it is stated to be easy for them to get work, but the Manager states it is not insisted on so much in the case of boys, for whom employment is not so readily obtainable. Penfold, 419-21.
Maxted, 1000-6.

Maxted,
1010-11.

The rations mentioned above, according to a return furnished to the Commission, are estimated to cost respectively 11d., 1s. 2½d., 1s. 6d., 1s. 10¾d., and 2s. 2¼d., purchased at wholesale prices; their retail value is considerably higher.

Observing the smallness of the rations, we sought to obtain evidence as to the principle on which they were granted.

Renwick,
1906.

The President of the Society says the great aim "has been to keep people from starvation, but not to supply them with the full amount of assistance that they might possibly require"—"in other words, the aim has been not to create a class that would become permanently dependent on the State." He is quite sure that the Society has done its very best for the poor under the circumstances, "but whether the relief afforded has been adequate or not is quite another question."

Penfold, 435.

The Hon. Secretary says the assistance they can give is most inadequate;—he had been an eye-witness of the existence of great destitution, and found that firing and necessaries other than those provided by the Society were much needed.

Maxted,
1169-72.

The Manager of the Asylum says that he can readily believe that some of the out-pensioners are enduring great privation;—the inspectors had reported cases of starvation, and the people had been removed to the institution. He admitted that unless help was received from the neighbours, the allowance granted for one week was not sufficient to keep the recipients from the brink of starvation by the time the next allowance was given.

Grant,
1733-4.

The Chief Inspector does not consider the maximum ration a sufficient one, but it is often found that the assistance of neighbours and friends supplements the allowance. The fact that the same quantity of tea and sugar is given regardless of the extent of the family led to our inquiring the reason, and it was ascertained that the limitation was due to want of funds. It is an anomaly that a family of four, five, or six persons should receive only the same allowance of tea and sugar that is given to a single man or woman. 1 lb. of sugar and ¼ lb. of tea is evidently insufficient for such a family. These articles must be regarded as necessaries of life, and should be provided in proportion to the needs of the families.

Grant, 1730.

Some of the members of the Commission have visited a number of the homes of those assisted by the Society (reports upon which appear in the Appendix). These homes were selected at hazard, and the condition of things revealed was very painful, and sufficient to show that, in some cases at least, adequate provision was not made for the requirements of the people, particularly where sickness had added to their distress.

The inspecting staff of the Society is too small to enable it to ascertain the particular conditions of each case with sufficient promptitude, and we think much help might be rendered to the Society, as well as to the poor, if the assistance of voluntary district inspectors could be called into aid. The question of inspection is dealt with more fully further on in this Report.

Rent Allowances.]

Penfold, 459,
514.

In addition to rations, allowances in money are made towards the payment of rent. The assistance is only given in the case of widows, deserted wives, and aged people, and after inquiry by the inspectors. In July last 373 people were receiving rent allowances ranging from 1s. to 3s., as under:—

				s.	d.
60 persons receive 1	...	...	...	1	0 each.
99 " "	...	...	...	1	6 "
137 " "	...	...	...	2	0 "
59 " "	...	...	...	2	6 "
18 " "	...	...	...	3	0 "
<hr/>					
373					

Grant, 1721-3.
Maxted, 1123.
Penfold, 251.

The demands upon the Society's funds have become so great that the Committee have not always been able to grant the allowance to deserving cases. It was found necessary some years back, through the lack of funds, to reduce the maximum allowance from 5s. to 3s., and to define a limit to the total amount which could

could be granted ; consequently, although there has been an increase of 140 per cent. in the number of cases relieved since 1890, there has been no corresponding advance in the amount paid for rent allowances ; in fact the amount paid in 1897—£2,000—is slightly less than in 1890. The money is given on the same day as the food is distributed, and the recipients are required to produce receipts for the last rent paid by them for the premises they occupy. The staff is not large enough to permit the testing of the genuineness of these receipts, and it is admitted there is a liability to fraud, and that there is no guarantee that the money finds its way into the pockets of the landlords. It had been found in two or three cases that the receipts were signed by some person other than the landlord, and the allowance had in consequence been discontinued.

Grant, 1817.
Penfold, 463.
Grant, 1811.
Maxted, 1031.

The Chief Inspector thinks there is very rarely any reason to suspect that deception occurs ; but it must be apparent that, with a knowledge that inquiry is not made, dishonest persons would be left open to the temptation of misapplying the grant. A case was brought under our notice where the recipient of the allowance was residing with her daughter, who signed the receipt, and we were subsequently furnished with a return showing several similar instances. Such an arrangement may be perfectly *bonâ fide*, but the doubt that must naturally be raised on the production of a receipt of the kind should cause investigation to be made.

Grant, 1813.

The fact that there is no systematic inspection in the matter may show that there is a tendency to consider the money granted merely as one supplementary to the food allowance, and the Manager states that “the relief is so small that we give that, even if these unfortunate people use the rent money, it would not be a very serious matter.”

Maxted, 1031.

We cannot agree with the view taken by the Manager, that deliberate fraud is not a serious matter, and think there should be the most careful oversight in regard to all money allowances.

Of the 373 persons who were granted rent allowances, it will be seen that 137 received only 2s., and 159 under that sum, each.

In the opinion of the Hon. Secretary and another Director of the Society, the rent allowances are insufficient.

Penfold, 433-8.
Anderson, 2168.

Allowances for Fares.

In several instances allowances for fares are made to enable persons living at a distance to come to the Asylum for their rations. The expenditure in this direction in 1897 was £44 18s. 10d., and on the 6th July last 51 persons received fares for that day as under :—

4 received	...	...	...	...	...	4d. each.
23	„	...	...	...	...	6d. „
1	„	...	...	...	...	7d. „
5	„	...	...	...	...	8d. „
8	„	...	...	...	...	9d. „
10	„	...	...	...	...	1s. „
—						
51						

The necessity for the payment of fares is said to be occasioned, in some instances, by the inability of local benevolent societies to provide for the needs of the poor in their own districts, and consequently the aid of the Sydney Society has to be sought. It is a bad arrangement which compels the payment of a fare, costing sometimes as much as the ration granted, and it would be much more satisfactory to place the local Society in a position to afford this relief.

Maxted, 1185-6.

Extent and growth of Operations.

The following Table, compiled from the Society's Annual Reports, shows, with a classification of the cases relieved, the increase which has taken place in the administration of outdoor relief since the year 1890. A family is here regarded as one case.

OUTDOOR RELIEF.

Classification of Cases receiving Relief during each year, 1890 to 1897.

Year.	Widows, Old and Infirm.	Aged Destitute Men.	Aged Destitute Couples.	Widows with Children.	Deserted Wives with Children.	Destitute Women with Children.	Destitute Women out of work.	Husbands Sick and Afflicted (including a few single men).	Husbands Insane.	Husbands in Gaol.	Destitute Men out of Work.	Blind Men.	Blind Women.	Orphans residing with poor relatives.	Total cases in year.	The Numbers of Cases represent.		
																Adults.	Children.	Total Individuals.
1890	260	22	48	256	166	...	...	186	13	34	282	9	...	...	1,276	1,681	2,926	4,607
1891	239	41	40	235	154	...	...	180	17	37	209	11	1	...	1,164	1,517	2,774	4,201
1892	282	49	37	261	139	6	...	173	19	52	300	16	1	1	1,336	1,763	3,147	4,910
1893	311	57	90	303	169	30	...	224	9	62	347	10	1	2	1,615	2,124	3,654	5,778
1894	380	61	94	365	170	39	...	216	20	53	297	17	1	5	1,708	2,203	3,442	5,045
1895	409	49	88	421	171	60	...	264	15	31	339	10	2	16	1,939	2,434	4,200	6,634
1896	614	88	114	584	237	76	...	372	18	58	*203	20	5	3	2,387	2,903	4,875	7,778
1897	634	106	138	610	281	82	34	604	24	42	488	18	3	3	3,067	4,002	6,765	10,767
Increase since 1890	143.8 %	381.8 %	187.5 %	138.3 %	69.3 %	...	...	224.7 %	...	...	73 %	...	...	...	140.4 %	138.1 %	181.2 %	183.7 %
Average yearly increase—																		
5 years, 1890-5	30	...	9	33	1	...	...	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	133	151	255	405
2 „ 1895-7	112	...	22	94	55	...	...	170	...	...	...	...	...	...	564	784	1,282	2,066

* In 1896 the unemployed were, to a large extent, dealt with separately.

From the table on page xx it will be seen that in 1890 the average number of cases relieved each week was 483, and in 1897 it had grown to 1,196—an increase of 147.6 per cent. This increase is out of all proportion to the increase in population, which was only 18 % in the same time. The years in which the greatest increases are shown to have taken place are 1896 and 1897, and we have sought the opinions of the officers of the Society as to the causes which have operated in producing this seeming growth of destitution.

The President of the Society ascribes it to a wave of poverty that has passed over the country, and to a lack of employment. The Hon. Secretary says that employers will not now engage men of 60 years of age and upwards who sometime back could find occasional work. The demand also for the services of women has decreased owing to private people reducing their household expenditure.

The Manager could not account for it except on the grounds that the labour conditions were not so satisfactory as formerly. The increased number of people assisted, he said, was not due to greater attractions being offered by the Society, inasmuch as the allowances (for rent) had been decreased.

The following Table shows more clearly the sections in which the greatest increases have occurred:—

	1890.	1895.	Increase in 5 years	1897.	Increase in 2 years.
Widows, old and infirm	260	409	149	634	225
Aged, destitute men	22	49	27	106	57
„ „ couples	48	93	45	138	45
Widows with children	256	421	165	610	189
Deserted wives with children	166	171	5	281	110
Husbands sick and afflicted (including a few single men)	186	264	78	604	340

enwick,
1852-5.

unfold, 278.

Maxted,
1103-10.

Under section 10 of the State Children Relief Act of 1896 assistance is afforded to widows and deserted wives by payments to them of allowances to aid in the maintenance of their children. According to the reports of the State Children Relief Board, there were 378 women in receipt of such allowances on the 5th April, 1897, and 770 on the 5th April of the following year. In spite, however, of the assistance now rendered by the State in this direction, which it was to be expected would have reduced the number relieved by the Benevolent Society, there has been an increase in the number of widows and deserted wives assisted by that institution.

An increase of a remarkable character is that which appears under the head of "husbands sick and afflicted." The figures are as follows:—

1890	186	1894	216
1891	180	1895	264
1892	173	1896	372
1893	224	1897	604

The number of persons applying for the Society's aid in 1897 on the ground of sickness does not appear to have specially attracted the attention of the officers, and they could not furnish any explanation of the increase. Penfold, 52
Maxted,
1113-6.

We felt so dissatisfied with the opinions expressed in evidence regarding the probable causes of the general increase during the past two years in the number of cases relieved by the Benevolent Society, and particularly in the cases of "husbands sick and afflicted," that we again examined the Manager upon the matter, but with no better result.

He suggested a cause might be found in there having been a greater number of discharges from the Government Asylums consequent on a closer inquiry into the condition of the inmates, and also in more stringent measures having been adopted to prevent persons from entering the Asylums. We are, however, informed by the Acting Director of Government Asylums and by the Government Medical Officer for Sydney that neither in regard to admission nor discharge have any changes taken place in the practice which has prevailed for years. The following table shows the number of admissions and discharges for the past six years:—

	Total Admissions.	Total Discharges, &c.
1892-3	3,341	2,978
1893-4	3,655	3,589
1894-5	3,670	3,506
1895-6	4,059	3,774
1896-7	4,084	3,976
1897-8	4,699	4,504

As shown on p. xx, the average number of persons relieved by the Benevolent Society in 1897 was 147·6 per cent. greater than the number assisted in 1890. In the case of the Government Asylums the average number of inmates in the year ending 30th June, 1891, was 2,601, and in the year ending 30th June, 1898, 3,651— an increase of 40·4 per cent.

It was thought that the overcrowded state of some of the Asylums may have led to admission having been refused in some instances, but we are told that no one has been refused admission on the ground of want of room.

We consider the increase shown in the Benevolent Society's figures so serious as to be deserving of further consideration, and we shall continue our investigation in regard thereto, and report upon the matter at a later date. With reference to the cases of "husbands sick and afflicted," some light may possibly be thrown upon the subject by the statistics of the Metropolitan hospitals.

Financial.—Outdoor Relief.

An agreement was made many years ago that the Government should bear the whole cost of the Asylum (that is, the Lying-in Home and receiving depôt for women and children). As a matter of convenience, it was arranged that the Government payments to the Society should be made in accordance with certain rates

rates fixed for different sections of the inmates, and the rates which were then agreed upon have since been adhered to. Occasions have arisen, the Manager says, when the Government payments on the basis of those rates have not covered the total cost of the Asylum, and the Society has, therefore, been at a loss; but for the last three years, at any rate, the payments have been sufficient to do so. Consequently, with the exception of the payments thus received from the Government, the whole of the Society's revenue (including moneys received from the general public, the Government subsidies, and special grants), is available for outdoor relief, and the expense of its administration.

The following Table, compiled from the Society's annual reports, shows the Government subsidies and grants in comparison with the voluntary subscriptions from the public and other receipts for the years 1890 to 1897. The Government maintenance allowances for inmates are not here included:—

Year.	Subsidies and Grants.	Voluntary Contributions, including Legacies and Proceeds of Entertainments.	Other Receipts, including interest.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1890	500	1,640	1,463	3,603
1891	3,500	1,292	1,251	6,043
1892	3,500	1,455	1,330	6,285
1893	2,500	1,970	1,561	6,031
1894	2,500	1,016	1,384	4,900
1895	1,500	3,505	1,170	6,175
1896	5,700	3,770	1,387	10,857
1897	2,100	3,103	1,455	6,658
	21,800	17,751	11,001	50,552

In 1896, in addition to the amount mentioned in the table, the Government granted £3,750 to the Society for distribution amongst the unemployed.

It will be seen from this table how largely the burden of outdoor relief falls directly upon the Government.

The cost of provisions, &c., and the rent money granted in each year since 1888 is given in the following table, which also shows that while there has been an increase in the weekly average number of cases the cost per case has diminished mainly owing to the grants for rent having been reduced:—

COST OF OUTDOOR RELIEF.

Year.	Weekly Average of cases.	Cost of Provisions, &c.	Rent Money.	Travelling Allowances, &c.	Total.	Average Weekly Cost per case.	Average number of Individuals represented by one case.
		£	£	£	£	s. d.	
1890	483	2,252	2,058	.....	4,310	†3 5·2	3·6
1891	471	2,210	2,214	.....	4,424	3 7·4	3·8
1892	519	2,515	2,313	.....	4,828	3 6·9	3·6
1893	633	2,806	2,278	.....	5,084	3 1	3·6
1894	719	2,819	1,822	.....	4,641	2 5·8	3·3
1895	743	2,587	1,648	.....	4,235	2 2·3	3·4
1896	1,011	4,567	2,163	18	6,748	2 6·8	3·3
1897	1,196	5,534	2,000	46	7,580	††2 5·3	3·5
Increase since 1890..	147·6 %	145·7 %	Decrease. 2·8 %	.....	75·9 %	Decrease. 28·0 %	Mean average, 3·5

Average weekly cost per case.

	†1890.	††1897.
Provisions	s. d. 1 9·5	s. d. 1 9·4
Rent, &c.	1 7·7	0 7·9
	3 5·2	2 5·3

A return furnished by the Society gives the total working expenses of the outdoor relief department as £1,713 19s. 3d. in 1896 (excluding working expenses in

* Compiled in similar manner to figures in table on p. xi.

in connection with relief to the unemployed), and £1,619 10s. 11d. in 1897. From these figures it is shown that for every £1 distributed in relief there was therefore a cost of 5s. 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. in 1896 and 4s. 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in 1897.

Inspection.

Until about two and a half years ago there was but one inspector attached to the outdoor relief staff. The present number is three, but as there is a considerable amount of clerical work connected with their duties, not more than about two-thirds of their whole time is now available for outdoor visitation.

The following information supplied by the Society gives the time occupied in visiting by each inspector from 4th May, 1897, to 30th April, 1898, and the weekly average number of cases visited :—

1. Chief Inspector, 31 weeks; cases visited, 879; weekly average of	28
2. Forty-eight weeks; cases visited, 3,226; weekly average...	67
3. Forty-three weeks; cases visited, 1,731; weekly average	40

135

The total number of cases (that is, separate families) receiving relief in the first week in July last was 1,174. The number of separate homes would be nearly the same. Many of these cases are what may be termed "chronic," that is to say, owing to old age or permanent infirmity their condition would not improve and the assistance offered by the Society would in all probability be needed for some years. The inspection required in such instances is not so great as that which is necessary where the recipients of relief are able-bodied and capable of helping themselves. The main objects of inspection are, speaking generally, to prevent imposition, and at the same time to see that cases of genuine distress are adequately assisted.

The present inspecting staff is not numerically strong enough to exercise proper supervision, after making due allowance for the chronic cases. This fact is freely admitted by the Society's officials.

Immediate inspection cannot be made when new applications for relief are received, and intervals of between six weeks and two months or more must intervene between the visits made. It is claimed that the interview which the Chief Inspector has with the recipients once a week at the Asylum on the day of the distribution of the rations, is a great help to the work of inspection, but we think it can be but little safeguard against imposition in cases where the assistance continues to be sought, in spite of improved conditions of the recipients. Unless the inspection is sufficiently frequent, great distress, on the other hand, may not be adequately relieved, and a particular instance of this was brought under our attention by a visit, made without previous notice, to the home of a sick man, who with his wife and a young family were suffering most extreme hardship. [See *Appendix* .] This home was not visited by the Society's inspectors between the 22nd March and 1st July, 1898, and on both occasions the inspectors' reports show a knowledge of the circumstances of the family.

In other parts of the world, as well as in these colonies, the services of voluntary inspectors are largely availed of by benevolent institutions, but no effort has been made by the Sydney Benevolent Society to adopt a similar course in connection with their work. The organisation of local committees and bodies of voluntary inspectors in the several districts within the field of the Society's operations we believe would be of great assistance, not only in preventing imposition and bringing the Society into closer touch with the needs of poverty, but in widening the scope of their work in the direction of securing to the poor a helpful influence in promoting their future welfare.

A lady who has taken a prominent part in charitable work in the mother country, Miss Octavia Hill, says, in "The Homes of the London Poor":—

If the poor are to be raised to a permanently better condition they must be dealt with as individuals, and by individuals. For this hundreds of workers are necessary; and this multitude of helpers is to be found amongst volunteers, whose aid, as we arrange things at present, is to a great extent lost. The problem to be solved, therefore, is how to collect our volunteers into a harmonious whole, the action of each being free yet systematised, and how thus to administer relief through the united agency of corporate bodies and private individuals—how, in fact, to secure all the personal intercourse and friendliness, all the real sympathy, all the graciousness of individual effort, without losing the advantage of having the relief voted by a central committee, and according to definite principles.

This

This states the position very concisely, and we think the help of a very large number of ladies in Sydney and suburbs might be secured to act in co-operation with the Benevolent Society. In Newcastle the district is divided into twenty-five sections, each of which is under the supervision of two lady visitors, who make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the circumstances of each case relieved. If a similar practice were adopted in the Metropolis we believe it would be attended with most beneficial results, and would greatly aid the Society in its work.

We are aware that many ladies at the present time render a great deal of assistance to the poor; but if this assistance could be organised, it would, we think, be more efficient. In the case of the sick poor it would be of great help to obtain the assistance of ladies in supplying such necessary foods as the Benevolent Society cannot possibly distribute.

These honorary workers might be provided with tickets or orders on local tradespeople, which could be given in cases where the ordinary relief afforded by the Society might need to be temporarily supplemented by additional or more suitable food. The visitors would, of course, be made responsible for the proper distribution of the tickets, and a proper system of checks upon the recipient of the ticket and the tradespeople would require to be instituted, in some such manner as we shall show in our report on the Newcastle Society prevails with that institution.

The principle of obtaining the voluntary assistance of lady visitors has already been recognised by the State Children Relief Board, which receives considerable help from ladies in all parts of the country in visiting the homes in which State children are boarded-out.

The question has arisen as to whether a female inspector should be attached to the staff of the Society. The President of the Society states that "where there are domestic arrangements women are much better for the work, and they go into domestic details which a man does not always understand," and the appointment of a female inspector, in addition to the present male staff, would be a step in the right direction. Under the present conditions, we think the appointment of a suitable lady inspector to the existing staff, which it is admitted should be increased, would be of advantage, but how far the services of such an officer would be required if the assistance of voluntary lady workers were obtained remains to be seen.

Benwick,
1924-6.

Organisation, overlapping, &c.

The multiplication of the charitable institutions in the Metropolis has for some time past caused attention to be directed to the necessity for organisation in their efforts to adequately cope with distress and at the same time to avoid imposition. Efforts have been made by some of the institutions to ascertain particulars of the relief afforded by others, so that they might check the systematic abuse of charitable aid which has on several occasions been brought to light, but united action is necessary to a successful accomplishment of this end. It was to secure this co-operation that a society has been recently called into existence by the Right Hon. G. H. Reid, Premier, the objects of which are stated to be as follows:—

1. The establishment of a Metropolitan Charities Association, with a local Committee in every Municipality within the Metropolitan area.
2. Efficient and constant inquiry into the circumstances of persons soliciting charity within the Metropolitan area. Requests for such inquiries from Charitable Societies or private individuals welcomed, and information to be promptly given.
3. Co-operation amongst Charitable Societies to be promoted.
4. The exposure of all persons who impose upon the public under the pretext of distress.
5. Indiscriminate giving to be discouraged, and as far as possible the overlapping of relief to be prevented.
6. Relief from the funds of the Association to be given in cases of immediate necessity only.

It is evident that proper organisation demands central registration of the recipients of relief, and the limitation of the operations of each society performing similar functions to a specified area.

The Benevolent Society appears to have some difficulty in confining its operations to any defined area, from the fact that some of the suburban charitable institutions are unable to meet the needs of all the poor in their own districts, and the aid of the metropolitan institution has to be sought to supply the want. The position of the local societies is of course largely dependent on the general character of the population in which they are located. In large and poor centres, where they have a greater destitution to deal with, their power of raising funds is considerably

less

less than in the case of societies situated in more favoured localities. Under the present system of granting Government subsidies of £1 for every £1 privately subscribed, the societies in poor districts are consequently in a relatively less advantageous position.

For many years past an organisation movement has been in progress in England, which appears to have done a great deal towards reforming the methods of charitable administration and protecting the public from an indiscriminate distribution of its money.

The object of the Society, which is called the Charity Organisation Society, is, according to the latest information we have :—

TO IMPROVE THE CONDITION OF THE POOR.

I.—On the part of the Council of the Society.

1. By propagating sound principles and views in regard to the administration of charity.
2. By promoting the co-operation of charitable institutions for the furtherance of their common work.
3. By convening Special Committees to inquire into, and report on, comparatively technical questions connected with the administration of charity, such as the education of the blind, the legal provision for the afflicted, convalescent homes, artisans' dwellings, &c.
4. By making inquiries for persons legitimately interested and collecting information regarding the utility, objects, and mode of working of charitable institutions.
5. By investigating, on behalf of persons legitimately interested, and reporting on the appeals of begging-letter writers, whose operations are of a metropolitan or general, rather than of a local character.
6. By supplementing the resources of the District Committees of the Society, by the personal assistance of officers appointed and paid, in all or part, by the Council, by grants for general purposes, and, when necessary, for relief, and by obtaining adequate help in cases of difficulty.

II.—On the part of District Committees.

1. By careful inquiry regarding all applicants for assistance (whether they be referred to the District Offices or apply of their own accord), in order to ascertain how and by whom they should be helped, and to test the truth of their statements.
2. By applying to each case, susceptible of permanent benefit, and suitable for assistance by charity rather than by the Poor Law, such remedies as are likely to make the applicant self-dependent.
3. By obtaining the various kinds of help required from those interested in the applicants, from their relatives, from charitable institutions, and from private persons; by assisting by loans, or, when necessary, by grants.
4. By sending (gratuitously) to legitimate inquirers, whether charitable agencies or private persons, reports on cases of distress.
5. By bringing into co-operation with each other, and with the Poor Law authorities, the various charitable agencies and individuals in the district, and by making the District Committees representative of local charities and a centre of reference for all interested in charitable work.
6. By repressing local mendicity by means of investigation tickets and otherwise.

It is not itself an agency for dispensing relief except in urgent cases, but it is the centre for the receipt of all applications. After thorough investigation has been made, the required means of relief are obtained from other bodies. The details of management may be described in the words of Mr. Loch, the Secretary to the London Charity Organization Society :—

In London there are forty district committees of the society. The area of these committees is that of the Poor Law Unions or Parishes, but in very large unions or parishes there are sometimes two or more committees. If the large population in most of these districts be taken into account, the committees might fairly be considered as separate societies. In four suburban districts, Eltham, Streatham and Tooting, Stoke Newington and Holloway, the society has no committees, though in the last-named district, which has now a large population, a committee is much wanted. The society is a federation of these committees, each of which, in order to be in union with it, must act on certain general principles, and must appoint representatives on the General Council. The honorary secretaries and chairman of the committees are *ex officio* members of this Council. This Council and its committees conduct the general business of the society. Some twenty district committees receive grants from the Council towards their expenses of management. Some are chiefly maintained by these grants. In some instances, besides these grants, assistance is given to a committee on the poorer parts of London by paying for a special officer, a district secretary, who is appointed by the Council with a view to developing organisation in districts in which it has not made progress, ensuring good "case-work," promoting co-operation, and enlisting volunteers. About £1,300 a year is now spent by the Council in this way. Those who are appointed are educated men and women, who are trained for the work and have a special interest in it, and are ready, for a comparatively small salary, to give up their whole time and thought to it. Apart from these grants and this assistance, the district committees are financially independent. In 1887-8 the office expenses of all the district committees amounted to £9,481, or, on an average, £237. This money is spent, apart from necessary expenditure in printing, &c., in (1) officers and (2) rent. It is found that, to deal properly with a large number of cases, to hear in private the tales of those in distress, and to provide accommodation for volunteers who help in the work by seeing applicants, arranging about relief, writing letters, and so forth, at least three or four rooms are necessary. These rooms include a committee-room and one that serves as a waiting-room. But the main condition which governs the question of accommodation is the necessity of hearing facts of each case in a private manner, and without undue delay. Next as to officers, the officers in charge of the work in most districts are honorary secretaries—men and women who give a very great deal of time to the work, treating it indeed in many instances

instances as the business of their lives. Upon them the progress of the committee very largely depends, and to their patient and unsparing labour the society owes a full measure of thanks. There are often two and sometimes three honorary secretaries in one committee. Often members of committee take special departments of work, such as the accounts, or the general care of pension or loan cases. In the poorer districts for which honorary secretaries able to give sufficient time to the work cannot be found, the district secretaries to whom I have referred are appointed. Sometimes where the work is heavy they work with and under honorary secretaries. The committees also in richer districts often have paid secretaries.

Besides secretaries there are in a district office, according to the amount of the work, one or more agents or inquiry officers. On these men devolve the major part of the work of inquiry. The point at which the volunteer takes up the case is different in different districts. As a rule, the applicants for relief come to the district office. Their statements are then taken down, sometimes by the honorary or the district secretary, sometimes by the agent, sometimes by members of committee. Then follows the inquiry, made usually by the agent or inquiry officer, but sometimes in part by a volunteer in part by the paid officer. Then the case, with the inquiries complete, is submitted to the committee. Formerly the volunteers did not as a rule intervene till this stage. Now volunteers take a larger share in the work throughout.

At some committees the applicants are seen at committee; at others care is taken that the secretary or some member of committee should see them before the meeting; but they do not themselves attend. Opinions differ as to which is the better plan. Personally, I prefer the latter. When a decision has been arrived at, if the case has to be visited or relief obtained, the labour of making the necessary arrangements is undertaken by the secretary and the members of committee. The bulk of the money required for relief is raised, as we say, "specially" for the case from charitable societies and individuals. In 1887-8 the relief thus raised amounted to £18,114. Loans were made amounting to £1,570, and grants from the general funds of committee were made to the amount of £3,581. The committees consist of members of all denominations and of all political creeds. There is no question whatever of the use of relief for any proselytising purposes. Consideration is indeed paid to religious differences. Thus a committee would not think of sending the child of a Catholic to a Protestant home, or *vice versa*; but otherwise religious differences are, so far as the Society is concerned, set aside for the common ends of charity.

It is desired that the committees should contain representatives of the Board of Guardians and of all charities (including in that term parochial and chapel charities) at work in the district. In many, probably most, districts, one or more members of the Board of Guardians are on the charity organisation committee, and there is sometimes close co-operation with them. . . . With charitable institutions our co-operation is chiefly in connection with individual cases. We have special arrangements with only one or two, but every year more is done by way of practical co-operation. In one or two districts working men serve on the committees. We get comparatively little help from the tradesmen class. Many members of our committees in poor districts come from the West End; and one of the chief difficulties in the way of forming committees really representative of these districts is that of arranging hours of meeting which will be convenient to all alike. The average attendance at a committee would, I think, be eight or ten. There are sometimes a number of semi-detached members of committee who are called associates. Often the committee is large, and the attendance of a section of its members is irregular. The size of the committee is no index of the number of the people with which it is in co-operation as occasion offers.

The Council of the London Society has formed for its executive work an administrative committee, which is elected by the Council out of members of Council, nominated by the district committees. It consists of twenty members, fifteen thus elected and five co-opted. One of its sub-committees supervises the work of district committees, and, subject to the approval of the administrative committee, passes the estimates of annual expenditure, which each committee is required to furnish, and makes grants for the maintenance of committees in the poorer districts. Subject to the approval of the districts' sub-committee, in cases in which district committees are unable to raise the sum required for adequate relief—*e.g.*, in cases of long illness, maintenance for a long period in a home or school, and pensions—funds are raised by the insertion of advertisements in the *Charity Organisation Review* and in the general Press. About £1,300 was thus obtained last year. In connection with another sub-committee, special arrangements have been made for co-operation with hospitals, and for assisting district committees in obtaining suitable convalescent and surgical aid with promptitude. Another sub-committee deals with emigration. Another branch of the work of the Council consists in publishing periodically a Charities Register and Digest of Charities and Benevolent Institutions, by whose aid cases from the metropolis may be dealt with, in furnishing to inquirers legitimately interested reports in regard to appeals, more particularly appeals from charitable institutions, and in registering cases of fraud and imposture, and, as far as possible, warning the public against them. Besides these branches of work, the Council, by means of special committees, has dealt with many questions of special importance connected with charity organisation, such as charity and cheap food, soup kitchens, the dwellings of the poor, the training of the blind, the education and care of idiots, imbeciles, and harmless lunatics, voting charities, medical relief, the employment of Italian children for mendicant or immoral purposes. At the present time there is a special committee on the preparation and audit of the accounts of charities, and another committee is promoting a Parliamentary inquiry into the management and common organisation of hospitals and dispensaries and poor law infirmaries and dispensaries in the metropolis. (A Select Committee has since been appointed by the House of Lords to make inquiries in regard to the hospitals of the metropolis.)

The effectiveness of this organisation lies in the knowledge which it secures of each case requiring assistance and its power of bringing to bear the best forces for giving the most fitting form of relief, while, at the same time, it guards against dishonesty and abuse.

It may be well that we should here refer to opinions expressed by a few of many authorities on the effect of the State administration of out-door relief in England and elsewhere.

The English Poor Law Commission of 1832, which recommended the total abolition of out-door relief, reported under the heading of "General Remarks on Outdoor Relief":—

"We have dwelt at some length on outdoor relief, because it appears to be the relief now most extensively given, and because it appears to contain in itself the elements of an almost indefinite extension—of an extension, in short, which may ultimately absorb the whole fund out of which it arises. Among the elements of extension are the constantly diminishing reluctance to claim an apparent benefit, the receipt of which imposes no sacrifice except a sensation of shame, quickly obliterated by habit, even if not prevented by example—the difficulty often amounting to impossibility on the part of those who administer and award relief of ascertaining whether any, and what, necessity for it exists; and the existence in many cases of positive motives on their parts to grant it when unnecessary, or themselves to create the necessity. The first and third of these sources of mal-administration are common to the towns and to the country; the second—the difficulty of ascertaining the wants of the applicants—operates most strongly in the large towns.

From the preceding evidence it will be seen how zealous must be the agency and how intense the vigilance to prevent fraudulent claims crowding in under such a system of relief; but it would require still greater vigilance to prevent the *bonâ fide* claimants degenerating into imposters; and it is an aphorism amongst the active parish officers that "cases which are good to-day are bad to-morrow unless they are incessantly watched." A person obtains relief on the grounds of sickness. When he has become capable of returning to moderate work he is tempted by the enjoyment of subsistence without labour to conceal his convalescence and fraudulently extend the period of relief. When it really depends upon the receivers whether the relief shall cease with its occasion, it is too much to expect of their virtue that they shall in any considerable number of instances voluntarily forego the pension.

Mr. Loch, the gentleman already referred to, writes in his work on Charity Organisation, published in 1890:—

So far, then, as experience may be taken as a test, we may consider that the case is proved. Relief given to meet the ordinary contingencies of life, such as outdoor relief must be, is by the nature of things inadequate. The community cannot afford to provide such relief on any sufficient scale. It must take the form of a dole, and leave to "fervid speculation" a search for possible bounties on the part of the poor, and it will thus prove itself to be in reality no relief at all. Therefore, though the community try to help the citizens in this way, it cannot really do so, and may as well acknowledge outright the impossibility of the task. It cannot supplement wages effectually; while it thinks that it is doing so it is often in reality lowering the whole wage standard for the class of labour whose earnings it supplements. On the other hand, there is positive good in the refusal of such relief. The Royal Commission on Friendly Societies reported, in 1874, that "If outdoor relief could no longer be reckoned on with comparative certainty, a great stimulus would be given to exertions towards making some provision for old age. . . . There is no single point in which those best acquainted with the subject more entirely concur than in recommending a more stringent administration of outdoor relief as the best encouragement of providence. The adoption of this course in the Atcham Union had made people put money into savings banks with a view to laying up for old age." And it is generally admitted that no more potent agent can be devised for inducing a man to join a friendly society than the dread of the work-house. Speaking of the Bradfield Union, Mr. Bland Garland writes (1888) of the system of refusing outdoor relief, "I can reply with perfect confidence that the condition of the people has much improved; that it never was so good as now, although wages are considerably less than they were in the earlier years of the period mentioned (about 1871-2). They have learned in a great manner to depend on their own exertions to provide against a rainy day; to support their aged parents; and the demands on private charity are much less than when they were recipients of the miserable pauper dole, or were looking forward to obtaining it."

Professor A. and Mrs. M. P. Marshall, in their work "Economics of Industry," write:—

Outdoor relief is often the booty of the idle, the dissipated, the crafty and the hypocritical, * * * and on the whole it has been found that wherever outdoor relief has been given freely, a large part of the population has become idle, thriftless and base; in short, pauperised.

Mrs. Bernard Bosanquet, in a work entitled "Rich and Poor" (1896), speaking of outdoor relief, says:—

So with the unfortunate people who are subjected to this sprinkling charity, they are always on the look out for the little gifts which come dropping casually in, and they never get a chance of developing resource and self-reliance.

The following passage, referring to help given in time of sickness, appears in the same work:—

Then there can be no better work for charity to step in and keep the home together until the family can recover itself. But this cannot be done by means of a few tickets and half-crowns, unless the family is to pawn and sell, to be half-starved and to accumulate a burden of debt; in other words, to sink to a lower level, from which it may never raise itself; we must make an allowance sufficient to meet all necessary expenditure as it arises, and be prepared to continue this until the invalid is in a position to earn again. Then, and then only, may we hope to have applied charity, so as to preserve instead of to undermine the independence of the recipient.

Coming nearer home, we have the opinion of Dr. MacGregor, Inspector-General of Asylums, Hospitals, and Charitable Institutions, in New Zealand, who, when referring to the Report of the English Commission of 1832, from which we have quoted, says :—

Even in New Zealand the baneful system of outdoor relief is pauperising our people to an extent that is incredible to any except those who know the facts and are able to estimate their significance. Everyone of the chief evil results in England I could abundantly illustrate in any of our large towns.

In a report presented to the New Zealand Parliament in 1897, Dr. MacGregor states :—

All over New Zealand the State subsidy for indiscriminate outdoor relief is the most effective scheme that could be devised for the systematic cultivation of social parasites. We carefully hatch them out, and lay them down in the alimentary tracts of society, and we call the insane proceeding philanthropy. No man feels more deeply than I the fact that those of our people who have lapsed from self-respect and independence have probably been "more sinned against than sinning."

In judging of the above opinions we must bear in mind two significant differences which exist between the State administration of outdoor relief in England and its administration by charitable institutions here. In the former the assistance takes the form usually, if not entirely, we believe, of a money allowance, and is granted to able-bodied men and women as well as to the aged and infirm; here the relief is mainly afforded by rations of food, and is very largely confined to the relief of the aged and infirm, and destitute women with children. Moreover, in England there is indoor accommodation available for the poor throughout the country.

We have deemed it, however, fitting, in view of the increasing number of dependents on outdoor relief in this Colony, to refer to these expressions of authoritative opinion on this important subject, with a view to showing the dangers which would attend an undesirable extension of outdoor relief here. That these dangers have already in some cases become apparent is evident from the statement of the Manager of the Benevolent Asylum that he has "no doubt that outdoor relief is demoralising to a large extent."

Maxted, 1055.

In face of such testimony as is given above it must be admitted that the dispensation of outdoor relief may frequently be attended with evil results, and the most stringent supervision is necessary in its administration. It is not, however, without arguments in its favour, inasmuch as it leaves the recipients their liberty and enables homes to be kept together which would otherwise be broken up. In any case, the absence of other provision renders it necessary to continue outdoor relief to certain sections of the poor.

Outdoor Medical Attendance.

Maxted, 724.

Medical attendance on the sick poor, other than in maternity cases, does not come within the scope and aim of the Benevolent Society; and the officers assert that they have occasionally had difficulty in obtaining the immediate aid of a Government medical man when required. This aid when obtained, however, we are informed, only extends to formal examination of the patient, and the granting of an order for admission to a hospital, if the case is one for hospital treatment.

The members of the medical profession already render very valuable gratuitous services to the poor, and the calls on their attention must be considerable in this direction; but, from the want of a recognised authority to which the sick poor may appeal for medical aid in their own homes, much hardship is no doubt at times occasioned.

This might be prevented if the services of a Government medical officer were at disposal for attendance on the destitute sick who were unable for any reason to obtain hospital treatment as indoor or outdoor patients, or arrangements might be made by the Benevolent Society to employ a medical man for the purpose. Whatever arrangements are made, it might perhaps be found desirable for the doctor to attend at the Asylum during certain hours on the day the relief is distributed.

LYING-IN HOSPITAL AND ASYLUM FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

In the first part of this Report we have referred to the circumstances which led to the establishment of the Asylum and to the subsequent limitation of its operations to the admission of women for lying-in purposes and the reception of destitute women and children. We have now to deal more particularly with the management of the Institution, the extent of its work, and the future performance of its functions.

Management and Extent of Operations.

The Asylum occupies the peculiar position of being entirely maintained out of the public funds, without the Government exercising any control whatever in its administration. This arises from the arrangement entered into many years ago under which the Government agreed to bear the whole cost of maintaining the children and lying-in women, and to pay for such destitute women having children under 2 years of age as the Committee of the Society might deem it expedient to admit. From that time the Society has received from the Government allowances for the inmates of the Asylum at the following rates per annum :—£28 for a single woman, £26 for a married woman, and £14 per child over the age of two months. The reason for the distinction in the payments for married and single women is not apparent. There has been no adjustment at the end of each year to bring the Government payments into agreement with the actual cost of the Asylum, so that in some years the Institution may have gained, and in others lost by the arrangement. The Manager says he can “call to mind that some years ago the Society lost a very large amount because the allowances did not cover anything like the expenditure.” He has made an analysis of the last three years’ accounts, however, and finds that the Government payments during that period have covered the whole cost of the Institution. In the past ten years the payments have amounted to £41,779, or an average of about £4,178 a year. Seeing that the cost per head to the Government for women at the Newington Asylum amounted in the year ending 30th June, 1898, to only £10 10s. 10d., and that the allowances paid by the Government to the Benevolent Society for the maintenance of women is £28 and for children £14, the transfer, as we suggest later on, of such inmates to Newington as cannot be provided for by other means, would lead to a large saving of public money.

Maxted, 626.

Maxted, 820.

Maxted, 634,
817-20.

The internal work of the Asylum is managed by the Matron, who is assisted by a staff of nurses and inmate servants. Her duties are defined by the printed rules and do not come into conflict with those of the Manager, who exercises a general superintendence over the Institution. A Ladies’ Committee, the members of which are appointed by the Directors, go over the Asylum “not less than once a month.” They sit once a week, and hear applications for admission to the lying-in hospital, when admission is sought some time before confinement. Cases of destitution and urgency the Manager may admit on his own responsibility, but inmates thus received, as well as the others, appear before the Ladies’ Committee on leaving the Asylum. It is in evidence that applicants for admission sometimes find it a painful ordeal to state their position before the Ladies’ Committee, and we think the object sought might be just as well attained by leaving it to the Matron to ascertain from them whatever information is required.

Mrs. Graham,
1456.Mrs. Graham,
1458-65.Mrs. Graham,
1460-71.

There is an honorary staff of three medical officers, whose duties are similar, and who perform the work in rotation. Each one gives his services to the lying-in hospital for two months, and after an interval of a month attends the children’s division for a like period. Another month then elapses before the work is commenced *de novo*. This method of dividing the duties to a certain extent equalises the work; but it is adopted, we are informed, principally to avoid the risk of conveying infection from one division to the other. We have referred in the beginning of this Report to the opinions expressed relative to the advantages of appointing a paid medical officer, and have also spoken of the improvement which has in recent years taken place in the nursing staff.

Crage,
2093-5.

One of the objects served by the lying-in hospital is the training of nurses in practical midwifery. A course of instruction is imparted to them by the medical officers, and, if proved proficient by the examinations which are conducted, a diploma is granted.

Clinical instruction is also given to medical students of the University. Fees are received by the Institution both from the nurses and the medical students, and the lecturer is paid an honorarium for his services.

For

Dr. Graham,
2280.

For many years the Benevolent Asylum was the only institution of its kind in Sydney, and it has consequently had a large and important work to perform. Some idea of the extent of its operations will be gathered from the following table, showing for the past ten years the number of women and children admitted to the Asylum, the number of women accouched, and the number of births:—

	Total number admitted.		No. of Women Accouched.	Births.
	Women.	Children.		
1888	365	454	281	263
1889	339	511	252	241
1890	353	497	279	259
1891	451	501	324	303
1892	493	616	339	319
1893	519	661	*407	378
1894	484	534	†389	370
1895	519	330	385	356
1896	507	356	354	323
1897	414	568	302	282

The proportion of single to married women accouched in the whole period covered by the table is about 4 to 1.

According to a return furnished by the Society, the number of beds in the Asylum is 189, 55 of which are in the lying-in wards; the daily average number of inmates in 1896 was—women 117, and children (including births in the Asylum) 107. The number in residence on the 31st December last was—women 88, and children 116.

It will be observed that the number of lying-in patients diminished in 1896 and 1897, and the Manager of the Asylum stated, in July last, that the work of that division had decreased wonderfully during the last twelve or eighteen months. There had been a reduction in the number of births from twenty-five or thirty a month to fifteen or eighteen. This he thought was due to the establishment of other lying-in homes in Sydney.

Maxted,
673-5.

Admission is given to all classes of women for lying-in without distinction as to character, and readmission is granted as often as it may be applied for if the applicant "has nowhere else to go to." It is stated that very few of the inmates have relatives who could support them, and they come to the Asylum in absolute poverty.

Maxted,
794, 872-4.

Although many of the inmates come from the country, it is thought the bulk of them belong to Sydney. A few—the Matron thinks from 10 to 13 a year—are drawn from the other Colonies, but these she finds are generally provided with means to go back.

Maxted,
836-7.
Mrs. Graham,
1496-9.

It appears to be a rule not to admit inmates earlier than one month before confinement, and to discharge them, with the medical officer's sanction, fourteen days afterwards if they have a suitable home to go to, but, as a consequence of their destitute and friendless condition, the Asylum becomes, in several instances, a place of refuge for them for several months before and after confinement, and a considerable difficulty the Society has to contend with is to secure their removal without inflicting hardship. This might easily be done, it is said, if the women were allowed to leave without their children; but we quite agree with the opinion expressed by the Manager that such a step would be most undesirable.

Mrs. Graham,
1385-90, 1561.

Maxted,
884-9.

We are of opinion that women for whom no other provision can be made should be handed over, with their infants, within 30 days of confinement (if certified by the medical officer to be fit for removal) to the Department of Charities for transfer to Newington Asylum, where suitable arrangements can easily be made for their reception, and where, as already pointed out, the cost to the Government for maintaining women in the year ending 30 June, 1898, did not exceed £10 10s. 10d., as against £28 per annum in the case of the Benevolent Asylum. The children should as early as is advisable be boarded out by the State Children Relief Board.

Some of the most useful of the inmates are employed in the Asylum as wards-women and in positions to which some degree of responsibility attaches, and they are

* Includes 71 women accouched at a branch home.

† Includes 59 women accouched at branch homes.

are paid small gratuities for their services. The others who are capable of working are required to perform the rougher domestic duties of the Institution without payment, but their time is employed only to a limited extent. There are now some fifteen or twenty able-bodied women, practically unemployed, who have been maintained in the Asylum with their children "for a very long time." The Manager says these women make not the slightest effort of their own to get away.—"I muster them every month, ask if they have any friends, and tell them they must go out, but they show a kind of indifference, never saying a word. The same thing occurs the next month, and so it goes on."

Mrs. Graham,
1409-1415.

Masted,
918-948.

Masted, 951.

The inmates are allowed at times to go out and seek work, but whether when out they do or do not make any attempt to obtain employment really rests with themselves.

Mrs. Graham,
1492-5.

The Manager states: "Our only method is to advertize and coax them to go to some of their friends." "I telephoned to all the laundries some years ago to see if they could give employment to women with babies, but with no result."

Masted, 657,
661.

The Manager of the Asylum, who has recently been in Brisbane, gave the following evidence of what is done by institutions in that city for lying-in women:—

890. Do you not think that the same state of things might be brought about if the hospital were simply a lying-in hospital, and a woman had to go out with her child at the end of a reasonable time; she would then find a home in some other institution, and they would probably have greater facilities than you have for obtaining employment for her? The other institutions are all so crowded that they cannot take them. In Brisbane it could be done.

891. Do you not think that the chances in those institutions of obtaining employment for these women will be greater than any that you possess? Far greater.

892. Do you think that if you had a properly-organised employment agency it would facilitate the finding of employment? A kind of Labour Bureau for that particular class of work?

893. Yes? It would if it could be brought about.

894. Could you not make use of the existing Labour Bureau? No; they do not deal with that class of cases. A few months ago we advertised in one of the Bathurst papers, thinking that the farmers might want girls. We advertised for employment for unmarried women with infants at a nominal wage, but we got no response.

895. Then, whilst the present system is not perfection, you really have nothing better to propose? I cannot propose anything.

796. Have you had any experience of other institutions of the same kind elsewhere? I have.

797. What difference have you seen in reference to the management? There is a great difference in regard to the way the work is carried out in this respect. In Brisbane, at the Lady Bowen Hospital, which receives as many confinement cases as the Benevolent Asylum does, they take absolute labour cases. They cannot go and wait a long period before confinement, nor stay a long period afterwards. They are simply there for their actual confinement. We found that we could not manage that in Sydney. In Brisbane, where there is a small population, the Rescue Work Societies, the Salvation Army, and the Infants' Home receive these women first of all at the first stage, and as the period of labour approaches they are sent on to the Lady Bowen Lying-in Hospital, and each Rescue Society takes its own subjects with the infant back again. It struck me that if that could be managed in Sydney a great expense would be saved to the Government, because the Government is really the life of the Benevolent Society.

798. That would involve that there must be some organisation to keep the woman until she was very near confinement, then send her to the hospital and to care for her as soon as she was fit to be moved again? Yes; then in Brisbane the Government have expense in another way, because the places where they do this work are subsidised by the Government. They get a lump sum.

799. Do you see much advantage in that if a woman has to be maintained so many days before confinement and so many weeks after—is there any advantage in her being maintained outside instead of inside the lying-in home; suppose you applied the system to Sydney;—can the women not be maintained for a few days before confinement and a few weeks after as cheaply in the lying-in home as scattered all over the place? I do not know that they could be. In our case the Government would absolutely keep the woman at the lying-in hospital, but if the Salvation Army had a patient and took her away when she could be removed from the lying-in hospital, the Government would be greatly relieved in a case of that kind.

800. Some of those institutions are partly self-supporting? They are. The Infants' Home, Brisbane, I was speaking of, where they receive cases before confinement, has a Government subsidy of only £200. The work of the inmates amounts to nearly £800, and the public subscriptions to only £8.

801. So that the women may be employed up to a certain time? Yes; if you can get the work.

802. Could you do that in the Benevolent Asylum? No; with the mixed character of our work it would be impossible there. In our case so much labour is lost. Suppose a woman in good health has a child, and she is capable of earning something. In Brisbane she is made to do so, and they have obtained first-class results. Very little is obtained by public subscription. The place is supported by hard work.

The question has arisen as to the propriety of paying, for service rendered, gratuities to certain women retained in the Asylum for long periods at the Government cost. Some of these inmates have been maintained in the Institution with their children for several years. It is claimed that they are particularly suitable for

Masted,
917-21,
932-42.

the

Mrs. Graham 1534-47. the work performed, and that if the practice were not permitted it would be necessary to engage ordinary paid servants at a much greater cost. While we think gratuities may in a few instances be allowed with advantage for short periods, the custom tends to a relaxation of effort on the part of the recipients to obtain employment elsewhere. To keep inmates employed in the Asylum for a longer period than it is possible to secure situations for them outside does not appear business-like, especially when there is a constant flow of fresh inmate labour available which should be put to useful service.

On the 30th April last there were twenty-eight inmates receiving weekly gratuities amounting in all to £3 16s. 6d. The four highest payments were respectively 8s., 7s., 7s., and 5s., these higher rates being paid for service involving some responsibility. Except in the case of two of these twenty-eight inmates, the Society was receiving the usual Government allowances for their maintenance, and also for that of their children, numbering twenty-five.

Maxted, 956-66. In making inquiries regarding the practice of granting gratuities, our attention was specially drawn to a case where a child of one of the inmates who had been appointed to the staff of the Institution had been maintained at the cost of the Government since its birth, some nine years ago. The inmate in question was also paid for by the Government for some years whilst she was in receipt of a gratuity, and before her appointment to the staff. We certainly think the cost of the maintenance of this child was no proper charge against either the Government or the Institution after the mother was in a position to support it from her salary. The same view was taken by the Government, and the amount paid for the child since 1891 was recently deducted from moneys due to the Society.

Hanson, 1987-1994.

Outdoor Midwifery Cases.

Mxated, 839-40, 845. Mrs. Graham, 1342-5. Provision has recently been made for attending women in their own homes in cases of confinement. A qualified midwife is sent to the patient, accompanied by a pupil nurse, or student, and the nursing extends over a period of ten days. It is said that the women who have been attended have been mostly in extreme destitution, but in spite of their poverty they have objected to go into the Asylum for treatment. Occasionally bed-clothing and also nourishing food have to be given by the Institution. Only from six to eight women a year have availed themselves of this provision, and the number is not increasing. This is no doubt due to the extensive work carried on in the same direction by the Women's Hospital, Crown-street.

Admission of Destitute Women.

Mxated, 1211-19. In addition to lying-in cases, admission is occasionally given to destitute women with children—in several instances on the order of the Director of Government Asylums. Women without children are not received, except in cases of emergency, and then only for one night, as accommodation is provided for them elsewhere. If there are two or more children, and amongst them an infant, the elder children are boarded-out, and the mother is allowed to stay in the Asylum with her youngest child under the same conditions as those which apply to the ordinary inmates.

Reception of Children.

For many years the Benevolent Asylum has been a temporary receiving-house for large numbers of destitute children thrown upon the care of the State. In the past, we understand, it was the practice to transfer the children to the Randwick Asylum, where they were maintained at the expense of the Government, but with the innovation of the boarding-out system, this practice was discontinued, and the children after a period of residence at the Benevolent Asylum are now sent to Ormond House, Paddington, the receiving depôt of the State Children Relief Board.

Mxated, 1204-10, 1224-35.

Children are admitted to the Asylum, as a rule, up to the age of about 12 years. Most of them are received on the order of the Chief Boarding-out Officer, and they remain at the cost of the Government for about two months on an average, except in the case of sickly children, who are retained longer.

Notification is sent each month to the State Children Relief Department that a certain number of children are ready to be boarded-out, and these children are

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are presented to the Department's officer for inspection. The selection of the children thus rests with the Asylum officers. One member of the medical staff states that the medical officers are required to see the children prior to being boarded-out, and "sometimes there are six, sometimes a dozen, to examine." The Manager says there may be as many as fifty at any one time of an age to be sent to the State Children Relief Board. Why so large a number should be kept at the Asylum is not apparent, when it is in evidence that there are many more private homes available for the reception of State children than are required.

In the opinion of the Matron it is undesirable to have the children there, as they cannot be isolated from the women. She would rather be without the children, and does not think it any necessary part of the Society's work to receive them at all.

Apart from the question of the unsuitability of the Asylum premises for children, with which we shall deal later on, we do not see that there is any necessity for the continuance of the present arrangement, which grew up under totally different conditions to those now prevailing. The State Children Relief Board have their own receiving depôt for children, and we are of opinion that it would be preferable to make provision at Ormond House for the direct reception of healthy children, as is done in some instances now, instead of first sending them to the Benevolent Asylum, and allowing them to remain there for an unnecessarily long period.

With regard to the sickly children, the medical evidence is to the effect that the Asylum is a most unsuitable place for them in every respect, and that they should be removed as early as possible to the Government Cottage Homes at Mittagong. We agree that the asylum is unsuitable, and, further, that the children should be sent to Mittagong, or to some other suitable homes.

Unsuitability of Premises and Removal of Lying-in Hospital.

A fact which could not fail to impress itself upon our attention at the outset of our inquiries is the unsuitability of the Asylum premises for the purposes they are required to serve. The defects are recognised by the Society's officers to be serious, and they have approached the Government on several occasions with a view to obtaining buildings elsewhere in which to carry on their operations. Sir Arthur Renwick points out that the matter had been impressed upon the Government "by letters, deputations, and otherwise. In the time of Sir Henry Parkes it was postponed in consequence of a scheme that he (Sir Henry) had for erecting large public buildings in prominent parts of the city, and in the case of Sir Alexander Stuart, because they were going to bring the railway into the city." At present he does not know why it is postponed.

The evidence in support of the unsuitability of the premises is somewhat voluminous, and the witnesses are practically unanimous in their objections, in respect to the age of the buildings; the want of facilities for the proper classification of the inmates; and the evils arising from carrying on all the branches of the Society's work in close association one with the other.

This evidence is so definite in character, and has so large a bearing on some of the recommendations contained in this Report, that we give here a summary of the statements made by the principal witnesses.

Dr. Foreman, one of the honorary medical officers, says the building is "in every sense most unsuitable." "It is in no way up to modern requirements." "It is only with the greatest care, and it reflects very greatly to the credit of the Institution, especially of the nursing, that outbreaks of puerperal fever have not been more frequent." "It is only with the greatest difficulty in the world that it is possible to avoid it," and he feels sure that it might at any time break out again. He thinks the place is insanitary. "The building seems to be saturated, as we often find old buildings, with bacteria."

With respect to the association of the lying-in ward with the other departments of the Asylum, he says there is a possibility, particularly in the case of children, of the introduction of infectious diseases, and the attendants must of necessity circulate between the children and the women. As an instance of the danger of infection, several nurses are down with measles, and there are over twenty cases amongst the children.

Foreman,
2243-4.

He says, "this hotch-potch higgledy-piggledy system that we have here is the most awful that it is possible for a medical man to conceive," and he hopes some means will be brought about to have a proper lying-in place devoted entirely to its proper uses.

Foreman,
2202.

He thinks it a most unpardonable thing, and against all ideas of modern medicine, that the inmates of the lying-in division should be exposed to the "very great danger" of infection from the attendance at the Asylum of the outdoor relief recipients.

Foreman,
2226-8.

Classification of the lying-in women is very desirable, but it is not possible under present circumstances.

Foreman,
2235, 2242.

The Asylum is a most unsuitable building for children in every respect, and it is a fault of the present system that the women inmates are in sight of the children.

Graham,
2280.

Dr. Graham, another of the medical officers, informs us that "to carry on delicate scientific work like midwifery, in an institution that also houses a large number of destitute women and children, and around which hundreds of unwashed people gather to receive doles of food, is an anomaly, and a violation of the canons of medical and surgical science"; and again "It is utterly foreign to all conceptions of medical propriety to have dirty women and dirty children coming into a building which approximates a department where the very presence of dirt or contagious matter means death to these (lying-in) women." "The fact that we have had no epidemic recently has been due to our extra vigilance."

Graham,
2344.

Crago,
2097-8.

Dr. Crago, also a member of the honorary medical staff, does not approve of the association of the various departments in the same building. He says that "where so many people are constantly coming round it is impossible to keep away infection."

Crago,
2101.

Three or four years ago the whole medical staff considered the matter and recommended that the women's hospital should be distinct from the other parts of the Institution and on a separate lot of ground. The present old buildings are unsuitable and out of date, and patching them up would be of no use.

Crago,
2106.

There is some slight risk of infection being introduced by children, but he does not know that it is very real, because when they get inside the building they are kept separate—it is really only when they are going through the hall that there is any risk.

Crago,
2131-2.

He does not think it desirable to retain sickly children at the Asylum for some months, but he believes that practically as soon as it is safe they are sent away to the cottage homes.

Crago,
2136-9.

It seems almost impossible to classify the lying-in women in the present buildings, but it would be a desirable thing, and arrangements should be made for it in the erection of any new hospital.

Renwick,
1927.

Sir Arthur Renwick, the President of the Society, says, "It is impossible in the building that we have there now to carry out the work in what we should consider an adequate or satisfactory way. The buildings are old; they never were adapted for the purposes to which they are now applied; and if we had proper buildings and proper arrangements the poor could be attended to more satisfactorily than they are at present."

The evidence of this witness in regard to the sickly children maintained at the Asylum we have already referred to.

Penfold,
256-7,
339.

The Hon. Secretary of the Society says the buildings are totally unfit for the lying-in department. The inmates cannot be classified, and "there are some women there whose characters are unexceptionable, and they are obliged to herd with the lowest of the low, and the language of some of the women is something disgusting."

Penfold,
343-8.

The various departments of the Institution should be kept separate, and it would be far better to have them thoroughly independent of each other.

Penfold,
374.

For the last fifteen years a deputation had waited upon each Premier in office relative to the unsuitability of the place for a lying-in hospital.

The evidence of the Manager is to the same effect, and both he and the Matron point out particularly that it is very desirable to have the children's quarters isolated from those of the women.

No more emphatic evidence than the foregoing could be adduced to show the unsuitability of the present buildings, and the necessity for the separation of the various

various divisions of the Asylum. Different views are, however, expressed as to whether or not the control of the whole of the operations now carried on by the Society should, under altered and improved conditions, be retained by the Society.

Dr. Foreman says that what is wanted badly in a city of this size and character is a lying-in hospital pure and simple, with all other things dissociated in every way. The patients should be received just a little before confinement, and when they have recovered they should be transferred to some other place. Foreman,
2242.

He is of opinion that the Government should assume the responsibility of the management of such an institution, and that the business should be conducted on the lines of the Government hospital at Little Bay, or of the Sydney and Prince Alfred Hospitals. He advocates the amalgamation by this means of all the lying-in homes in Sydney. Foreman,
2245-52.
Foreman,
2255-8.

Dr. Graham has "no hesitation in saying that the midwifery portion should not be at the Benevolent Asylum, and should not be carried on by them" (*i.e.*, the Directors). The impression that forced itself upon him was, "that while the Board of Directors . . . could be of great service in managing the affairs of an Asylum for destitute people, they could not appreciate the difference in the management of a highly scientific department like a midwifery hospital, for the subjects were wide apart, and from the point of view of management, incongruous." Graham,
2280.

Dr. Graham also says that "In the past, whilst this work has been carried on largely by the Benevolent Asylum, there has really been no intelligent effort made to guide it in a scientific way, the Society have been so burdened with the tremendous work of providing for the destitute women and children, that the maternity portion seems a kind of something thrown in, which they simply had to look after. They have not risen to a conception of its scientific importance. It has been allowed to drag along as best it could. The fact that for years they never had any charts and took no records, and allowed pregnant women to take up the role of nurses, proves that they did not attach any great scientific importance to the work, neither could they, seeing that this business was taken up in connection with the work of affording relief to the destitute on a large scale." Graham,
2283.

The proposal of the President, which is endorsed by other officers of the Society, is that some such site as that of Ultimo House should be secured, and that provision should be made for carrying on the whole of the Society's present work in three departments kept entirely separate. There should be (1) a maternity hospital; (2) an outdoor relief department; and (3) a receiving house for women and children, and for women who must be retained a certain time after their confinement. This scheme, which provides for a continuation of the present administration, Sir Arthur Renwick explains, has been drawn up very fully and submitted to the Government. In regard to the lying-in hospital, it is contended that the Benevolent Society has the machinery already in existence for carrying on the work, and that "it is done at a much less expenditure to the State by the Society than it would be if a separate institution were started by some other people." Renwick,
1927.

This contention, however, is hardly tenable seeing that the whole cost of the lying-in division of the Benevolent Asylum is borne by the Government, and that there is already established in the city an institution, conducted solely as a hospital for women, which has been carried on wholly by means of public subscriptions and nurses' fees, the only assistance received from the Government having been used to purchase furniture and surgical instruments. This institution, in the twelve months ending June last, treated 229 indoor patients (120 of which were obstetrical cases) and 1,177 women were attended in the out-door department.

We think that it is inadvisable for any charitable institution to carry on a variety of operations, any one of which, to be properly administered, is of sufficient importance to demand the whole of such attention as can be given to it by an honorary governing body. The administration of a women's hospital is of a character so different to that of an ordinary benevolent institution that, while we in no way wish to impugn the Benevolent Society's management, we are of opinion that the foundation of a distinct institution will best meet the wants of the community.

During the course of our inquiries the urgency of immediate steps being taken in this direction so impressed itself upon us that we felt impelled to approach the Chief Secretary with a view to obtaining his consent to our taking a course of action that we considered lay somewhat beyond the scope of our commission.

We subsequently addressed to the Minister the following letter embodying a proposal, the adoption of which we have here to strongly recommend :—

Sir, Chief Secretary's Office, Sydney, 11 October, 1898.
As the Royal Commission on Charities, we have been for some time engaged in an investigation into the operations of the Benevolent Society of New South Wales.

The plan and objects of this Society are laid down in its By-law No. 1 as follows :—

- 1st. The object of its original foundation, viz., to relieve the poor, the distressed, and the aged, by affording them assistance in the form of provisions, &c., and small sums of money to assist in payment of rent, &c.
- 2nd. As a receiving asylum for homeless and deserted children and foundlings, and children awaiting removal to other asylums.
- 3rd. As a receiving hospital for sickly infants, with mothers who cannot be received in the infirmary or other hospitals, or who may be suffering from the diseases of women.
- 4th. As a lying-in hospital.
- 5th. As a training institution for midwives and nurses.
- 6th. As a school for practical instruction in midwifery in affiliation with the University of Sydney.
- 7th. Department for treatment of midwifery cases of poor women in their own homes.

A great mass of evidence has been taken regarding this Society's work, upon which the formal report of the Commission will be made in due course to His Excellency the Governor. But our inquiries in reference to one particular branch—the Lying-in Hospital—forced us to certain conclusions which we deemed it advisable to bring at once under your notice, and the President of the Commission waited upon you recently with that object.

The Lying-in Hospital has accomplished excellent work, but for some years past it has been recognised by the Society's officials that the premises occupied are unsuitable for a continuance of their work, and they have approached the Government on several occasions with the object of securing more suitable premises elsewhere in which to carry on their various operations. They have expressed an opinion to the same effect under examination by the Commission, and from our own observations we see the urgent necessity that exists for the removal, particularly, of the lying-in department. In support of this we have the evidence of Sir Arthur Kenwick, the President of the Society, and of Doctors Foreman, Graham, and Crago, the medical officers, all of whom affirm that the present building is unfit for a maternity hospital.

The building, which was not designed for the purposes of a hospital, is very old; it does not admit of the classification of the inmates—a very essential feature—and evidence has been given to show that there is danger of infection from the fact that the hospital occupies a portion of the Asylum premises.

The necessity for this change was impressed upon a Medical Board, which was appointed by the Government in 1894 to inquire into all matters relating to the Benevolent Asylum, at a time when an outbreak of puerperal fever occurred at the institution. This Board consisted of Professor T. P. Anderson Stuart, then Medical Adviser to the Government, Drs. Mackellar, MacLaurin, and Foreman, and their report, which is attached, stated as follows :—

“The present Benevolent Asylum building is so old and dilapidated that it would be impossible to repair it so as to fit it for carrying on the work of the Society without a very large expenditure of money. Moreover, the site upon which it stands is now too valuable to be retained for such purpose, and thus it is necessary to find other premises on a less valuable site.”

With regard to the Maternity Hospital, they recommended that the School of Industry in Darlinghurst Road should, if possible, be secured for that purpose.

Prior to seeing this recommendation we had, as a result of inquiries and of a visit to the Darlinghurst Institution, formed the same conclusion; and it was with a view to laying before the Government an arrangement by which this end might be attained, that the President of the Commission, at his interview with you, asked and obtained your authority to confer with the Trustees of the School of Industry on the matter.

We find that the School of Industry property is vested in Trustees under Act 34 Vic., No. 5, for the sole purposes of that Institution, the right being reserved to the Governor of the removal and appointment of Trustees as may be required. The site now occupied was given by the Government in exchange for land fronting Macquarie-street, and an amount of £7,000, as provided by the aforesaid Act, was granted for expenditure upon buildings and offices in the years 1872-3-4. The only sum since granted by the Government to the Institution was £160, in 1886, for paving the frontages of the building and ground.

In the Report of the Board just referred to it is stated “the present School of Industry building would form “the administration building” of the proposed hospital, “and would also contain certain wards. The necessary additional ward accommodation could be easily built adjacent to the existing building, for the site—about 2 acres—is ample. The position is central and convenient of access from all parts of the city. It is high and healthy, and surrounded with good roads. At one extremity of the site is a public park, and at the other a church. In this way, the position is admirable, being easy of access and well isolated. These advantages are of no special benefit to the School, which might therefore be removed elsewhere, while on the other hand they are very special advantages for a maternity hospital.”

The evidence of Dr. Graham, who has paid special attention to the matter, is entirely in accord with this view. He suggests a similar arrangement of buildings, which, he states, would give ample opportunities for classification of the inmates in the most approved way.

As to the question of the cost of the proposed buildings, and the accommodation to be provided, we quote here the following evidence of Dr. Graham on these points, as we think the matter is of sufficient public importance to warrant our doing so at this stage:—

When we were at your Institute, you showed us that you had given considerable attention to the question of the cost of the proposed building to be used for a maternity hospital? Yes.

Could you give us a rough idea of what it would cost to add two wings to the School of Industry? I think a sum of £5,000 should do it.

Would that be sufficient to build the two wings, and put them in proper order? Yes; the type of building that is wanted for a work of that kind has to be very simple. It should be a building which you would look forward to demolishing. The first principle of a women's hospital is that it must not be too old, and it must be easily demolished, because the germs of putrefaction, puerperal germs, if allowed to get hold in women's hospitals, will play havoc. In Berlin, in a women's hospital which had got too old, 300 women were carried off.

How many beds should be provided to start the thing in a proper way? From 60 to 100. Sixty should be ample for present needs, and there should be a portion set apart for special cases.

There should be thirty beds in each wing? Yes; provided that you carry on your external department. That would be essential. If you did not do that you would have these women flocking to the hospital.

Do you mean that sixty should be accommodated in the wings, and a certain number in the central part of the building? Yes; I think the present building as it stands is a little too big for administration. Some portion could be utilised for classification purposes.

Dr. Graham's estimate of the cost applies to the new wings only, and we think the amount which would be required to effect the necessary alterations to the present buildings, and thoroughly equip the hospital, would be largely in excess of that. Even, however, if the total expenditure were double the sum mentioned, the cost must be considered a moderate one for the advantages to be derived.

We have communicated with the Trustees of the School of Industry, and ascertain that they are willing to negotiate for the transfer of the property conditionally on their being placed in a position which will enable them satisfactorily to continue the operations contemplated by the Trust. With this object in view they are prepared to hand the property over to the Government for the sum of £14,000, being somewhat under the amount at which the property was valued by Messrs. Richardson and Wrench in February, 1896, a copy of whose valuation we attach hereto.

As a preliminary step towards the end sought, we would recommend that the opinion of the Crown Solicitor be obtained on the two following points:—

1. Whether the School of Industry property can be resumed by the Government under the provisions of sections 18 and 19 of Act 51 Vic. No. 37.
2. The legal position of the several parties interested, viz., the Government, the Trustees of the School of Industry, and the Benevolent Society.

If the answer to No. 1 be in the affirmative, and the Crown Solicitor advises that there is no legal obstacle to carrying out the proposal, we have the honor, after very careful thought in this matter, to recommend the resumption at a price to be first agreed upon with the Trustees. We consider that the sum of £13,000 would be a fair consideration for the property, and that this amount should be the total compensation paid.

With regard to the management of the proposed new institution, the President and the Honorary Secretary of the Benevolent Society favour the continuance of the lying-in hospital under the control of the Society. Dr. Foreman says in evidence that "what is wanted badly in a city of this size and character is a lying-in home pure and simple, with all other things dissociated in every way." He is of opinion it should be under Government control with a staff of honorary medical men.

Dr. Graham expresses the view that it should be a distinct institution supported, as far as possible, by the public.

We learn from the Trustees that in the event of the removal of the School they would desire a position in one of the suburbs, and we would recommend an endeavour being made to obtain the property now held by the Institution for the blind at Strathfield, which, we believe, would be most suitable for the School, and which might be handed to the Trustees in place of part of the monetary consideration named.

In respect to the Strathfield Institution, we have already in a recent report strongly recommended, in the public interest, a change that would lead to the vacation of the building, which is at present occupied by a few blind women. A copy of that recommendation is attached. The failure, however, of obtaining a successful issue to negotiations in the direction of securing that property should not, we are of opinion, hinder the proposal for acquiring the School of Industry property for the special object in view.

The land belonging to the Institution at Strathfield was purchased for £2,150, £1,650 of which was contributed by the Government. The buildings and improvements cost about £9,500. As shown in our Report on this Institution, the Government have been very large contributors to it.

The total expenditure from 1887 to 1897, inclusive, was £28,112, including cost of land and building, and the Government contributions in the same period amounted to £12,189.

We append, at foot hereof, a list of the papers which accompany this letter.

The Honorable James N. Brunker, M.P.,
Chief Secretary, &c., &c., &c.

We have, &c.,
GEO. A. WILSON, President.
J. BARLING.
JAMES POWELL.

1. Report of the Board appointed to advise the Chief Secretary in the matter of the Benevolent Asylum, Sydney, 24 January, 1894.
2. Copy of the "Sydney Female School of Industry Removal Act."
3. Summary of Conditions of Deed of Grant, referred to in section 2 of above Act.
4. Copy of valuation of School of Industry property by Messrs. Richardson and Wrench.
5. Recommendation of Royal Commission on Public Charities in Report of 29 June, 1898, regarding the Institution for the Blind at Strathfield.

1. Report of the Board appointed to advise the Chief Secretary in the matter of the Benevolent Asylum, Sydney.

Board of Health Offices, 127, Macquarie-street, Sydney,
24 January, 1894.

Sir,

We have the honor to report as follows in accordance with your minute of the 13th November last, which directed inquiry into the establishment, by the Directors of the Benevolent Society, of a temporary lying-in hospital; and with your further minute of the 15th idem, which required examination "into all matters relating to the Benevolent Asylum, especially in regard to its future work."

The Board has held six meetings, and has had the advantage of receiving information from the principal persons connected with the following institutions, viz.:—The Benevolent Asylum, the School of Industry, the Randwick Asylum, and the Shaftesbury Reformatory, all of which institutions it visited and inspected. The Board also received valuable information from the Director of Government Asylums for the Infirm and Destitute, and Boarding-out Officer, Mr. Sydney Maxted.

The first duty that fell upon the Board was to inspect and approve of premises for a Lying-in Establishment in connection with the Benevolent Asylum. The Board inspected and approved of "Floodgate," in Botany-street, Moore Park, as a temporary lying-in house, and the premises were put into order and fitted for lying-in cases, under the advice of the Chief Medical Inspector of the Board of Health. These premises are now in occupation, and are working satisfactorily. But as this is only a temporary arrangement, it was necessary at once to look ahead, and to provide permanent accommodation for the three departments into which the work of the Benevolent Society may be divided.

The present Benevolent Asylum building is so old and dilapidated that it would be impossible to repair it so as to fit it for carrying on the work of the Society without a very large expenditure of money. Moreover, the site upon which it stands is now too valuable to be retained for such purposes, and thus it is necessary to find other premises on a less valuable site.

The Benevolent Asylum and grounds, though still vested in the Government, nevertheless have been so long occupied by the Benevolent Society, that probably the Government, on resuming the site, would favourably regard somewhat generous treatment of the Society. On the other hand, the facts that the whole was, and is, the property of the Government; that the Benevolent Society can neither use it for any other purposes, nor let nor sell any part of it; that the Society retained the proceeds of the sale, in 1854, of certain lands which had been given to it by the Government; that 47 acres of land at Randwick have been reserved for the Society by the Government, and that from three-fourths to nine-tenths of the annual income of the Society is derived, directly or indirectly, from the Government, would seem to warrant a forbearing attitude on the part of the Directors of the Benevolent Society as against the Government.

In its endeavours to advise on the best arrangements for the accommodation of the different departments of the Benevolent Society's work, the Board has been anxious to, as far as possible, utilise existing buildings, and with the exception of certain comparatively unimportant extensions, chiefly by way of providing increased dormitory or ward accommodation at three existing institutions, no expenditure on building is recommended by the Board.

The work of the Benevolent Society, as at present carried on, may be divided into three parts:—1st—The Lying-in or Maternity Hospital; 2nd—The care of about 150 children; 3rd—Outdoor Relief.

With regard to the Maternity Hospital, the Board recommends that the School of Industry in Darlinghurst should, if possible, be secured for that purpose. The present School of Industry building would form the Administration building, and would also contain certain wards. The necessary additional ward accommodation could be easily built adjacent to the existing building, for the site—about 2 acres—is ample. The position is central, and convenient of access from all parts of the city. It is high and healthy, and surrounded with good roads. At one extremity of the site is a public park, and at the other a church. In this way, therefore, the position is admirable, being easy of access, and well isolated. These advantages are of no special benefit to the School, which might therefore be removed elsewhere, while, on the other hand, they are very special advantages for a Maternity Hospital. The Board therefore recommends that, if possible, an arrangement be made with the authorities of the School of Industry, by which the School may be removed to the Randwick Asylum Reserve, where it might occupy the Reception-house, which has been empty for the last eight years. This building is well adapted to the needs of the School of Industry, and without additions would accommodate thirty children. But as the number for whom accommodation would be needed is fifty, an additional dormitory might be built at comparatively small outlay. This house faces a main road, at one end of which, some two minutes' walk distant, is the tramway. A piece of land between the house and the road frontage might be added to the present enclosure, so as to make an area of about 5 or 6 acres. The site is in every way well adapted to the work of the School of Industry, for it is easy of access, in a secluded position, and in a healthy locality. If any consideration should be required by the Directors of the Randwick Asylum for this piece of land with the house, such consideration, together with the cost of erecting the additional dormitory at the Reception-house, would probably be much less than what would be reasonably allowed for the Darlinghurst site of the School of Industry.

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

There is a steady population in the present Benevolent Asylum of about 150 children, ranging from the new-born to 12 years of age. The average residence in the Asylum of an individual child is one month. This number of 150 includes children born in the institution and those taken to it by the police and otherwise. The larger number (about 100) merely pass through the Asylum on their way to be boarded out by the State Children's Relief Board. This department of the Benevolent Society is thus a sort of reception-house to the State Children's Relief Board, and there is no reason why the latter department should not itself conduct the work, all the more since the Government already pays the Benevolent Society for the maintenance of these children. This it could do most readily at the Shaftesbury Reformatory, which the Board understands will be emptied in a week or two by the transfer of its present inmates to the Industrial School at Parramatta. The accommodation of the Shaftesbury is for about 100 so that it would just receive the requisite number of children. The site is admirably adapted to the purpose, and the management and furnishings are practically identical with what would be required for its proposed work. In this way, therefore, this excellent institution would be profitably and immediately utilised.

Of

Of the 150 children, some thirty are those naturally with their mothers in the lying-in house, and for whom, therefore, no special accommodation is required. The remaining twenty are the waifs and foundlings, who would at first require to be accommodated in some central place in the city, where the out-door relief department could also be carried on.

OUTDOOR RELIEF DEPARTMENT.

This department could quite well be carried on in the same building as that in which the twenty foundlings, &c., would be lodged, and this central depôt would thus be a combined receiving-house for children and a depôt for the distribution of relief. It would of necessity be in one of the poorer districts of the city, and could be nowhere better placed than near the present Benevolent Asylum.

Some compensation would doubtless be agreed to by the Government to be given to the Benevolent Society, as a set-off against its occupancy of the present house and site, and to enable it to make the necessary additions to the School of Industry, and to secure the central depôt before referred to; but, on the other hand, there would be the value of the School of Industry and its site, which would be handed over to the Society to be deducted for such compensation paid to the Benevolent Society.

The Board is fully alive to the fact that objection may be taken to its recommendations on account of the difficulty which may be experienced in securing the consent, where necessary, of the several parties interested in the various recommendations. But, on the other hand, the Board has reason to believe that the proposals here put forward will in the main meet with the approval of these parties. It is true that various matters, especially the amounts of compensation to be given, will need careful adjustment, but in view of the need for economy now being felt in the public services, the Board relies on the sense of justice and patriotism of the several parties to aid as far as in them lies the realisation of a scheme which aims at promoting much needed accommodation for the poor and afflicted without adding appreciably to the burdens of the State.

We have, &c.,

T. P. ANDERSON STUART, M.D.,
Medical Adviser to the Government.
C. K. MACKELLAR, M.B.
H. N. MACLAURIN.
J. FOREMAN.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary.

2. An Act to authorize the Resumption for public purposes of the present site and premises of and to provide a more suitable site and premises for the Sydney Female School of Industry. [Assented to 5th December, 1870.]

WHEREAS by a deed of grant under the hand of Sir Charles Augustus Fitz Roy dated the third day of October one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four a portion of land containing by admeasurement one acre and seven perches more or less situate in the city of Sydney and more particularly described in Schedule A hereto was granted unto Charles Cowper John Campbell John Bayley Darvall and Thomas Ieely Esquires and to their heirs and assigns as a site for the Sydney Female School of Industry upon the trusts in the said deed of grant declared And whereas the said land is required by Government for public purposes and the site has become unsuitable and the buildings erected thereon are unfit for the requirements of the said School And whereas the said Trustees have for the considerations hereinafter described assented to the resumption by Her Majesty of the said site together with the buildings thereon and the appurtenances thereto Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled and by the authority of the same as follows:—

1. So soon as the provisions of the next two succeeding sections hereof shall have been fulfilled the portion of land described in Schedule A hereto and all buildings erected thereon and all appurtenances thereto belonging shall be resumed by revested in and become the absolute property of Her Majesty Her Heirs and Successors free from all trusts conditions reservations rights-of-way and other easements to which the same may heretofore have been subject.

2. For the purpose of providing a suitable site for the Sydney Female School of Industry in lieu of the land so described as aforesaid and the buildings thereon it shall be lawful for the Governor with the advice of the Executive Council to grant unto the Trustees for the time being of the said Female School of Industry upon the like trusts conditions reservations and provisions as are declared by or contained in the deed of grant heretofore recited the portion of land described in Schedule B hereto together with all buildings and offices to be erected thereon in pursuance of the provisions of the next succeeding section.

3. And to provide for the erection on the said portion of land of suitable buildings and offices for the said School of Industry it shall be lawful for the Governor with the advice aforesaid to set apart out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund the sum of seven thousand pounds which shall be expended in the erection of such buildings and offices with their appurtenances.

4. All such buildings and offices with their appurtenances shall be constructed under the superintendence of and according to plans and specifications to be prepared by the Colonial Architect and approved by the Governor with the advice aforesaid.

5. Nothing in this Act contained shall affect any existing enactment relating to the Sydney Female School of Industry or the apprenticing of the inmates of such School.

6. This Act may be cited as the "Sydney Female School of Industry Removal Act."

SCHEDULE A.

Commencing at the northern junction of a lane nearly opposite Hunter-street with the eastern building line of Macquarie-street and bounded on the west by that building line bearing northerly 3 chains and 87 links to the outside of a circular wall on the north-west by the outside of that circular wall bearing north-easterly to the entrance of Government Domain On the north-east by a line dividing it from the Government Domain running along the outside of a wall and bearing east 32 degrees 30 minutes south 3 chains 50½ links and thence bearing south 23 degrees 30 minutes east 1 chain 47 links On the south by a line bearing west 3 degrees 30 minutes south 2 chains 18 links along the outside of wall On the east by the outside of a wall bearing south 3 degrees 30 minutes east 77 links to the lane aforesaid Again on the south by that lane bearing west 3 degrees 30 minutes south one chain 80½ links to its junction with Macquarie-street at the point of commencement and containing by admeasurement one acre and seven perches more or less.

SCHEDULE B.

Resumption of present site of Sydney Female School of Industry.

Government to grant new site for said school (See particulars attached.)

And to provide funds for erection of buildings, &c.

Plans &c., to be approved by Governor.

Act not to affect apprenticing of inmates of said school.
Short title

SCHEDULE B.

Commencing at a point on the eastern building line of Darlinghurst Road being the north-west corner of a grant to the Roman Catholic Church of 21 perches and bounded on the west by the said building line bearing north 32 degrees 42 minutes east 6 chains 90 links to the south-west corner of a grant to the Asylum for Destitute Females of one acre Thence on the north by the south boundary of said grant of one acre being a line bearing north 92 degrees 5 minutes east 2 chains 53 links to the western building line of Victoria-street Thence on the east by the said building line bearing south 33 degrees west 7 chains 62 links to the north-east corner of a grant to the Roman Catholic Church of 29 perches Thence on the south by the north boundary of the said 29 perches and the north boundary of the aforesaid 21 perches being a line bearing north 73 degrees 2 minutes west 2 chains 24 links to the point of commencement and containing by admeasurement one acre two rods twelve perches more or less.

3. Sydney Female School of Industry.

Grant 3 October, 1854 (Domain Site).

Know ye that for the promotion of education in the territory of New South Wales, and for providing a site for the Sydney Female School of Industry, being a society established in the city of Sydney which has for its object the moral and religious improvement of female poor children, We, &c.

[Then follows description of land granted—1a. Or. 7p.]

together with the building erected and built and now standing thereon, and now and for some time past used as a Female School of Industry, and all other buildings, rights, members, and appurtenances thereto belonging and held unto and to the use of the said C. Cowper, J. Campbell, J. B. Darvall, and T. Icely for ever as trustees for the purpose hereinafter mentioned * * * upon trust for the said society, called the Sydney Female School of Industry, for ever, and for no other purpose whatsoever, provided that they, the said trustees, their heirs and assigns, shall not erect or permit any building or erection to be built within 25 feet of the inside of the boundary line of the said land; and upon further trust that they, the said trustees, their heirs and assigns, do and shall when they are required by our Governor for the time being of our said territory convey and assure the said piece or parcel of land unto and to the use of such other person or persons as shall from time to time have been appointed by our said Governor as trustees in their place and stead; and upon further trust that such person to whom the said piece or parcel of land shall have been so aforesaid conveyed or assured shall hold the same subject to all the trusts hereby created and so on *toties quoties* to the intent that the said land shall be for ever vested in the trustees for the time being appointed trusts hereto.

* * * * *

FITZROY.

4. Valuation by Messrs. Richardson and Wrench.

Richardson and Wrench (Limited), 98, Pitt-street, Sydney, 12 February, 1896.

ESTIMATE of value of Property, Darlinghurst, occupied by the Female School of Industry.

THE land has about the following dimensions, viz. :—

503 ft. 8 in. to Victoria-street.
452 ft. 9 in. to Darlinghurst-road.
170 ft. 9 in. depth on Northern side.
144 ft. 4 in. depth on Southern side.

We estimate the value of the land alone at £7,555 (seven thousand five hundred and fifty-five pounds).—R. and W., Limited.

Upon part of the land is erected the Female School of Industry, substantially built of brick, cemented, on massive stone basement comprising three floors in all, and containing verandahs and areas.

On ground floor—Hall, four rooms, large dining-room, schoolroom.

On first floor—Three large dormitories, three bedrooms, linen press.

In basement are large storeroom, pantry, clothesroom, bathroom, lavatory, and kitchen scullery.

Detached is a building of brick, slate roof, being laundry, washhouse, bakehouse, and fuel-shed.

Also detached of brick and wood are play-shed, forage and fuel areas and w.c.'s.

The situation of the property and its general design appear very suitable for the good work carried on therein, while convenient of access there is comparative privacy. The structure is faithfully erected, and will remain for long years, as it is only about twenty years old.

The whole of the land is enclosed with brick wall on stone foundations, and having stone top coping, except as touching part of the frontage in Victoria-street immediately opposite the School, which has a stone wall with iron railing and gates.

We estimate the value of the land and building and other improvements for the purposes of their use at £14,555 (fourteen thousand five hundred and fifty-five pounds); and in the circumstances of having to procure another site and erect buildings thereon, a further charge might be made of 10 per cent. on the above, or equal to £1,455 10s.

Say drainage provision, as this is a very particular feature in regard to the School, £250.

RICHARDSON AND WRENCH (Ltd.)

5. Recommendations contained in Report on Institutions dealing with the Blind and Deaf and Dumb, dated 29th June, 1898.

INSTITUTION for the Blind at Strathfield.

THAT, in view of the fact that two industrial establishments for the blind are unnecessary, and that their maintenance separately causes great waste of public money, the Committees of the Sydney Industrial Blind Institution and the Institution for the Blind at Strathfield be invited to meet and discuss with the Government proposals for the amalgamation of their institutions, in order that the women now employed in the industrial division of the Home at Strathfield may be transferred to the Sydney Institution at Boomerang-street, and boarded and lodged in respectable homes, and utilising the buildings at Strathfield for other public purposes. As stated on page 13 of our Report on the Institution for the Blind at Strathfield, in view of the limited scope of the Home-teaching Department, and the large expenditure incurred upon its administration, we fail to see any necessity for continuing its operations.

FUTURE

FUTURE OPERATIONS OF THE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

We have already suggested proposals for a women's hospital, which shall continue the maternity work of the Benevolent Society; we have proposed other means than those which now exist at the Benevolent Asylum for dealing with lying-in women, and we have also advocated the direct reception by the State Children Relief Board of children to be boarded out. As regards the future control of the other branches of the Society's work, but little difficulty presents itself.

We cannot but speak in terms of great praise of the manner in which the gentlemen controlling the Society have so unsparingly devoted time and attention to carrying out the beneficent work of relieving the poor of this city, but it is evident that for some time past their resources have not been adequate to cope with the immense and increasing strain which has been placed upon them by greatly increased demands for assistance and the natural growth of the Colony. The great diversity of the Society's operations, which has already been pointed out, was not a matter of so much moment when the calls for assistance were less numerous, but with the expansion of each branch to a considerable magnitude the difficulties of administration generally and of obtaining sufficient funds to meet the demands for outdoor relief have grown accordingly.

Under the section dealing with outdoor relief the evidence of the officials is quoted as showing that the poor need more adequate assistance than the funds of the Society will permit, and although the Society appears to have done its best with the means at its command to prevent imposition, it is also there made apparent that the administration of the relief is open to much abuse from the insufficiency of inspection.

In regard to the indoor administration we find, evidently as a consequence of pressure of work upon the officers, that there are no efficient methods adopted for procuring employment for the inmates; and that there is neglect, for the same reason, of other and important duties. On this the following evidence of the Manager may speak for itself:—

547. The duties that you have mentioned, and those laid down in the rules, take up a great deal of your time; does it leave you time for general supervision? Not latterly; it does not allow me proper time to do the clerical work which I used to do. It is growing rather too large.

548. You attend to the accounts, the correspondence, and to a great many other matters;—what I want to know is, does that take up so much of your time that you cannot give a proper general supervision? I will give an instance of how I am falling short lately. Some time back I had more time to attend to the affiliation of children in the institution. I had more time to question the women and get a grasp of the work, but latterly it is falling behind.

549. I suppose you consider the affiliations as a very important part of your work? I do, and especially if I could have induced the directors to petition the Government to make alterations in the present affiliation laws. We could then get good results. I consider it necessary that a child should be affiliated before its birth, for this reason: A woman comes into the institution, and if you have no other means of disposing of her she remains two or three months—at any rate, generally for a month; and at the end of that time, although there may be a good case against the man, there is no chance of affiliating the child. Another reason for the alteration is, that the woman might be compelled by the directors, or by the manager, to take proceedings against the father of the child whether she liked it or not; that is to say, if we find a good case against a man we ask the woman about it, but she says, "No, I will not prosecute." In America it is the law that the manager or the directors of an institution can subpoena the mother as a witness and put her upon her oath.

850. I think you said the other day that that part of your business which you consider very important had been interfered with by other duties? Yes, by the growth of the general work of the institution.

851. What method do you adopt to do this, and how far has it been interfered with by your other duties? First of all, the application for admission comes before the Ladies' Committee; then the next morning she comes to me for an admission ticket, and I ask her about the history of the case, and whether there is any chance of affiliation. That would need a good deal of time, because the women are reluctant to tell anything. You have to coax it out of them. Possibly, the time taken would be about a quarter of an hour to one case. I find that I cannot do that now. What I am doing now is this: when a woman is going out she comes to me for her discharge, then I question her, but I soon find a lot of people waiting in the hall to interview me with regard to food, and I have not proper time to attend to it.

852. You find that the growth of business is so great, and the staff is so small, that you have not time to attend to this, and you consider it almost important part of your duty? I do.

It is evident, therefore, that the sphere of the Society's operations should not, in future, embrace so extensive a work as it has in the past.

The Benevolent Society should, we think, continue to receive destitute women and children who require shelter in cases of emergency. The women, unless they can be otherwise provided for, should be handed over to the care of the Director of Government Asylums, and the children should, as early as possible, be boarded out.

With

With the exception of providing such accommodation, the Society should be left free to devote its whole attention to the administration of outdoor relief. In this field there is, as we have seen, considerable room for improvement, which the Society, hampered as it has been by other cares, has not been able to effect. A work involving the annual expenditure of some £8,000 to £9,000, and having the welfare of many hundreds of persons at stake, needs a greater concentration of effort than can possibly under the circumstances be bestowed upon it. There is considerable scope for labour in securing co-operation of effort in the administration of outdoor relief generally in the metropolis, and in invoking the assistance of voluntary workers to aid in promoting the welfare of the poor in a manner which cannot be accomplished by the distribution of doles of food and money alone. English experience teaches us also that it is no easy task to guard against imposition and the pauperisation of the recipient of relief, and, in this respect, the Directors of the Society have a grave responsibility to the public cast upon them. That this statement is not inapplicable may be shown by the fact that a Royal Commission in reporting on the administration of outdoor relief by the Benevolent Asylum in 1873 said: "Out of 269 cases specially inquired into, in consequence of information received, it appears that 152 were cases in which the institution had been more or less imposed upon. One witness, with ample opportunities for observation, states that the charity of the institution is abused, in many cases, by persons seeking and obtaining assistance from it whose circumstances in no way entitle them to such relief." "These facts and figures show how great is the necessity of narrowly watching over a system of eleemosynary assistance, which is open to great abuse, and eminently calculated, if laxly administered, to the most pernicious development of a pauper spirit in the community." While no doubt since the publication of that report much greater care has been exercised, still it is evident that the inspection is insufficient. And it is insufficient not only to prevent abuse, but also to bring under the notice of the management cases of hardship where a little extra assistance might mitigate great suffering, as we ourselves have experienced on visiting some of the homes of the poor.

We think, therefore, for the reasons we have stated, that the future operations of the Benevolent Society should be confined to the administration of outdoor relief and the temporary housing of destitute women and children under the conditions we have referred to.

Transfer of Society to other Premises.

If the proposals made by the Commission are adopted, we would recommend that, upon such terms as may be agreed upon, the property at present occupied by the Society be taken over by the Government, and the Society be transferred to suitable premises elsewhere.

The new premises should be easy of access, and in a central position; but they would not need to be extensive, as they would only require to provide temporary accommodation for destitute women and children, a store for the outdoor relief department, and offices for the clerical staff.

Concluding Remarks.

With regard to the fifth group of subjects, mentioned at the commencement of this Report, with which we have to deal under our Commission, we may remark that a very exhaustive investigation is being made under the auspices of the Public Service Board, which will much facilitate our work in that direction. Groups 3 and 4 and the remainder of group 2 will be dealt with in our subsequent reports, but before closing this report we should like to refer to some very valuable evidence which has been given on the necessity for some central representative governing body in connection with the whole of our charitable work which is supported entirely or in part by the State.

Sir Arthur Renwick's evidence on this point is as follows:—

1962. Is there any suggestion you can give us, not only in connection with the Benevolent Society and the State Children Relief Board, but on the subject generally. If you cannot give any suggestion, you might be able to indicate lines of examination that would produce valuable results? I think it would be a very good thing if the charities which now act in such an irregular sort of way were

were all brought under one head. This Charity Organisation Society is going in that way, but you can see that the Government money is spent in a rather haphazard fashion. There is no definite control in connection with the dispensation of public money. It is true that you have gentlemen at the head of all these charities who make annual reports, but you want a more direct control than there is at present. Then I consider, further, that it would be a very excellent thing if instead of having the State Children's Department looking after a certain class of children, a Minister looking after children in reformatories and industrial schools, and other authorities looking after the action of the Children's Protection Society, if all these were placed as they are elsewhere under one Board, I think it is very desirable that that should be done as speedily as possible. Of course, the work would be immense in connection with it. In South Australia all the State children in the country are placed under the State Children's Relief Board. If that were done here it would be a move in the right direction; there would then be better control over the expenditure. We should know exactly how the money goes, and there would be a responsible body dealing with the matter. As it is now in this Colony some of these children are under one authority and some are under another; in fact, under different Ministers, which, I think, a great mistake, as regards both economical and efficient administration.

1963. Would you propose the establishment of a new Government Department, or would you propose that the system should be under the control of independent gentlemen, like yourself, for instance? I think that eventually it would be a very good thing if you could have a Board who could take charge of the whole of the charities dependent upon the State, having one gentleman sufficiently expert to look after the lunacy department, another to look after the relief department, a third to look after, perhaps, the prisons, or something of that kind. A Board of that sort could take all these dependents of the State under complete control. I would not destroy the private Boards throughout the country, but I would give these Boards a controlling influence in regard to the disbursing of money and in regard to inspection.

1964. Would you have a sort of Minister of Charities? Eventually it would be that, but instead of having a separate Minister I would make one Minister deal with it, having the Board under him.

1965. An independent Board? Yes; an independent Board.

1966. You would not have Government officers, but a Board under the Ministry? Quite so.

1967. It would take complete control of all the charitable institutions of the Colony? Yes; that is the system in the United States of America. There they call it the "Board of Charity and Correction." They deal with the prisons, schools and other institutions containing children dependent on the State.

1968. The Board would have supreme control? Yes; I would point out that the inspectorship of charities has always failed, because the person appointed has not been in touch with the charities. They have regarded him as a kind of spy, instead of as a friend and guide.

1969. Are you assuming that there should be paid officers? They could not do the work without pay.

1970. They must be a paid Board? Yes; the work I am doing in connection with charities takes up three-fourths of my time. It could not be done by anyone else unless he was paid.

1971. If such a body as that were created, in the event of a new charity being started it might be referred to the Board, and the Board might recommend as to whether that charity should be subsidised; would not the Board then be able to say there is an institution of exactly the same kind carrying out exactly the same work, and it would be throwing money away to establish another? Yes; it would prevent all this overlapping, and take the place of the Charity Organisation Society.

1972. It is a large subject? It is a very large subject, but to have charities properly administered that is the only course to adopt.

Dr. Graham's evidence in connection with the matter is as under:—

2352. The question of the overlapping charities has, of course, come under your attention. We have taken a good deal of evidence on the point, and the suggestion has been made that there should be a general Board appointed to take the oversight of all the charities? Yes.

2353. Have you ever thought the matter over? Yes. Of course, you know that Mr. Reid brought an organization society into existence, but it has always appeared to me—and I attended one or two meetings of that committee—that any organization is helpless unless it has the authority of law behind it. If such a society is to do any good it should be appointed by the Government, and it should have absolute control over the funds provided by the Government.

2354. There should be a general body having control of the charities of the Colony which are subsidised by the Government? Yes.

2355. What kind of a body should that be—should it be composed of Government officers? No; I think it should be a Board very much like the Board of Health. There you have one permanent officer who presides; then you have six or seven men who are respected in the community, and who possess a reasonable knowledge of the work. The Board might sit systematically once a week or so. It ought to be a Board of that kind.

2356. And that body should have practically the distribution of the Government subsidies to charities? I think so. Every little charity goes to the Government now, and gets assistance; but every farthing which goes to any charity ought to filter through some such Board as that.

2357. Could we get gentlemen on the Board who would give their time to that—gentlemen like yourself? I think there should be no difficulty, but I do not think you would get them to take the trouble to form a Board of that kind unless they had authority from the State to deal with the matter in an effectual way.

2358. That is to say, they should have the power of saying yes or no? Yes; they would have to be men of discreet judgment who would not interfere with the administration of any building, but who would have a right to criticise and report to the Government in reference to any defect in connection with any institution subsidised by the Government.

2359. It would be a Board that would be the means of administering the subsidy? It ought to be that. Little organizations have arisen from time to time, and they have written to the Colonial Secretary, or they have got a Member to apply, and they have received a £ per £ subsidy. That is how it has grown up.

2360. Would you have a permanent official at the head of the Board? No; I think you ought to have a permanent secretary, but all the members of the Board should be honorary. It should be a small Board, worked very much like the Board of Health.

2361. We are using the word charity in a wider sense than you are using it—we include not only charities proper, but also the asylums and gaols? Of course that means a great work. It would have to be undertaken by men who could devote their whole time to it. If, however, you could map out a certain line of charities, such as hospitals, the Benevolent Society, and all those institutions which receive Government aid, apart from the purely Government institutions, such as gaols, I think you might get people to do the work. You might get the work done in the metropolitan area in that way.

2362. Would not a Board of this kind do—one comprising the Director of Charities, the Comptroller-General of Prisons, the Inspector-General of Insane, and the President of the Board of Health? Yes. The only fault of that would be that it would be so essentially a Government Board that there would be apt to be grumbling on the part of disappointed institutions and the public. I think that a lay Board, properly selected, is a better type of Board for work of that sort, although what you suggest would be a very strong Board, and could do their work well. I think that the introduction of the lay element, and as much as possible the honorary element, would commend itself more effectually to the community. Of course, if you are going to have a Board of that kind, there is no reason why they should not have the supervision of all the charities.

We hope in our final report to be able to offer some practicable suggestions on the subject.

We hope also that our suggestions as to voluntary organised help being secured by the Benevolent Society, which is more particularly referred to on pages xxi and xl of this report, will bear good fruit.

The following is a summary of our recommendations:—

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That the operations of the Benevolent Society of New South Wales be confined in future to the distribution of outdoor relief and the reception and casual relief of destitute women and children.
2. That a Maternity Hospital on modern lines be established at Darlinghurst, as recommended in our letter of 11th October, 1898, to the Honorable the Chief Secretary, and that the property now known as the School of Industry be resumed for that purpose, and the necessary additions and alterations made to the building.
3. That the constitution of the proposed new hospital should be framed on lines somewhat similar to that of the Sydney or Prince Alfred Hospital, so as to invite and elicit from the public support for its maintenance.
4. That in order to provide the School of Industry with other premises, negotiations be opened by the Government with the Trustees of the Institution for the Blind for the acquisition of that institution's property at Strathfield.
5. That so long as the lying-in department is carried on at the Benevolent Asylum women confined there shall be required to leave the institution within thirty days after confinement, if certified by a duly qualified medical man to be fit for removal. Mothers with their infants, not otherwise provided for, should be handed over to the Department of Charities for transfer to the Newington Asylum; the children as soon as they reach a suitable age should be boarded-out by the State Children Relief Board.
6. Children when received at the Benevolent Asylum should be handed over without delay to the State Children Relief Board, upon which body the responsibility of dealing with such children has been placed by law.
7. That while the work of the Society is carried on as at present a paid medical officer be appointed, in addition to the honorary staff, to attend daily at the institution.

8. In view of the evidence which has been given to the effect that some of the recipients of outdoor relief are living in a state but little removed from starvation, we recommend for favourable consideration the giving of a larger grant for outdoor relief.
9. That the inspecting staff of the outdoor relief division be increased. Of the increased staff, one should be a woman.
10. That in connection with the administration of outdoor relief, the Society obtain the voluntary assistance of committees of lady inspectors in the several districts within the field of its operations, in order to secure a more efficient dispensation of charity.
11. That the accounts of the Society be audited by a competent independent auditor, instead of as at present by members of the Board of Directors.
12. That as long as State aid is continued, a responsible officer of the Government shall have power—(1) to audit the accounts at any time; (2) to ascertain if the funds are expended for proper purposes, with due regard to economy; (3) to see that the by-laws are carried out in their integrity; (4) to report generally on the management of the institution, with a view to bringing under the notice of the Government and the Committee any defects that may, in his opinion, exist in connection therewith.
13. If the first recommendation be given effect to, the present site and premises will not be required for the operations of the Society. We recommend that, in that case, the Society be provided with suitable premises (a store, offices, and casual refuge for destitute women and children) in exchange for those now occupied, which would then become available for any public purpose that may be determined upon.

We are conscious that considerable time has been spent on the subject of our inquiry, but we trust not unprofitably; and when its wide scope and far-reaching ramifications are taken into account we are sure that Your Excellency will not think our several applications for extension of time unreasonable, especially when it is remembered that two of your Commissioners are engaged in other equally important work, and that no expense attends the devotion of their time to this inquiry.

We again cheerfully acknowledge the valuable aid rendered to us by Mr. Sydney Maxted, and also by our indefatigable Secretary, Mr. Walter Wilson.

We have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient Servants,

GEO. A. WILSON, President.
JOSEPH BARLING,
JAMES POWELL.

WALTER WILSON,
Secretary.

2/12/98.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON PUBLIC CHARITIES.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMISSION.

MONDAY, 11 JULY, 1898.

The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board, at 10.15 a.m.

PRESENT:—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.

James Powell, Esq., J.P.

Mr. E. T. Penfold, J.P., Hon. Secretary of the Benevolent Society of New South Wales, was sworn and examined.

The Commission adjourned at 1 o'clock p.m., and sat again at 2.15 p.m.

The examination of Mr. Penfold was continued.

Mr. E. Maxted, Manager of the Benevolent Asylum, was sworn and examined.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Commission adjourned at 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, 15 JULY, 1898.

The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board, at 10 o'clock a.m.

PRESENT:—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.

James Powell, Esq., J.P.

The examination of Mr. E. Maxted was continued.

The Commission adjourned at 1 o'clock, and sat again at 2 p.m.

Mr. Maxted's examination was continued.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Correspondence read and received.

The Commission adjourned at 4.30 p.m.

FRIDAY, 22 JULY, 1898.

The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board, at 10 o'clock a.m.

PRESENT:—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.

James Powell, Esq., J.P.

Mrs. J. Graham, Matron of the Benevolent Asylum, was sworn and examined.

The Secretary was instructed to apply for an extension of the Commission for a period of three months from the 10th proximo.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Commission adjourned at 12 noon.

TUESDAY, 26 JULY, 1898.

The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board, at 10 o'clock a.m.

PRESENT:—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.

Joseph Barling, Esq., J.P.

James Powell, Esq., J.P.

Mr. J. Grant, Chief Inspector of the Benevolent Society of New South Wales, was sworn and examined.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and confirmed.

The Commission adjourned at 12.30 p.m.

TUESDAY, 2 AUGUST, 1898.

The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board, at 11 o'clock a.m.

PRESENT:—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.

Joseph Barling, Esq., J.P.

James Powell, Esq., J.P.

The Hon. Sir Arthur Renwick, Kt., M.D., M.L.C., &c., and Mr. B. Hanson, were sworn and examined.

The Commission adjourned at 1 o'clock p.m.

FRIDAY,

FRIDAY, 5 AUGUST, 1898.

The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board, at 11 o'clock a.m.

PRESENT :—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.
Joseph Barling, Esq., J.P. | James Powell, Esq., J.P.

Dr. W. H. Crago was sworn and examined.

The document extending the Commission for a further period of three months was received.

The minutes of the two preceding meetings were read and confirmed.

The Commission adjourned at 12 noon.

MONDAY, 8 AUGUST, 1898.

The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board at 10 o'clock a.m.

PRESENT :—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.
Joseph Barling, Esq., J.P. | James Powell, Esq., J.P.

Mr. R. Anderson was sworn and examined.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Commission adjourned at 11 o'clock a.m.

THURSDAY, 11 AUGUST, 1898.

The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board at 2:15 o'clock p.m.

PRESENT :—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.
Joseph Barling, Esq., J.P. | James Powell, Esq., J.P.

Dr. J. Foreman and the Reverend Father O'Driscoll were sworn and examined.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The Commission adjourned at 3:15 o'clock p.m.

FRIDAY, 12 AUGUST, 1898.

PRESENT :—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.
Joseph Barling, Esq., J.P. | James Powell, Esq., J.P.

The Commission, accompanied by the Chief Medical Officer of the Government, visited the Asylum for Destitute Children, Randwick, at 3 o'clock p.m., and made an inspection of the property.

The Commission adjourned at 5 o'clock p.m.

WEDNESDAY, 17 AUGUST, 1898.

PRESENT :—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.
Joseph Barling, Esq., J.P. | James Powell, Esq., J.P.

The Commission waited on the Chief Secretary at 3 o'clock p.m. to lay before him a suggestion as to the use of a portion of the Randwick Asylum for Destitute Children to relieve the much congested state of the Government Asylum at George-street, Parramatta.

The Minister concurred in the Commission approaching the Authorities of the Randwick Asylum in the matter, and in their taking all necessary steps towards the formulation of a scheme for the consideration of the Government.

The President subsequently interviewed the Chairman of the Randwick Asylum who declared his intention of discussing the subject with the Committee and Manager of the Institution.

FRIDAY, 19 AUGUST, 1898.

PRESENT :—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.
Joseph Barling, Esq., J.P.

The Commission, at 3 p.m., inspected the Women's Hospital, Crown-street, accompanied by Dr. Graham, M.P., who explained the operations of the institution.

SATURDAY, 20 AUGUST, 1898.

PRESENT :—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.
Joseph Barling, Esq., J.P. | James Powell, Esq., J.P.

The Commission paid a visit of inspection to the Asylums at George and Harris Streets, Parramatta, and at Newington, in the forenoon.

MONDAY,

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MONDAY, 22 AUGUST, 1898.

PRESENT:—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.
 Joseph Barling, Esq., J.P. | James Powell, Esq., J.P.

The Commission inspected the building and site occupied by the School of Industry, at Darlinghurst, at 11 a.m.

MONDAY, 22 AUGUST, 1898.

The Commission met at the offices of the Public Service Board at 3 o'clock p.m.

PRESENT:—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.
 Joseph Barling, Esq., J.P. | James Powell, Esq., J.P.

Dr. James Graham sworn and examined.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11th instant, and those of subsequent meetings, were read and confirmed.

Correspondence read and received.

It was decided that the President should wait upon the Chief Secretary to secure his concurrence in a course of action which the Commission proposed to follow, with the object of laying before the Government a scheme for the use of the School of Industry property for the purposes of a Women's Hospital.

The Commission adjourned at 4.45 p.m.

SATURDAY, 27 AUGUST, 1898.

The Commission met at the Newcastle and Northumberland Benevolent Society's Asylum, at Waratah, at 10 o'clock a.m.

PRESENT:—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.
 James Powell, Esq., J.P.

The Commission inspected the Asylum.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:—Dr. J. Stapleton, Miss Blanche Milligan (Matron), and Mr. William Arnott.

The Commission adjourned at 11 o'clock a.m.

SATURDAY, 27 AUGUST, 1898.

The Commission met at the Offices of the Newcastle and Northumberland Benevolent Society at 2.30 p.m.

PRESENT:—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.
 James Powell, Esq., J.P.

Mr. G. P. Loch, Honorary Treasurer of the Society, was sworn and examined.

The Commission adjourned at 4 o'clock p.m.

TUESDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER, 1898.

PRESENT:—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.
 Joseph Barling, Esq., J.P.

The Commission visited the Sydney Rescue Work Society's Institution, the "Home of Hope," Newtown, at 3 o'clock p.m.

THURSDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER, 1898.

PRESENT:—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.
 Joseph Barling, Esq., J.P. | James Powell, Esq., J.P.

The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board at 10.15 a.m., for consideration of the question of the proposed acquisition of the School of Industry property for the purposes of a Women's Hospital. The President reported having received the Chief Secretary's concurrence, on the 23rd ult., to the Commission's taking preliminary steps towards this end.

The minutes of the meeting on the 22nd August and subsequent meetings were read and confirmed.

WEDNESDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER, 1898.

The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board, at 10 o'clock a.m.

PRESENT:—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.
 Joseph Barling Esq., J.P. | James Powell, Esq., J.P.

The proposal to secure the School of Industry property for Women's Hospital was further discussed, and it was decided that the President should interview Mr. Consett Stephen, a member of the School of Industry Committee, as a preliminary to the preparation of some basis of agreement for discussion.

The Commission adjourned at 11 o'clock a.m.

THURSDAY,

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THURSDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER, 1898.

The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board, at 10 o'clock a.m.

PRESENT:—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.
James Powell, Esq., J.P.

Dr. Walter Spencer and Mr. G. E. Ardill, were sworn and examined.
The Commission adjourned at 1.15 o'clock p.m.

FRIDAY, 7 OCTOBER, 1898.

The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board, at 10 o'clock a.m.

PRESENT:—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.
Joseph Barling, Esq., J.P. | James Powell, Esq., J.P.

Further consideration was given to the proposal to resume the School of Industry property for a women's hospital.

The Minutes of the last three meetings were read and confirmed.
The Commission adjourned at 11 a.m.

MONDAY, 10 OCTOBER, 1898.

The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board, at 10 o'clock a.m.

PRESENT:—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.
Joseph Barling, Esq., J.P. | James Powell, Esq., J.P.

The terms of the draft letter conveying to the Chief Secretary the particulars of the action taken by the Commission in regard to the proposed resumption of the School of Industry property, and the recommendations which had been arrived at were discussed and approved.

The Commission adjourned at 11 o'clock a.m.

SATURDAY, 15 OCTOBER, 1898.

The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board at 9.30 o'clock a.m.

PRESENT:—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.
Joseph Barling, Esq., J.P. | James Powell, Esq., J.P.

The proposal submitted by the authorities of the Asylum for Destitute Children, Randwick, for the use of the unoccupied portions of their buildings for an Asylum for the Infirm and Destitute was discussed, and it was decided to transmit it to the Chief Secretary for consideration.

The minutes of the last two meetings were read and confirmed.

THURSDAY, 10 NOVEMBER, 1898.

The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board, at 10.15 o'clock a.m.

PRESENT:—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.
Joseph Barling, Esq., J.P. | James Powell Esq., J.P.

Consideration was given to the Draft Report on the Benevolent Society of New South Wales. Mr. Powell was examined in reference to his visits to the Maitland Benevolent Society's Asylum, and to the Homes of the Sydney Rescue Work Society.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
The Commission adjourned at 1 o'clock p.m.

THURSDAY, 10 NOVEMBER, 1898.

The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board at 3 o'clock p.m.

PRESENT:—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.
James Powell, Esq., J.P.

Further consideration was given to the Draft Report on the Benevolent Society of New South Wales.

The Commission adjourned at 5 o'clock p.m.

FRIDAY, 11 NOVEMBER, 1898.

The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board at 10 o'clock a.m.

PRESENT:—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.
James Powell, Esq., J.P.

The Draft Report on the Benevolent Society of New South Wales was further discussed.
The Commission adjourned at 1 o'clock p.m.

SATURDAY

SATURDAY, 12 NOVEMBER, 1898.

The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board, at 9.45 a.m.

PRESENT :—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.
James Powell, Esq., J.P.

The Draft Report on the Benevolent Society of New South Wales was further considered.
The Commission adjourned at 11.30 o'clock a.m.

MONDAY, 14 NOVEMBER, 1898.

The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board, at 9.30 o'clock a.m.

PRESENT :—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.
James Powell, Esq., J.P.

The Draft Report on the Benevolent Society of New South Wales was further considered.
The document extending the appointment of the Commission for a further period of three months was received.

The Commission adjourned at 10 o'clock a.m.

THURSDAY, 24 NOVEMBER, 1898.

The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board, at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.
James Powell, Esq., J.P.

Mr. E. Maxted, Manager of the Benevolent Asylum, was re-examined.
The minutes of the meetings on the 10th November and of subsequent meetings were read and confirmed.

The Commission adjourned at 10.45 a.m.

MONDAY, 28 NOVEMBER, 1898.

The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.
James Powell, Esq., J.P.

Mr. E. Maxted was further examined.

The Draft Report on the Benevolent Society was considered by the full Commission.
The Commission adjourned at 12.15 p.m.

THURSDAY, 1 DECEMBER, 1898.

The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board, at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.
Joseph Barling, Esq., J.P. | James Powell, Esq., J.P.

Further consideration was given to the Draft Report on the Benevolent Society of New South Wales.

Correspondence read and received.

The minutes of the last two meetings were read and confirmed.

The Commission adjourned at 10 a.m.

FRIDAY, 2 DECEMBER, 1898.

The Commission met at the Office of the Public Service Board at 2 o'clock p.m.

PRESENT :—

George Alexander Wilson, Esq., J.P., President.
Joseph Barling, Esq., J.P. | James Powell, Esq., J.P.

The Report on the Benevolent Society of New South Wales was passed and signed.
The minutes of the last and present meetings were read and confirmed.

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ROYAL COMMISSION ON PUBLIC CHARITIES.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

FRIDAY, 28 JANUARY, 1898.

[The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board at 10.15 a.m.]

Present:—

J. BARLING, Esq., J.P. (President).

G. A. WILSON, Esq., J.P.

J. POWELL, Esq., J.P.

Frederick Norton Manning, M.D., sworn and examined:—

1. *Mr. Wilson.*] You are the Inspector-General of the Insane? Yes.
2. You were for some time Medical Adviser to the Government? Yes, for about four years.
3. In that capacity did you have an opportunity of observing the administration of charitable institutions and of subsidised institutions? I had, particularly of hospitals; other charitable institutions did not come under the medical adviser.
4. Have you, independently of that, given the question some consideration? I have given the question some consideration, because it has been to some extent part of my general work. I consider the hospitals for the insane charitable institutions in their way, and in administering these I could not help feeling an interest in the general question of charities.
5. Would you like to make a statement and then be examined by the Commission? I am quite in the hands of the Commission. I have made a few notes under certain headings, and if the Commission likes, I will deal with these separately, then answer any questions. The first subject that I should propose to speak on is that of out-door relief. I find that a very large amount of money is now spent in out-door relief, and I see that there are difficulties in the proper administration of this kind of relief. I doubt very much whether out-door relief should ever be administered by a central Government, because I do not see that any thoroughly efficient system of inspection of the people who are receiving it can be devised. Even in England where the whole of the people of a village, at all events the ratepayers of the village, are persons interested in the question of out-door relief—it comes out of the pockets of individual ratepayers, and therefore they are interested in seeing that it is properly administered—even there great difficulty occurs in regard to the matter of out-door relief, so much so that in many of the unions in England under the Poor-law system it has been absolutely stopped, and everyone receiving parish relief has to go into the poor-house and receive it there. I will give you one case that came under my own observation which I know is a fair sample of a good many cases. This was a case in which 10s. a week or 10s. a fortnight was granted to a man in the village of Gladesville, and the only condition attached to it was that a magistrate was to certify to the continued existence of this man. There was no inspection as far as I am aware, and he was months on this relief. It was a perfect scandal to the neighbourhood. He was an invalid, but he could walk to the public-house, and he spent a great deal of time in the public-house; and, as you know, there are always plenty of people to treat persons in public-houses. We had the spectacle of this man drunk frequently about the village. He was a person receiving relief from the State; that is not an isolated case. If he had been receiving relief from some local institution or from some society whose members lived in the district, and out of whose pockets the money came, or if it was relief that was administered out of the pockets of ratepayers there would have been much more efficient inspection.
6. Before you leave that subject, I understand you to say that even in England, where the relief comes out of local rates, the thing has been abused? I happen to know people who are members of Boards of Guardians, relatives, and I may say that in the parish of Brixworth, in Northamptonshire, out-door relief has been absolutely put a stop to with economy to the rates, and as the Guardians think—many of them being men of standing and position, some of them clergymen, and all of them ratepayers—without any evil resulting to the persons who received relief—without any inhumanity.
7. Would it not follow, from the total abolition of out-door relief, that aged couples would have to be separated? It would, unless you had cottage homes.
8. Having cottage homes for aged couples would be the only way of obviating it? It would. In this case I am speaking of, the wife was not a pauper; she could get her living by charring and things of that kind, so she would not have to be provided for. There are many cases of that sort where you would not have to take both man and wife and keep them.
9. In this particular case it would have been a happy thing if the man had been put into an institution and the wife had been left to earn her living? Yes.
10. *President.*] I think the relief at Home is administered entirely under the Borough Council? It is to a certain extent under the Borough Council, but the active agents in connection with it are the Boards of Guardians.
11. The rates come from the borough but are administered by the Board of Guardians and overseers? The overseer is a paid officer of the local council, but the Board of Guardians, who form the body who shall say whether relief is to be granted or not, are ratepayers, are unpaid, and they carry out the work.

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12. Still it is a municipal organisation practically? It is a local organisation.
13. A local organisation provided for by special rates;—by poor rates? Yes.
14. Do I understand that you recommend that some such system as that should be adopted here to displace the present system of outdoor relief? That would necessitate a system of local government in the first place.
15. Could not that be tacked on to the present municipal government? The present municipal government only covers a very small area of the Colony.
16. Still it covers a populous area? Yes; but a very great number of our poor come down from the areas that are not under any local government at all. It seems to me that before you get any Poor Law system here you would have to have a local government system. It might follow readily on that as it has done in New Zealand.
17. It could not be efficiently done without a local government system covering the whole of the Colony? I do not think it could.
18. *Mr. Powell.*] Is it your opinion that only absolute destitution should be provided for? I do not quite see the trend of the question.
19. In connection with outdoor relief which you spoke of, do I understand you to say that only cases of absolute destitution should be dealt with; I intend to follow that question with another;—would not that relief be better given by residents? I think I may answer your first question by saying that only absolute destitution should be provided for, because the Government can scarcely be expected to provide for anything but absolute destitution.
20. That is the principle, that the Government can only provide for absolute destitution? Yes.
21. You are of opinion, from your experience, that the only relief given should be by residence in the place provided for the purpose? I think that that should be the principle. Of course that will be supplemented everywhere by a certain amount of local charity.
22. I am assuming that we are not interfering with local charity, but simply dealing with relief as a State matter? Exactly.
23. Are you aware that in the Poor Law districts of Stepney and Poplar, by judicious reduction of outdoor relief, the rates have been reduced by quite £8,000 a year in each case? I was not aware of that, but I know that the case which I have mentioned, that of Brixworth, is not an isolated case by any means, and I know more of the working of the country districts in England, especially of the Midland counties, than of any other parts. I am aware that it has been the experience throughout the midland counties that the rates are very much reduced when outdoor relief is stopped.
24. Are you aware also that by the administration of the Poor Law in England the cost of pauperism to the State has been reduced by one half in twenty-two years? Yes; but I do not think that that has been altogether a matter of administration. The condition of the poorer classes in England has so vastly improved of late years. I think that a good deal of the saving in Poor Law expenditure has been due to circumstances other than the administration.
25. But side by side with the improvement of the condition of the people, is it not possible that the refusal of outdoor relief has contributed to a great extent to the reduction of pauperism? I think that that may be the case.
26. From your knowledge of the poorer classes in England, is it not a fact that they will submit to almost any privation rather than go to what they call the "House?" Yes, that is the case.
27. And if they do submit to such privation they must not have been in a position of absolute destitution? No; or they manage at all events to get help from local organisations—from charitable people apart from the rates.
28. And the general result of experience is that indiscriminate outdoor relief encourages pauperism? I think it does.
29. *President.*] With regard to the case you referred to at Gladesville—that of a man receiving 10s. a week;—can you tell us how long that lasted? I cannot tell you how long it lasted. His wife did not come to me for a certificate. I have seen the man very far from sober, and I know from another magistrate, and from what others said, that he was in receipt of 10s. a week or a fortnight.
30. How long ago was that? The man has only been dead about three months.
31. So it was continued almost up to the present time? Yes.
32. Was that outdoor relief provided from the Charitable Vote taken under the Chief Secretary's Department? I understand so.
33. Have you not any idea what the modus has been of obtaining this outdoor relief? Yes. I gather that there has first of all been an inquiry from the Department of Charities, then an inquiry from the police in the district. I think that in the main there has been an inquiry in every case and perhaps a very careful inquiry, but I do not think that inquiries with regard to the absolute necessities of the case in the first instance are of use unless you go on inspecting the case afterwards.
34. Could you give us the name of this man? I can get you the name.
35. *Mr. Wilson.*] Will you proceed with the next point? The next note that I have is with regard to State children. I may say that I think the system of boarding-out State children is altogether an advance upon the system of placing them in barracks. I think that that cannot be denied. I saw them when they were under the barrack system, and I have seen them repeatedly now that they are in homes, and taking into consideration the whole question, I think it would be the greatest possible mistake and a retrograde step altogether ever to go back to putting those children into big institutions. I think the system itself is an admirable one. I can see also that it is liable to abuses and I think that the new Act which enables children to be boarded out to their own parents is liable to great abuse. Before that Act came into force a woman strove and did all sorts of things on behalf of her children. Now she sticks to her children and makes as much out of the Government as possible. I will instance cases in which I have seen this. The widows of deceased attendants in the hospitals for the insane on the death of their husbands used to come to me and ask for re-employment. I was very glad to take them. They were trained women who had had experience of the world and of family life in addition and they disposed of their children by handing them over partly to their sisters or other relatives, remunerating those relatives out of their wages. Now they stop at home and keep their children with them. The State therefore, has to pay for the support of the children, whereas their mothers paid for it before. Then it tends also to keep the elder children of the family at home. I have had one or two cases like this in which I knew that

that the widows of deceased attendants were receiving State aid, when I should, if they had applied to me, have been glad to take them back as laundresses or nurses, and with the money which they earned they could have fairly supported their children with their relatives. Then I found also that this system tends to keep at home the elder members of the family who could very well go out to service. There is a case at present at Gladesville. There is a woman—I cannot tell you how many children she has—who gets about 25s. a week. She gets a comparatively large sum from the State Children's Relief Department, and keeps all her children at home. The elder children have got to an age when they ought to be earning their own living, but the mother is so well off under these conditions that she keeps the children at home, and they are supported by the State, when they ought to be getting their own living. The only other matter that occurs to me with regard to the State children is that I cannot understand why they should not be taken out of the Department of Charities and placed under the Education Department, so that the school attendance officers could be the inspectors. They have to see that the children go to school.

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36. *President.*] I do not think they have school attendance officers now; the teachers attend to that? Well, the teachers would know the children, and know where they came from. I should have thought that there was an organisation under the department that would deal with them. I do not think that should exclude inspection by the ladies living in the neighbourhood, because I think that ladies living in the neighbourhood would take an interest in the children; they take an interest in the people who are living in the same village, and are able to see things better than the inspectors, who would only go occasionally, and they would see more with regard to the bedding and clothing of the children than a man visiting them could possibly be expected to see. I would not take the opinion of the ladies altogether with regard to the fitness of the people to receive the children, because their hearts outrun their heads, and they may be guided by kind feelings rather than by other considerations.

37. *Mr. Wilson.*] They might be influenced by local considerations in some cases? Partly. I should not take their recommendations as to expenditure at all. That, I think, should come entirely from a Government officer.

38. With regard to the liability to abuse, the key of the situation would, of course, be a proper system of inspection? Undoubtedly.

39. That would be a departmental inspection, assisted by ladies committees? Yes.

40. Would you have lady inspectors? Yes; I think that women make excellent inspectors in many ways—that is, if they are Government officials.

41. How many cases come under your notice of widows of these attendants preferring to take State pay to working under you? There have not been many cases, because the number of deaths in a body of men like that is small.

42. The Act has only been in force about twelve or eighteen months? Yes; but I know of two cases.

43. *Mr. Powell.*] I do not think that the boarding-out system was found to be a success in England? I think it is on its trial there.

44. You will remember that Dickens wrote on the subject in "Oliver Twist," and Oliver had a bad time of it? Yes; but I think that that was in quite the dark ages.

45. The system was very severely criticised? It was. Then for many years the pauper children were all brought up in poor-houses quite under the barrack system. That was proved conclusively to be a great disadvantage. The children went out into the world with poor-house manners; they were branded almost when they started in life. It has only been quite of late years that the boarding-out system has been reintroduced in England. It was subsequent to the introduction of the system here.

46. Up to what age do you think children should be kept in those homes? That has not occurred to me; I have not thought it out.

47. Is it not possible that they may lose the advantages of school training which the children under the barrack system certainly get? Yes; but I do not think that that compensates for the home life and the knowledge that they gain in little matters of cookery, house management, and things of that kind.

48. Is there any restriction as to the number that any woman can take, so that she may not take so many as to make it doubtful whether they are properly attended to? I know that there is a restriction as regards the number of strangers they may take. The number is either three or four; but I do not know whether there is any restriction as to the number of their own family that they may be paid for.

49. The value of the boarding-out system would be very much increased under judicious and proper supervision? Undoubtedly. As the President remarked, the keystone of the whole system is a proper system of inspection.

50. Without that it is very likely to be commonly abused? Yes, it is.

51. *Mr. Wilson.*] Will you give us your next point? The next point upon which I made a note is the subsidies to hospitals and other charitable institutions. I believe that since I was in office as Medical Adviser very considerable improvements have been made, and that much more care is taken in the Chief Secretary's office in going into details, and making the committees show that they have received the money for which they ask an equivalent subsidy from the Government, and also to make them show that the money is from *bond fide* contributions. I have had the advantage of seeing the other side of the question. I have been a member of the Board of Directors of a hospital, and I have been hon. secretary to a large hospital, therefore, I know both sides of the question, and I know that years ago the Government subsidy was claimed first of all upon the donation, say £100. Then that that £100 was put away and they got a subsidy from the Government on the annual interest on that, so that they got it twice over. In some cases they funded the £100 that they got from the subscribers and the £100 from the Government, and they got the interest on the £200; so that the Government was absolutely paying interest upon the money that it had itself given.

52. So that if the hospital was getting 5 per cent. on £200, they would get another 5 per cent. from the Government? Yes. I expect that all these are things of the past; I do not know. I know also that for many years the payments made by patients towards maintenance were counted as subscriptions, and the Government paid a subsidy on them. Of course, that was quite wrong, because they were payments for value received. They were not subscriptions in any shape or form. I know also that this has been done: The committee of a country hospital get up a ball for the institution, they pay the expenses of the ball from their funds, and reckon among their contributions for which they would get a subsidy from the Government of the day, the gross instead of the net proceeds. If they made £200, and the expenses amounted to £100, they would claim a subsidy on the £200. I know that that has been done.

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53. *President.*] Taking our benevolent institutions as a whole, could you tell whether the contributions obtained and the subsidies are sufficient to cope with the purposes for which those institutions are established? Apart from all other Government subsidies?

54. Altogether. Are our institutions sufficiently supplied and equipped with money to enable them to deal with all the necessities of the country in connection with the objects for which they are established? I can only speak of the hospitals. They certainly, especially the metropolitan ones, are admirably equipped and the country hospitals as a rule are so also. I have a personal knowledge of only a few of them, those of Kiama, Mudgee, Wallsend, Newcastle, Bathurst, Goulburn, and a few others. I think that they are very efficiently equipped.

55. Are they extravagantly equipped? I do not think so. They had a great want some time ago. For instance, there was a great need for special wards for infectious diseases, and during the time that I was Medical Adviser I took steps to get almost every hospital in the country a small isolated ward put up so as to enable them to deal with cases of infectious disease, and these have been of very great service, because it has enabled cases of infectious disease to be taken out of families and treated in the hospitals, and so stopped the diseases in the families. Almost the whole of them have that now, and on the whole I should say that they are up to the requirements; but I think that there ought to be a more efficient inspection of those hospitals than there is at present, because, practically, of late years there has been no inspection.

56. Inspection in what direction? You ought to have someone to go and look round occasionally and see that the hospitals are up to the mark, and that the number of officers is sufficient, and that should also include an inspection of the accounts. I believe that the accounts are inspected by the Colonial Secretary's Department, and the whole of the returns are drawn upon special forms; that the hospitals have to make out a return of the whole of the expenses on special forms, so as to have a comparative statement; but I do not know how far these are utilised afterwards. There ought to be a proper inspection, and if one hospital has cost an extravagant sum per bed the inspector going round ought to find out why that is, whether the staff is too large or the dietary too costly, because the great criterion, as far as expenditure is concerned, and of management also, should be the cost per bed. Of course it would be greater in places where the number is small than where there is a larger number to divide by.

57. I gather from your answer that you are of opinion that the hospitals are efficiently managed and adequately equipped? Yes, on the whole. I should think that they have improved since the time when I knew much about them—four or five years ago. I know that in those days whenever I instructed Dr. Thompson to visit any town for the purpose of making inquiries into sanitary matters he was instructed also to visit the hospital and to make such report as seemed to be necessary on the subject. Though it was no part of his real official duties, still, as the hospital subsidy papers were referred to me, I was desirous of knowing what was going on at those places so that I might object to the subsidy if I thought that the hospital was badly managed, but there was no absolute system about it. I may say also that if I objected to subsidies, which I did on several occasions, especially to extra subsidies, it did not have much effect. I think it should have had effect. There are subsidies and extra subsidies—subsidies of £ per £ and occasionally subsidies given on special representations; all these extra subsidies were referred to the medical adviser, and I think that the medical adviser in the majority of instances reported against them, but they were always obtained, because the member for the district got them.

58. There is another important question which I should like to ask you;—you have told us that as a whole the hospitals are efficiently managed and adequately equipped, now I should like to know whether you think the hospitals that now exist are sufficient to meet the needs of the country—that is to say, if more money were available, could it be advantageously expended? I think on the whole that the hospitals are sufficient for the needs of the communities in which they are placed. I know that in some cases the beds are not filled, and that the average number of patients is less considerably than the average number of beds available.

59. Do you think that the number of beds available is excessive? No, I do not think so; because you always have to have a few in excess to provide for epidemics and accidents and things of that kind, but I mean that there is no pressure on the space of the majority of the hospitals.

60. We have just come to this, then: that the hospitals are efficiently managed and adequately equipped, and that they are not beyond the requirements of the Colony? No. If you get them too large then there is a temptation to the hospital committee to take in mere destitute cases which could be maintained very much more cheaply in the poor houses. All these hospitals, if they are too big, and beyond the immediate requirements of the place, become benevolent asylums to a certain extent. That is what you should try not to have them if possible, because hospital expenditure must be very much in excess of benevolent asylum expenditure. A man who is a mere pauper and has a bad leg does not need hospital treatment. His place is the benevolent asylum.

61. *Mr. Wilson.*] Have you known cases of that sort? You will find a large number of benevolent asylum cases detained in country hospitals, but I do not think that hospital committees detain them longer than they can help.

62. *President.*] If those hospitals are not extravagantly managed or equipped does it not show that all the moneys obtained, no matter how, is actually needed? I think it is.

63. Then it is merely a question of how the money should be obtained, your evidence, to a certain extent, would mean that it was dishonestly obtained. I use the word in a very restricted sense—your evidence shows that the money is necessary, but that in some cases it is obtained in an improper manner? Yes; I quite sympathise with the members of the hospital committees, they see the necessity, they cannot get the money in a perfectly straightforward way, and they are tempted into subterfuges.

64. The object of our Commission is to inquire into the management of charities with a view to their more economical management; your evidence shows, as far as the expenditure is concerned, that all the money is required which they obtain;—could you assist us in suggesting how these hospitals could be managed in a more economical way by any combination or by any other system? I am quite sure that considerable economy could be obtained by a comparative examination of the accounts of these hospitals. It may be pointed out to them the way in which the leakages occur, because they do occur and will occur even in well-managed places, and it is only by a comparative examination of the accounts that you can deal with it. I am not sure also that some saving might not be effected in inducing these hospitals to get rid of their benevolent asylum cases as soon as possible. Of course there must be a receptacle in the first instance

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instance for benevolent asylum cases. When those cases are found you cannot send them to gaol, as they have done no wrong. They are simply paupers, and the hospitals must be the receptacles for them in the first instance. But they should get rid of those cases as quickly as possible, because there is no good in maintaining a person at £1 a week in a hospital if you can maintain that person in a benevolent institution at 10s. a week. I am quite sure that there is extravagance in that way. Of course there are cases that it is not worth while to send down to the Benevolent Asylums because the ailments that they have are easily dealt with and cured in the hospital. Such people may be treated effectually and sent about their work, and their railway fares may be saved. There are other cases that are kept much too long in the country hospitals.

65. Do you think that any economy might be effected by a different system of management in the way of the collection of subscriptions? The different hospitals have so many different ways of collecting subscriptions that I cannot suggest anything which they have not tried.

66. Do you know anything about the blind institutions? No; absolutely nothing.

67. You have never visited any of them? I have been once in the School of the Blind in Newtown-road, but I have not been in any of the others.

68. You know there is an institution in Boomerang-street? Yes, that is the Industrial School for the Blind.

69. Have you ever been in it? No; I have only seen it from the outside.

70. In that institution work is carried on in the way of brush-making, mat-making, and so on. I dare say you have observed that it is a very expensive building, made of beautifully cut stone, and it is built in the most perfect style. Do you think that that expenditure is necessary for a mere workshop;—would any manufacturer go to the expense of shops of that kind for the purpose of doing brush-making and mat-making; would he not rather have sheds? I have no doubt that he would, but then you have to take into consideration the circumstances under which the place was built. I do not quite know them, but I am inclined to think that the original money was given with the idea that there should be some little outside show, just the same as in the case of the Walker Hospital; that is a monument to Mr. Walker as well as a hospital. A very great deal has been expended on it in outside adornment, which is of no service—which does not help the sick in the slightest degree. I think that if that Boomerang-street institution was inquired into you would find that a fund was left for the purpose of building it, and when persons leave funds for buildings of that sort they want to have something to show for their money.

71. Still if the money had been spent in another way, it would have left a much larger fund for the help of the destitute? Undoubtedly.

72. Therefore, a great deal of our charitable funds are used simply for display? That is the case no doubt. A great deal of money has been wasted in the country in the outside adornment of all these institutions.

73. Would that apply to the Newtown institution? That is brick and stucco, and, I should say, not a very expensive building. In the case of a large number of hospitals a great deal too much has been spent in outward adornment. It is extremely difficult to keep your architect from doing that.

74. Do you know whether there are any large debts on the city hospitals? I do not.

75. Would it not be a useful subject of inquiry to ascertain what debts there are on these institutions, and what interest is being paid on the sums for which they are mortgaged? Yes. Then, I think, you may find some of them have property which they do not realise anything upon, and which they are not able to sell. I think that is the case at Goulburn. I do not know that they have a debt there, but the site of the old building in the centre of the town is still vacant; they have not been able to either sell or let it.

76. They have abandoned the old institution and built a new one? Yes.

77. Was that necessary? I think it was. The old institution was a very wretched building. It was in the centre of the town near the railway, where there is a great deal of noise. I think there were good reasons for making the change.

78. But still you are of opinion that if more care were taken in the building of hospitals to keep down expenses with regard to the mere purpose of ornamentation, we should have just as efficient hospitals as we have now, at a very much less expense? I am quite sure of that. I consider that the hospital at Kiama, which is built entirely of galvanized iron, is a model hospital for the country districts. It could be extended to a very large extent on the same plan. It is a plan, which was first of all, drawn by Dr. Ashburton Thompson, and it was modified afterwards. When I was Medical Adviser I issued a little pamphlet containing instructions with regard to country hospitals. I do not mean to say that the Kiama Hospital is perfect because it is all galvanized iron, with iron stoves that go out through the wall. I think it ought to have had brick fireplaces and brick chimneys. But the larger part of a hospital may be built of galvanized iron. The Coast Hospital and the Leper Quarter are built of galvanized iron. The country would have saved very large sums of money if that way of building had been adopted.

79. Do you know whether the Government pays £ for £ on the subscriptions for the erection of hospitals? I do not think so; but a certain sum having been raised, the Government then often gives special subsidies.

80. For the purpose of building? They do not make it £ for £. Only a few of those were built during the time I was in office. The plans were all sent to me, and I went carefully over them. They collected a sum of money, and I believe that in that case the Government followed what I understand was the usual custom. They gave them a special subsidy—not £ for £, but a building vote.

81. Do you think it would be advisable for the Government to make it known that they would not give any subsidies on account of buildings for hospitals unless the plans had been previously submitted to the Government authorities, to enable them to say whether they were too extravagant? The plans are all submitted now before the hospitals are built.

82. Do you think that sufficient attention is now paid to the point as to whether they are extravagant in construction or not? I do not think that engages the Medical Adviser's attention so much as the question of the general arrangement and that the sanitary appliances are properly placed and are of a proper kind. I do not think that the question of the materials of which it is to be built or the ornamentation outside has been so much a matter of consideration. I know it was not when I was in office. I confined myself mainly to the question of whether the wards were properly placed with regard to the aspect, whether the ventilation was sufficient, and whether the sanitary appliances were of a proper kind and

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in the proper situation. It was left to the local committees to say what materials they would have, and they rather resented too much interference in that direction. There is a feeling that they like to have a little monument, and it is very difficult to repress that feeling. But I think the Government might fairly say, "We will not give you a subsidy beyond so much per bed. We do not mind what you collect. You present us with plans of a hospital to hold so many people, and we will not go beyond so much per bed."

83. You think it would be advisable to look into that aspect of the case in the future? Undoubtedly. I may mention that there were two little hospitals proposed to be erected, one for the Illawarra Line suburbs and one for the Western suburbs. The two were planned whilst I was in office, and the question of the site was left to the medical adviser as arbitrator between the conflicting parties, because each wanted the hospital in their own particular locality. I had to visit and fix upon a site. The pamphlet on the question of iron buildings was given to the committees, but they were not ready to listen to advice as regards the material or ornamentation. Of course if the Government had said we will only give you £30, £40, or £50 for each bed, they would have had to listen.

84. So you think it would be advisable for the Government to estimate the accommodation before giving the subsidy—to see that the buildings be put up in accordance with an economical design? Yes.

85. Would it be possible to decide upon a type of design for hospitals? I do not know that it would save much expense if you did, because the difficulty of site comes in. Each site differs from every other site.

86. I mean as to the material to be used? I do not think you could quite do that, because stone is cheaper in one district and bricks are cheaper in another. You must be guided by local considerations.

87. That would not be practicable? I do not think so.

88. Can you tell us what is a fair cost per bed for a hospital? It is difficult to fix the amount exactly. I should think that most hospitals could be built, and well built, for something like £100 a bed.

89. A hospital built in the fashion of that at Kiama? That would be very much less.

90. What would the cost of it be? I cannot tell you. You could easily get information on the subject from the hospital committee. Some hospitals have been built quite recently. Those at Mudgee, Bathurst, Goulburn, Kiama, and Wallsend, and there are others from which you could easily get the cost per bed.

91. You say that the Kiama Hospital has been built at a much less cost per bed than any of the other hospitals? Yes, much less.

92. Is there any reason why more costly buildings should be put up in country districts than that at Kiama? I think there is decidedly no reason.

93. Then might not the Government say,—“Here is a sample at Kiama; it costs so much per bed, and the cost of other hospitals ought not to exceed that”? Yes; I do not mean that you could fix the cost at the cost of that at Kiama; there ought to be some additions to the cost of the Kiama Hospital.

94. The Government might fairly say,—“Here is a sample hospital; it meets all requirements, and we take that as a basis on which to give special subsidies”;—would it not be a fair thing for the Government to do, and would it not result in considerable economy? I think it would.

95. Is the Kiama Hospital one you would advise us to visit so as to get some idea as to the type? If you get the little pamphlet which Dr. Thompson will give you, you will see exactly what it is without going to see it.

96. And you think that that might fairly be taken as a basis on what hospital construction in the future should be carried on? Yes, I think so for country districts.

97. Might I suggest that the cost of hospital construction could be reduced by one-half? Oh, more.

98. How much more? I could not say, but I am quite sure that it could be reduced by one-half.

99. And it answers every purpose efficiently? It certainly does.

100. Then, if the construction of hospitals in the country could be reduced by more than one-half, would it not be a means of economical gain to the country? It certainly would be.

101. And every requirement of the case would be met? Yes. I do not think you would find the hospital committees falling in with it altogether, because they would want, as they say, “something to show.”

102. Could not the Government say, “We shall only go on the basis of the type of the hospital at Kiama,” and, “We will not give anything unless you conform to something like that type.” Though the additional cost of a more expensive structure would not come directly from the Government funds, it would put an undue strain on the whole district, and the aid of the Government would be required in other ways which would not be called for if there were less strain put on the district by extravagance in the erection of the hospital? I am afraid you will not be able to do that. Suppose a man likes to leave his money for a hospital, you could do nothing in a case like that; and it would be difficult to draw a line between what a man leaves at his death and what he gives in his lifetime.

103. Would it not be fair for the Government to say, unless there are special circumstances, we approve of this simple type of hospital and we shall set our faces against other types and only give our subsidies on this basis? I do not know that you could do that, because the ultimate cost of the hospital would be no more, and the annual maintenance rate would be no more, and if the inhabitants liked to build a hospital of a more ornate character, as long as they pay for it and do not receive more than the Government think a fair sum for building purposes I do not think you could prevent them.

104. You could not prevent them, but would it not be a good plan to put this before them? It would, but you would be doing it quite as well by saying the Government will only pay so much per bed, that really brings the case forcibly before the people, and I think that the majority of sensible people would see its force.

105. And, probably, it would bring about a reform in that direction? I think it might.

106. *Mr. Wilson.*] Do you think a hospital of the type of the one at Kiama would be suitable for such places as Broken Hill, Albury, Dubbo, Wagga Wagga, and other important towns? It is found to be fairly cool. It has a double skin, and the ventilation takes place between the two skins. The heat on the roof draws the air up between the two skins. There is a perpetual current of air between the two skins.

107. Do you think that the Government could get important towns to accept hospitals of a type like that of Kiama? That is what I doubt.

108. *President.*] Can you tell me what kind of hospital would be proof against pathogenetic germs which adhere to the walls? You cannot have anything better than galvanised iron.

109. Could not galvanised iron be more effectually treated in order to prevent the adhesion of these infectious

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infectious germs than any other substance? Yes, undoubtedly; you get a non-absorbent surface, and you get a clean surface.

110. Could you not absolutely disinfect it? Yes; that is one of the advantages of galvanised iron. If you built a wall of brick you would have to coat it with expensive cement then paint it. Galvanised iron need have no coat of paint, but a coat of paint looks nice and is absolutely clean.

111. And it is as cool as a hospital built of brick or stone? It can be made as cool.

112. Is it not almost an impossibility to get rid of infectious germs in a brick hospital no matter how you plaster the walls? No. You can tile the walls, and coat them with Parian cement or with ordinary cement painted. If you get an absolutely smooth surface, that can be washed down with proper disinfectants and made perfectly clean.

113. Still, on the whole, you would suggest that galvanised iron walls are the most simple kind of walls and the best to guard against infection? No doubt they are the best for country districts. I suppose that the Building Acts or Municipal Regulations would not allow them to be put up in the centre of towns.

114. *Mr. Powell.*] I suppose we cannot compare the ordinary cottage hospital, such as that at Kiama, with the richly endowed hospitals? Oh no. A country hospital, and a large town hospital must be built on totally different plans.

115. People would not be satisfied in the large towns unless their hospitals had a showy and commanding exterior? They would not.

116. Then generally I suppose the percentage of cost is really not in proportion to the accommodation provided, if these costly exteriors are provided it must be at a sacrifice of accommodation? Undoubtedly. If, with limited funds, you erect an ornamental outside you must diminish the accommodation inside.

117. Should not Government aid of a permanent character be on the basis of the advantages offered to the public, that is to say the amount per bed as you have suggested;—would that not be better than granting £ per £ on the subscriptions? I see difficulties about that because I think there would be inequalities in dealing with the matter.

118. Would it not get rid of some of those matters which you have suggested about the manner in which subsidies are obtained if the amount were fixed according to the accommodation provided? I think that that matter might be considered. I really have not considered it, and I should not like to answer the question without consideration.

119. Are these cottage hospitals under the control of the Medical Adviser of the Government? No; only in an incidental way. His advice is constantly sought by the Colonial Secretary with regard to them and other matters, but they do not form a part of his department.

120. Then there is really no responsible inspection by the medical adviser of those country hospitals? Whenever the Government wishes an inspection they ask for it; and if any scandal arises, or anything of that kind, then the Government Adviser is almost always asked to inquire into it.

121. But it is not a duty thrown upon his department? No, it only comes under him in an incidental way.

122. Is the auditing of the accounts understood to be an established matter with the Audit Department? I cannot tell you that; I believe that there is a very much more accurate examination of the accounts made by the Chief Secretary's office than there used to be.

123. But you are not aware whether there is any thorough inspection of the accounts? No, I cannot tell you that. There are one or two points with regard to asylums for the infirm and destitute which I would mention. It seems to me that some law is necessary to prevent the egress of people from these institutions. At present they go into the institutions, and there is nothing whatever to prevent them from going out. They go out when they are quite incapable of earning their own living to wander about the country, and to be returned again by the police at an expense to the Government for railway fares, and so on; to get into mischief, to breed children, and to cause expense to the Government in every way. It seems to me that there ought to be some law here similar to that in Tasmania, under which, when persons become inmates of an asylum for the infirm and destitute, they should not be able to get out of that institution unless the medical officer certifies that they are in a condition to earn their own living. This is constantly brought before me, owing to the fact that a person recovering in an Hospital for the Insane, or getting into a chronic condition which no longer necessitates his being kept in the hospital, can be just as well kept in the Benevolent Asylum; but if I discharge him to the Benevolent Asylum, he walks straight away, declines to stop any longer there, and there is no way of keeping him. Then, being quite unable to earn his own living, he is found by the police, and may be taken back to the Benevolent Asylum, or he may perhaps have got a little worse in his mind and may be brought back to the Hospital for the Insane. There are a number of imbecile girls whom it is impossible to keep in the hospitals for insane. They are able to earn their own living in a way under prudent mistresses, but they are often erotic in temperament, and they have illegitimate children, one, two, and three, one after another. There ought to be a way of keeping, within the Asylums for the Destitute, people of that class who are not fit to be at large and not fit to earn their own living. I think such a law is a great want. It would not be difficult to administer. The medical officers would be quite able to certify whether they are in a condition to go out or not and earn their own living, and it might be that it would prevent some people from going into the asylum if they knew they could not get out.

124. *Mr. Wilson.*] Do you know whether it is a fact that men and possibly women who are admitted to the institutions, perhaps in a very low state of health, and who are restored, then walk out and are in a few days returned? It occurs over and over again, but I am afraid that you would never quite get rid of that chronic class. There are men who go into every hospital in the country, into every benevolent asylum, and who spend their whole time between the benevolent institutions and the gaols.

125. You are aware that at the institution in George-street, Parramatta, and at Liverpool, there are some hundreds of hospital inmates? Yes. I know that something like from one-third to two-fifths of the inmates are hospital cases. At Liverpool there are something like 400 people in bed, and that, I think, is the great argument for having these places more under a medical head.

126. Do you think that some 300 or 400 at Parramatta, and 400 at Liverpool are properly placed there, or that they should be removed? I think that the acutely sick should be accommodated in one institution, but manage as you will there will always be in all those institutions a large number of people who are really chronic hospital cases. There will always be amongst an old and feeble population a large number

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number of hospital cases, cases that you cannot transfer all in a minute, cases that want treatment. In the Asylums for Infirm and Destitute you have an enormous hospital population.

127. Have you any idea as regards the classification of the inmates of these institutions? There is an attempt at classification. There is a cancer ward, and there are certain wards for cases of consumption and certain wards devoted to bladder cases that occur in the aged, but there is no very systematic classification at present, not owing to the officers of the Department, but owing to the buildings,

128. Do you know whether there are in the asylums men and women who are well able to do continuous labour? I know that there are those who do continuous labour, and it seems to me that there are some who might fairly get their living outside who are kept at work in the institution; but that is rather difficult to judge of. In the early days of the Colony, when work was scarce people were content to employ an inefficient man because the employment of an efficient man meant high wages; but now, if an efficient man can be got for moderate wages they will not put up with an inefficient one, therefore a good many of the inmates of the Asylums for the Infirm and Destitute would have a difficulty in getting situations so as to work for their living.

129. Would you recommend some system of labour test for those able-bodied men and women? I do not think you will find any able-bodied men there except those who are convalescing from diseases. It is the system to transfer from the Coast Hospital, the Sydney Hospital, and Prince Alfred Hospital, those who are convalescing from acute diseases, and who have no homes and who cannot be got into a convalescent institution. They are transferred to one of the asylums for the infirm and destitute for a time, but I do not think they stay beyond the time necessary to get strong and well. I should not think there are many people whom you could call able-bodied in the Asylums for the Infirm and Destitute, though there are a large number who can do a little work.

130. Of light labour? Yes.

131. Do you think that the superintendent of the institution should be a medical man or a lay superintendent? Certainly, in those that have the largest number of hospital cases you want a medical man. I am quite sure that it occupies the whole time of one medical man to attend to the number of cases that are in bed at Liverpool.

132. Suppose there is a medical man who has nothing else to do who is not superintendent—I am speaking now of a business manager? If you have not a medical man in charge, I think you ought to have a medical man at the head of the whole system. If you have a medical man at the head of the whole system, I think that you could do with a lay superintendent and a medical officer. Unless you have a medical man in charge of the whole group of asylums, I think you want a medical man as superintendent.

133. Assuming that it is a lay superintendent, what would be the proper relations of a lay superintendent with the medical man as regards jurisdiction within the asylum? The lay superintendent would have to be the superior officer.

134. Supreme in all except medical matters? Yes. No doubt friction would, and does, arise under such circumstances.

135. Do you think that at Liverpool and Parramatta, where there are hundreds of hospital cases, there ought to be trained nurses in attendance? Undoubtedly the nurses ought to be trained.

136. At Parramatta there are no trained nurses—at Liverpool one has recently been appointed; you think that these people should be in charge of trained nurses? There can be no shadow of a doubt that for a large number of sick like that you must have trained nurses. It has been one of the greatest scandals in England and Ireland the employment of pauper labour—untrained labour—in nursing the pauper sick; it has been found to be a complete failure.

137. You are perfectly satisfied on that point? Yes; I am very strong upon that point. Of course the nurses can get some help from the inmates, this can always be done.

138. For the more menial offices? Yes; but the nursing and responsibility ought to be entirely in the hands of properly trained nurses—nurses who have had two or three years' training in a proper training institution.

139. Assuming that there are 400 inmates in the Liverpool Asylum, what would be a proper staff of trained nurses for them? That would depend upon the class of patients; no one, except they worked in the place, could tell you.

140. Do you think that the law of the country is defective as regards the obligation of relatives to contribute to the support of their relations? As the law is worked by the Master in Lunacy I do not think it is so defective. There is no special provision for that under the Lunacy Act, but he works under the Common Law, which makes parents responsible for their children, husbands responsible for their wives, and sons responsible for their fathers and mothers. In some of the other colonies special Acts have been passed, but I think only as far as relates to the Lunacy Department, to make brothers of insano people responsible for the maintenance of those people, but that seems to me to be a hardship. I do not think you can carry the thing very much beyond the Common Law, and this has worked very well indeed as far as the Lunacy Department is concerned. The Master in Lunacy here is a very active officer, who does administer the law, and he gets a large amount of contributions.

141. There is no reason why the Director of Charities should not invoke the Common Law to get contributions just the same as is done by the Master in Lunacy? No, if he sets about it in a proper way. The Master in Lunacy collects some £13,000 a year. Of course that is not all got from relatives; a good deal of it is got from the estates of the patients themselves; but I know that a very large proportion is got from relatives, and is got without suing them in the courts, because, the question having been once tried before the magistrates, and decisions having been given, it is only necessary to threaten to put the law in motion, and the people concerned pay according to their means.

142. You receive a good many inmates from charitable institutions? A very large number.

143. When these inmates come to you do they show that they have been fairly well treated as regards clothing and personal cleanliness? Well, I think that as a rule they might be better fed, and, though they have come to me fairly well clad, I have had to complain very bitterly at times of the state of their clothing, which has not been either creditable to the officials or conducive to the health of the individual. I have known them to be clothed in a manner which was unsuitable to the weather.

144. Is that recently? Yes, comparatively recently. There was a case a few months ago. Then, what makes me think that the diet is not quite as good as it might be, is that I find the patients that I discharge to the

the care of the Asylums for the Infirm and Destitute are a little liable to run down in health, and then their illness recurs. It may be that where there are such large numbers they do not get the necessary attention and the little extra diet that would save them from this, but they run down and they come back to me when I think they should not come back.

145. Do you consider this dietary scale [*produced*] suitable? That requires some consideration. I could not give you an opinion on that offhand; I will consider it *

146. As regards the women at Newington, it is probable, I suppose, that women who are reduced to poverty from misfortune have to associate to a great extent with women of very bad character;—do you see any means of preventing that by any system of classification? That should be possible by classification. Of course that has always been a complaint in every large institution, and it must be. It is a complaint in hospitals and in asylums for the insane. In the asylums for the insane the classification has to be largely mental, though we do try to classify the patients according to their former social status. But you will always have the question raised as to the association of people of bad character with people of previously good character. It might be met by having plenty of wards and plenty of dormitories, but it is difficult to meet it.

147. At Newington they do attempt it? I should expect that they did.

148. Do you think that epileptics should be kept in the Government asylums? Undoubtedly, if there is no special institution for epileptics, or special colony. By colony, I mean those farm communities that are established in some parts of Germany, and in some parts of England, for the treatment of epileptics. An epileptic is a very helpless being, who cannot be maintained at home. Very often he cannot get his living owing to his infirmity. He is fairly one of the infirm and destitute, and he is not insane in many cases, he may be dazed a little after each fit, but comes to himself again in a few minutes. He cannot be transferred to an hospital for the insane, and there is no reason why he should not be kept in the asylum for the infirm and destitute when you have no other institution. I do not say that that is an ideal way of dealing with him. The ideal way would be to have a farm on which he can work under supervision; but that is an elaboration of charity that we have not got to here.

149. Do you find in your department that you have many inmates who properly should not be in this Colony, but should be chargeable to some other colony? No, not now. Some years ago we were unfairly charged with a great many cases, because they had laws in all the other colonies preventing insane or dependent people, who arrived by ship, from landing. Some four or five years ago I got an Act of Parliament passed, in which there was a section providing that, if a person was taken to one of the hospitals for the insane within so many days of his landing, or was obviously insane when he landed, then the captain of the ship bringing him, or the company who owned the ship, were made responsible for his maintenance, under a bond in the sum of £400. As regards the Hospital for the Insane the Master in Lunacy insists on the execution of the bond, and also upon maintenance, and the shipping company take very good care to remove these people the first moment that they can be allowed to go. They take them home very often when they are still insane. Our law on that point is now in accord with the law in the other colonies, and I do not think that we are charged now with more than our fair number of insane.

150. That applies only to insane; it does not extend to those who have become inmates of charitable institutions? No I do not think there is any law which prevents a pauper from landing here or a man who is absolutely sick, and has to go into charitable institutions. There is such a law in most of the other colonies. There have been complaints from time to time that lunatics are passed on from one colony to another. The other colonies have complained that we have sent patients away, and we have complained that the other colonies have done so, but there is really nothing in it. There are people who, having been a failure in one colony, are anxious to go to another, and often have friends in other colonies. A medical superintendent occasionally helps them, because they wish to go to, and have friends in other colonies, but the thing is done by all the colonies. There is no systematic getting rid of the patients. We are all alive to it, and if the thing were made a matter of system, or there was any imposition on this Colony, I should immediately inform the Government, as I have no doubt the superintendents in other colonies also would do. There is really no imposition in the matter.

151. Going back to the subject of hospitals, do you know of hospitals having in recent years been opened when there was no occasion for it? No, I do not. I have no doubt that Dr. Thompson could give you more information on that point than I can.

152. Do you consider that the asylums for the infirm and destitute are too large? With efficient management we ought to be able to manage 800 or 1,000 people under one roof.

153. Supposing that the building is properly constructed? Yes; 800 or 1,000, or even more than that, with properly constructed buildings. The administration ought to be quite equal to that, but you do not get economy, as a rule, where you have got more than from 600 or 700.

154. You think that 600 or 700 would be the maximum, consistent with economy? You have to increase your officers, and you do not get any real economy when the number exceeds about 700. That is what is found in the hospitals for the insane. The economical number to administer for is about 700, though they have gone up to 2,000 in England under one roof, but that is not an economical state of things.

155. Could you not manage a larger number in a charitable institution than in an institution for the insane? You could, but I still doubt whether you can get economy if you have more than a certain number. I do not quite know what is the limit of economy in charitable institutions, but I know what it is in the asylums for the insane.

156. Would it be a somewhat higher number? Yes, I think so.

157. Do you consider that the question of charitable organisation here is too much centralised;—I am referring now to the Charities Department? I think it is; that has arisen from the fact that we have no local government. It would no doubt be very much better instead of sending these people down to the big institutions by rail to provide for them in their own districts, but you must have local government to do that. Our system has arisen from the fact that we have no local government, and you cannot apply local government to towns when you do not apply it to country districts.

158. Do you think it would be an advantage to have visiting committees in all these big institutions as they have at Newington? Well, candidly, I do not think the visiting committees are much use—in Government institutions I mean.

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* NOTE (on revision) :—I have examined the dietary scale, which appears ample, and on the whole sufficiently varied, though butter might be given instead of treacle, with advantage.

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159. *President.*] I think you said that certain imbeciles displayed erotic tendencies? Yes.
160. I want to know whether that applies to blind people? I cannot tell you that particularly. I know that blind people have always the reputation of being more or less erotic, and I know they are very difficult people to manage in their way. They are difficult in hospitals for the insane, and they are extremely difficult in asylums for the infirm and destitute. They are amongst the most discontented people to deal with. I know that there have been frequent complaints in the institutions for the blind in the old country of sexual perversions.
161. You can understand why I ask this question? Yes. I do not really know that there is anything that should make a blind person sexually display erotic tendencies except that the pleasures of life to them are small, that they are cut off from many outside enjoyments and they are induced to find enjoyment in sexual things. I do not know that there is anything physiologically or pathologically in a blind person to account for it—that blindness itself is in any way calculated to excite erotic tendencies and proclivities; but I think it arises from the fact that they are cut off from so many of the pleasures of life that they seek for them within themselves.
162. As to the management of the blind, in what particulars have you found them unsatisfactory? Generally I have found them terribly discontented and difficult to manage in every possible way. I know that if I have a blind patient that person is almost always a difficult person to manage, and I think you will find that the Superintendent of the Asylums for the Infirm and Destitute will tell you that their blind people are difficult to manage too.
163. Are they liable to be carried away with fancies, fancying that things have occurred that really have not, so that in their minds what was really at first a fancy becomes a fact? That is so, undoubtedly; that is the reason why they go insane. They get fancies and they are deprived of one of the great correctives—the greatest corrector, sight. They are deprived almost of all that makes life real. All sorts of fancies may arise in your mind but you correct them by your sight. They are deprived of that means.
164. Would you think that in a case where two or three blind persons have deposed to certain things their statement, even if they all agree, should be looked upon with extreme caution just from the fact that they are blind? No; I would not say that if they all agreed. I do not think that you should consider their evidence on any given point taken as a whole is any less reliable than that of other persons.
165. They are not likely to evolve from their own consciousness something of that sort? No, not collectively. If you get the same story told you by three consecutive people who are blind I should believe that story as readily as I should believe it if it were told to me by people who are not blind. I merely meant that people who are deprived of one sense—the sense of hearing or of sight especially—are more liable to become insane and subject to delusions than people who have all their senses, but if three blind people told me the same story I should attach the same credence to it that I should if they were not blind.
166. I think you referred to paying patients in your hospital,—do you know if sufficient attention is paid to the question as to whether the patients are able to pay for their keep? I do not think that sufficient inquiry is made anywhere on that point either in England or here. There is a constant outcry in England that people are admitted to the hospitals who can very well afford to pay, but who do not pay for their maintenance. This complaint is made especially with regard to the out-patients' department. I feel sure that there are a great many people here who could pay and who do not pay. Some inquiries are made here at our main hospitals by the secretary into the circumstances of the patients, but he has no machinery that he can put into very active work in the matter.
167. Do you think that if an officer were appointed whose special duty it would be to inquire into all these cases, considerable economy might be effected;—would it be worth while to establish such an office? I think you might get economy in that way. Such an officer should be made use of by perhaps all the hospitals. When a case arose which they had any doubt about they might make inquiries through this officer. The police do a deal of that for the Government, but they are not set in motion by the ordinary hospital committee. The Inspector-General of Police would not allow his men to be set in motion by purely private bodies.
168. You think there would be some justification for the appointment of an officer, say, attached to the Chief Secretary's Department whose duty it would be to carefully look into all these cases? I think so.
169. It would very much promote the economical working of these institutions if such a system were carried out? It would, I believe.
170. Do you know anything about the Benevolent Asylum? No; nothing whatever.

MONDAY, 11 JULY, 1898.

[The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board at 10.15 a.m.]

Present:—

G. A. WILSON, Esq., J.P. (PRESIDENT.)
J. POWELL, Esq., J.P.

Edward Thomas Penfold, J.P., sworn, and examined:—

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171. *President.*] You are the hon. secretary of the Benevolent Society of New South Wales? Yes.
172. How long have you held that position? Nearly three years.
173. How many years have you been connected with the society? Twenty-five years, last February.
174. As a director? I was connected with it for two years, then I went to England, and was absent three years, but on my return I was re-elected.
175. Can you say that the account given in this book of rules and by-laws is a correct statement of the constitution of the society? I have not the slightest doubt about it. It was issued in 1896.
176. But was it correct at that date? Yes; but I think we have had some amendments made in some of our rules since that.
177. In what direction? Merely as to the election of directors and the status of some of the officers.
178. Having been so long connected with the institution as a director and secretary, I suppose you have an intimate knowledge of all its affairs? I think I have.
179. I presume that this short historical notice is correct? Yes; I have read it at different times.

180. What are your duties as secretary? You may say general superintendence, with a general knowledge of the outdoor relief; that is the most important part of the work, and all matters of internal management. Of course, as regards the midwifery department, I do not take any part in that. If anything of importance takes place the matron will refer it to the House Committee and ask advice; but, as a matter of fact, we leave the internal part of the business to the matron. She is a very superior woman, and understands the business better than men would. Any suggestions that she makes as to improvements are instantly complied with. I go occasionally through the wards, but I cannot say that I often go. I think it is more for the ladies' committee than for men.

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181. Rule 40 says:—

The secretary shall cause to be properly minuted all proceedings of the society, carry on its correspondence, sign all orders of the board and house committee, and jointly sign all cheques for the payment of money?

Yes; that is what I perform.

182. You do not do it yourself, but you see that it is done? Yes; the manager does it, and the minutes are read at the weekly meeting, and I am generally there, and know whether they are correct or not.

183. Are all the paid officers of the Society under your direction—I presume that you are really the mouthpiece of the committee? Yes.

184. Instructions to the paid officers are conveyed through you? Yes.

185. Are all the paid officials under your direction in that sense? Yes; I instruct them to do anything that I think necessary.

186. You say that you instruct them—do you mean that you instruct them of your own motion, or simply as conveying the instructions of the committee? The committee places a great deal of responsibility upon me in these matters. They know that I am often there. I go there on an average four days a week, and of course I go through the institution, not through the women's part, but through the other portion, and I see what the officers are doing and where they are. Some of the most important work is the inspection of the out-door pensioners. That I look upon as the most important work we have to do.

187. I understand that as honorary secretary you are the mouthpiece of the committee, you convey their instructions, but I want to get at your relations with the manager;—what responsibility has he? He has a considerable amount, but he never does anything of importance—does not make any change without consulting me. If anything of importance comes before him he refers to me. I go there four mornings of the week, and he will say "So-and-so has taken place, what had we better do?" If the matter is very important I postpone it until it can be dealt with by the house committee or by the board.

188. In regard to matters in which you think you should exercise your judgment, you instruct him; but in regard to more important matters that you think the committee should deal with, you refer to the committee? Yes; I never intentionally take anything upon my own shoulders further than I think I ought to do, as I consider that the committee have a right to know everything that takes place in that institution.

189. Then you attend there about four days a week? Yes; on an average during the year.

190. How long do you stay there? It all depends upon the work. On Tuesdays I sometimes look in in the morning, then get there at a quarter to 2 in the afternoon. I then remain there until the close of the business, sometimes as late as 7 o'clock in the evening; not often so late as that, but occasionally. That is our busy day, when people come for out-door relief. We are not often there until 7 o'clock; till about 5 o'clock is the usual thing.

191. Rule 1 says:—

Under the direction of the board and house committee the manager shall have the general superintendence and management of the asylum; he shall be responsible for the safe keeping of all property belonging to the Society, and for the full and effective discharge of the duties of all the paid officers and servants except the matron and the medical officers.

? Yes; those are his duties.

192. As laid down by you? By myself and by the committee. I do not wish to indicate that I am both secretary and committee. I am not. I never trench upon what I consider to be the province of the committee.

193. I quite understand your relations with the committee;—what I want to get at is your relation with the staff? I go there in the morning, and the first question is, "Is there anything fresh this morning?" They will say, perhaps, that a letter has arrived; will you look into this or that. Perhaps something at the back wants inquiring into. I go and see, and if it is not anything of importance, we settle it there and then. If it is a matter of importance, it is brought before the house committee.

194. The manager looks to you for advice? Yes. I do not think he does anything without consulting me.

195. Then the manager takes no responsibility in any matter out of the ordinary routine? He does not attempt it.

196. Suppose you were not conveniently accessible, what would he do? He would go and see the president, or communicate with him by telephone.

197. If the matter was absolutely urgent, would he not have to take some responsibility? He does; but it is of very rare occurrence. You can almost say that it never does occur.

198. Then the manager's duties are carried out as laid down in this book? Yes.

199. Do you give directions to the staff through the manager or otherwise? I give any directions that are necessary. I speak to Mr. Maxted. Sometimes I go and see the men, and ask what they are doing, but it is a very rare thing.

200. Are all directions given through the manager, or do you direct the officers occasionally, not through the manager? Sometimes through the manager, sometimes myself directly. The thing goes on so smoothly that it is hardly necessary for me to give instructions. Each man has his particular duties to do, and Mr. Maxted sees that he does them.

201. It is laid down in the rules that the manager is responsible for the carrying out of their duties? He is responsible, and if they should not do their duty, he would report to me immediately.

202. He is responsible for the paid officers, but how can he be responsible if directions are given to those paid officers, not through him? I do not give any important directions, but merely on trivial matters. I might say to an officer, "Where have you been; have you been in such a district? It is wise for you to go round that district if you have not been there lately."

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203. Then suppose that a man was doing work that Mr. Maxted set him to do, you would not take him off that work? No; not unless I consulted Mr. Maxted, I should never think of interfering with an officer without first speaking to Mr. Maxted. I have such confidence in Mr. Maxted, in his ability and integrity, and love of the work of the institution, that I feel that he does not require looking after.

204. Who is the principal executive officer of the institution? There are four executive officers—the president, the vice-president, the hon. treasurer, and the hon. secretary. I have always considered these the executive officers.

205. I mean the officers really engaged in the daily business of the institution? The manager, who is responsible for everything. I never speak to any subordinate officer without speaking to him in the first instance. We give instructions to Mr. Maxted with regard to external work, and with regard to internal matters we give orders to the matron.

206. Do you ever deal with the admission and discharge of inmates or with out-door relief cases yourself? Not unless there is no one else there. If anyone came for relief under those circumstances I should deal with the case the same as Mr. Maxted has power to do. If anyone should come in—a case of distress—I should hear the case, and order certain rations. We never turn anyone empty away unless he is an utter imposter.

207. This is the process: On Tuesday the board meet, and applications come before them for consideration; some are granted and some are declined; but on relief day somebody comes, and you, representing the committee, considering it an urgent case, or Mr. Maxted would take the responsibility of giving relief and reporting to the committee? Yes, on the following Tuesday. We never turn anyone away except imposters. We sin on the right side rather than send people away to starve.

208. So that in any case in which you or Mr. Maxted gave relief the matter would be reported to the Committee? Yes.

209. And, I presume, the inspector would pay a visit? Yes, as soon afterwards as possible.

210. It is only in cases of urgency that either you or Mr. Maxted would give relief except in the ordinary way? Yes; and then it is only for once. They must come before the committee on the following Tuesday, or they cannot receive relief a second time.

211. *President.*] In the meantime the inspector makes inquiries? Until the last three months they made immediate inquiries; but since then we have had so much to do that the work could not be done so promptly.

212. How is the correspondence dealt with;—is it addressed to the hon. secretary or to the manager? As a rule it is addressed to me.

213. And how is it dealt with;—suppose a letter comes on Wednesday morning, and requires an answer? If it is an ordinary letter it is replied to at once.

214. Are letters addressed to you as hon. secretary opened by the manager? Yes; I delegate the authority to him to open them all.

215. So that there is no delay as far as that goes? No.

216. Then, if this correspondence opens up any question of action in any important matter, I presume that he refers to you? Yes; he does not answer any letter without referring to me.

217. He does not answer any? Not unless it is a letter from Mr. Hanson of the Charities Department and requires an immediate reply, he will then telephone to him. Anything of importance he remits to me.

218. And you superintend that correspondence under regulation 2, which says:—"The manager shall conduct the correspondence"? Yes.

219. You have said that you attend on the average four times a week; if there is any pressing matter in the correspondence Mr. Maxted would ask for instructions? Yes, he would telephone to me, and if he could not find me he would refer to the president.

220. Are letters occasionally addressed to the asylum in your own name? As a rule they are directed to me as secretary. Sometimes a private friend may write to me in my own name, sometimes a person does that who knows me personally in making a recommendation, then I lay it before the Board, but it is very seldom that such a thing happens.

221. You treat it as an official letter? I treat everything as official.

222. *Mr. Powell.*] Do you sign all the correspondence in reply? Yes, every letter. Some letters are signed by the vice-president or the president, but I sign all ordinary letters.

223. *President.*] Are you aware whether the returns asked for by the Commission some time ago are ready? I do not know; there are so many. We have been inundated with demands for returns from your department. Mr. Maxted said he had a report to send in. But he will be able to give you more information than I can. He has been instructed by the board to give this Commission every information they require, to withhold nothing.

224. Who was in charge of the asylum when the manager was away? Mr. J. Grant and Mr. Roseby.

225. Were those returns we asked for delayed by the absence of the manager? I daresay they would be. He was away three weeks, but everything was carried out to the letter.

226. In his absence, I presume, they were pretty well at a standstill? We have not been able to touch the returns. I am sure I could not go into the details of the institution.

227. So that in his absence the returns would have to be at a standstill? Yes; I think I wrote you a letter to that effect. We wrote to another department and told them that we could not give them some returns they were writing for.

228. Is the institution administered under an Act of Parliament or simply under this constitution? Under this constitution.

229. Under the by-laws and regulations, a copy of which we have here? Yes.

230. I understand that there is no Act of Parliament under which the institution is carried on? No; I do not think there is.

231. There is a rule that no member shall be entitled to vote in any election whose subscription has not been paid three months previously;—has that been adhered to? I do not think we have had an election for the last six or seven years, but if there was an election, and anyone attempted to vote who had not paid, I should stop him from voting, or I should drop a note to him beforehand to say that if he wished to vote, he must pay up.

232. If an election was held, I presume that it would be on the basis of the subscription list? Yes; we should have our books there, and no one would be allowed to vote who was not eligible.

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233. You say that there has not been an election for some time;—how are vacancies filled? I think three members have to go out every year. Those are the ones who have attended the smallest number of times. There are some first-class men, such as Mr. Crane, the late Stipendiary Magistrate; also Mr. Ewan, and three or four others, who do not attend regularly, but when there is anything of great importance to be dealt with, they always come. We are never without a quorum, or considerably more than a quorum.
234. You say that there has been no election for many years;—the question is how are vacancies filled? There is an annual meeting, and if A, B, C, and D have attended the lowest number of times, they cease to act. If they are good men, they are re-elected. We think it far better to have men we know something about than to have strangers. There have been several new ones, men we know to be good men. Sir Arthur Renwick might say I know so-and-so, he will make a very good man. It is a personal guarantee. We want men of a peculiar kind there, men with feeling hearts and intelligence, because there are cases that come before us at times that are very painful, and if we had hard-hearted men to deal with them, it would be terrible. We want men with some sort of soul in them.
235. How are the collectors paid? I think they receive 5 per cent.
236. They are paid partly by salary and partly by commission? Yes; a fixed salary of £50 a year and 5 per cent. They get something for travelling expenses when going up the country. The expense is considerable. It amounts to 20 per cent.; but we get the other 80 per cent., which we should otherwise never get. We have collected a great deal of money in the country during the past few years. I have a report before me to show what they have done.
237. Do you know what part of the country the collectors visit? All parts. I do not think they go so far as Broken Hill, but they go very nearly to Broken Hill. They go to the north and to the south. The Government give them free passes for that particular work.
238. Do they go far from the railway-line? Yes; they get squatters to drive them about. They go miles from the railway, and they find a great deal of sympathy; hotelkeepers will merely charge them a nominal amount for board and lodging.
239. Do they furnish receipts for their expenditure when away? Yes; detailed receipts.
240. Do they give receipts for every subscription, however small? Yes; they have a book for the purpose.
241. Some of the institutions do not give receipts for small subscriptions? We give receipts for every shilling.
242. How long has the work of the institution been carried on in the present building? From 1820, or thereabouts, I think.
243. In 1819 it was recommended that a suitable building should be prepared? Yes; I think you will find that it was started in 1820.
244. Are the land and premises the property of the society? We consider so.
245. Is the land vested in trustees or whom? I am not prepared to say. It has been acknowledged, I believe, by Mr. Cribbett Walker that it is our building, and Sir George Dibbs acknowledged it was our building. I do not think we have ever had a grant from the Government.
246. The institution carries on, first of all, outdoor relief; secondly, it is an asylum for homeless and deserted children and foundlings, and for children awaiting removal to other asylums; then, a lying-in institution. Consequent upon its being a lying-in hospital, there is a training-school for midwives and nurses, and a school for midwifery? Yes; we have a large school for midwifery.
247. And lately you have added a new department for the treatment of women in their own homes? Yes. In a serious case we get one or two doctors to attend.
248. The Government, of course, subsidise the institution; do they exercise any control as regards the management and expenditure? No; but we frequently report as to what we are doing. We give a detailed report.
249. That is this printed annual report, I presume? We go further than that. We go into full details as to what we do from time to time. We have had continuous begging from the Government, and we have had to send in detailed statements of what our work is.
250. The Government do not exercise any control over the institution at all? They do not exercise any control.
251. In paying a subsidy, what do the Government require? They give us so much per head for each woman and child in the institution. We have had a large lot of money left us at one time and another, and we have sold land to the Government. I may mention that some short time after my return from England, a woman, who was a deserted wife, applied for assistance. I was then not well up in the by-laws, and I proposed that she should have 2s. 6d. a week, but the chairman ruled that we had no power to grant the money in that case unless she was a widow with two children or more. I thought that was very hard, considering the number of deserted women there are in the town, and I proposed that we should alter the by-laws, and take power to allow, in addition to food, a sum not exceeding 5s. a week in any deserving case. That would include deserted wives. There are a good many deserving of assistance. During the last three or four years—in fact, since the catastrophe of 1893—the demand has very much increased. We used to give away £50 a week, but we have reduced the maximum now to 3s. a week, and the total amount is about £35 a week, instead of £50 a week, and we have more than double the number of applicants that we had formerly.
252. *Mr. Powell.*] Are those what you call pensioners? Yes.
253. *President.*] You give a return to the Government of the number of people that you claim for? That we relieve. That is the indoor arrangement.
254. The Government pay so much per head for those whom you claim for? Yes.
255. Do they check your returns? Indeed they do; they are always round checking and looking them over to see that they are not overcharged. I am having a controversy with Mr. Hanson now; he knocked off £130 last year which I consider he ought not to have knocked off. If we cannot get it a deputation will have to go and see Mr. Reid about the matter. Mr. Hanson is only doing what he considers his duty, whilst we are fighting to get as much as we can for these poor creatures.
256. Now, as regards the locality of the institution, is it considered by the Committee that the institution is well situated? Yes; but we have always thought it was too valuable a site for such an institution. It has been valued at from £60,000 to £100,000. If it could be sold the Government would be able to save money. With that money and what little money we have they could buy land and give us a more suitable

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- suitable building altogether. I may state that the buildings are totally unfit for the work of the institution. I am talking now about the lying-in department. We have had that terrible disease amongst women—puerperal fever—there.
257. The site is a very good and convenient one, but the building for certain purposes is very unsuitable? Totally unfit.
258. Has the committee at any time made a proposal to dispose of the property? We have been to the Government I could not tell you how many times. We have been to Sir Henry Parkes, to Sir George Dibbs, and to all the Governments down to the present time, and we have had promises. They say you are quite right, but they do nothing. If we had a few Members of Parliament to back us up we could have got it carried.
259. How many of your officers are under a guarantee? I could not tell you. Very few of them have anything to do with money. Mr. Grant, Mr. Maxted, and, I think, Mr. Roseby, pay the money out weekly.
260. Who audits the accounts? Messrs. Hammond, Henson, and Anderson, our own officers. We sometimes get a professional auditor in. Our books were audited about three years ago by Messrs. Ford and Troup, who opened a fresh set of books. The books are so simple that there is no difficulty in carrying the system on.
261. With such a great number of transactions I should think you would require professional auditors? Perhaps so, but we have not thought it necessary. Mr. Hammond goes through the books time after time. He is a most careful, painstaking man, and he goes through every item.
262. Of course, there is a question of principle involved? Yes, I agree with you. I have said that we ought to pay some firm to audit the books professionally, but the members of the board have thought otherwise.
263. Either that or a Government audit? I do not care which it is.
264. The Audit Office do not audit the accounts? No.
265. You are disposed to favour a professional auditor? Personally, I am. I have always thought that we should be, like Cæsar's wife, above suspicion.
266. In your balance-sheet for 1897 there are two items, one of £73 for rent of coffee and fruit stall, and one of £273 13s. 4d. for rent of hoarding;—are these things put up to competition? Yes; it was put up to competition. We might have got more, but we do not know how long the institution will remain there. We can dispossess the tenant at any time by giving six months' notice. The Government might resume the place, and we did not feel inclined that those who got the contract should have any claim upon the Government. We could have got 50 per cent. more at least if we had given a five years' lease. We would not commit the Government, because, if we did, the parties might come on the Government for heavy compensation.
267. When were tenders last called for? The man that has it tendered. He is only a monthly tenant; we could at any time dispossess him. He has spent £400 or £500 there, so I think it would be dishonest to interfere with him. He wrote to me about it, and I said, "Whilst I am on the Board I will do all I can to prevent your being dispossessed, as you are paying a fair rent."
268. Did he get it for a term of years? No; for six months only. He pays monthly, and he could not retain it more than six months. I think that on a month's notice he would have to give up possession.
269. Have you any idea when tenders were called for? Three or four years ago.
270. And you think it would not be fair to this man to call for fresh tenders and dispossess him? I think not. He said, "If I spend all this money on it, in what position shall I stand with you?—you could turn me out at a minute's notice." We said, "We will act fairly with you. We make a promise that we will do all we can for you to retain it."
271. This man had to spend a considerable amount of capital before he could earn anything; therefore, you consider it would be unfair to call for tenders and dispossess him? Yes.
272. As regards the £73 rent for the coffee and fruit stall, is that thrown open to competition? No; two or three people applied, and we have got a very respectable tenant. He pays us 25s. a week for that box, and I think we are well paid for it.
273. It is not a matter of competition? No; but we advertise. We act towards this man as we would in regard to our private affairs, liberally and honestly with him.
274. Then there really was competition? There was in the first instance. We have an agreement with this man that if a circus comes there he has to give up part of his place to make an entrance, and he has always done it. We have received a considerable amount of money at one time or another from circuses.
275. The assets amounted, at the end of 1897, to £34,139, and there was a liability against that of £9,146, making a credit balance of £24,993? Yes.
276. Are the funds increasing? No.
277. You are living on capital to some extent? We are indeed. We are living on the promises of Mr. Reid. We can get no positive promises, but I must say that he has been the most kind and considerate Minister that we have ever had to do with, and the most sympathetic with our work. He gives us more kind words than any Minister ever did before, and he gives us more money than any other Minister has ever done. Not merely at election time, but he has done it long ago.
278. Have these funds been accumulated from bequests chiefly? Some years ago there was some land sold. You may remember the old toll-bar. We sold the land there. The price came to about £10,000, and the Government allowed us to have the use of it. We were not to spend the principal, but we were to have the use and the interest, and there have been bequests. This sale of land took place about forty years ago. Our funds went on increasing for a number of years. The management then would give as little as possible to the poor; some twenty years ago it was thought that the poor should be deriving more from the funds, and that we ought not to go on hoarding this money. The management said we want to have a fund, we never know what may take place, but we said that it was never intended that we should keep the money, but that we should give it to the poor, and we adopted a different system altogether. We increased the amount given to the poor, and the report which I have before me shows what we gave in those years. It is taken from our book. In 1892 our weekly average number of cases was 518; in 1893, 633; in 1894, 718; in 1895, 743; in 1896, 1,011; in 1897, 1,196. I have been round to see many of these cases, and I can assure you that it is really heartrending to see the poverty of these people, and the patience with which these poor creatures bear their poverty. The great increase is caused, in a great measure, by this,

this, that prior to the crisis of 1893 men could get a day's employment when they were sixty years of age and upwards, but now people will not employ them because they cannot get a day's work out of them. That is what they all tell us. It is the same with regard to women. A number of them used to go out as charwomen. Now they say that ladies have reduced their expenditure, and instead of giving these women a day's work the servant has to do the washing. From these causes arise the great increase in the number of persons sixty years of age and upwards who are receiving relief.

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279. Did the directors have to draw on their accumulated funds for current expenditure during 1897? Yes; they reduced their expenditure from £50 a week, the amount in 1893, to the present amount £35 a week, and we have more than double the number of cases that we had then, but we do not give within 30 or 40 per cent. the amount that we used to give them.

280. As regards the increase in the number of cases, is it possible that you are relieving the distress of other colonies to some extent? I do not think so. We have not had any reports of recent arrivals applying for relief, but if there are destitute people here from other colonies we must not let them starve. We could not say, as you come from Victoria or from Queensland, we will not assist you.

281. No; you are powerless in the matter. It is a question whether the law should keep these people from coming here;—that is what I am driving at? I cannot see how that would do it, I am sure.

282. To go back to the question of expenditure, you have had to draw on your own accumulated funds for current expenditure, and you have an overdraft of £9,000? We had, about fifteen or sixteen years ago, £45,000 on fixed deposit. Last year we had £27,000 on fixed deposit. We have been working upon that fixed deposit at from £1,000 to £2,000 a year for the last fifteen years. Last year we over-ran the constable to the amount of £2,000.

283. I presume that the conditions of some of the bequests would prevent you from doing so? There is only about £1,050 bequeathed with the condition that we are only to have the interest.

284. Do you know what proportion of the expenses of the Society the Government pay in the form of subsidy? They pay a large proportion.

285. We make it out to be about 60 per cent.? I would not question it. We have got a very excellent manager, Mr. Maxted, who has worked well for the institution, and he took up the question whether we should start a little newspaper three or four years ago. That paper was started, and was very successful until the last twelve months.

286. In the last ten years the Government contributions have amounted to £71,829, the amount collected from the public to £19,685? I do not think we ever had £7,000 a year from the Government.

287. Yes, you have had it? I had no idea of it.

288. You had £14,000 one year? That was not for outdoor relief.

289. I am talking about the whole system? I concern myself a great deal more about outdoor relief than about other departments.

290. The outdoor relief requires watching? Yes; that is what I do watch.

291. How do you account for the fluctuations in the subscriptions;—are they due to the collectors, or what? About three years ago Mr. Maxted started this little paper. From it we received a large sum. We also got large sums from the public school children; but, to our surprise, we received an intimation that for the future those children would not be allowed to collect. Mr. Roseby and myself went and saw Mr. Garrard about it, and he said he thought it was demoralising, and there was an end of the matter. We lost £600 a year through his veto.

292. Your subscriptions in 1894 amounted to £1,016; in 1895, £3,429; 1896, £2,659; 1897, £1,935? That large increase was in a great measure caused by this paper. Mr. Maxted is deserving of great credit for that. When he first pointed out what could be done, I did not think it would be so successful as it has been. It has been very successful until the last six months.

293. Then you think that the publication of the *Charities Gazette* is really a good thing? It has been a splendid thing for the institution until the last three months. Lately it has just paid its way. One month there was a loss on it. About Christmas time is our best time. We decided to continue it for a few months, provided there was not any loss. There is no loss now, but rather a gain.

294. How can you say what is received on account of the *Charities Gazette*? They send out little papers, and persons go round to the doors, asking for subscriptions, and these are all kept entirely separate.

295. On the whole, it has been very profitable to the Institution? It has been wonderfully successful, but now several other institutions are adopting the same plan.

296. *Mr. Powell.*] How many do you circulate? 5,000 every month, and 10,000 at Christmas time.

297. And the Government treat it as a newspaper? Yes.

298. So you advertise at the Government expense? We save the Government money.

299. *President.*] There has been a considerable increase in salaries during the last two years? Those whom we have employed for a long while we have given small amounts. I do not know exactly what the increases are.

300. In 1894, the expenditure for salaries was £1,992; in 1895, £1,627; in 1896, £2,518; in 1897, £2,294? I do not know how these amounts have arisen, but until four years ago we had only one inspector—that was before the crash came. We put on another inspector, and then another, and now we have put on another inspector. We pay them only £150 a year, including travelling expenses.

301. The increase in the amount of salaries may be attributed to the increased inspection? Yes; and also to the work. One man and a boy used to do all the work; now we have three extra hands on indoor work.

302. Are the extra hands in the distributing part of the Institution? Yes.

303. Has that increased expenditure anything to do with special grants by the Government? It all comes in.

304. Under the special grant? We go on spending money, and we go to the Government, and they give us a £1,000 sometimes.

305. To cover the expenses? Yes.

306. The increased business is one of the reasons for your greater expenditure in salaries? Yes.

307. *President.*] You have three hands in the store, and three inspectors? Yes; we have more than we had before the crisis occurred; there is also a young lady we have as clerk there; she also is an addition.

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308. There has been a considerable increase in expenditure on stationery and printing in 1896 and 1897? That stationery and printing would be on account of the *Charities Gazette*.
309. In 1895 the amount was £286; in 1896, £533; in 1897, £450? I do not know how that has occurred. We call for tenders for everything.
310. In the accounts there is an item of £149 trust money received in April, 1895, from the A.S.N. Co.? Mr. James Ewan was a member of our Board, and he was Chairman of the A.S.N. Co. The A.S.N. Co. divided certain amounts amongst two or three institutions, and they gave us £149 on conditions that if ever the people claimed the money we were to pay it back.
311. That is, on the liquidation of the old Company certain sums were distributed, and you got £149? Yes; and it was distinctly understood that if these people ever applied for it we were to repay, but it is not very probable that it will be claimed.
312. Up to the year 1895 you received £ for £ from the Government up to £500; in the following two years you received £3,300? Yes; that was on account of our great increase.
313. That is the increase in the demand upon the funds? The increase in poverty in the city and suburbs.
314. In addition to the £ for £ subsidy on private collections and special grants for outdoor relief, you were paid by the Government so much per head for maintenance of women and children in the Asylum? Yes; we have kept an account. We find it just about comes to what they pay us—there is neither profit nor loss on that.
315. What are the rates of those payments? I do not know, but Mr. Maxted could tell you. I think about £23 for a woman.
316. In that department I understood you to say that you came out square? Yes; just about square.
317. You do not know the details of the cost? No.
318. Is it a fact that in the case of children born in the institution the Government is charged for those children after they are two months' old, at the rate of 5s. a week? I do not know.
319. To go back to the question of people from other colonies, are you aware of many instances of destitute females from other colonies receiving indoor or outdoor relief here? We have a great many women during the year who come to be confined. Many come to hide their shame. We have had several cases from Queensland and Victoria. I have no doubt that poor girls here go to Victoria and Queensland for the same reason. It is one of the most painful matters we have to deal with. These girls will not give information. It is very painful for us to ask the poor girl who is the father of her child.
320. Are there many such cases? No; about once a month we get such cases.
321. Of course, you have no choice in the matter—if these girls come to the committee they must take them in? We do take them in. We never turn a case away. If we find that the girl's parents have means we do not like to hurt their feelings, but we write a kind letter, and ask if they will contribute towards the girl's support.
322. When you have taken them in, what steps are taken either to return them to their own Colony, or to get friends to assist them? A few years ago we had no difficulty at all. We could always get situations for them, but during the last four or five years there has been such a plethora of servants that ladies will not take girls of this class. We have had eight or nine girls waiting who should have left the institution, but we do not force them out—we try to get them situations. Their position is painful enough, without their being thrown upon the mercy of the world to have another child.
323. Do you know what is the practice in the other colonies in regard to the same thing? I do not. I think Mr. Maxted has made a thorough inquiry. We suggested to him that he should obtain all the information he could upon these matters, and he brought in a report.
324. Have you any paid medical officer attached to the institution? No; we have four unpaid medical officers.
325. The medical officers used to be paid? Dr. Warren was paid £250 per annum.
326. Does the present system answer? I would prefer to have one paid medical man, because these gentlemen cannot always come. We have no fault to find with any of them, but it would be better to have one to whom you could say, we want you on a certain day and you must come. I prefer to have one paid medical officer, but not resident on the premises. The medical officers attend all the little children, and those children are of the lowest class as far as health is concerned, some of them are eaten up with disease from their very birth. It is painful to read in our medical reports of the condition that a number of the children are in, and in which frequently they are born.
327. Is the work of the division increasing? No; it is about the same.
328. It is really limited by the extent of room? We could not take many more in—we adopted a different system last year. The Committee of the Prince Alfred Hospital communicated with us, and asked whether we could not allow their young men to come and study midwifery at certain times of the year. A certain number of students come, and pay so much for being allowed to attend for about three months in the year, and we have from twelve to twenty young women from different parts of the country who come and study midwifery also. They pay us £15; but we board them during the time, so that we make nothing out of them. It just about pays the expenses, but it enables those young people to earn their living in the future.
329. Who passes the stores? The storekeeper.
330. Who is the storekeeper? We call him William.
331. The stores seem very good? Yes; the meat is the only thing that we have any difficulty with, and that is in summer time. I frequently go and see to the quality of the bread, as I look upon it as most important.
332. Who is responsible for the issue of the stores? The storekeeper, who has to keep an account of them.
333. Do you know what checks there are upon the issue? We are obliged to trust the man as being an honest man. His books are checked. There are so many loaves for outdoor applicants, and so many for the institution.
334. You talk of so many thousand loaves of bread? Yes.
335. Suppose there are 5,000 loaves, so many would go to the outdoor people and the indoor people would be debited with so many, and the books would show whether these balance or not? I am told that that is the system. Mr. Maxted could tell you more about it than I can. I never saw the book, but I know that the men are thoroughly trustworthy. I do not think they would rob the institution.
336. What check is there on the receiving of the goods? They cannot have a loaf of bread. A requisition is written out and sent to the contractor. When the stores come in the storeman is responsible. For the drapery the matron is responsible.

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337. Do you know whether stores are often rejected as not being up to sample? No; meat would be the only thing; the sugar and bread are excellent. The tea is good for the price we pay—7d. or 8d. a lb.
338. You do not make your own bread? No; it does not pay. We did at one time, but we found that it was a bad thing. We had so much bad bread that it paid better to have it made by a tradesman.
339. As regards the lying-in, I understand that in the home there are some married women occasionally—single women with their first child, and women who have had two or three children; how do you classify them? We cannot do it. We desire to classify them; there are some women there whose characters are unexceptionable, and they are obliged to herd with the lowest of the low, and the language of some of the women is something disgusting. They are obliged to listen to that filthy talk because we cannot classify them.
340. You fully acknowledge the propriety of making some classification? Yes; we have represented that to the Government. It is a thing that we are most earnest about.
341. Do you know of other institutions in Sydney which deal with cases of the kind? Yes; there is one under the charge of Dr. Graham at Surry Hills.
342. I understand you to say that the lying-in institution is in quite an unsuitable building? Yes.
343. Suppose you had a good building there, do you consider it is a desirable thing to have out-door relief, a lying-in home, and an asylum all in the same building? They should be kept separate.
344. Should they be in the same building? It would be far better if you could have them thoroughly independent of each other.
345. The things are so different? Yes.
346. There is the out-door relief and the asylum, then there ought to be a hospital for women;—assuming that you had to build anew, would you recommend, with your experience, that they should all be in the same building? The out-door relief and the lying-in home should be kept as separate as possible. In London there are lying-in hospitals entirely to themselves.
347. Have the two things any connection at all? I do not see that they have.
348. You think that the time has come when they should be separate? I think it is advisable.
349. I suppose it may be assumed that the outdoor relief and the asylum work have some connection? You must have an institution. There are so many little children brought in at all hours of the day and night by the police that you must have a receiving-house for them. They should all be under the same management, but should be kept as distinct as possible.
350. As regards the children who are inmates of the institution, are you of opinion that if they are to be in the same building they should be removed altogether from the outdoor relief? Yes, and also from the lying-in department.
351. I am assuming that the lying-in department should not be there at all, but that the outdoor relief and the asylum should be there;—if that is the case, should not the children and the inmates be entirely separate from the out-door relief department? At present they have no connection with it. They never see them at all. The most objectionable thing is that these low women are not models of propriety, and their conversation is very bad.
352. *Mr. Powell.*] About dividing the institution;—the lying-in department is wholly supported by the Government? Entirely.
353. That is an additional reason why it should be separated from the other, is it not? Yes; I think so. They might be all under one management, but it should be like three different institutions, because you must have a supervising body, and the house committee or board can always supervise if it is to be continued on the present system. If they have a fresh system, and everything is taken over by the Government, that is another matter.
354. The only question is, whether your committee should not be relieved of the control of a department entirely supported by the Government? We have no desire for it.
355. *President.*] Your committee would practically have no interest in it, because the lying-in home is entirely supported by the Government? Yes; and entirely managed by a ladies' committee. All that we do is to buy the stores.
356. Do you know of any applicants for relief or inmates of the lying-in home with relatives who could support them? We have sometimes written to relatives and asked for assistance, and fathers, and some have contributed, but those who have done that are a very small percentage.
357. Beyond writing letters, have the committee taken any action? Yes; we have tried to get these girls to prosecute, but you cannot believe one statement out of ten that they make.
358. They attempt to shield the father? Yes; and they tell such lies that when you go into the police court they will not swear to the same statement that they had previously made to Mr. Maxted. That is one of our great difficulties.
359. Legal proceedings have been taken? Yes, frequently.
360. You have frequently taken proceedings? We have tried, but we were generally unsuccessful.
361. Have the committee reported that to the Government? I cannot tell you. We have a person who takes up the cases in court for us.
362. There is an item in the last balance-sheet of £366 9s. 6d. for fees? Yes.
363. Does that represent the fees paid by women admitted to train as midwives? Yes; and the young men also.
364. These women are supported there? Yes; there is no profit; they are there for six months for £15. Of course they are expected to work; not scrubbing floors, but making beds.
365. To do work in the lying-in wards? Yes, as a nurse would.
366. A young woman who comes in pays £15 for six months and gives her services in the ward attending to the patients for six months? Yes.
367. So this does not cost the institution anything? Then, in addition to that, we give the medical officer £50 a year for lectures. Dr. Graham will take it one year, and Dr. Crago another year. It is not what they agree to, but this is a comparatively new departure, and we think they have a right to it. We lose money by these young men and women, but we know that we are doing the public good.
368. You say they remain for six months? I think that is the time for women, and it is three months for the young men.
369. When they leave is a diploma given to them? Yes; a diploma signed by a medical officer, the President, and Secretary.

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370. *Mr. Powell.*] There was a considerable decrease in 1897 in the number of lying-in patients? Yes. Dr. Graham started an institution, and it takes a great many.
371. *President.*] As regards the male students, what arrangement is made for them;—do they pay too? Yes.
372. Do they reside on the premises? No; they are not allowed to sleep there. I do not think they are allowed to have any food there. I know there are rules for them, because they must be there at all hours of the night.
373. Do you know the opinion of the medical officers in regard to the lying-in home? No; I scarcely ever see any of them.
374. Have any representations been made to the Government about the unsuitability of the place for a lying-in hospital? Yes, for the last fifteen years, a deputation has waited upon every Premier who has been in office about it.
375. The cost of the lying-in home is wholly defrayed by the Government? Yes.
376. If a woman is able to pay, the institution collect what they can, I suppose? Yes.
377. I suppose it is not much? It is very small. They put off till the very last hour to come there. We do not receive them, unless they are thoroughly friendless. A poor girl came down from the country and slept a night in the Domain, having no place to go to. She was three months off her confinement; what could we do in a case like that but admit her; that occurred two or three weeks ago.
378. As regards attending women in their own homes, what is the experience to that? There have been very few cases so far. We supply applicants, but I am sorry to say that they are all in the most extreme condition of destitution. We have to provide them with food and everything for the time being.
379. Is that branch increasing at all? I do not think we have had many cases. When they have come for outdoor relief, I have noticed their condition, and asked what provision they had made, and told them that they could come into the institution, but they say they would rather be in their own homes. We offer them every facility in their unfortunate position.
380. Single women you say go there time after time, there being no limit? I did not say single women; there are a few cases where they have been there more than once.
381. It was in connection with the classification;—I do not say that you used those words? It is not even when a woman has a second or third child, that she is necessarily a depraved character. A poor woman came for outdoor relief the other day, and some members of the Board thought we ought not to encourage her, but we assisted her.
382. *Mr. Powell.*] You would not refuse them, no matter how many times they came? No; if they came four or five times, we should not.
383. *President.*] As a matter of fact, may they not say they are having their first child, when perhaps it is the second or third? The matron would know whether they had been there before.
384. Have those women to mix together, not only in the ward, but also elsewhere in the institution? Everywhere indiscriminately. We try to separate them, but it is utterly impossible. Our accommodation is so small. One set ought to be kept like prisoners in gaol, entirely separate from others.
385. *Mr. Powell.*] Are the women known to each other when they come in? I do not think so.
386. *President.*] When women have been confined there, what is the process, if employment is found for the woman, what becomes of the child? She takes the child with her.
387. In all cases? Yes; if we know that the woman is a desperately bad character, we should let her go and keep the child. It is best that the child should be separated from such a mother, but those are exceptional cases.
388. Have you ever known a case of a woman from another colony being confined here, and leaving a child to be supported by the State? No; we do not keep any children, unless the women desert, but that is a rare occurrence. Many of them show affection for their children.
389. Have the committee ever considered the question of employing some work test in connection with outdoor relief? We have no facilities for it.
390. When we were through there one morning we saw some young men who seemed as if they could do some work? If there are any young men there they have a doctor's certificate. Our outdoor department does not give relief to young men unless they can show, by a doctor's certificate, that they are physically unfit for work. The unemployed question is another matter altogether.
391. As regards some of the people relieved here, would they not be fit for light employment of any kind;—have the Committee ever considered the question of a work test? We have tried; our inspector goes round, and we know that they cannot get employment.
392. What I mean is, have the Committee ever considered the question of finding a work test for the men and women? No. If a man wants a pair of boots we say, come and cut some grass; do something for it.
393. You have no systematic plan? No.
394. Do you know whether it is done elsewhere? Dr. Langley does it, but he assists able-bodied men who cannot find employment. We refuse to assist able-bodied men in the outdoor department. Now the Government have sent them to us; that is a separate matter. We do not give strong able-bodied men assistance regularly, though we would not turn them away without a loaf of bread.
395. Some of the women are retained in the institution for some time after their confinement? Yes.
396. Are they employed? Yes; they are all employed. That is a matter about which we are having a little difficulty with Mr. Hanson. Suppose there is an exceptionally good woman, who is friendless, and has a child 2 or 3 years old. The woman is kept in because she is a good cook, or is good at something. The matron thinks she is a good woman, and, therefore, she keeps her, as it is cheaper to employ her. We made a calculation recently in regard to a woman whom Mr. Hanson objected to, and we found that we saved £10 or £12 a year that we should not have saved had we turned her away.
397. You kept her as a servant? Yes; she worked hard. Every woman there has to do a good day's work.
398. You keep the children as well? Yes; the mothers are attached to their children, though they are illegitimate.
399. Some women have been kept there for years? Yes; three or four women, but they are exceptional women, useful to the institution. Mr. Hanson objected to one, and I asked the matron how much she cost.

cost. She found that the woman cost about £20 a year. The matron said she could not get a woman to come and do her work under £1 a week and her board.

400. *Mr. Powell.*] Do the Government pay for that woman? Yes; it is as broad as long; if they did not do that they would have to pay £50 and board another woman. We have this woman for about 8s. a week, and we keep her child, saving 13s. a week.

401. *President.*] Do you charge in the account for the woman's keep and her child's? Yes.

402. *Mr. Powell.*] Twenty-eight pounds for the woman and £14 for the child? Yes; it may be that.

403. The Government are paying you £42 a year to save 10s. a week? Yes; but this is an exceptionally good woman. We cannot get a woman to do her work under £1 a week.

404. How much does the institution give this woman? Four or 5s. a week.

405. *Mr. Powell.*] She is boarded there and the child also? Yes. If we had another woman she would have to be boarded also.

406. *President.*] She costs £1 a week? Yes.

407. The Government pay £42 for the woman and child? She gets 5s. a week with board. We should have to get a woman in her place at £52 a year, and we should have to support her, which is another 10s. a week. We do not give the officers the same food as those other women. They have a better class of food; all the officers dine together.

408. *Mr. Powell.*] I do not follow your calculation? Say the woman and child cost £42 a year, we give her 5s. a week, that makes £55 a year, and we should have to give a woman from outside £52 a year and her board.

409. I doubt that to begin with? The matron says that she could not get a woman to do that work for less. The matter came before us, and we went into it and found that the Government gained by keeping that woman there. It is better to have a woman you have trained than one who knows nothing about the work.

410. *President.*] You said that the Ladies Committee tried to find employment for these women—is it difficult? It is difficult. We put advertisements in the country papers. A report is handed in showing how many women are beyond their time in the institution. We allow them a month or five weeks.

411. You say that in all cases they take away their children when they leave? Yes; unless we think it is better for the child's future welfare that it should be separated from the mother.

412. Do you act in co-operation with the Labour Bureau to get employment for these people? We frequently send men there. Mr. Creer has certain conditions under which he gives relief. He will send them down to us. Unless they are on his books he will not give them anything at all. If a woman's husband is up country, and he is not registered, we assist her. She is not supported by the Labour Bureau.

413. In distributing outdoor relief, is the amount regulated according to the number of children? It all depends upon the circumstances. The amount of rent money we are giving is very small. There were 60 persons receiving 1s. a week on the 6th instant, 99 receiving 1s. 6d., 137 receiving 2s., 59 receiving 2s. 6d. per week, 18 receiving 3s.—making a total of about £34 per week disbursed. We also pay them when they come for rations. We contribute towards the cost of carrying the provisions away. These poor creatures are old and infirm. Take Cook's River; that is a long distance for a woman to travel in search of food; we always allow them the tram fare. There are only 51 who receive assistance in that way: 4 persons are receiving 4d. per week; 23, 6d. a week; 1, 7d.; 5, 8d.; 8 receive 9d. Ten receive 1s. a week for travelling. We know exactly where they are, and what it costs them for travelling. Some come from Rookwood. To walk from there to the Benevolent Asylum and back would be too much. We allow them 1s., as there is no assistance for them in that district.

414. Is there not a Benevolent Society at Rookwood? I do not think so; the Government give them so little now under this new system which Mr. Reid is initiating. The amount for Newtown is only about £250 a year; the Society gives temporary assistance.

415. What is that for? For all the poor of Newtown.

416. It costs 1s. to bring a person in from Rookwood;—would it not be better if the Society could arrange for a Society to relieve them locally? It would be better.

417. The shilling which this Board pays goes to the railway? Yes.

418. Would it not be better to arrange with the local Society to relieve those persons and give them the shilling? The local societies only do it for a short time. They do not do it permanently. The older the recipients get the more they require assistance. Take the case of a man 65 years of age. The longer he lives the more infirm and incapable he is of earning money. I have known cases which have been ten years on our books. I will give one typical case. There was a man who was a fettler on the railway, and he was killed leaving work on a Saturday whilst crossing a line where he had no business to be. The Department would not assist the family. He had his house all but finished when he was killed, but two-thirds of the money was in St. Joseph's Building Society. A man came and told me about the case, and I said, "I will go and see the woman." I went, and found that she was left with three children, and was pregnant. They are all young children. I spoke again to the man, and we endeavoured to raise money, the result being that we collected about £120. The woman was near her confinement. I gave her £20 to carry her over that, and also paid sufficient to keep the Building Society quiet. Then I used to give her 10s. or 15s. a week till the balance of £40 was gone. A woman cannot do much with four children, and I proposed to our institution that we should assist her, and we did. Instead of giving food we gave her 5s. a week. I used to take it down to her. That woman went on very well; she has been able to pay off the debt on her house, nearly all the mortgage on her house, and she has not received a penny from us for four or five years. Her children are growing up a credit to her. If she had not had the 5s. a week she would not have been able to keep her children. I proposed to her to have her children boarded out. She replied, "I would rather starve than have my children boarded out."

419. At what age does the Society disallow relief with regard to children? When they are 14 years of age. We consider that they ought to be out at work then. If they are girls we say, "You must get employment for them." We do not provide rations for any boys over 14.

420. *Mr. Powell.*] Is that a strict rule? Yes.

421. *President.*] I know when I was at the institution I saw certain cases there in which persons were receiving relief up to 16 years of age? The child must be sickly. It is merely a nominal amount that is given at all.

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422. What is the maximum allowance for rent? Three shillings per week.
423. Does the committee make any use of the police or the Director of Charities? We make use of the police; we frequently apply for their assistance.
424. The Director of Charities has several inspectors going about, could you not get their help? We prefer our own inspectors; we have 200 cases reported on in some weeks by the different inspectors.
425. How often are the inspectors supposed to visit each case? People that we know are likely to be on the books for years we do not often send to, but every month or six weeks every case is visited.
426. Except in chronic cases, the inspector visits them every month or six weeks? I do not think that more than six weeks elapse without a visit in any case.
427. Have you considered the question of out-door relief in England or elsewhere? Yes; my brother occupies the same position in connection with one of the Unions in London as I do here. The Wandsworth Clapham Union. I gave Mr. Brunker a return as to what they are doing in their Union. I find that in some cases they are giving double and treble there what we give here. I have applied to Mr. Brunker for the return of the papers, but he cannot find them.
428. Talking about the amount contributed here being very small, do you consider that it is doing permanent good? I am sure it is. It keeps the houses over the heads of these poor people. They could not pay the rent without that money, small as the amount is.
429. How have the finances of the institution been affected by section 10 of the new Act, by which children may be boarded out to their own mothers;—has that relieved your finances to some extent? Yes, it has; but they allow such a small amount now it is not enough. It is really most inadequate. They allow 1s. 6d. to 2s. a week for each child. A woman with five or six children gets about 12s. a week, but it will not keep them.
430. It does not follow that the family must be entirely supported by that? A woman who has five little children cannot go out to work and earn a day's wage. The 7s. or 8s. would be a very small amount to pay the rent, because she would want a house with at least three rooms.
431. Do you know to what extent section 10 has relieved your institution? I do not. It has relieved us of a number of cases. We are allowed in some cases by the Department to supplement the allowance with food. When a woman has four or five children, and has no food, we give her a little food, and write to the Department pointing out that the woman is starving, and they have granted food.
432. You have occasionally to relieve the unemployed, but at the request of the Government? Yes.
433. Then, I suppose, you get a special grant for that? Yes. I want to point out some things that have been on my mind for years. I have tried to get more relief for the people. I want them to have more food and more money.
434. The out-door pensioners? I have been round to their houses, and seen the state of destitution that they are in.
435. I asked if the small amount allowed is really adequate? You asked if it was of any use. I say it is. Take the case of an aged couple 70 years old. We know that they cannot get employment, and many of them are respectable. I have known them come there to seek relief, and it makes one's heart bleed to see them. One came last week, and he said, "We cannot get work." Of course, we allow them a little money. There are other things besides. I should like to give the maximum amount of provisions. The amount of assistance we can give is most inadequate. It just keeps body and soul together. Our rule in all cases is to allow 1 lb. of sugar and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of tea. It is only in cases of sickness that we allow sago. Suppose a woman has four or five children—or an aged couple—we all know that there are many things besides tea and sugar that they require. There is firing and other things. I went to one poor fellow's house the other day; he was a man who had been in business as a chemist in Sydney. I said, "Where is your fire?" he replied, "We never have fire except to cook our food with; we cannot have fire." He could hardly go about, and his wife is older than he. They cannot get fire, and other absolute necessaries. It is terrible to see these poor things as I have seen them. I consider that we should do something more than we do in deserving cases. I think the rent money should be increased, and the tea and sugar should be increased.
436. That implies that Government assistance should be increased? I do not care how it is; in a country like this we ought not to see people starve.
437. There is another way to look at it. The Government may say we do not want them to starve;—we have provided places for them? It costs £13 per annum for them in Liverpool Asylum.
438. *Mr. Powell.*] If you increase your assistance you will bring it up to the Government amount? At Parramatta it is £15. Suppose you give a man and wife 10s. between them, that would only just come up to the £26, and it would keep them together. Is it not better to leave them together than to separate them. When men came there I would always be writing to Mr. Hanson, and he would give an order for their admission to the Government institution; but a man would say, "No; I will not go there: I like my liberty." They keep their liberty and they starve. I have been to the Liverpool Asylum, and I consider that it is well conducted.
439. What do you reckon the value of a single ration per week? Eleven pence. The value of a maximum ration is about 3s. 6d. per week.
440. You have to divide that by six for six persons? Yes.
441. Then that is under 7d. each? Yes. There is an inconsistency in the boarding-out system; they allow a stranger 5s. for each child, but if a child is boarded with its mother they will not allow her more than 2s. on the average; why there should be that distinction I cannot understand.
442. *President.*] Have you any statement to make about the unemployed? During the last three or four weeks, at the request of Mr. Reid, we have taken up the relief of the unemployed. In most cases they are recommended by two of the leaders of the unemployed—the President and the Vice-President. They give a note, recommending a man to come to us, and we tell them distinctly that if we have to assist those people they will have to make inquiries as to whether the parties are really deserving and require assistance. It is on their guarantee that we give the assistance.
443. On the guarantee of those two men? Not on those two men only—they have a committee. These men give a scrap of paper, on which is written, "Please assist so-and-so," and stating how many he has in family. Then when they come to us we ask them how long they have been out of employment, their occupation, their country, and what their prospects are. We were doing the same work about two years ago. We are now continuing the same scale of assistance that we gave then. We are giving just double
to

to these people what we give to our own ordinary poor. We have been requested by Mr. Reid to deal with them liberally, but not extravagantly. His words are: "I wish you to deal liberally, but certainly not extravagantly, to these men." To a man with a wife and six children we give twelve loaves of bread per week, 6 lb. of meat, 3 lb. flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea; for man and wife and family of five there is very little difference; a man and wife and three children get nine loaves of bread per week, 4 lb. meat, 4 lb. flour, 2 lb. sugar, and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea.

444. These people are being relieved on a much higher scale than your own people? Fully double.

445. *Mr. Powell.*] Do you give them any money? Not a penny.

446. *President.*] You relieve them on the order of the committee? Yes.

447. Do your own inspectors check them at all? They do now. We have not been able to do it until lately. Last week the inspector went through about 100 cases, and his report was that they were really better off than our own class, but still there was a deplorable amount of want amongst them, and many of them were very deserving people. There are many men over 60 years of age, with perhaps one child, and, I am sorry to say, some old men with three or four little children. For a man, wife, and one child we allow six loaves of bread per week, 2 lb. meat, 2 lb. flour, 2 lb. sugar, and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea. For a man and wife only, four loaves of bread, 2 lb. of meat, 2 lb. of flour, 1 lb. of sugar, and $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of tea.

448. This relief has been given under instructions from the Premier? Yes; he has paid £500 into our account, and that will last eight or ten weeks. We shall not go beyond that amount. He has also sent us 100 pairs of blankets.

At 1 p.m. the Commission adjourned for lunch.

Proceedings were resumed at 2:15 p.m.

449. *President.*] About the issue of meat in summer, it must be a very troublesome matter to regulate the supplies in the hot months? We give more flour—4 lb. flour and 2 lb. meat. We leave it in their option, but we expect them to take half and half.

450. Will not the meat go bad on your hands? We only get it every morning fresh in for the day.

451. Do you send back what is not used? If there is more than we require; but they know within a trifle what we require. If there is any left it does for the inmates the next day.

452. As regards the rents, of course you say that that allowance is liable to some abuse—I mean fraud—what check do you have to see that the rent is properly paid? They must bring a receipt for the rent for the previous week.

453. The receipt may be any sort of receipt? Yes, we are liable to fraud; but these people would tell on each other if there was fraud going on.

454. It would appear to outsiders that during the hours of business the clerks cannot closely scrutinise every receipt, and that the possibilities of fraud are considerable? They are compelled to bring their receipts.

455. You would, of course, find it out by taking any suspicious-looking receipt and making inquiries afterwards? Yes.

456. Do you know whether that is done? I really do not know, but Mr. Grant and the others are very strict.

457. *Mr. Powell.*] Suppose there are women living together in a house, and the house is rented by one of the three—two of the three draw rent from your Society, and the woman who is nominally the landlady gives them receipts to bring to you once a week;—would you consider that satisfactory? I take it as such. I quite understand that there may be collusion.

458. Do you not think it would be safer not to give money at all? No; I do not know what they would do.

459. *President.*] How long would you continue the payment of the rent to any of those people? Everything depends upon circumstances. For the aged people I should continue to pay as long as they wanted. We do not give this money except to widows, deserted wives, and aged people.

460. Then, speaking as a whole, outdoor relief is not continuous for a term of years except in chronic cases or the cases of aged people who are unfit to do any sort of work? Yes; we strike twenty or thirty a week off the books.

461. *Mr. Powell.*] If any relief is given in any other way than that you have indicated, it is in opposition to your wishes, and your inspectors fail in their duty? We give it ourselves; we do not allow the inspectors to do it.

462. If your inspectors report on these matters, and relief is given through their reports to other persons than aged people, it is in opposition to your wishes? They bring up a report, and he will say such a case is receiving 1s. 6d. a week, so many in family. We do occasionally increase it; but our funds are so short that we rarely do that. I do not suppose that we increase the amount in three cases in a week. If we do, it is only where the inspector recommends it.

463. *President.*] There is another matter: It creates a very painful impression (at least it did on us), to see children come there on the day on which relief is given, as boldly as if they were entering a grocer's shop, go up to the counter, and take provisions away without any feeling of shame at all? We have passed resolutions, time after time, to the effect that children are not to be supplied. But mothers come and say Wednesday is a day in the week on which I can get work, will you let my boy come, otherwise I cannot obtain the relief. Mr. Grant refuses to supply children time after time.

464. Could not the rule be made more elastic by allowing the parents to come any time they choose? No; we cannot always have supplies and our officers there.

465. You would only have to have one officer there? We could not possibly extend it through the week. We should have to increase our staff to do that.

466. Could not the case of these people be met by giving them the stores in the evening? Our officers are there from 9 until 6 o'clock. The storeman is there from 8 o'clock in the morning until 6 at night. That is quite long enough.

467. I am only suggesting this on behalf of those people who, you say, could not come on Wednesday? There are not many cases. Mr. Grant turns children back time after time, because we have impressed upon him that he must do so. We consider that coming there pauperises children.

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468. There is another way in which it might be met: Suppose a child came on Wednesday and said, "My mother is ill in bed"; it might be made known that children would not under any circumstances get relief at the Institution; but that a case of that kind would be immediately investigated by the inspector? We could do that; but I know that Mr. Grant is very particular, and unless he believes in the truthfulness of what they say he will not comply.
469. There must have been at least 50 or 60 children there that day? Yes; we have done all we could to try to keep them away.
470. *Mr. Powell.*] Have you given any thought to the ticket system which the St. Vincent de Paul Society adopt,—they give tickets, and the recipients go to the contractors for the food; have you thought of that? We think it better to buy in large quantities.
471. The St. Vincent de Paul Society give tickets, and the advantage is that it takes away the necessity to keep up a staff, and the people get what they want at any time? We buy cheaply; we could not get 1d. and five-eighths per lb. under that system. We take contracts for thousands of loaves. Our bread bill amounts to from £250 to £300 a month. The contractor could do it cheaper by delivering the loaves to one party than by delivering them to different people.
472. *President.*] Suppose you have a widow with a lot of children, are any of those children ever handed over by your Society to the State Children's Relief Board? No; but we recommend them. We have received information from that Department that they would object to our recommending them, they are so overwhelmed with cases. To get over that we ask others to recommend cases.
473. The average weekly cost per case has been as follows:—In 1890, about 3s. 5d.; in 1897, 2s. 5d., made up in this way—in 1890 provisions, 1s. 9d.; rent money, 1s. 8d.; in 1897, provisions, 1s. 9d.; rent, 8d.? Yes. I have explained that to you. In consequence of the want of funds, we had to decrease the rent money.
474. You are of opinion that these amounts ought to be increased? Yes.
475. But to do that you must have from some source very considerably-increased funds? Yes. I consider the relief given in the deserving cases totally inadequate.
476. *Mr. Powell.*] A case came to my knowledge lately,—a widow renting a house at 10s. a week. She had a son 17 years old, earning 12s. or 14s. a week, one son younger, earning 6s. a week, a daughter, 16, who has been employed as a dressmaker, doing nothing, and will not go out to service; and the woman has been getting 6s. 6d. a week relief from you for nine years? She must have children younger than those.
477. Do you think that relief should be granted in such a case? Their income is about 24s. a week. We do not recognise the 17 years old son. He could not be supported under 10s. a week. He could not give his mother more than 2s. after clothing himself; that would leave 12s. for the family, and there is the 10s. rent to pay. Where are they to get clothing?
478. This woman has been going on for nine years drawing relief;—I am using this as an illustration;—the President says that families become pauperised; it seems that this family will go on for ever drawing relief? She must have been a widow nine years. The eldest child, nine years ago, would be 8 years of age. Look at the struggle the woman must have had whilst those children were young. They are just beginning to lift themselves up.
479. *President.*] What check have you against people who come to be relieved by you, and who are being relieved by other societies? We have sent circulars round to ask the other societies to give us a list of those whom they are helping.
480. Have they sent to you in the same way? No.
481. Are you aware of cases of women relieved by you who have children under the State Children's Relief Board? Yes; there are very few such cases. A woman might have five children, and the State might take two of them, then she has three young ones left. If a woman has three little children, we should give her food.
482. Supposing a woman has been relieved under Section 10 of the Act with regard to some of her children, would your Society also relieve her (that is, the section which authorises them to board children out with their own mother)? No, we should not. They are not allowing more than 2s. each. For four children they allow 8s. a week. We send to the Department, stating the circumstances in some cases, and asking if they would allow us to supply the woman with food. If they say no we do not do it.
483. If you do it it is in exceptional cases, and with the knowledge of the Department? Yes.
484. The Department is not in ignorance that you are relieving those whom they are relieving with regard to the children? No. A widow will come to me with four or five children, I then give her a card and advise her to go to the clergyman that recommended the case, and go to the Department. I say if you get assistance from there it will be more than we can allow you. You must not come to us without the consent of the Department. I do not think we are relieving any such cases.
485. How many paid inspectors have you? Four.
486. Has the fourth been added recently? One is away ill, and we are employing another in his place.
487. What check have you upon these inspectors? They all have a book, and they keep a record of all the places they have visited during the week.
488. Do you make them check each other by changing their districts? There is one living at Balmain, he will take all that district; another lives at Marrickville, he will take the Marrickville district; another takes the unemployed, he is only temporary.
489. You have really to rely on these inspectors reports? Yes; the same as the bank manager has to do.
490. Except that the bank manager and the head man can see how things are going pretty well, they can check inspectors better than you can? We must rely upon each other in this world. I believe them all to be men of first-class character, very truthful, and very sympathetic as regards the poor.
491. Do the inspectors keep a journal of their movements? Yes.
492. Are these submitted to the Directors? They tell us each week where they have been. We used at one time to have their reports read to the whole Board, but our work is now so heavy that we have found it necessary to have a sub-committee to go in and hear the reports read. It takes two hours to read them.
493. Have you any volunteers in the work of inspection? No.
494. You rely entirely upon your own officers? Yes.
495. You have no volunteers at all? No.
496. Has it ever been tried? No.

497. Do you not think it would be an advantage to the Society, if they had such help—not to take the place of the inspectors? It would be difficult to get suitable persons. In Victoria it is done entirely by ladies. Their system was explained to me by a gentleman. They apportion the money, and if they recommend a case to go on it does. They state the case to the Board, and their recommendation is carried out; but they do not give in any case more than 2s. 6d. a week, and only for a short time.

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498. I understood you to say, in reply to Mr. Powell, that you do not favour the ticket system? I have heard of people receiving tickets who were not at all satisfied with what they got. I think there is quite as much to be said against as for that system.

499. To go back to the reduction in the distribution per case, the amount now appears to be about 2s. 5d. per week? Yes.

500. And Mr. Powell has made a calculation that, on an average, there are three and a half individuals to each case, and that reduces it to somewhere about 1d. per head per day? Yes; about 7½d. per week. It is not enough to keep body and soul together.

501. Your argument is, that those suburban societies have such small means that they can make no impression on the thing at all, and the burden of it falls upon the central society? Yes. The intentions of those local institutions are good, but they have such small means that it is impossible to do much.

502. *Mr. Powell.*] Do you think the local people would have better opportunities of inquiring into the cases, and would know more than you about the people requiring relief? We have very few people from Burwood and those places.

503. *President.*] The people whom you relieve live in Newtown, Woolloomooloo, Botany, and Balmain? Yes; and many at Ultimo. From my inquiries I find that not a quarter of them pay rent. As for the unemployed, I do not think that 5 per cent. of them pay any rent at all. They pay 2s. 6d. or 5s. for the first week and no more afterwards. Then they get notice to quit, followed by police court proceedings extending over four or five weeks, and the landlord gets nothing.

504. You feed them and the landlord houses them for nothing? We do to a small extent.

505. You said you had visited these homes and found the greatest poverty in some of them? Yes; most distressing poverty. I went round with an inspector on one occasion and found a poor fellow with five children, utterly destitute. The only furniture was a table and a few chairs, but the house was so clean that you could eat off the floor. The man was in a bad state. The whole of the lower part of his face had been cut off, owing to cancer. His wife had to leave him, his temper was so outrageous, and I can quite understand that from his complaint.

506. Would not that be a proper case for a hospital? They will not take him in.

507. They would at Liverpool? He has a wife and four or five children.

508. Would it not be better for him? Yes, but they will not go into asylums.

509. In your annual report for 1897, you say that poverty is now slightly on the decrease;—"it will be found that for the first half of the year there was but a small diminution in the extent of the distress compared with a similar period for 1896." I find that although it is said there was a decrease in poverty there were 1,196 cases per week relieved in 1897 as against 1,071 in 1896? Perhaps, one month there would be a little falling off, and another a slight increase. Four weeks ago we had 120 cases, the next week the number dropped down to 60. Summer time is not so bad as winter time.

510. Have you visited many of these homes? Not a very great many. I have had quite enough of it.

511. This is a point we should like some information about. Regulation 44 says:—

All applicants shall present themselves at the Asylum at the hour of meeting of the House Committee, when their cases shall be considered and dealt with in order.

What provision is made for those who are too infirm to come? We have such cases, but they are very rare. When they cannot come they will send a friend. We hear what they have to say, and then the Inspector visits the applicant. The cases are all inquired into.

512. So that any person who cannot personally attend at the Asylum, can, by means of a friend, bring his case under the notice of the Committee, who will send an inspector to furnish a report, and, that being satisfactory, the Society will give relief? Yes, that is the case.

513. There is always a danger that some of these people may actually starve? Yes, but still we do the best we can under the circumstances.

514. Regulation No. 47 says:—

Money for rent may be allowed on special recommendation of a subscriber after a full inquiry by the inspectors in necessitous cases.

Do you always require the recommendation of a subscriber? I will not say of a subscriber; we will say of a clergyman, or any other respectable person. Suppose you and I are on the Board, and you know that a case is genuine, then we should grant relief at once, but not without inquiring into the case.

515. Section 51 says:—

No written communication shall be sent by any inmate out of the Institution except through the Matron, and all letters addressed to the inmates shall be opened in her presence.

Does that rule apply to respectable married women who go in? I should think so. No cases ever come before us, no complaint ever having been made.

516. Seeing that it is not a prison, this seems a little hard? The Matron is very liberal; she used to be the Matron of the Sydney Infirmary.

517. *Mr. Powell.*] What object is gained by that regulation? I think it is like a great many more, more honoured in the breach than the observance. It is intended to prevent only improper communications.

518. Is it a dead letter? I think so. The Matron is a very discreet and kindhearted woman.

519. *President.*] You will admit that to a respectable woman it would be looked upon as vexatious that her letters should be read by anyone? Yes.

520. Regulation 59 says:—"Parents and relatives shall only be allowed to see the children in presence of the matron, or an official of the Asylum.";—is that true? Yes; it is quite right. Many parents are not, though they have the name of parents, desirable persons. It is not desired that they should see the children. The Boarding-out Department does not allow the worst class of parents to know where their children are, for the good of the children, and of the people they are boarding with.

521. The number of cases receiving outdoor relief where the husbands were sick and afflicted, in 1890, were 186; in 1891, 180; in 1892, 173; 1893, 224; 1894, 216; 1895, 261; 1896, 372; 1897, 604;—can you

F. T. Penfold, J.P. you account for that large increase? No, I cannot; if it is down there it is a fact. We have the average there about 1,100 a year; perhaps there are really 1,600 cases of different people who leave.

11 July, 1898. 522. The number of widows, old and infirm, increased from 260 in 1890, to 634 in 1897. Yes; that is, as I explained, on account of the hard times.

523. What is your opinion regarding the staff generally? I think it is scarcely possible to improve upon it. Mr. Maxted is a most efficient, painstaking officer, and a kindhearted man to the poor, which is a great thing. Mr. Grant is the same. The Inspectors are the same; and as to the Matron, I do not think it is possible to get her superior. We thought we had a splendid matron in the previous one, but I do not think it possible to get a woman better adapted for her duties than the present matron. She is very capable, kindhearted, and sympathetic to the poor. I do not believe she would say a hard word to any of them, although she is a very strict disciplinarian.

524. Have you anything further to say about the unemployed? There is a great deal of distress amongst those men. Some of them, to my knowledge, have known better days. They are mostly labourers, and they are apparently a respectable class of men—not the mere scum of the country, but men who would be only too glad to work if they could get work. They are all extremely grateful to the Government for what it is doing for them.

Edward Maxted sworn and examined:—

E. Maxted. 525. *President.*] You are manager of the Benevolent Asylum? Yes.

11 July, 1898. 526. Does that include all the departments? Yes; the whole of the institution.

527. I presume that the list of officers on this printed report is correct? Yes, that will be correct.

528. How long have you been manager? Just upon fourteen years.

529. Do you know how the property is held by the Society? Yes; it was a grant by the Imperial Government, through Governor Macquarie, about the year 1820.

530. For this particular purpose? The original purpose was an Asylum for the Poor, Blind, Aged, and Infirm. That inscription is over the door now. Of course the purpose, aims, and objects of the institution have changed during the course of years. In 1862 there was quite a change in the constitution of the Society's work—that is to say, that a portion of the original intention with which the Government gave the site to the directors has changed. Originally, it was for old men and women. In 1862 the old men were sent to Liverpool and Parramatta, and women to Hyde Park.

531. It was a grant to whom? To the Board of Directors.

532. Is the property vested in them? No; not by a trust deed. A deed was prepared, and it was the intention of the Government to make it a deed of grant. The deed was lost, and that intention was not carried out; but we have an affidavit from a former manager of the institution that he had actually seen the grant, but it was unsigned.

533. The grant was made by the Imperial Government, but it was never carried to a conclusion? Not so far as the signature to the deed of grant was concerned. We have letters showing the intention of the Government with regard to the vesting of the property in a Board of Directors.

534. Do the Government exercise any direct supervision over the institution? No actual control. An officer comes every quarter and checks off our financial claims.

535. For the purposes of subsidy? Not only that, but with regard to the maintenance of the inmates, and the outdoor subsidy as well. They check the cash-book.

536. Do you consider that the home of the Society is well situated for the purpose? No, I do not. I think the institution has grown out of date. As far as the site is concerned, I should think it is conveniently situated.

537. It is central for means of communication? Yes, it is well situated.

538. Now, as to the buildings? The buildings are very unsuitable. I have a report drawing attention to the mixed character of the work of the institution, and to the objections as to keeping pregnant women alongside of children, for instance.

539. You said the building was quite out of date;—does that apply to all branches of the business? You would not want much accommodation for outdoor relief work; a room and a store would do.

540. Next comes the asylum for these women and children—is it suitable for that purpose? Not whilst the other departments are carried on there; not whilst the pregnant women are there.

541. Is the lying-in home suitable for its purpose? If you took away the other departments you could pick out a portion of the building that would be very suitable.

542. *Mr. Powell.*] Do you condemn the building as a whole? I would. The Directors have written to the Government, and suggested what they considered a suitable site—"Ultimo House," Ultimo. They think that the site with proper buildings thereon could be made suitable for the carrying on of the work of the institution, and it was suggested that the present buildings of the Benevolent Society be resumed under the Lands Resumption Act; that compensation be given; and that the Ultimo site should be resumed for the general purposes of the institution. It was considered that with the means which the Society would have in hand, and the compensation for the resumption of the present site, that they could carry out the objects of the institution.

543. *President.*] Whose property is the Ultimo site? I think it is Matthew Harris's.

544. Describe the nature of your position and your duties? My duties are the general supervision of the staff of the institution, and I keep the financial books of the institution and the histories of the cases.

545. Do you keep them yourself? I keep them myself.

546. Do you keep the accounts yourself? I keep all the accounts myself. I may say that I have the entire charge of all moneys coming in and going out. If anything is wrong in regard to any of the moneys of the institution I am responsible.

547. The duties that you have mentioned, and those laid down in the rules, take up a great deal of your time; does it leave you time for general supervision? Not latterly; it does not allow me proper time to do the clerical work which I used to do. It is growing rather too large.

548. You attend to the accounts, the correspondence, and to a great many other matters;—what I want to know is, does that take up so much of your time that you cannot give a proper general supervision? I will give an instance of how I am falling short lately. Some time back I had more time to attend to the affiliation of children in the institution. I had more time to question the women and get a grasp of the work, but latterly it is falling behind.

549.

549. I suppose you consider the affiliations as a very important part of your work? I do, and especially if I could have induced the directors to petition the Government to make alterations in the present affiliation laws. We could then get good results. I consider it necessary that a child should be affiliated before its birth, for this reason: A woman comes into the institution, and if you have no other means of disposing of her she remains two or three months—at any rate, generally for a month; and at the end of that time, although there may be a good case against the man, there is no chance of affiliating the child. Another reason for the alteration is, that the woman might be compelled by the directors, or by the manager, to take proceedings against the father of the child whether she liked it or not; that is to say, if we find a good case against a man we ask the woman about it, but she says, "No, I will not prosecute." In America it is the law that the manager or the directors of an institution can subpoena the mother as a witness and put her upon her oath.

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550. If you had *prima facie* evidence you would wish to have power to compel her to go on with the case? Yes, in her own interests and in the interests of the State. The bulk of the women refuse, as a matter of sentiment.

551. *Mr. Powell.*] Do you get the history of the cases? Yes, I get the history of each case. They are taken before the Ladies Committee, then I see the woman and formally admit her and question her.

552. Do you take the history of cases of outdoor relief? No; that is done by the outdoor inspectors who report.

553. *President.*] Do you control all branches of the Institution? Yes; subject to the direction of the Board. I may say that the Committee are fully advised of all the work of the institution every Tuesday afternoon. When I say by direction of the Board, I have not entire power in that respect. The Information Committee get information from me every Tuesday afternoon as to how the work stands. There is a list of cases put before the Committee every week, and they have an opportunity to ask why did so and so come in. Any correspondence during the week, or anything of importance that happened, is brought before them; and apart from that the hon. secretary is there very frequently during the week and questions me upon what has transpired.

554. Do you get the instructions of the Committee at the Committee meeting or do you get them through the honorary secretary? I get them both ways; but if it is necessary to get instructions from the House Committee, I ask them for instructions.

555. You are present at the meetings? I am present at all meetings, and the honorary secretary comes down from time to time and directs me about various matters.

556. I see that the accounts are audited by some of the directors of the institution? Yes; that always has been the practice.

557. Not by a professional auditor? No.

558. Is it your opinion that the accounts ought to be audited by a professional auditor? Decidedly; for this reason: apart from the expert check which there would be upon the work that you would not get from an amateur auditor, I should have an opportunity of consulting a professional man as to how certain accounts ought to be kept. I should say that that is an essential feature of proper management.

559. Are the auditors paid? No. No directors are paid. I do not wish to convey that the work is not done conscientiously or properly; but I am not a professional accountant, and I think that, if a professional accountant audited the books he would exercise a good influence.

560. Mr. Penfold told us that the books had been opened up by a professional firm? Yes; it is a professional system of double-entry by Messrs. Ford & Troup four or five years ago.

561. You think it would be an advantage to you, as manager, if the books were audited by a professional firm of accountants, because you could get advice from them? Exactly.

562. How many officers are under a guarantee? Myself, the collectors, and the outdoor inspectors.

563. What is the amount of your guarantee? £600.

564. And the inspectors? One inspector, £250; and the collectors, £100 each.

565. Are these all the officers who have the handling of any money? Yes.

566. Do you keep a time-book? Only for those employed in the institution. The storekeeper and his assistants, and the clerks, sign the time-book.

567. As regards the outdoor officials, their journals would be their time-book? The amount of work they bring in.

568. And do they not keep journals? They write reports and journals of their day's visits.

569. That would be their time-book? Yes; the Committee would have an opportunity every Tuesday afternoon to ascertain from the reports whether the men did a fair week's work.

570. Can you tell us how many visits of inspection were paid in 1897 by the inspectors? It says in the annual report—"Cases visited and reported upon"—there were 8,267 cases visited and reported upon. We should have to dissect the number that were reported upon and not visited, to show actually how many homes the inspector went to. A report does not necessarily mean a visit. The applicant for relief may be questioned at the counter, and no further relief may be required; but the case would be reported. I know there are some cases of that kind.

571. I want to see what each inspector does, and how many inspections are made by them? That is shown each Tuesday afternoon, when they bring their reports in. They read from a book how many inspections they have made during the week.

572. Do you not take out these visits, and see whether each man is doing a fair day's work? I have it in the House Committee's book every week. That was done on the recommendation of the honorary Secretary, and I thought it a very good idea. Suppose a man puts down forty cases visited and reported upon, if the actual visits number twenty, and the rest were mere conversations with the applicants, that would not be anything like the value of as many visits made by the Inspector to the different homes. It says here, "So many cases visited and reported upon." Take them at forty. Suppose only twenty visits have been made to the home, and twenty other cases were reported upon without having been visited. These would not be anything like the value of the other twenty.

573. You mean that if we get a detailed statement from the inspectors it would not be sufficient evidence of the work they are doing, because there are inspections and inspections? Yes.

574. Forty inspections may be worth more than fifty other inspections? Yes. If a man went 10 miles, and took half a day to visit a case, that would be worth more than a number of other inspections where no visit was made.

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575. I understand that they have bicycles? Yes; two of them have bicycles, and the other has a buggy.
576. According to the last balance-sheet, your receipts from the Government, in 1897, amounted to £5,542? Yes; but there is a footnote stating that there is some money not paid in.
577. Your disbursements were about £10,400 14s. for provisions, stores, and rent relief money; and for salaries and expenses, about £3,617; total, £14,018. Is that correct? The actual disbursements were £14,986. That includes £968 invested in Savings Bank.
578. You increased your debit balance from £4,480 to £9,142. Yes; but that does not actually represent the position of affairs, because the following amounts from the Government fell due to the Society, but were not received;—Government maintenance, £2,095; Government outdoor relief subsidies placed on the Estimates, £4,000, &c.; total for 1898, £6,280. If we had received it on the 31st December, 1897, we should have had to wait eight or nine months before we could get a further subsidy from the Government.
579. Have you occasionally drawn on your accumulated funds for current requirements? They have only been drawn upon once since I have been connected with the institution. They drew £10,500 in 1884. There was then an overdraft at the bank of £15,000, and the directors held a meeting and decided to draw that amount from the accumulated funds.
580. As against any overdraft that you have at the bank is it a fact that the bank allows you to draw upon security of your fixed deposit at the same rate of interest? Yes.
581. So you are allowed a set-off against your overdraft? Yes, we are allowed 3 per cent. for our fixed deposit, and we are charged 3 per cent. for the overdraft.
582. In the balance-sheet there is an asset consisting of certain lands at Bankstown, what is the extent of it? 190 acres.
583. What is it put down at in the balance-sheet? £480. That is the amount that was lent on mortgage on the land in 1843. The Society foreclosed.
584. It is worth more than that? Undoubtedly much more than £480.
585. By what title does the Society hold it? Torrens' title.
586. Have the Society ever had a valuation of the land? No, I cannot recollect that they have had any valuation of it. Some years ago the honorary treasurer proposed that the increased value should be put down for the land, being under the impression that £480 did not nearly represent its actual value, and that it was misleading to the public. The majority of the directors, however, decided that as £480 was the original amount of the mortgage that should stand as the book value.
587. Have the directors ever considered whether they could use the land to any advantage;—is it used now? No; it is lying to waste. At one time it was let for a farm, but the revenue from it was almost nothing.
588. Have the directors considered whether they could turn it to any use? They have; but they have been waiting for the extension of the railway to Liverpool. They thought that if a railway went through it would increase the value of the land, then they could decide what to do with it.
589. You say it was acquired by mortgage? Yes; the owner borrowed this amount of money from the Benevolent Society.
590. Do the Society lend money on mortgage? In that case they did.
591. Have they done it in any other case? No.
592. And in this, the only case in which they did it, they have had to take over the land? Yes.
593. Have you foreclosed? Yes, in 1847. It is only recently that the land has been placed under the Torrens' Act.
594. So that the land is now absolutely the Society's property? Yes; we hold the deeds.
595. Are you aware that the amount of money contributed by the Government equals about 60 per cent. of the whole expense of the institution for the last ten years? Yes; I thought it would be a little more than that.
596. Can you account in any way for the fluctuations in the subscription list;—has it anything to do with the energy of the collectors? No; I think the people get tired of subscribing. The collectors have been energetic in their own interests.
597. That hardly applies, because the subscriptions in 1894 were £1,016, and in 1895, £3,429? That includes the sum of £2,000 that I was instrumental in getting in by means of a special appeal.
598. In 1896 the amount was £2,659? So far as these items are concerned—£2,500 and the £1,300—there would be a drop in the two years from £2,500 to £1,300. One reason was, that in the previous year £400 or £500 was obtained through the influence of the school children of the Colony, but the Minister of Public Instruction stopped these appeals from going through the schools. That resource is done for now.
599. On the whole, are the ordinary subscriptions increasing or decreasing? I think the ordinary subscriptions have remained almost stationary for the last two or three years, but the special appeal has fallen to £697. People get tired of the novelty of the appeal; it will be still less this year.
600. In 1893 you appear to have received a large sum from circuses, £475, but in 1897 only £50;—is it the policy of the Society to stop those entertainments? No; they rather encourage them. The circuses, however, have done badly, and have not applied for the ground lately.
601. You consider that the publication of the *Charities Gazette* was attended with good results for the institution? Very good financial results, except during the last four or five months. Lately the proceeds have been so very small that I was thinking of proposing to the directors to suspend the publication of the paper. It is at Christmas time when people become the most sympathetic and warm-hearted.
602. What is the cost of printing it? The cost of printing is £23 per issue, and we receive in the way of advertisements on an average about £16. I should think the production would cost about £10, taking the total expenses.
603. How often is it published? Every month.
604. How do you know what results are produced? We have a little book in which we keep an account. The meaning of the *Gazette* really is an appeal in the form of a pictorial supplement, and we have a perforated portion of the supplement which is sent back with a few shillings and the name of the sender and the address. These are all totalled up every month.
605. There has been a considerable increase in the salaries of recent years;—the amount for 1894 was £1,992; 1895, £1,627; 1896, £2,518; 1897, £2,294? Yes; the amount is less in 1897 than 1896. We had the unemployed in 1896, necessitating a larger staff.
606. The staff cost, in 1895, the amount of £1,627? Yes; but afterwards our work increased. We had to increase the ordinary staff. I think we had only one inspector in 1894.

607. And how many have you now? We have three now.
608. Have you not four now? Yes; there is one away. One was recently appointed during my absence.
609. Have you had any increase of the staff besides the appointment of an inspector? Yes, in the store department.
610. What increase has there been there? We have had two men.
611. The salaries and gratuities for ten years we make 19·2 per cent. of the expenditure;—in 1895, 20·5 per cent.; in 1896, 14·7; and in 1897, 17·3. Have you worked these out? I have a very good idea of what that position is.
612. There has been a very considerable increase in the cost of stationery and printing in 1896 and 1897, what would that be for;—in 1893, the amount was £204; in 1894, £160; in 1895, £286; in 1896, £583; in 1897, £450;—is that accounted for by the *Gazette*? We had no *Gazette* until June, two years ago, but we had an appeal. We used to send out a pictorial appeal stamped. I thought it would be a saving to start this little newspaper to save the stamps, because the cost of stamps was getting very heavy.
613. And the newspaper goes free? Yes.
614. The point is this, in 1895, the amount was £286, in 1896, it is £583, or nearly double the amount for the previous year? I can account for that. In 1895, the first year of the appeal 10,000 appeals were sent out starting from the month of May. Then of course that was not a full year. Next year we kept on sending out the same number of appeals and the cost would increase because it was for a full year. The amount for 1895 does not cover a full year.
615. It was seven months? Yes.
616. Did the financial results of the special appeal justify the increase in expenditure? I was looking over the returns a few weeks back. I will take the first year, £2,500. We had in absolute profits something like £2,100.
617. That is in consequence of the appeal? Yes solely; deducting profits and stamps and any other charges that is the profit that we find.
618. It appears that two-thirds of the amount collected from the public in 1896 was received from Sydney and one-third from the country? It is only during the last 2 or 3 years that we have commenced sending collectors into the country.
619. Do you canvass the country pretty thoroughly now? Yes; one collector has been doing the northern district and another the southern district twice a year.
620. Have they covered the ground pretty well? Yes.
621. How are they paid? 5 per cent. commission and hotel expenses. They bring back receipts and give full details in the bill every month.
622. Up to the year 1895 it appears that the £ per £ subsidy was limited to £500, but for the two following years the Society received £1,200 and £2,000? Yes; an appeal was made for an increased sum on account of the great amount of relief that would have to be afforded.
623. £3,000 was voted in 1897-8; you received only £2,415. Was that because you had not sufficient contributions to claim it? Yes, we could not collect enough.
624. In addition to the £ per £ subsidy, you received payment from the Government for the maintenance of women and children? Yes, there is so much per head.
625. At what rates? £28 for a single woman, £26 for a married woman. It is practically £28, because there are so few married women that it is not worth considering.
626. Why this distinction between the two? I could never understand why the distinction was made. It has been in existence for over twenty-five years. I heard it stated many years ago, that if a married woman was received there there would be a prospect of her husband contributing something towards her maintenance, and the Government would get it.
627. It is £28 per woman, and £14 per child? Yes.
628. At what age of the child does it commence, and when does it end? Any child two months old and under, born in the institution, is not paid for, but all over that age are paid for at the rate of £14 per annum.
629. So that a woman and child costs the Government directly £42 a year? Yes.
630. *Mr. Powell.*] What would the charge be for a woman with two children? The children would be charged for at the rate of £14 per head.
631. *President.*] Do you know on what basis this amount was arrived at? Very many years ago—it is within the recollection of the President, Sir Arthur Renwick—the manager, Mr. Mansfield, was asked to make out a statement as to what he would consider would pay the whole of the indoor expenses of the institution, and this was his estimate, and the Government decided to allow this amount.
632. Then this estimate was made a certain number of years back, how many years ago? It must be twenty-five years ago.
633. It was made twenty-five years ago, and has lasted to this day? It has been in force ever since.
634. Have you made any estimate of the present cost? I have it here for a period of three years. I did not go back four years. 1894 is what I would consider an abnormal year. For instance, there was an outbreak of puerperal fever, and the Society was put to great expense in transferring to a private nurses' home and taking a new asylum at Surry Hills. The average cost per head for 1895 was £22. For 1896, £21; for 1897, £21 16s., say £22. There appears to be a difference of opinion amongst the managers of such institutions as to whether the cost of the buildings ought to be included in the cost of maintenance, so I have the figures both ways. The figures which I have just given are inclusive of the cost of the building.
635. What is it without the cost of the building? For 1895, £21 1s.; 1896, £20 1s.; 1897, £20 15s. All these are fairly good years. In comparison to the amount allowed by the Government, there seems very little cause of complaint that the Society has been paid enough. I remember that many years ago I represented that the maintenance allowance was not paying, and the answer was that representations had been made to the Government and that they would not allow any increase.
636. Not taking into account the interest on the building, the average for the last three years is something under £21? Yes. I should like to point out particularly in the case of the Benevolent Society, it is an open question whether the building ought to be taken into account, because the Society has a building fund from which it receives interest.

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637. That £61 17s. is an average of somewhere about £20 per head,—what about the children? That means £21 per head. You can only take the cost per head throughout. You cannot say a woman costs so much and a child costs so much.
638. You can say that two or three children are equal to one adult? Their ages vary very much, from two months to twelve years old.
639. *Mr. Powell.*] But you get £14 each for them? Yes.
640. *President.*] Does not that show on an average that two children are equal to one adult? That is what is meant by the Government allowance. Our maintenance fund is made out on the principle usually adopted. For example, take the daily average number of patients altogether, and run the indoor expenditure into the gross total; then the average cost per head is arrived at.
641. For the three years it is a little over £20;—does that mean the average for a woman or average per head? The average per head, including women and children. On the same lines as if you take an institution supporting old men and old women, you would say so much per head all round.
642. Taking two children as equal to one adult, we make the average cost £28 Os. 9d? You make it practically the same.
643. I suppose you know the cost at which they can maintain inmates of the Liverpool and Parramatta Asylums? It is £14 per head at Newington. There is a large amount of hospital work in connection with the Benevolent Asylum. Of course it would be as cheap to maintain probably 250 inmates at the Benevolent Asylum as it would be to keep 200, on the ground that the administration would be the same.
644. Can you say whether your accounts properly show the separate cost—whether this is really an accurate statement? There is a careful separation of the outdoor and indoor relief work, and I think you might regard it as reasonably accurate.
645. The cost per head is just double what it is in the asylum? We have carefully separated the cost of administration. My salary is charged against indoor maintenance and also against the outdoor relief department, and the same with the others.
646. You have given us the average that you have estimated, that is taking the children per head? Yes.
647. Do you not think that for a woman and a child over two months old it is pretty stiff to charge £42 a year? That is rather a difficult question. The Government arrange to bear the whole cost of maintaining the women and children in the institution, and it is such a mixed institution, if you take one and say it is too much for this child and not enough for that there is a difficulty.
648. As the Government have to pay the whole cost, the question is whether £42 is not really higher than it should be, compared with what we know it can be done for in other institutions? Of course there is not the same character of work in the other institutions. The old people eat very little. Our inmates are vigorous young women about to give birth to children, and they have abnormal appetites, and we have also growing children.
649. This estimate for the children given by you includes not only the infants of those women, but also the children who are waiting there to be sent away? Yes; it includes the whole of the inmates, except children 2 months old and under.
650. All the women and children? Yes; it includes the cost of all the inmates except infants 2 months and under.
651. And their clothing as well? Everything, nurses' salaries as well. I mention that point about appetites because recently I have been visiting the homes of the aged poor, and I was speaking as to the small cost of maintaining them because they get so little from us, and I was told that their appetites were very small.
652. Then there is no difference between the charge for infants over 2 months old and the charge for big children? None whatever.
653. How long previous to their confinement do you admit women to the asylum? The times vary very much. It is the aim of the Ladies' Committee to receive them at as late a period as possible. But sometimes you have to receive a woman six or eight weeks before her confinement. If a woman comes from the country, and is absolutely penniless, and would be confined in five or six weeks time, they must receive her.
654. It is the object of the Ladies' Committee to postpone as far as possible their admission? Yes; to get them as near the time for confinement as possible.
655. And if there are cases such as you refer to—girls from the country—they must be somewhere else if not there? Yes; it is a matter which has exercised the minds of the directors for a very long time past.
656. What is the usual time that a woman remains in the institution, assuming that she goes in a week before her confinement? Sometimes it is very many months. There is the greatest difficulty in finding a home for a woman with a baby. If she is a smart woman or has friends she will probably go out within three weeks, if not she will remain till we can find her a home. In company with the matron, I question all these women every month, and we try to insist upon their going out, but they prove to us that they cannot go—they have nowhere to go to.
657. Is there any organisation attached to the Society for getting them employment? No. Our only method is to advertise and coax them to go to some of their friends.
658. I find that the average stay in the asylum in 1896 of the lying-in patients was forty-seven days? Yes.
659. And the other women and children sixty-four days? Yes; but by taking an average, I do not think that you will get at the actual state of things. In that case I do not think that the average is applicable. One woman may remain in twelve months, and another only three weeks.
660. So that it may occur that a woman who is received into the home a week before her confinement may have to stay some months after? It does occur.
661. You have no organisation for getting them employment? No; I telephoned to all the laundries some years ago to see if they could give employment to women with babies, but with no result.
662. Have they been trained to household work? No; they are not exactly women of a low order of intellect, but a very common type of household drudges. Very few of them are smart women.
663. Are you aware of any instance of destitute females from the other colonies receiving outdoor relief from the Society? Yes; but I could not give you any idea of the number.
664. Do you think it is a serious tax upon the State? So far as our institution is concerned I should not think so. Speaking from memory, it has never occurred to me that the tax was great. At the last meeting something

- something like seventy unemployed men came before the committee. The honorary secretary was in the chair, and he questioned them, and very few of them had come from the other colonies. E. Macted.
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665. Are you able to do anything in those cases in which women come from the other colonies to be confined? Those are rare cases; some come from Tasmania, some from Melbourne. We have a little printed circular that we send to the fathers of the children, but the result is unsatisfactory. The affiliation laws are so bad that little can be done. At one time the women refused to take proceedings against the fathers of the children, and the Board were rather indignant. It was directed nine or ten years ago that the women should be taken up to the Court in charge of the nurses; but they used to abscond, or give a wrong name as to the father of the child.
666. Do you know what is done in the other colonies in reference to that? I made some enquiries recently in Brisbane, and the state of things is as bad there. The laws are defective.
667. I suppose women go from here to Brisbane, occasionally? Yes.
668. Your medical officers are not paid? No, they are honorary officers. Originally, there was a paid medical officer.
669. Is the present arrangement satisfactory? Not entirely; they do not attend with sufficient regularity.
670. You have not these officers completely at your disposal? No; they are very independent. We have one medical officer who is most regular, but the others are irregular.
671. If you could afford it, do you think that a small salary ought to be paid to a medical officer? I think that if the Society went back to the old custom of paying a visiting medical officer not the same amount of salary, but if he could come in once every morning, and go through the institution regularly, it would be better than the present arrangement.
672. Why was the change made—was it a matter of money? No; that was not the reason. There was a dispute between the paid medical officer and the two consulting medical officers and the directors at the time of the outbreak of puerperal fever. There was a great deal of ill-feeling, with the result that the staff resigned.
673. Is the work in the lying-in division increasing? It has decreased wonderfully during the last twelve or eighteen months. This month it is going up again; but it has decreased from something like twenty-five or thirty births a month to fifteen or eighteen.
674. How do you account for that? I think that the other lying-in homes around Sydney are drawing them away.
675. What others are there? There is Dr. Graham's, there is the Salvation Army Maternity Home, Mr. George Lewis has a small maternity home, and Mr. Ardill has one. Mr. Ardill was advertising the other day to teach midwifery students, so that his work must be growing.
676. Have you a dispenser? Yes.
677. Is he a salaried officer? He has a shop opposite, and he comes over once a day. He is paid.
678. Is that a satisfactory arrangement? I think it is a very good arrangement.
679. It gives you his services at a minimum cost? We pay him £12 a year, and he is a qualified man.
680. On whose authority are medical comforts dispensed? The medical officer orders them and the matron gives them out.
681. Only on the order of the medical officer? Only on his order verbally given.
682. Are medical comforts given to any great extent? They are not. Brandy and wine would be medical comforts, and we do not pay more than £8 or £10 a year for the whole of that.
683. Does the storeman pass the stores under your directions? I see them every day. He receives them and I examine them.
684. Who is primarily responsible? With regard to the weights he would be responsible, but with regard to the quality I am responsible. I should hold myself responsible for any bad meat.
685. Is it not the storeman's duty to bring it under your notice if anything bad is delivered? As a matter of fact he does. He is a most reliable man.
686. Who issues the stores? The storeman, except the outdoor relief stores, those are controlled by the chief outdoor inspector. He books all the items and they are handed over the counter, but it is right under the supervision of the outdoor inspector.
687. Who checks the issue of the stores;—are the entries in the books balanced? Yes; they are balanced every half year. Everything that comes into the institution—the receipts and disbursements, goods of every kind—are balanced every half year, and if not found satisfactory there is an opportunity to make inquiries. The honorary treasurer comes every half year and examines the lists of everything in stock.
688. Is it possible for a certain number of loaves to be delivered and paid for and not properly used;—what check is there upon that? As far as perishable goods are concerned that is practically disposed of in one day. Suppose we order 3,000 loaves of bread, the outdoor inspector will issue, say, 2,900; then the storeman has instructions that we want some for the house next day, and they use up that 100 loaves. The system is a very sound one. You have the names of 1,100 families who receive relief, then there is the balance up at the end of the day, and we know what we have left.
689. That is to say, that loaves distributed on any particular Wednesday are balanced up at the end of the day? If we have 100 loaves left we know. The books will be balanced up on the Thursday morning. Then we have an opportunity of seeing whether they have been fairly given out.
690. How can you tell that when some get two loaves, some three, and some four? It is all entered. Mrs. Brown, two; Mrs. Smith, three; Mrs. Jones, four; and so on.
691. You take up the amounts every Thursday morning? Yes.
692. There is another point—suppose there is collusion, say, between the man who enters the book and certain people outside, and suppose they come in and call for six loaves, the storeman hands them out and makes a certain entry in the book; what check can the committee possibly have? Do I understand you to mean, suppose he calls out six loaves and only four are given and four entered, that woman would have been before the committee, the chairman will have told her that she will get a certain allowance, and if they did not get the full allowance they would go back and tell the committee.
693. I am not supposing such a case as that; but suppose a woman is a friend of the inspector's, and gets more than is due to her? More than is allowed by the committee?
694. Yes; would not the loaves still balance? He might take upon himself to give her more, because she is a favourite, and I think that dishonesty of that description could scarcely be controlled. I think it very unlikely to occur.
- 695.

- E. Maxted. 695. I am only pointing out the possibility of it, and I ask whether you have any means of preventing not only more provisions than had been ordered being given, but, also, their being given to people who had not been before the committee at all? They all come before the committee. If a woman comes during the week for assistance, and says I cannot wait till next Tuesday, and that she wants assistance at once we give her six loaves of bread.
- 11 July, 1898. 696. Suppose I were a clerk there, and I got a friend to come in who has not been before the committee at all, and I sing out six loaves? It would be to the interests of that person to come before the committee, to be placed on the books permanently.
697. She may know that the committee would refuse her, or that the committee may have refused her? I do not know how you could check that.
698. There is another point: Mrs. Smith might come before the committee and be authorised to get certain relief, and she might have her home inspected by the inspector, and it might be all satisfactory on the face of it; but suppose she hands over the ticket to Mrs. Jones, and gets paid for it, and Mrs. Jones comes and draws Mrs. Smith's allowance, is there any check? We should know the woman, her home would be visited, she would be known to the inspectors. If a stranger came we should say you are not Mrs. Smith.
699. As regards the stores received from the contractor, what checks are there between the contractor and the storeman? The storeman weighs everything. Supposing that a ton of flour was ordered, and suppose he weighed half a ton, we should say this is not a satisfactory balance—there is half a ton of flour short. He would not dare to do it. The other day a few blacklead brushes were short; of course there was not a satisfactory balance, and I found that the storeman had supplied them out of his own pocket.
700. You take stock? Yes, we take stock of all we receive, and the amount on hand every half-year. There is a check upon the storeman.
701. That is such a check as any ordinary business man would have? Yes.
702. About the contractor's accounts—the contractor has to furnish certain goods at a certain price;—who is responsible for passing those accounts? I am. I check them, and see that the prices are properly charged, and that his additions and calculations are correct. All these things go before the finance committee, they are checked by the members of the finance committee, and it does not even rest there. The schedule goes before the house committee, and all the prices are read out, and it is signed by the chairman; then it goes before the general board of directors.
703. Do you often reject stores as regards quality? It does not often occur.
704. How often has it occurred during last year? I could not call to mind how often. I have had to send meat back a good many times, but other stores scarcely ever.
705. You do not have to reject groceries very often? No; I do not think I can recollect an instance. We have sent bread back.
706. Have you ever disqualified a contractor? No.
707. How often are contracts let? Every twelve months.
708. Do you find it a better arrangement to contract for the supply of bread than to bake it yourselves? I do not know.
709. There is a sum of £366 9s. 6d. for midwifery fees;—what is the amount of the fees that the nurses pay? They pay 15 guineas each, and an additional fee of 3 guineas, and remain under tuition for six months.
710. What is the 3 guineas for? For the medical certificate.
711. The nurse resides in the institution during that six months? Yes.
712. Is that profitable or unprofitable? With the mixed character of the working of the institution, it is difficult to answer. I should say that it pays.
713. They do work in the wards? They are principally attending on the sick inmates.
714. Do you think that the institution loses by the transaction? No; I think it about equalises itself. It costs no more for administration, and they have the same diet as the ordinary nurses of the institution.
715. You must get some work out of them? We could do without their work.
716. In your opinion the Society does not lose by them? I should think not.
717. Does that apply to the students as well? The University students only pay 5 guineas.
718. But you have not to keep them? No. About £50 must be taken out of that £366 for a lecturer, making it really £316 a year.
719. The nurses remain there for six months? Yes.
720. Then they get a certificate, for which you charge them 3 guineas? Yes.
721. *Mr. Powell.*] Who examines them? One of the medical staff, and they give a certificate, which is signed by the honorary medical officer and the president, and the honorary secretary.

FRIDAY, 15 JULY, 1898.

[The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board at 10 o'clock a.m.]

Present:—

G. A. WILSON, Esq., J.P. (PRESIDENT).

J. POWELL, Esq., J.P.

Edward Maxted further examined:—

- E. Maxted. 722. *President.*] Suppose an out-pensioner is ill and unable to pay for medical attendance and assistance, or unable to obtain admission to the hospital, because of the nature of his illness, does your institution meet the requirements of such a case in any way? No, not in any way; excepting that we are badgered a good deal. A person will come to us in absolute despair, perhaps a poor husband would be run to the Board of Health about a sick wife, and from the Board of Health to the hospital, seeking medical attendance in their own home. On one or two occasions recently people have actually been to the Board of Health, and have been referred to the Women's Hospital. I can call to mind a case that occurred the other day.
- 15 July, 1898. 723. To the Women's Hospital? Dr. Graham's. If asked to send a nurse to a man's wife, the answer is, "Ours is a maternity home; we have no nurses for ordinary cases of sickness. Go down to the Benevolent Asylum." Our answer would be the same, that we have no nurses for ordinary cases of sickness.

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If it was a maternity case, we should send a nurse. The man says, "What am I to do?" I telephone to the Board of Health, and say, "This case must be attended to, otherwise there will be some unpleasant exposure." Well, they have, as a matter of fact, attended to the case, but it seems to me that they did it with an extreme amount of reluctance. I had to speak to them in a very irritating tone through the telephone to get all I wanted.

724. In the first place, I understand that you have not the means? No; and it is not within our aims and objects.

725. Of course, there is the point in it that there is a certain amount of moral responsibility upon you to do what you say you have done. Your inspector goes round, finds a case of this kind, and it is his duty to report the case to you; and whether you can relieve the case or not, you could not divest yourself of the responsibility to convey that information, as you say you have done, to the proper quarter? In this case that occurred a few days ago, I did not take the man's name, but the Secretary to the Board of Health will remember it. It was the case of a person lying ill with typhoid, and wanting nursing attendance in his own home. This was a neighbour who called on me; he said he had been round about from one place to another till he was absolutely tired of the whole business. The case was attended to. The Board of Health do attend to them, but it seems to me that they do it with a great deal of reluctance. Irritating conversations go on through the telephone before the desired result is brought about.

726. Is it a matter for the Board of Health, or for the Chief Medical Officer? The difficulty is that there seems to be no officer when you report a case of that kind to go to the home and see what should be done with the sick man or woman.

727. *Mr. Powell.*] In the case of the Byron family, down in Bathurst-street, you arranged to send a doctor there? I do not remember that case.

728. There was a case in Harrington-street, and a doctor was sent there through your instrumentality? I expect our chief out-door inspector knows that. The doctor would not come from our institution.

729. I want to find out what doctor went, and by whom he was sent—whether by the Board of Health, or at your instance? Possibly our chief inspector telephoned to the Board of Health, and they sent someone.

730. As far as the Benevolent Society are concerned, you do not profess to afford medical relief to needy people? No.

731. *President.*] And even when it is brought under your notice you cannot do it from your own resources—you have to put the Chief Medical Officer or the Board of Health in motion? Yes; we used to try the hospitals, but the general answer was that they had nobody to send out.

732. *Mr. Powell.*] In case of death in a house, if the people are in needy circumstances, they sometimes apply to you for burial, do they not? Yes. We have no difficulty in this matter; we simply refer the friends of the deceased to the City Coroner, and it is always attended to.

733. Why to the City Coroner? He has a vote for that purpose.

734. It does not necessarily follow that there will be an inquiry into the circumstances of death? Of course, a medical certificate would be given, and the person who made the application would have to take it to the Registrar-General's Department.

735. It seems to me strange that the Coroner should have to deal with a matter of that kind; his function is to inquire into the cause of death, but you make him a kind of charity dispensation officer by giving him power to order funerals at the public cost? Many years ago we used to undertake that work ourselves. I used to give orders for the burial of poor people. Eight or ten years ago the undertaker said to me, "Why do you go to this expense?" and he put me on the track of the City Coroner, who he said had a vote for that particular purpose. Since that period I have been sending cases to the City Coroner, and he attends to them.

736. *President.*] Suppose that your inspector comes across a case of this kind: suppose that he finds a person ill and without medical attendance or proper nourishment, would it be the inspector's duty to report to you? Not necessarily. I have told the chief inspector that if he comes across such a case to telephone at once to the Board of Health.

737. Do you think he ought to inform you? It might be an urgent case.

738. I mean, in addition to that, do you not think you ought to know about it? Not unless it is one of our own people, to whom we are giving out-door relief.

739. He would mention one of your own cases? He would. If he accidentally dropped across a case that did not concern us here, it would not be our responsibility; but, as a matter of humanity, I have told him to telephone to the Board of Health.

740. The only danger is that these things might be overlooked? I consider that if we know of one of our own people in that unfortunate condition it would be our responsibility to hang on to the case until proper medical attendance was obtained.

741. You cannot divest yourselves of responsibility of that kind? I could not leave the office and go to bed, knowing that a woman was lying in that condition.

742. In view of the infrequency of the inspector's visits, might there not be many cases of this kind without your committee being aware of them? I daresay there might, considering the large number of cases on the books and the infrequency of the visits.

743. We know that the visits must be infrequent, because you have so many cases, and the inspectors have to do so much in-door work that it goes without saying? Beyond question.

744. *Mr. Powell.*] How many inspectors had you until very lately? Only Mr. Grant, for many years.

745. *President.*] Do you consider this a defect of the system? We have not sufficient inspectors.

746. One of your tables, page 28, refers to husbands sick and afflicted;—would not that point to the fact of its being part of the business of the committee to attend to these people? Suppose there is a man suffering from consumption, we should call him a sick and afflicted man. We could easily get out-door treatment from one of the hospitals for a case like that. The difficulty is where it is necessary for a doctor to attend in-doors. With regard to the case of an afflicted husband, the difficulties are easily surmounted by referring the family to out-door officers.

747. With reference to the unemployed cases that you are relieving at the institution, who decides the merits of these cases? The committee meet on Thursday, and receive applications for relief, and order the amount of relief that is to be given.

748. You do not deal with those cases except seeing that the distribution is made? No; I simply sit at the meeting and take notes.

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749. *Mr. Powell.*] Are they treated as special cases? They are separated from the ordinary cases.
750. Do you give a larger scale of relief? Nearly double. The families are large. There are men living with their wives, and there is an increase in the family from time to time, so that the families are larger than they would be in ordinary cases, such as those of aged men or aged widows. In the case of an unemployed man it means a large family; therefore it is considered necessary to almost double the allowance.
751. *President.*] Is the Committee fortified by any report from any of its officers? Yes; we put a man on specially, and I recommended the other day another inspector, and if the work increases I am going to recommend an additional inspector, but whether my recommendations will be carried out I do not know.
752. How long have you been granting relief to the unemployed on the present occasion? Since the 15th June.
753. How many cases are you relieving in a week? About 430 families a week. There was an increase of about sixty cases yesterday, and they are increasing every week. They are being relieved in connection with the £500 vote.
754. They are increasing every week? Yes.
755. Have you ascertained if the applicants are registered as applicants for employment at the Labour Bureau? Yes; they nearly all bring their Bureau tickets.
756. Is that a condition of relief? No; they should bring a recommendation.
757. Have you ascertained before granting relief whether any of the applicants have refused employment at the Labour Bureau? I have not.
758. So that you may be relieving a family, the father of whom has refused employment? He may have his ticket, or he may have refused employment. I am not in communication with the Bureau to ascertain that particular point.
759. He may have refused employment, and yet get double the rations that the ordinary poor do? It is quite possible.
760. *Mr. Powell.*] Do you not think that granting the rations is likely to cause them to be particular in regard to the employment they accept? I could not say.
761. It takes away the necessity for exertion? If he is an undeserving man it must diminish his independence to some extent.
762. *President.*] Of course there are all sorts amongst the unemployed—good, bad, and indifferent;—do you not think that the indifferent or the bad will be liable if relief is given, to refuse employment? I have no doubt.
763. Assuming that a man is rather indifferent and inclined to be lazy, do you not think it is an inducement to him to refuse employment if he can get rations? Yes. I can call to mind cases in which men preferred rations to employment. Then the difficulty is whether if a man prefers rations to employment his wife and children should be allowed to go without food. That has always been a difficulty.
764. You say that the number of applications for relief from the unemployed is increasing? Yes. There was an increase of something like sixty or seventy yesterday.
765. Of course, you know that there are many delicate matters which young men, such as your inspectors are, could not very well inquire into, such matters as a woman near her confinement; they might have to ask all sorts of delicate questions of the woman;—do you not think you ought to have at least one lady inspector for such cases? From my experience of matters of that kind, and I have seen a good deal of women one way or another, I do not think that a smart woman would get a grasp of the work so well as a smart man. I think that a man is better constituted for work of that description, and will get a better grasp of the matter.
766. Do you think that a respectable delicate married woman would convey her condition to that man as unreservedly as she would to a sympathetic woman? I think to a keen man she would the same as she would to a doctor.
767. Why should not there be a keen woman? I always prefer a keen man to a keen woman from my business experience.
768. From your experience you think there is no necessity to employ a woman? I think that if a committee of ladies were formed in the different districts on the lines of the committees controlling the boarding-out inspection that would be a good thing, but I should make a male inspector the responsible person, and let the lady officers go round and report as they do in regard to the homes of the boarded-out children.
769. I understand that the lady officers would report to your ladies' committee, they might not care to report to a man? I should not recommend that, I should recommend that the whole of the report should go before one responsible board of management.
770. *Mr. Powell.*] Take a case that came under my notice this last week. A poor woman had been lately confined, her husband was near his death, and she had got about the fourth or fifth day. We could not put that poor woman through questions which a woman could put her through. It was clear to us that she was almost destitute of underclothing; we could not ask her that question, but through our instrumentality Miss Keele visited the case, and she found that the poor woman was not only destitute of underclothing, but also suffering from a trouble which would make it necessary for her to go into a hospital. These are facts that would not have been elicited except through Miss Keele? With regard to what a woman would tell another, some years ago I took a list of women who had interviewed our ladies' committee. When approaching their maternity they were questioned on various points with regard to the fathers of their children, and what they said was accepted by the ladies' committee, and those women signed the report. In the public interest I set aside a time from half past 4 until 6 o'clock every evening for two or three weeks to question these women at a time when they had no interest in making a false statement, as their trouble was over, and they had got all they wanted. Having questioned them, I went back to their original statements to the ladies' committee, and it disclosed what I call a horrible state of things. I have here a statement which I would like you to look at. I gave evidence in connection with the matter to a former Commission. If I quote one case it will give an idea of what I mean. I may state that in this inquiry that I made I tried to coax the women, and when I thought I could not get the truth by coaxing, I threatened them with legal proceedings. Here is a case in point. It is the case of a woman 20 years of age, who had had a former child. She was induced, she stated, by the father to fix the paternity of her child upon an innocent man named * * *. She and her sister went to the man and charged him with

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- with it. He denied it, and said that if he had not known her from childhood he would have prosecuted her. The girl was influenced by the real father of the child to take that step.
771. *President.*] You are assuming that your male inspectors are thoroughly qualified and well chosen, but I have as much right to assume that the lady inspectors would also be thoroughly qualified and well chosen? I am assuming an equal amount of capability on each side. My impression is that a man, for this particular class of work, is preferable to a woman.
772. We know that men have a better training for business than women; the only question is whether, in certain cases, a sympathetic woman will not elicit certain delicate information that a young inspector might not elicit? It is my impression that a keen sympathetic man would be more likely to elicit the information than a woman. That is my impression after going through these cases. I know what they tell me.
773. How many women were admitted into the Lying-in Home in 1897? 302.
774. How many of them were married, and how many of them were single? 246 were unmarried and fifty-six were married.
775. How are these people classified or sorted out? They are very badly sorted out. The classification is most unsatisfactory. We have no proper means of classifying them.
776. You have not sufficient wards? No.
777. So that a respectable woman may be in the same ward, and when convalescent in the same room, with women who have had any number of children? There is no proper classification. We have tried to persuade ourselves that there is, but in my opinion there is not.
778. What was the daily average of women in the institution in 1896-97? Roughly speaking, the daily average of women for confinement is, I should think, seventy.
779. How many beds are there in the hospital? In the long ward there are thirty-six beds.
780. Fifty-five are given here? That would include those waiting for a week or two after confinement.
781. How many nurses are employed? We have six official nurses with assistants.
782. Does that number include those that are learning? No; we have about fifteen pupils and about twelve qualified nurses.
783. And what are those nurses paid? They average about £52, £40, £30, and board and lodgings.
784. The hospital is visited by students for purposes of instruction? Yes.
785. Do they reside on the premises? They have a room which they sit in. They have to wait for cases to come on. We allow them to sleep there now, but we do not provide them with food.
786. How many students are there on those terms? They average about ten. This year we had not a sufficient number of patients to provide them for their studies, and some went to Dr. Graham's hospital.
787. On what terms are the students taken? The charge is £5 5s.
788. For how long? The term generally runs for three months.
789. Is the institution put to any expense on account of the students? No; there is no expense.
790. What about firing and lighting? That would be very little expense.
791. The institution cannot be said to make anything out of them? I think they make something.
792. What other institutions deal with maternity cases in Sydney? Dr. Graham's Lying-in Home, the Blue Ribbon Army, Ardill's, George Lewis' Lying-in Home, St. Margaret's Home, in Elizabeth-street, and the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army do not take many cases. There are, of course, some private lying-in homes.
793. I suppose they are registered? They would be under the new Act.
794. Have you many inmates with relatives who could support them? No; they come to us in absolute poverty. The class of person from whom the subjects of the Benevolent Asylum are recruited are the commonest kind of servant girls, house drudges, who have been away from their parents for years. They either do not know where their parents are, or their parents are very poor.
795. Have you ever known of any such cases? Yes, I have. I have a little form in the office which I send parents who I think are likely to be able to contribute, but the results are so poor that it is hardly worth the trouble.
796. Have you had any experience of other institutions of the same kind elsewhere? I have.
797. What difference have you seen in reference to the management? There is a great difference in regard to the way the work is carried out in this respect. In Brisbane, at the Lady Bowen Hospital, which receives as many confinement cases as the Benevolent Asylum does, they take absolute labour cases. They cannot go and wait a long period before confinement, nor stay a long period afterwards. They are simply there for their actual confinement. We found that we could not manage that in Sydney. In Brisbane, where there is a small population, the Rescue Work Societies, the Salvation Army, and the Infants' Home receive these women first of all at the first stage, and as the period of labour approaches they are sent on to the Lady Bowen Lying-in Hospital, and each Rescue Society takes its own subjects with the infant back again. It struck me that if that could be managed in Sydney a great expense would be saved to the Government, because the Government is really the life of the Benevolent Society.
798. That would involve that there must be some organisation to keep the woman until she was very near confinement, then send her to the hospital and to care for her as soon as she was fit to be moved again? Yes; then in Brisbane the Government have expense in another way, because the places where they do this work are subsidised by the Government. They get a lump sum.
799. Do you see much advantage in that if a woman has to be maintained so many days before confinement and so many weeks after—is there any advantage in her being maintained outside instead of inside the lying-in home; suppose you applied the system to Sydney;—can the women not be maintained for a few days before confinement and a few weeks after as cheaply in the lying-in home as scattered all over the place? I do not know that they could be. In our case the Government would absolutely keep the woman at the lying-in hospital, but if the Salvation Army had a patient and took her away when she could be removed from the lying-in hospital, the Government would be greatly relieved in a case of that kind.
800. *Mr. Powell.*] Some of those institutions are partly self-supporting? They are. The Infants' Home, Brisbane, I was speaking of, where they receive cases before confinement, has a Government subsidy of only £200. The work of the inmates amounts to nearly £800, and the public subscriptions to only £8.
801. So that the women may be employed up to a certain time? Yes; if you can get the work.

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802. Could you do that in the Benevolent Asylum? No; with the mixed character of our work it would be impossible there. In our case so much labour is lost. Suppose a woman in good health has a child, and she is capable of earning something. In Brisbane she is made to do so, and they have obtained first-class results. Very little is obtained by public subscription. The place is supported by hard work.

803. *President.*] Have you given any attention to the literature on the subject of such institutions as you are managing, and the giving of outdoor relief? Yes, I have. With regard to relief in other countries as compared with the system here, I find that in England, where outdoor relief is given, the amount granted is very much larger than we give.

804. Perhaps it would be better if you thought over the matter and then gave us your views—it is a thing which requires a little consideration, unless you are prepared to give us your views now? I may state that I have read that the system of outdoor relief is very unpopular throughout Great Britain.

805. *Mr. Powell.*] With the people? With those who have to administer it.

806. *President.*] If you would like to take time to put your ideas in order we should be glad to have them later on? I have written some articles on the subject. Would they be of any value if I sent them to you.

807. If you will look up those articles, and give the pith of them in the form of a statement, that will be the best;—have you ever heard of any case in which a lying-in hospital was carried on in a building that was also used as an asylum? No.

808. And as a medium for the distribution of outdoor relief? No. I never heard of it being carried on anywhere on the lines on which we do.

809. Do you approve of these different departments being carried on in the same institution? No; I disapprove of it. I would briefly give the grounds on which I disapprove of it. A large, or even a small number of pregnant women walking about the buildings or about the yards within sight of a number of growing children must necessarily have a pernicious effect upon the minds of those children. Those women are constantly walking about in view of children 13 or 14 years of age, and I think that is absolutely wrong.

810. Are you aware of the opinion of the medical staff upon the subject? They have not expressed their views upon the matter.

811. Have any representations been made to the Government in reference to the establishment of a maternity hospital in a suitable building apart from the asylum? Yes. I have mentioned what was done about Utimo House, where proper separation could be made.

812. What was the reply? No reply—no result at all.

813. Were the responsible Ministers interviewed? Yes, both by deputation and by letter; from year to year the strongest representations have been made.

814. Was the position recognised, by the Minister;—did he acquiesce in the argument? The general tenor of the reply seemed to be that the matter would be placed under the consideration of the Government, and there it ended.

815. Was there any proper system submitted to the Minister—any definite system? Simply that the work of the Society could be better carried on if the present site were resumed, and the Society were furnished with means to carry on the work in the way that they thought proper with a proper classification of the various departments of the institution.

816. Was there a scheme formulated with regard to the lying-in hospital, dealing with the children, and the administration of outdoor relief? Not absolutely formulated, but the argument was that the work could be carried on better under a proper system of classification.

817. The whole cost of the lying-in hospital is defrayed by the Government? Yes. As you see, the allowances for the last three years have covered the whole cost of the institution.

818. So that it would not necessarily involve any increased cost if the Government were to take the whole of the lying-in business away from the institution? No; because the Government have been paying the whole cost of maintenance for the last two or three years. They are paying for everything except finding the building.

819. With the exception of finding a building, it need not entail any greatly increased cost? Of course, I do not know what the expense would be under different conditions, but as you are paying the whole cost of the internal management of the institution at present, I presume that it would not cost more for the Government to take it over altogether. It was the original agreement with the directors that the Government should bear the whole cost.

820. That being so, how is the statement of the cost prepared for the Government? There is no statement of cost prepared at all. The Government say they will allow so much per head for the inmates. If the allowance pays for that year the Society is fortunate; if it does not pay, they are at a great loss. I can call to mind that some years ago the Society lost a very large amount because the allowance did not cover anything like the expenditure.

821. Does this £28 a year apply to women who are in for confinement? For all women and all children. Of course, the amount is £14 per child. If the expenses of the internal work of the institution exceed £28 per head, the Society loses; if there is a profit, the Society gains. I can recollect that the Society lost some hundreds of pounds in one year.

822. The Government pay, practically, per head? Yes. If it does not pay the institution that is their loss.

823. Have you ever made a fair gross estimate of the separate cost of the lying-in department? Yes; but it is only based upon a calculation. It is such mixed up work that it is most difficult to get at it. However, I got the services of a professional accountant a few weeks back, and I asked him if he considered that the basis of the calculation was a reasonable one, and he said it was, but it is only a calculation.

824. It is really more an estimate than a calculation? Yes.

825. The cost, as you estimate, includes maintenance of the women before confinement and the maintenance of them after confinement? No; I could not calculate that before and after.

826. You estimated that it would cost about £28? You reckon two children to one woman. We make our calculation in a different way. My calculation is for 1895; cost per head, £22 10s. for a woman and also for a child. For 1896, £21 3s.

827. Does that calculation extend over the time before and after confinement? No; it is merely based upon the daily average of the whole of the inmates.

828. Then it does include the period before the confinement? It includes everything. 829.

829. *Mr. Powell.*] You run the time into days? We take the daily average of the gross expenditure in the in-door department. E. Maxted,
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830. As a matter of fact, the Government do not know how long these separate cases are in the institution? No; but of course they have every facility for finding out.
831. They would not know from your returns, you charge the Government by the average? Yes; we make out the daily average sheet; then the Government officer comes, and says, "Let me look at your admission and discharge books." There are so many from the previous quarter, of which he has a list, and so many from the present quarter, and he has every facility to find out how long those women have been in the institution.
832. There is no point gained in that, if they are paid for on the average system, the length of time for each case not being taken into account? No.
833. *President.*] You have told us that in very few cases are the inmates able to pay anything towards their cost? Very rarely.
834. Have you ever known any payments to be made? Yes; they are deducted from the account at the end of the year. I can give the deductions for last year. There is an admission fee of £2, which would be refunded to the Government.
835. I want to know whether the payments made to the institution are handed to the Government? Yes; the first quarter in the year.
836. Do the majority of the lying-in cases come from Sydney or from the country districts? I think the bulk of them come from Sydney, but many come from the country.
837. *Mr. Powell.*] Is not that a little misleading;—may they not come from the country and stay a short time in Sydney before they appeal to you for help? Yes; but I think that the bulk of them belong to Sydney and suburbs.
838. *President.*] You recently extended your operations by attending to women lying-in at their own homes? Yes.
839. Are there many cases? Very few. I do not think we have had more than six or eight cases this year.
840. Do you find in the few cases you have attended to that the thing has been appreciated;—I suppose they are married women? Yes, married women—most extreme cases of destitution. The nurses have told me that the poverty in the homes was wretched, and that it would have been better if the women would have come into the institution; but they object to it.
841. What do you supply? We supply a professional nurse, and if the husband cannot provide nourishment we supply it from the institution.
842. How long do you continue that? For about a fortnight or three weeks.
843. Do you know what each confinement case, in which relief is given in their own homes, costs? They are so few that it would only entail the cost of the attendance of a nurse from the institution two or three hours a day, and a little grant of ordinary relief.
844. A little extra liberal ration? Yes.
845. Is the tendency to this system increasing? No, it is not.
846. What conditions do you lay down;—do you attend in that way to anyone who applies? A woman comes to the institution with a recommendation, and asks to be assisted in her own home. On that recommendation we would send a nurse, and if the nurse saw that there were any signs of the person being well off, we should expect her to report that; but she generally reports the reverse.
847. Is it in some cases very difficult to ascertain whether you are relieving people who are in a position to pay something? Are you referring to people relieved in their own homes?
848. Yes, or otherwise? I do not think there is much difficulty, because the class of persons who come are so poorly dressed, and they are all young women. They are not like old women, who would be likely to resort to penurious appearances for the sake of deception. I think that that part of the work needs very little inspection. They are absolutely driven to the institution. If they could go anywhere else I am sure they would rather go.
849. Do you make any effort to affiliate the children? I do.
850. I think you said the other day that that part of your business which you consider very important had been interfered with by other duties? Yes, by the growth of the general work of the institution.
851. What method do you adopt to do this, and how far has it been interfered with by your other duties? First of all, the application for admission comes before the Ladies' Committee; then the next morning she comes to me for an admission ticket, and I ask her about the history of the case, and whether there is any chance of affiliation. That would need a good deal of time, because the women are reluctant to tell anything. You have to coax it out of them. Possibly, the time taken would be about a quarter of an hour to one case. I find that I cannot do that now. What I am doing now is this; when a woman is going out she comes to me for her discharge, then I question her, but I soon find a lot of people waiting in the hall to interview me with regard to food, and I have not proper time to attend to it.
852. You find that the growth of business is so great, and the staff is so small, that you have not time to attend to this, and you consider it a most important part of your duty? I do.
853. Do you take anything in the way of a declaration from these girls? I have thought it over. It was suggested to me by an officer of one of the Courts years ago. I thought it well over, and I mentioned the misstatements that were made, and he made this suggestion. I considered the matter, but I thought it would be rather too harsh a proceeding, as the girl is in great trouble, and a large amount of sympathy is felt for her; some allowance should be made for her misstatements. As a matter of fact, the statement on oath would put her in the position of being guilty of perjury. It would be rather harsh.
854. It would be when the confinement was coming on, but would it be when she was going out? There is a good deal of romance in these cases. When a woman is fond of a man she will try to shield him, and in some of the cases the girls will swear anything.
855. *Mr. Powell.*] You told us you had great difficulty in fixing the paternity? Yes; but I used to get better results.
856. To what extent were you successful when you had more time? I daresay we got results in thirty or forty cases in a year.
857. How much money would that represent? That would go to the girl. The Society would not get anything at all. The girl would get 5s or 7s. 6d. a week.
858. You did succeed in thirty or forty cases a year? Yes, quite that number. 859.

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859. *President.*] Is it a fact that some years ago you obtained statements from women as to the supposed fathers of children, and that you found in most cases that the wrong names had been given? Yes; I have signed statements here. I took statements in the presence of the former matron of the institution, who sat close by.
860. Having got a statement from a girl, have you power to bring the man into Court? We have not any power at all.
861. Do you think you should have that power? Yes; I think it is absolutely necessary, but it would want to be exercised with a large amount of caution and care.
862. Do you think there should be legislation giving that power? I do. There is in other countries.
863. Do you think there should be power to do that before the child is born? Yes; to save the Government the expense of the wrongdoing of the man who is more responsible on account of the woman's helplessness than he would be when she is actually able to work for herself. I cannot see why you should have to wait until after the confinement of the woman. The man is just as responsible when she is pregnant as when the child is born.
864. You think there ought to be legislation to enable the institution to do that? I think so.
865. *Mr. Powell.*] There is a weak point in that. I do not see how you can legislate to enable you to take proceedings before the child is born? The woman is pregnant—a medical man can certify to that.
866. There is no legal evidence? A medical man could easily ascertain.
867. *President.*] I understood you to say that these girls are almost entirely in a very poor condition in life? A very poor condition. For instance, it is a rare thing to have anything approaching a fast woman coming into the institution. It would be a very rare thing to find a barmaid there, because the barmaid class, I take it, are more intelligent than the common drudge class of women workers.
868. *Mr. Powell.*] Do you think that these unfortunates are on the average of lower intellect? I do.
869. *President.*] You have told us that there are no separate quarters for the married women? No.
870. You isolate them as far as you can? Yes; as far as possible, but that is not sufficient.
871. *Mr. Powell.*] Is there any line drawn at all;—does a married woman know if the occupant of the next bed is an unmarried woman? They all know the married women.
872. *President.*] How often are single women readmitted? As often as they come, and have nowhere else to go to, even if it is five or six times. On that point I should like to mention the principle that is adopted by some charitable institutions. A woman pregnant was brought to me the other day from one of the benevolent homes of the city. They would not receive her, on the ground that she had had a previous child, and they recommended the Benevolent Society to do work which they took exception to themselves. It occurred to my mind as a peculiar form of philanthropy which was adopted in that and some other places.
873. Do you know, as a matter of fact, that girls go about from one institution to another under different names? Yes; I know they come to our place with different aliases. One came in two days ago under the name of Carroll, but we found out that her name was not Carroll.
874. Do you think it is very objectionable that young women who are comparatively virtuous should have to associate with degraded women? Yes; I think it is most demoralising that an unfortunate girl who has been led astray, perhaps through love, and not from vice, should have to associate with degraded women who commit themselves from time to time. It is likely to have a bad influence.
875. They are permitted to mix together absolutely? Yes.
876. The vicious and degraded woman can, if she chooses, use all sorts of language? That would be detected, and I must say that they are generally well-behaved in the institution. Dealing with young people is not like dealing with old people. The patients are nearly all young people, and are generally tractable.
877. On their good behaviour? Yes.
878. Then you are entirely against the present arrangement, by which these women at all stages are compelled to mix together? I am. I have some reports here, dated 1887, showing the bad effects of it—"Children's separation from Pregnant Women"; Unmarried Women—Separation Ward required." I have always been met by the argument that the Government are going to resume the property, and that it is of no use attempting to make any change. Every time I have gone into the matter that has been the invariable answer by the Board of management.
879. So the whole question has been awaiting the decision of the question in regard to the building? Yes. I have reports under explanatory headings, some of which I will read:—"Visit to Newington Asylum, 1896," "Finance," "Foundlings frequenting the Asylum," "Finance Investment Account," "Separation of Children from Pregnant Women," "Separation of Women from unmarried Women," "Illegitimacy," "Rookwood Reformatory for Aged Couples,"—a large number are getting outdoor relief, and I think they could be cared for better in an institution—"Deserted Infants," "Aged Couples," "Necessity for Almshouse," "Unmarried Women," "Lying-in Homes," "Labour tests for unemployed Men," "Baby-farming," "Work done by the Benevolent Society, Indoor and Outdoor Relief," and so forth.
880. Take the case of a single girl who comes from the country for confinement, what becomes of her after she has been confined? Sometimes, when the woman comes down, I find her sitting in the hall with a bundle. I ask her where she comes from. She says, perhaps, from Bourke. I ask, "Have you a recommendation?" She wants to come in at once. She says she has been at service. The police have got her a free pass down to Sydney. She says she is within a month of her confinement. I tell her to call in two or three weeks' time; but she says that she has no money. We must necessarily admit a case of that kind; and when the child is born, the woman having no means, we cannot send her back to the country. We do not know what to do with her. She will probably remain in the institution for months. It is one of the weak points to know how to dispose of these women after confinement.
881. She has really to remain in the institution? Yes; until she can find employment.
882. Or you can find employment for her? Yes.
883. *Mr. Powell.*] At the expense of the Government? Yes.
884. *President.*] And what about the child? The child goes with her. It is a very desirable thing that the child should go with her. We could easily turn her out without the child.
885. Would it not be much easier for her to get employment without the child? It would be.
886. Is it not very difficult to get a place for a woman who has a child? It is extremely difficult.

887. So that the State has to support the woman and child till she gets employment? Yes.

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888. Would it not be better to get employment for the woman—because she is liable, to some extent, for the support of the child—and send the child to the Infants' Home? That opens up the question of a foundling hospital. If that were once started the social work of the State would be greatly increased. There are hundreds of women who would leave their children in the institution and go to service, and you would lose the run of the mothers altogether. You would have a large number of illegitimate children thrown on the State that you would not have under existing arrangements. They would practically desert the children, and you would really have the French foundling hospital.

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889. So that whilst you admit that this is a weak point in the institution, you think it is better than the other plan? I think it would be better on the whole. There is one great authority on the matter, a most intellectual woman who has given a great deal of study to the question—a woman of twenty-five years' service—Mrs. Elrick, the former matron. When she went to the society first of all, she argued the theory out in the way you are doing, and she came to the conclusion that that was the better way in the interests of the State, more economical, and more humane too, because a child after a certain term becomes fond of the mother. At first the mother does not seem to care for the child, but after they have been together for awhile the natural love comes to them and the mother does not want to part with her offspring.

890. *Mr. Powell.*] Do you not think that the same state of things might be brought about if the hospital were simply a lying-in hospital, and a woman had to go out with her child at the end of a reasonable time; she would then find a home in some other institution, and they would probably have greater facilities than you have for obtaining employment for her? The other institutions are all so crowded that they cannot take them. In Brisbane it could be done.

891. Do you not think that the chances in those institutions of obtaining employment for these women will be greater than any that you possess? Far greater.

892. *President.*] Do you think that if you had a properly-organised employment agency it would facilitate the finding of employment? A kind of Labour Bureau for that particular class of work?

893. Yes? It would if it could be brought about.

894. Could you not make use of the existing Labour Bureau? No; they do not deal with that class of cases. A few months ago we advertised in one of the Bathurst papers, thinking that the farmers might want girls. We advertised for employment for unmarried women with infants at a nominal wage, but we got no response.

895. Then, whilst the present system is not perfection, you really have nothing better to propose? I cannot propose anything.

896. Do you know whether, when the mothers leave the institution in that way, they put their children on the State later on? They may do; in fact, they have done it. A mother will give a woman so much a week to mind her child while she goes to service. She will pay for a few weeks, and then go away. The custodian of the child not being able to find the mother applies to the State Children's Relief Department, for the child's admission.

897. Does not that rather point to the thing I have referred to? It is not so general. There is a warrant out against the mother for desertion. It occurs, but it would not occur generally.

898. Have many of the children born at your institution come back to you? There are a few in the year—not many, now that there is an Infants' Protection Act, but formerly child desertion was very common; now it is comparatively rare; we do not receive the same number of foundlings that we used to.

899. Do many women come to you from the other colonies? Very few indeed. They are natives of different countries, but most of them have been in the colonies for many years.

900. How many a year have come for the express purpose of being confined? This possibly might be inferred from reading the report without having time to dip more deeply into the matter. For instance, it says that in the lying-in hospital 211 were natives of New South Wales, five were natives of Tasmania, and nineteen of Victoria. Even from these figures you can see how many come in a year. There are five Tasmanians, nineteen Victorians, eight from Queensland, one from Western Australia, and three from New Zealand.

901. There is a small number of cases of women who come over expressly to be confined? Yes.

902. After those women have been confined, what is done to return them to their own colony? They remain here; they have no means of getting back.

903. So that their children may become a charge on this Colony? Yes; but I do not think it is a serious matter—the number is so small.

904. Have you ever known any of these women to return to their own colonies, leaving their children here? No; that would be a case of desertion. We could not trace a woman who went away; we should merely know that the child had been deserted.

905. Have objections been made to the use of the building as a lying-in hospital on sanitary grounds? Yes; the medical staff have, from time to time, complained for many years, and these protests have been upheld by the directors, who have made representations to the Government concerning them. At the time of the outbreak of puerperal fever the medical staff made a great objection.

906. Have you compared the death-rate at the lying-in hospital with the death-rate in other hospitals of the same kind? Yes; I did for the last year. I compared it with the death-rate at the Queensland lying-in hospital, and the results were about the same, except when the puerperal fever broke out; but, of course, that is not a fair test. Under ordinary conditions the results are extremely good. I think that last year there were three adult deaths in the Brisbane institution.

907. There has been no serious mortality in your institution? No.

908. *Mr. Powell.*] The deaths are not necessarily due to the condition of the building? No; but they consider that puerperal fever might be due to it: the medical staff favour that theory.

909. *President.*] Compared with other institutions of the same kind, it does not compare unfavourably as regards mortality in ordinary times? No.

910. You are comparing it with colonial institutions? Yes.

911. You had an outbreak of puerperal fever some years ago? Yes; four years ago.

912. Did that involve the closing of the hospital for a time? Yes, and the taking of a new building, and, under the supervision of the Board of Health, the building was put into what was considered a sanitary condition.

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913. What was supposed to be the cause of the outbreak at the Asylum? It could never be properly discovered. In a hospital it spreads quickly. A woman coming in with erysipelas is liable to spread the contagion.

914. Were there any deaths resulting from that outbreak? Yes; I think there were twelve deaths altogether, with the patients who were removed to Flinders-street and those in the asylum, in a very short space of time.

915. Did the deaths occur in the temporary building or in the asylum? In both.

916. Then the inmates were returned to the asylum from the temporary building owing to the still more severe outbreak at the temporary building? Yes; but I may say that since that time we have had the walls thoroughly scraped down to the bricks, and two or three coats of paint put on and the place properly deodorised, and the results have been very good.

917. You say that women, after their confinement, are sometimes detained for months waiting for employment? Yes; sometimes more than a month. If a lady wants a servant, the women are called in, and she will pick the most suitable, and the most stupid will remain for a very long period.

918. When they remain there for months after their confinement do you get any work out of them? Yes; they do washing; they generally work in the institution.

919. Suppose there are more than are required for the ordinary household duties, have you any work test of any kind? No; but they are sometimes employed as wardswomen if they are suitable.

920. And are you sure that women are not kept there unnecessarily, and work not found? Not exactly that. There are certain duties to be performed in the institution, and the work is given to wardswomen and they get a small gratuity for it.

921. How long would some of these women be kept in the asylum—for years? There are two or three cases where they have been.

922. With their children? Yes. We are making out a return, and you will get the particulars.

923. They are kept there with their children, possibly, for years, and receive gratuities as well? In one or two cases women have been there for years, but it would be an exceptional thing.

924. How is the exception justified—that is what I want to know? Suppose you have a very useful woman, and she performs the work of the institution satisfactorily, the matron tells me that if she were sent out it would be difficult to find another to take her place. The argument is, that she is doing the work satisfactorily, although the expense is borne by the Government. It is sometimes a question of turning out an inmate who does the work satisfactorily and engaging a nurse from outside at the expense of the institution. If that system were generally adopted, then, of course, the allowance made by the Government would be quite insufficient to meet the expenses of the Society.

925. These inmates, then, are practically the domestic servants of the institution? Many of them are what we call wardswomen.

926. Are there any women detained there for a long time who are not doing the work of the institution? A large number are what we call unemployed women, and have been there many months.

927. What do you call a large number? I should think there must be fifteen or twenty who have been in the institution a very long time.

928. Fifteen or twenty women, who have been a long time in the institution, practically doing no work? No; they are unemployed.

929. Is there any solution of that trouble? I do not know that there is.

930. Have they children? They are all women with children.

931. Why are they not sent to Newington? They are all able-bodied women. They only take the aged poor at Newington. They will not take strong young women fit for work. If they would take a woman with a child at Newington, our difficulties would be over at once. The child is the difficulty.

932. *Mr. Powell.*] I will take one or two of the cases;—there is the case of the woman Curtis, a laundress? Yes; she has a child.

933. She has been employed by the institution for two years and seventeen weeks, is that so? That is correct.

934. During that time, she has received payment from the institution, amounting to £42 7s.? Yes.

935. The Government have paid the institution £65 6s. 8d. for her maintenance, and £32 13s. 4d. for the maintenance of her child; that is to say that, in all, the Government have really paid £98, and the woman has received £42 7s. from the institution; she is an able-bodied woman able to do the work of a laundress, and received payment of 7s. a week during the whole of the two years seventeen weeks, and at the same time the Government are being put to an expense of £98 in all? Yes; that is quite correct.

936. Is that an exceptional case? With regard to the length of time, and the payment of the 7s. a week that is rather exceptional.

937. We will take another case, the woman Player, a seamstress—she has been employed for two years and seventeen weeks; she has received £42 7s., at the rate of 7s. a week, during the whole of that time, and she has cost the Government £91 18s. 9d. She is an able-bodied woman, or she would not have been employed? They are both really useful women. With regard to the system of gratuities, a letter was sent in to you explaining how long the system has existed, and that the Government officials who had come down from time to time, had every opportunity to take exception to anything in that particular form of the society's work. It has been going on since 1862.

938. Take the case of the woman Ritchie. She appears to be the matron's servant; she has been employed for two years and seventeen weeks, and has received £30 5s. as wages, and the Government have paid £50 6s. 7d. for the maintenance of herself and child during the whole of that period. Is that an exceptional case? It is an exceptional case with regard to the employment of the woman. Two years ago the Committee had a meeting to decide whether the matron should have a servant, the previous matron had one, and it was decided that she should have a servant—that her payment should be 5s. a week. Since that period the woman has remained on the books. It occurred to me four or five months ago that it was questionable whether it was right that the matron, who gets a salary, should have a servant. ■

servant, and that servant paid for by the Government. It was very doubtful whether the woman should be in her present position at the Government expense, and I took her off the books. I mentioned the matter to the Committee, and their minds were much exercised in this direction, that if the principle of employing outside labour is followed out generally, the bulk of the Society's revenue from the Government for indoor maintenance would be gone. The Society could not carry on its work, and it would be in contravention of the original conditions laid down by the Government in 1862, that the cost of the institution should be borne by the Government. It is a matter that wants bringing to some practical and absolute understanding. I may mention that you are quoting a few exceptionally long cases. In these cases the amount of money given is exceptionally high, and these isolated cases are picked out from some hundreds and hundreds that are not like them.

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939. Then, take the case of the woman Gwynne, a wardswoman: she has been employed continuously for two years and seventeen weeks; she received in pay from the institution £25 Gs. 6d., and the institution was paid by the Government £98, covering the whole of that period. Then there is a person named Gilchrist, who was engaged for two years and seventeen weeks; there is no child in that case? She was taken off the books; she is not a charge on the Government.

940. She was a charge on the books for one year, when she had no child? That was an accident; when I found that the child was gone I took her off the books.

941. She received £28 according to your return? She should have been turned out if she had no child.

942. Then there is the woman Murren in the isolation ward; she has been within four weeks of two years there; she received £12 Gs. from the institution, and £83 was paid to the institution by the Government for the maintenance of herself and child; if that woman had been outside she would have supported that child? Yes; if she could have got employment with the child.

943. *President.*] It is rather inconsistent; you say that these women are exceptionally useful, and if you can find employment for the less useful women surely you ought to be able to find employment for those who are useful? Yes; it is a difficult question to deal with.

944. If these women are able to do the work, it is a difficulty in my mind whether they ought to receive money at all? I do not think they ought; if they get shelter, that is sufficient payment for the work they do.

945. So long as they are paid a considerable amount, there is no inducement for them to find other employment; but if you do not give them any money there will be an inducement? These women help the matron of the institution. I suggested to the former matron that the gratuity system should be abolished on this ground, and the argument was used, that if we do not give these women 3s. or 4s. a week we cannot get our work done, and then if we cannot get the work done we shall have to employ people from outside to do it—then our revenue is done.

946. You say that there are fifteen or twenty unemployed women;—why not distribute the work amongst all those women? If a matron gets a good laundress it is difficult to say to the matron, "That laundress must go out; you must make another take her place."

947. You have only to say, "She will not be paid; and you have from fifteen to twenty unemployed women to draw from";—that is one point I want to ask a question about: why should the matron have a servant? She is engaged pretty well at night attending to the sick, and wants somebody to look after meals. She is up at any time, night and day, being at the beck and call of all patients. She has the general supervision of a large establishment, and her washing, and so forth, have to be done.

948. *Mr. Powell.*] Do you not think that the women who remain in the institution, and who are able to work, should be expected to do the work of the institution without charge? The bulk of them do the rough work. The gratuity work is a special kind of work. They do all the washing and all the scrubbing without payment. In an institution with 240 inmates there is a great deal of work. The drudgery is done by inmates, who receive no money at all.

949. *President.*] I understood you to say that the unemployed do no work at all? That a few unemployed do not.

950. Can you not apply any work-test to these unemployed women;—is it absolutely unavoidable that those people should remain there at the public expense? I have tried my best to get them out of the institution; but it has always been a failure, on account of the mental condition of the women. They are so stupid, and so dirty generally, too, nobody would have anything to do with the bulk of them.

951. Do these unemployed make any effort of their own to get away? Not the slightest. I muster them every month, ask if they have any friends, and tell them they must go out; but they show a kind of indifference, never saying a word. The same thing occurs the next month, and so it goes on.

952. Do they get the same diet as the working women? Yes; they all get the same diet.

953. Could you not differentiate against them in that way? Some of the working women get a little extra tea or sugar.

954. Assuming that the working women have a sufficiently acceptable food now, could you not give the idle women something less? We give the workers a little extra tea and sugar at 11 o'clock. There is a small difference, not on the ground you are referring to, but because we think they are deserving of a little extra.

955. *Mr. Powell.*] Do you think at the present time that the lying-in hospital is a loss to the institution? It is rather hard to answer that. The only way to get at the profits or otherwise is to take the expenditure and the inmates as a whole, and see what the Government give.

956. *President.*] Do you remember a woman named * * * an inmate of the institution? Yes.

957. Did she not remain in the institution for a very long time with her child? Yes, a very long time.

958. Under what conditions? She came in as an inmate the same as the others, and was placed on the gratuity list, and subsequently as her salary was increased she was taken off the books, but her child was left on the books. The child was left a charge upon the Government, but the woman, by reason of her salary, was no longer a charge upon the Government.

959. Did not the Government disallow an amount? Yes; they made a deduction, and the child has since been taken off the books.

960. How do you justify this woman * * * being made a charge against the Government? It was some accident on my part through not looking thoroughly into the matter. I saw that she was getting a salary, and she was taken off the books. I think the child should have been taken off too. There should be some special lines laid down by the Government as to what patients shall be charged for, or what patients

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patients or inmates shall not be charged for. It has been going on all these years, and I have been simply following precedent—precedents which have been authorised by the signatures in the account books of the various Government officers examining the accounts of the institution during all these years. It has simply been a matter of precedent. It is no arrangement of my own at all. It has grown up during all these thirty-six years. It is really most difficult to know what to charge, and what not to charge, as a matter of fact.

961. *Mr. Powell.*] What Government Department do you deal with? We send all vouchers to the Chief Secretary's office, and one to the office of the Charities Department, and an officer is sent down to check the accounts. Then that voucher is sent down to the Chief Secretary.

962. Do not the Audit Officers interfere? The account is subsequently sent on.

963. Do they audit the books of your institution? No.

964. *President.*] These unemployed women may remain indefinitely? You may think so, but they do not. We seem to get them out somehow or other.

965. That brings me back to this point, as to whether you have a proper organisation for getting employment? We have not.

966. You say they do not remain indefinitely, because ultimately you get them out; then I would ask whether, if there was a proper organisation, you would not get them out sooner than you get them out without any organisation at all? Yes; if some organisation could be devised, but the difficulty is to devise it. If the Government, or some properly constituted body, could organise some reception-house in which they could be received after they have been in the asylum for a certain time, it might have a beneficial effect. It would be well known that women were waiting at the depôt for employment. At any rate you would know that there were no women kept in the asylum longer than they ought to be.

967. If a woman is so utterly useless that she remains there with her child for many months absolutely idle, it would be much better to send the woman, young or old, to an institution like that at Newington and take her child—such a woman is unfit to take care of a child;—looking, not so much at the woman, but at the interests of the child and of society, would it not be better to support the child and send the woman to Newington? It is always a very harsh thing to separate mother and child. We have sent many women to Newington—women of weak intellect, who have been there a very long time. We have consulted together and said this will go on to the end of time unless we can get these women of weak intellect out of the institution. The scene has been a terrible one to witness when the mothers have to part from the child. She generally had sufficient intelligence to know that she would never see the child again. We have often sent women of weak minds to Newington and kept the children when we found that they were likely to remain in the institution indefinitely.

968. Do you think that the Labour Bureau would be of any use to you in getting employment for the women? I should think it would be.

969. Would not that be the organisation I referred to? I think it would be a very good idea. The Labour Bureau have facilities for inquiring throughout the country for employment for men, and it might be made to apply to women. It would be an excellent idea to try it. When they had instructions from the Government that they had to do that particular class of work they would know it was part of their duty; but if asked in the ordinary way they would not do it.

970. If the committee decided to do it I presume they would approach it in a proper way—probably through the Minister? Yes.

971. *Mr. Powell.*] If these labour offices in the town applied to you for a woman, would you pay their commission? No; we should not pay them anything at all. They would be paid by the employer. Mrs. Gardiner applied to us for the women whom we sent, and she got her fees from the employers.

972. *President.*] You think you might be able to make some use of the Labour Bureau for getting employment? I think it ought to be managed somehow.

973. Have you any acquaintance with the scope and the working of the Children's Protection Act? Yes; with regard to the provisions of it relating to desertion.

974. Did you give evidence before a Select Committee on the question of the protection of children? Yes.

975. What effect has that Act had upon the operations of your institution? A very marked and beneficial effect, in this way: that whereas we receive many children who were left with women of, I think, very doubtful character to care for, and were deserted, these women custodians would make application to the Government and get an order for the admission of those children on the ground of their mothers' desertion of them. The admission of that class of children are comparatively few, because the receiver of the child must register herself, and she has a responsibility.

976. Then the Act has had a good effect? Yes; much better than I anticipated. It is a matter that I took a great deal of interest in.

977. Is there any lying-in home in Sydney or suburbs outside of those that are controlled under the Children's Protection Act and not registered? No; they all have to be registered. I do not think they dare have them unregistered.

978. Is Mr. Ardill's home registered? I do not know.

979. *Mr. Powell.*] Do you not know that the law with regard to registering is evaded? It is sure to be evaded.

980. What is the limit? I think it is three.

981. Then, so long as they do not keep more than two in the house they are safe? Yes.

982. *President.*] You have received from time to time a number of special grants from the Government in connection with outdoor relief? Yes.

983. What have those sums amounted to in the aggregate? To £22,000 in ten years, including unemployed relief in 1896.

984. Are you applying for any special sum at the present time? Yes; we are applying for an increased amount.

985. Is that for outdoor relief? Yes.

986. What sum are you applying for now? For £6,000 in all.

987. Is that on account of your having had to trench on your capital, or that the relief you are giving is inadequate? We are heavily in debt, and we have not sufficient funds to cope with the work. That is the principal reason.

988. Have not the operations of the State Children's Relief Act, under which the children of widows or deserted wives can be boarded out with their own mothers, lessened the demand upon the Society's funds? To a small extent only. We are assisting a very large number of widows with children, principally country people. E. Maxted.
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989. Has there not been an increase in the number of widows relieved by your institution since the passing of that Act? They have taken some cases away, but they are comparatively few. We sent the whole of the cases on the books to the State Children's Department, but there has been a general increase at the institution.

990. So that whilst the State Children's Relief Board have had a largely increased expenditure, you also in regard to the same thing have had an increased expenditure? Yes; I did not notice that it was so bad as it is.

991. So that instead of being relieved by the operation of that Act you are actually paying more than you did before? Yes; poverty generally has increased.

992. The State Children's Relief Board have increased their expenditure by many thousands of pounds, and ought to have relieved your expenditure in that particular? We had great hopes of it, and the Society agitated for the passing of the Act, thinking not only that we should be relieved of the bulk of the work of assisting widows with children, but, as we could not give them sufficient relief, that it would be more beneficial to the women. The results have been disappointing.

993. How do you account for this increase in your expenditure in this particular line in face of the fact that the State Children's Relief Board are carrying out this work at a largely increased expenditure? I cannot account for it, unless it is that widows in the country or in the far suburbs, who had been previously suffering from the want of assistance from the Government, when this kind of advertisement went forth that the Government were assisting widows with children, then applications became general, and the department found it necessary to assist them.

994. Is there a possibility that the Benevolent Society and the State Children's Relief Board are assisting the same widows? Not the slightest, because we get returns. That has been watched.

995. You are quite sure of that? I am quite sure of it. We have sent widows up to the department to get assistance.

996. Do you know the extent to which the expenditure of the State Children's Relief Board has been increased by the Act? I know it has been very largely increased. The expenditure last year, I think, was £40,000 altogether in the department.

997. Then you really have received no relief, so far as the return shows, from the Act? I know that they have taken over many cases, but it has not been a substantial relief to the Benevolent Society—other cases come in.

998. On what principle is outdoor relief administered. Take the amount first and the conditions of the people;—how do you regulate the amount? We have a scale. It is not strictly adhered to, but the applicant comes before the Committee, and she is asked how many children she has. Some one will say we will give what we call six and six. I minute that, and the next morning my minutes are copied by the out-door relieving officer, and on the scale decided by the Committee the woman is given relief. A woman with one child would get three loaves of bread; a woman with two children four and four; a woman with several children six and six.

999. What checks are there as to whether they are the right people who get the relief—suppose somebody comes on behalf of So-and-so for relief? She would have to bring a letter and give a proper reason why the person could not come herself. A visit would be made, and if the result was not satisfactory the case would be struck off the books, on the approval of the Committee.

1000. At what age does the Committee disallow relief in the case of healthy children, take boys first? It is insisted that they shall go to some employment. If they do not go to any employment some satisfactory reason must be given. In the case of a girl, 14 or over, it would be insisted that she should go to service, or the mother would be told that the case would be taken off the books.

1001. Is it taken off the books? I believe it is generally. There might be some cases which were not, but the reasons would have to be very good. On account of insufficient inspection, a case might be lost sight of, and a woman might continue to get relief, though she had a girl over 14 years of age.

1002. A girl must go to work? Yes, after school age.

1003. Is it in your experience easy for a girl to get work? Yes, very easy.

1004. As regards boys? There is a difficulty. The Committee do not insist upon it so much with regard to boys, because there is a difficulty about getting employment for them. A person is brought up from time to time to explain why her boy is out of employment.

1005. Does not the continuance of relief with respect to boys do away with the necessity to obtain employment? It might in the case of an unemployed man. We are dealing with our ordinary cases, but they are not so difficult to deal with as men who have families. I mean the cases of widows with children. They are generally a very good class of cases. Unemployed men are very difficult to deal with. You do not know whether they drink or are lazy. But in the ordinary class of cases—sickness, loss of husband, and so on—the difficulty is not so great.

1006. I understand you to say that the relief in the case of boys and girls over 14 years of age must be very small? Yes; I should think it would be very small indeed, although the inspection, I think, is so insufficient. I may say that all the cases come before the chief inspector every week, and although he does not inspect such a large number of cases as it is really necessary to do, he is a man with an extraordinary gift of memory. He takes the names of persons, and he remembers their circumstances even months or years after he has paid one visit, so that as these people come before him he will ask a woman why her son is not at work, and so forth.

1007. What is the maximum amount of relief at any time allowed to any family—that is, stores or rent, or both? Six loaves of bread, 6 lb. of flour or meat, quarter lb. of tea, 1 lb. of sugar; in case of sickness a quarter or half lb. of rice. The maximum of rent money is 3s.

1008. Suppose a family get the maximum, what is it worth? The maximum would be worth about 5s. 6d., including the 3s. rent money.

1009. Does that mean the cost to you? It is the contract price. They could not buy it for that.

1010. Therefore, it would be worth more to them? They would have to pay nearly double for it. It would be worth quite 6s. 6d. at any rate.

1011. So that, looking at it from that point of view, if they had to pay for it, it is worth 6s. 6d.? —

- E. Maxted. 1012. And it costs you 5s. 6d.? Yes.
- 15 July, 1898. 1013. *Mr. Powell.*] Without the money, how much would it be? Two shillings and sixpence.
1014. I mean per head, taking the children, too? The value of a single ration would be 1s. or 11½d.
1015. That is without rent? Yes. I estimate that it would cost the institution 11½d. or 1s.
1016. That is the maximum? Yes; the average would be different.
1017. The maximum by way of rent is 3s.? Yes.
1018. *President.*] What checks are there with regard to the rent? Only that they have to bring receipts.
1019. What value do you attach to those receipts? I attach a good deal of value to them with regard to that class of persons receiving relief. With regard to unemployed men, I should not attach so much value to it, as a man might resort to trickery. With regard to the women and aged people, I attach a large amount of value to the rent receipts. I think that, except in a few cases, they would not conceive the idea of forging a receipt.
1020. Here is a receipt from So-and-so for the sum of 3s., signed by So-and-so. The person who signed the receipt was the woman's daughter. The institution has no guarantee that that rent reached the landlord in any form. What is the value of a rent receipt like that;—have you any guarantee at all that the rent in any case reaches the landlord? Only these receipts.
1021. What guarantee is this receipt? I could not conceive that that would occur in a large number of instances. We have on the books six cases out of the 1,100, as far as we can ascertain, in which the recipients of relief are paying rent to their relatives. The receipt in such a case would not necessarily be a forgery if the person with whom the woman is living is a poor person, and cannot afford to keep her. She would be just as much justified in receiving the money as a stranger would.
1022. It is not a forgery, but it is in such a form that it should cause the officers of the institution to make inquiries with regard to it? Possibly it may be known that the person is a relative.
1023. It is not sufficient for the inspector to know; it seems to me that you ought to know? But we have such a large number of cases.
1024. It comes back to a question of insufficient check? If I knew it I would not take exception to it, assuming that the family were poor, and could not afford to shelter the woman without the rent money. If the money is paid it is as good a case as if the rent were paid to a stranger.
1025. Assuming that the woman is very poor, and that the relative, who, perhaps, rents a room or two, is also very poor, no exception should be taken on that ground; but should not the fact of the receipt being given by a relative cause an inquiry? It should be inquired into.
1026. Should not the inspector, from the very form of that receipt, have been put to inquire into it;—is not the receipt one which should challenge inquiry? I conceive it to be within the bounds of possibility; and it is most likely that in this particular case, when the inspector wrote his report, So-and-so was living with a relative, and the money was paid.
1027. *Mr. Powell.*] Where single rooms are rented, are not a great number of receipts given in the same way—I came across a case on Monday, in which a woman is living with her daughter, and has a room? Yes.
1028. *President.*] There is another point—what guarantee have you that the rent goes to the landlord at all? We have no guarantee beyond the receipt.
1029. When a receipt is furnished, how do you know that the money goes to the landlord? If it does not we must assume that the receipts are forgeries.
1030. Are any proportion of these receipts ever tested;—is inquiry ever made of the landlord? No; but the landlord frequently makes inquiries of us as to whether we are paying rent.
1031. Many of these receipts would at once make me suspicious, and I doubt whether in a great many cases the landlord ever receives the rent at all;—what I want to know is whether it is left at that, whether the inspector accepts this paper? I believe they do make inquiries where they feel doubtful. Mr. Grant has from time to time brought cases before the Committee, and said this woman has written out her own receipt. The relief is so small that we give that, even if these unfortunate people use the rent money it would not be a very serious matter.
1032. Does the Committee make use of the Director of Charities, the Charity Organisation Society, or any other society? The Charity Organisation Society occasionally sends down and checks the returns, if that is what you mean.
1033. As regards the necessity for relief? We get a recommendation as to the case brought before the Committee, and we send our own officer to inquire.
1034. What checks have you against overlapping? Very weak ones. I suggested a scheme which, I think, would have been a very successful one. I suggested that the Inspector-General of Police be requested to write to the police in the different districts to get the names of all the different local Benevolent Societies that were issuing out-door relief, and the name and address of the secretary of each society. If that could have been brought about we should have been in this position: Suppose Mary Brown came from Leichhardt for relief, we should say, "Go back to the secretary of the Leichhardt Society, and ask him to give you out-door relief," and if he says that he cannot do it, ask him to state his reasons.
1035. That is assuming that Mary Brown who comes to you is known as Mary Brown at Leichhardt; she may have been receiving relief there in another name? The effect would be not only to stop overlapping, but to test the usefulness of these other small charities. If the woman said she lived at Leichhardt we should send her back to the Secretary of the Leichhardt Society, and get him to either relieve her or state his reason for not doing so.
1036. To make that effective implies that the whole ground must be covered by these Societies? That applies to the whole of the city and suburbs. I had a scheme nicely arranged, but meanwhile the metropolitan Charity Organisation Society started its operations and the matter was blocked. Our methods of checking are not regular, and are very inefficient.
1037. You say that your check against overlapping is weak? We do not know the existence of all these small Benevolent Societies. We are not in a position to say how many there are. With regard to the Charity Organisation Society, which is the largest Society in Sydney next to the Benevolent Society, the Secretary has come down from time to time and checked his list of recipients with ours. With regard to the Charities Department, which now is, I might say, an enormous outdoor relieving agency, returns are sent down from time to time to our institution, and the names are checked. This morning we got a list;

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list; we had a list some time back of 200 names, and I found that overlapping has not occurred to any serious extent. With regard to the 200, the State Children's Department were relieving only six cases that were receiving relief from the Benevolent Society simultaneously. These six cases were very deserving cases, and seemed to me to be in need of relief from the two departments; but that is not the question. It is a question of getting relief from two departments unknown to each other.

1038. You say that if you knew about the local benefit societies you could do certain things, is it done in cases where you do know? It is done inefficiently. We have a check in connection with the Randwick Benevolent Society. It is done irregularly, not systematically.

1039. Of course your scheme presupposes that it should be done systematically? It does.

1040. You said that there were only six cases of the latter, would it not be possible that there might be a great many more under different names? You must always make that allowance, but as far as ordinary care and investigation could go that was the result.

1041. How often are the inspectors supposed to visit each case yearly? The cases should be visited every month.

1042. How often are they visited? Owing to the way the work has grown lately it is impossible to say how often they are visited. I should think about every six weeks or two months, except the cases that are considered chronic.

1043. Chronic cases do not require the same supervision? No, they remain the same always.

1044. The cases are supposed to be visited monthly, but as a matter of fact they cannot be? No, they run up to between six and eight weeks.

1045. Judging from that, you consider that your inspecting staff is inadequate? I think so.

1046. What is the entire cost to the State of the out-door relief, including rations, rent, clothing, &c.? The cost of the out-door relief department in 1896 was £8,851.

1047. That £8,851 is the whole expenditure? Yes.

1048. Including the cost of inspection? Everything.

1049. Have you got separately the amount that the Government contributed? Yes; the Government would contribute £4,000 of that amount.

1050. About half of it? Yes.

1051. You mentioned the opinion in the United Kingdom about out-door relief—that it is very much opposed in certain quarters? Yes.

1052. Do you know the grounds on which it is opposed? On the ground that it pauperises.

1053. What weight do you attach to that objection? They seem to prefer in-door relief to out-door relief—to afford relief in the workhouse.

1054. As a test of poverty? Yes. I have read a great deal on the subject, and I entirely disagree with that.

1055. Do you consider that this pauperising effect is necessarily produced? It must necessarily to some extent have a pauperising effect; but if the Benevolent Asylum were to take in women with three or four children it would be bad for the children. They would grow up under worse conditions than they would if the family received relief outside. It would be more likely to be demoralising to them; they would have the taint of the workhouse about them. I have no doubt that out-door relief is demoralising to a large extent; but if we weigh the moral effects of the two systems, in-door and out-door relief, my preference, after having some experience of the two, would be decidedly in favour of out-door relief. Not only that, take a widow with four or five young children, by giving her out-door relief you enable her to keep a little home together, the children go to school, and if not allowed to come to the Benevolent Asylum for relief they would grow up under the ordinary domestic and beneficial conditions of life with regard to education and motherly care.

1056. As a matter of fact they are allowed to come to the Benevolent Asylum? Yes, in cases where the parents are unable to come themselves.

The Committee at 1 p.m. adjourned for luncheon.

The proceedings were resumed at 2 p.m.

1057. *President.*] A year or two ago you made a distribution for the relief of the unemployed? Yes.

1058. How much did you distribute then? The amount was £4,500.

1059. And you were reimbursed by the Government? Yes, partly; a promise was made by the Government to reimburse the whole cost; but we were short by nearly £300. Application was made to the Government for the balance of money owing, and the reply was received that it was included in the out-door relief subsidy. It was pointed out to the Government that that out-door relief subsidy was for ordinary purposes, and in no way could relieve the unemployed. The matter was brought before the Government from time to time; but still the money remains unpaid. I think we are not likely to be reimbursed.

1060. How long was that relief given to the unemployed at that time? From February to November.

1061. That was under instructions from the Government? Under special instructions from the Government, under the same conditions as at present.

1062. Supposing we had a system of local government throughout the country, do you think that out-door relief could then be administered through the local authorities in a better way than it is now? In the way in which it is done in Queensland it might possibly help us. In Queensland the relief is administered by the Government at the Government Immigration Depot, under the supervision of the Immigration Agent. That agent has assistant immigration agents throughout Queensland, and instructions are given to them not only to find work for people out of work, but also to find them food where necessary; and food is given under Government control, and entirely at the Government expense, not only with regard to the assistant immigration agents, but also where there are no assistant immigration agents, under the supervision of the Clerk and the Assistant Clerks of Petty Sessions. There are some private societies in Queensland, like the Benevolent Society, and other small organisations that give out-door relief; but I am informed that they are almost without funds, like some of the small organisations in the suburbs of Sydney.

1063. Is there any systematic system in this Colony of giving relief in country districts except through the local benevolent societies? No; none whatever.

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15 July, 1898. 1064. Are you of opinion that the relief is too much centralised in this Colony? Yes; it occurred to my mind that it might save a great deal if relief could be given in country districts to people in poverty. It would save their having to come to Sydney, and centralising their misfortunes in the city; whilst in Brisbane the out-door relief for the year diminished in the city it increased in the country, because it is not centralised. Necessarily people living in the country districts in poverty, and finding such institutions as the Benevolent Asylum, that never refuses relief to persons in distress, would naturally think that if they get to Sydney they will not be allowed to suffer. I think, therefore, that decentralisation would be an advantage.

1065. Referring to the results of the working of section 10 of the State Children's Relief Act of 1896, it has been given in evidence before us here that there are cases in which mothers who, before that Act, tried to get a living, and did get a living, have thrown themselves on the State, taking the relief in respect of the children, and doing nothing? I have been told that, but I do not know exactly the history of those cases. I conceive it to be quite possible, not necessarily that it would be a case of imposition, but that a woman who had undergone a great deal of privation before the Act was passed, would naturally say, "There is no occasion for me to suffer longer; I will get relief under the new Act." I cannot mention a case.

1066. When relief was previously given to the unemployed, how was the thing wound up;—did the application cease, or the money cease? The money ceased; and we had an intimation from the Government, when we pointed out that we required more money, that after a certain date the work of administering relief to the unemployed would be taken over by the Labour Bureau.

1067. That was done, I presume? It was only done partially; in fact, it was not done, people were allowed to go without assistance. When sent to the Bureau after, they were refused.

1068. Your committee investigate personally all applications? Every case goes before the committee.

1069. How often are provisions issued to out-door people? Once a week, on a Wednesday. Of course, there are cases come in through the week, in which I give relief, but they always come before the committee on the following Tuesday.

1070. How do you manage with regard to meat in the summer months? It is taken in on a Wednesday morning, and it is all issued during the day.

1071. So if it is sound when it comes in, it is sound when it goes out? Yes.

1072. On page 26 of the report there is a table showing the weekly average number of cases, that is correct, I presume? Yes; that is correct.

1073. It shows the full cost of relief distributions, does it not? Yes.

1074. There is not a column there for clothing and blankets? It should be stated here that the cost of provisions, &c., should include blankets and boots. The numbers are specified further on. That heading is not sufficiently comprehensive.

1075. Do you think clothing and boots should be put in the same column with provisions;—would it not be better to have them separate? It would be; they are kept separately on the books.

1076. How long do you give out-door relief in any particular case? We are now preparing a return on the subject. Many cases extend over very many years, and to give an average, I fancy, would give the Commission rather a wrong impression.

1077. You would have to say the chronic cases average so long, and the non-chronic cases so long? Yes; that would be a good way to state it.

1078. If you include chronic cases with the others the average would be misleading? Yes.

1079. Because ten chronic cases would throw the average of 100 ordinary cases out altogether? Yes.

1080. Surely this cannot be correct—

From inquiries made by the Society of the recipients of relief on the 9th March last, it was ascertained that the average time over which they have received relief from the institution was two years five months and three days.

? That includes chronic cases.

1081. *Mr. Powell.*] What is the longest duration of any case receiving relief? Sometimes seven or eight years—in the cases of very old persons.

1082. Have you not had some on your hands ten years? I daresay we have.

1083. Have you had several over ten years? I do not think so. I daresay we have had several between eight and ten years.

1084. And perhaps, some over ten years? No. I do not think there are any over ten years. Yes; I believe there is an old woman who has been receiving relief for the last thirteen years.

1085. *President.*] That is entirely confined to chronic cases? Yes.

1086. Have there been non-chronic cases long receiving relief? The bulk would remain on the books a long time for this reason—a widow with four or five children would be in such a position that her circumstances would not change until the children could be sent to work. Her circumstances would not change for many years, and she would be kept on the books.

1087. During that term do you consider it the duty of the Society to relieve that woman independently of any efforts she may make for herself? No; she would be expected to make an effort to keep herself, but the effort that she could make with a number of young children would be so feeble that it would be practically of no avail. She could not help herself for many years. I should not call these cases chronic, but they would necessarily remain on the books for many years. It is not as if the bread-winner were a man.

1088. Is there not a serious danger in the cases you mention of the continuance of relief after the absolute necessity for it has ceased;—suppose the woman's condition improves, is it not possible that the relief may be continued in spite of that? No doubt it would occur in some cases, but on the whole I should not think there would be a great danger, if you take the children who are boarded out. We may have a widow with several young children, three or four perhaps, she cannot keep them, and out-door relief is given. It may be insufficient to support them, and two or three of these children will be taken to the Benevolent Asylum, and subsequently boarded out, and they would be a charge upon the country for many years, the same as if they remained under her own control, and at a greater cost to the country.

1089. Take the case of a woman and four children, would not the State Children's Relief Board be the proper authority to hand the woman over to under the new law? Yes, if they would take her, but they say they have not the means. We sent up something like 200 cases three or four months ago, but with no result. If they were in a position to take them, we have a very large number of widows and children who might come off the books to-morrow.

1090.

1090. It appears to be admitted by all parties that the relief given to certain aged people is very inadequate, the Government machinery should provide for the cases of widows with three or four children, who remain on your books to the injury of these aged people? We have not sufficient funds. E. Maxted.
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1091. You have not sufficient funds for both, but the law has provided machinery for the widows and children, and it is admitted that you do not relieve them adequately? That is admitted; and as I stated before, it was at first expected, when the Act was passed, that under section 10, all the widows and orphans would be taken off the books of the institution; then we could give more to the others.
1092. You see how it would ease your finances, and enable you to give these aged people necessary comforts? Yes. With regard to the question of the possibility of demoralising people who are getting outdoor relief you see this system, under section 10, is practically an outdoor relief system. It is now the policy of the country.
- 1093-6. It is contended that you pauperise people, because you allow children to come there and take away the goods? We only allow that when the mother is sick.
1097. The other system is a family system;—the children are living in a cottage with their mothers or guardians. It may be that the mother is pauperised, but I do not think we are so much concerned with the mother as with the children. It is maintained that you are pauperising the children because they are allowed to come in dozens to the asylum as if it was an ordinary grocery store, and to take provisions away; that could not happen under the other system, which you admit to be a proper system? Instructions are given to our officers not to serve children.
1098. What is the good of it—we saw them served; there they are? I found the same difficulty in the administration of out-door relief at Brisbane. They have a rule against children being allowed to come.
1099. The State provides certain machinery for widows and for the children; if that machinery were made use of your finances would be so far relieved that you would be able to give to some of your aged pensioners who are in a deplorable state some necessary relief which you cannot give them now because you have not the money? That is the point. If it was carried out as intended, and all the widows were taken off our books we should have a larger amount to give to the aged poor.
1100. Here is a Board looking after the cases of widows and children;—why should they not do that? That is what we try to ascertain from time to time.
1101. If the State Children's Relief Board would do that you would have so much more money to give to your deserving out pensioners? Decidedly; these widows are the cases that we give money to. It would be a large reduction in our expenditure on out-door relief work.
1102. It appears that the average annual increase in the number of cases of out-door relief from 1890 to 1895 was 133; the average annual increase for the past two years was 564? Yes; it is very large.
1103. The increase in the number of adults and children was, in the first term, 1895—adults, 151; children, 255; total, 406. From 1895 to 1897, 2 years—adults, 784; children, 1,282; total, 2,066;—what caused this enormous increase? I can scarcely give an answer to that question, unless it is owing to the more unfortunate condition of the city and suburbs. The labour conditions are not so satisfactory as they were formerly.
1104. Does it arise in any way from the thing growing by what it feeds on—that it is actually spreading? That the system of out-door relief is an attraction?
1105. Yes? I could not say that. Every case is visited, and they seem just as deserving now as they were originally.
1106. You can suggest no reason except that the conditions were more unfavourable in 1897 than in 1893 or 1894? I have always thought that they were more unfavourable. I can remember the time when we had only 360 cases on the books every week. That was when the attractions to the institution were far greater than they are at present. When we were giving 5s. a week rental the cases were considerably less in number than now. Something like 340 as against 1,100 during 1897.
1107. You argue that there must be wide-spread poverty, because you have reduced the attractions by one-half, and yet in spite of that you have an increase of about five times the number? Yes. Then the increase in population would possibly have some effect.
1108. There has been an increase in population of 18 per cent. since 1890? I was not aware of that.
1109. The average increase for the first term is 400 individuals, and for the second term the average increase is 2,066; that, of course, is out of all proportion to the population? There is a large increase in population.
1110. You cannot account for this large increase? No; if we had increased the allowance that might have accounted for it, but as we have decreased the allowance I cannot explain it.
1111. The increase is pretty general all over the different classes? Yes; the increase has been all round.
1112. With regard to the aged classes there is very nearly 50 per cent. increase from 1890 to 1897? Many years ago I reported to the committee on the necessity for an establishment for aged couples thinking that it would relieve the Society to a large extent, and a deputation waited on the Government and asked them to establish homes at Parramatta, and that relieved the institution of some aged couples, about twenty. I think if you had more homes for aged couples they would be better cared for, and it would relieve the institution.
1113. Take another class of cases under the head of husbands sick and afflicted, the increase from 1890 to 1895 is on the average 16 per annum, and during the past two years, 170 a year, over ten times as many? Many of those aged and afflicted husbands might possibly have gone into the institution, but of late years I know there has been an objection to go into the Government asylums on the part of both sick men and aged people, they seem to shun the institution.
1114. You account for this increase from 16 to 170 in the second period on the ground that there is not the same readiness to enter the Government asylums that there was, and that in the first period some of this class may have been relieved in the Government asylums? No; I should not like to go so far as that, because of late years I know that the institutions for old people have been made more comfortable than they were many years ago. The attractions to Newington are greater now than they were formerly.
1115. Whilst you have been reducing your attractions, the Government asylums are undoubtedly more comfortable? Yes; so the explanation seems most difficult to make on that ground.
1116. I wish you would think over that and see whether you can account for it, because the increase is so astonishing, there must be some explanation of it? It is a perplexing problem.

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1117. The total cost of relief has increased from 1890 to 1897 by over 75 per cent. Of course, this large increase will naturally follow on the increase in the number of cases? Yes; the average weekly number of cases in 1888 was 478, as against 1,196 in 1897.
1118. The 75 per cent. increase in cost is not in proportion to the increase in the number of cases, because you have reduced the cost per case? No.
1119. There has been an increase of 133 per cent. in the number of individuals relieved since 1890? Yes; that is not in proportion with the increase in the cost.
1120. Seventy-five per cent., although a large increase, is less than the increase in the number of cases, because you have reduced the amount of relief to each case? Yes.
1121. We make out that the average weekly cost of the relief afforded in 1890 was 3s. 5d., and in 1897 2s. 5d.? Would not the cost of the contracts have some influence on those percentages from year to year; of course, they are not always the same.
1122. This is taken for a particular year from your own figures? We are paying £10 5s. a ton for flour, but I can remember when we paid £6 5s. a ton for flour. That makes a great difference.
1123. In 1890 the average weekly cost of provisions per case was 1s. 9d., rent 1s. 8d. In 1897, provisions 1s. 9d., rent 8d.;—what is the reason for the reduction in the amount granted for rent money? This is one reason: Originally the rent money amounted to £2,500 a year; then a resolution was passed by the Board, seeing that the Society could not stand that strain upon its funds, and it was decided that the rent money should not exceed £1,500 a year, no matter how deserving the cases might be, and I think that would, to some extent, give the explanation which you want to get.
1124. If the rent money in 1890 was adequate then, it may be quite proper that there should be a reduction in 1897, because rents have gone down so much? The ground upon which the reduction was made was that the Society's funds could not stand it. Although it was said that the rent money should be reduced from 5s. to 3s., it was also decided that the expenditure for the year should not exceed £1,500.
1125. If the rent given in 1890 was adequate as far as the poor are concerned, it may be no injustice to the poor to reduce it in 1897, because they have not so much to pay for rent? No; but that was not the point taken by the committee at all.
1126. It is admitted that rents have gone down, and if 5s. a week was adequate for a poor person in 1890 somewhat less than 5s. would give the same accommodation in 1897? Yes.
1127. It is calculated that the cost of administration of the outdoor relief department in 1896 was 6s. 2½d. for every £ given in relief;—what are the chief items that are responsible for that cost? For 1896, I think the salaries would be the chief item. One or two of the items were reproductive; printing would be reproductive. A large amount of printing was ordered in 1896. The *Charities Gazette* caused a large amount, but that was reproductive.
1128. You are not prepared to give these items? Not in a satisfactory way from memory.
1129. I think you said you were quite positive that no family was receiving assistance from you and also from the State Children's Relief Board? Yes; as far as any reasonable investigation can go. We get a list from the Board, and make a careful comparison. The lists are not regularly supplied to us, but they are fairly well supplied.
1130. If there is a possibility of it, that is another reason why the State Children's Relief Board should take them off your hands altogether? Exactly; I could never see the necessity for two departments doing one class of work. Either the State Children's Relief Department should distribute out-door relief or the Benevolent Society should do it.
1131. It appears to be a very severe tax upon your institution, the particular work of which would appear to be the ordinary distribution of relief to the pensioners? Yes; it seems to be a needless multiplication of charities. The State Children's Relief Board is doing practically the same work as the Benevolent Society.
1132. How many paid inspectors have you? Four at the present time.
1133. Some time ago you had only one? Only one.
1134. Do these men keep a diary? Yes; they have a book with a schedule of headings guiding their inquiry; they get the information during the week, then come on Tuesday afternoons, and read a report to the committee of management.
1135. Do they take these books out with them, and write them up whilst out? They take the books, and either write them up in the homes, or they take notes in the homes, and write the books up when they get home at night.
1136. Are their reports checked in any way? They are read at the meetings. At the conclusion all the reports are handed over to the Chairman, and he puts his initials on them.
1137. Do you check the inspector's reports by sending other inspectors over the same ground? No; we do not do that.
1138. Why? We consider the men trustworthy. I must refer to Brisbane again. The system in force there is this: that every visit is made by a policeman. Suppose a woman wants relief, she is told to go to Constable So-and-so within a certain district; he visits the cases, and gives a certificate to the effect that, I, Constable So-and-so, have visited a certain case, and recommend that so-and-so is eligible for relief. On that certificate the person gets relief. If relief is wanted a second time, a second certificate has to be brought from the policeman. There is no doubt it is a very effective means of getting at a person's position, but it strikes me as extremely harsh.
1139. Do you think it should be adopted here? I should be very sorry to see it adopted.
1140. Why? I think that the children who had been in the habit of receiving out-door relief, as they grew up would remember the visits of the police, and I think it would produce an after-growth of shame in their minds. I think it would be extremely harsh. There is no doubt it would be very galling to a poor widow with a sensitive mind.
1141. Then there is really no check upon your inspectors? There is no check; they are absolutely trusted.
1142. No attempt has been made to check them? No.
1143. I think you said before that you do not consider your inspecting staff strong enough to exercise proper supervision? It is not large enough.
1144. You look upon inspection as the key of the whole system? Yes, undoubtedly.
1145. Not only to prevent imposition, but to prevent hardship on the part of innocent people outside? Yes.

1146. I suppose it will be the duty of the inspector, not only to stop imposition, but to discover deserving cases of poverty? They generally find their way to the institution without seeking them. E. Macted.
1147. I do not mean to say that they should look for cases of poverty, but if they come in contact with it it is as much their duty to report on that as to stop imposition? Yes. 15 July, 1898.
1148. And to do that your staff is not adequate? It is not adequate.
1149. You consider inspection the key of the whole thing? Precisely; some of the directors may possibly hold a different opinion with regard to the necessity for increased inspection.
1150. Has the committee ever, seeing that they have been hampered by want of means, endeavoured to enlist voluntary help from the general public? Yes; it is a matter of which I have made a special hobby. Funds have been obtained for many years through the writing of pamphlets illustrating the work of the institution, on the lines of Dr. Barnardo, and much help has been obtained in that way.
1151. I mean with regard to inspection? No, we have not. I think it would be a good idea to get a committee, or various sub-committees in the different districts to work in connection with the outdoor relief department and to do a kind of auxiliary inspection.
1152. Not that you would necessarily give relief on their report, but that they should assist the work of your own inspectors? I think it would have a healthy effect. Just the same as it would have if a professional auditor came down and went over my books.
1153. Has any attempt been made to organise such Committees? No, none whatever.
1154. I presume that such help would be in the nature of correspondence? We have received letters from time to time about cases of distress, and we have asked the parties to call. We have given food at once, and then had an inspection made.
1155. That was not organised? Not at all.
1156. Do you think it would be better to have some organisation for reporting and inspecting? Yes; you would get a good grasp of the poverty in the city and suburbs if such an organisation existed. You would be in touch with the poverty actually existing, whereas now there may be many persons suffering silently, who will not approach us at all.
1157. *Mr. Powell.*] Do clergymen bring cases under your notice? A great number of them do.
1158. *President.*] With regard to the suggestion to give tickets instead of provisions, have you anything to say about that? Yes. I think the system that exists at present is better than giving tickets, for this reason: you have all the people before you—all the adults every week—and you have an opportunity of questioning them as to any chance of an alteration in their circumstances, and the fact of their having to come to the institution for relief would make them hesitate from time to time, if they did not deserve relief, as to whether they would come or not. That is one advantage in giving relief over the counter as against the ticket system. Another advantage is that you have an oversight over the provisions. You can see that the contractor keeps up to the contract qualities, and that the people get their weights; and you have control over your stores. These are two strong advantages.
1159. The last one is particularly strong? If you had the ticket system you might have a bad quality of bread and other stores supplied, and perhaps light weight. Where the ticket system has been applied persons have brought me samples of their tea, and it was not proper tea at all.
1160. As a guarantee of quality, the ticket system would not compare with yours? What I say is, that the bad part of our system is the children coming to the institution. It is wrong altogether.
1161. The objection has been raised to the ticket system that the recipients would sell their tickets;—would that apply equally to goods supplied? We have discovered occasionally that when the recipients drank they have sold their provisions, but that is a very rare thing.
1162. So that if the selling of the tickets were the only objection, it would apply almost as much to the goods? I think it would.
1163. *Mr. Powell.*] One thing about the ticket system is that the people get little comforts which you do not give them; you do not provide them with salt, pepper, and things that make their food tasty;—you give them so much meat, but they are not able to make it so palatable? No; but what you suggest could be done.
1164. *President.*] You could arrange that instead of taking 2 lb. of meat they should take 1 lb. and an equivalent in something else? I think it would be wrong to let them exchange bread or meat for jams and other things of that sort. A person with a ticket might go to a store and say, "I will take so many jars of jelly," and so forth.
1165. You think that under the ticket system they would not get the same value as they get under this system? I think our system is preferable.
1166. *Mr. Powell.*] The ticket system seems to answer very well with the St. Vincent de Paul Society? They are split up into so many different districts.
1167. *President.*] A reduction in the average relief per individual is forced upon the institution by want of funds? Yes.
1168. You are of opinion that the relief given in many cases is very inadequate? I think it is very inadequate.
1169. Are you aware that some of your out-pensioners are enduring great privations—almost starvation? I can readily believe that they are.
1170. Have your inspectors ever reported any cases to you? I think it is pretty generally acknowledged that the relief given at the institution is insufficient. If we knew a case of starvation we should take steps immediately to get the family admitted to the institution.
1171. Have the inspectors ever reported any of these cases? Yes; and they have been removed to the institution.
1172. *Mr. Powell.*] It must occur to anyone that an allowance of two and two to a couple on a Wednesday, to last until the following Wednesday, must leave them on the brink of starvation? Yes; unless they get help from their neighbours.
1173. *President.*] You have expressed a pretty strong opinion as regards the impropriety of children being allowed to go there? Yes. It is very difficult, however, for a widow with children if she is sick in bed.
1174. Suppose that a widow does not come forward on a Wednesday herself, could you not arrange to send an inspector out at once, assuming that you have a proper staff? We must try to devise some means of dealing with the matter.
1175. If you have a sufficient staff, and a woman does not turn up on the Wednesday, is that not sufficient reason to call upon her? She will send a child with a note if she is sick.

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1176. Assuming that you forbid children to come to the Asylum, and the woman does not turn up, she may be starving, would it not meet the case if you sent out to the woman? It would, but we should have to increase the staff. I can see how it could be done—we could put a man at the gate, and tell him to allow no children to pass through; then, at the end of the day's work, find out those who had not attended, and send a man out at once.
1177. It is quite possible to get rid of the scandal of those children coming every week to the asylum? Yes, with an increase of staff.
1178. With regard to out-door relief, most of the people that came there when we were there were evidently very poor, many of them unfit for much labour, but some appeared to be fit for labour;—have you ever considered the question of having some labour test for some of those people? Some of them are apparently well, but are suffering from various ailments. With regard to the women, if some industry could be found for them it would be advantageous; but I do not know what class of work you could find. They could only do the washing.
1179. There are some twenty Benevolent Societies in the suburbs;—do you afford relief to persons residing within their districts? We do.
1180. Is there not a danger in that? There is a danger; but these twenty Benevolent Societies are, with two or three exceptions, mushroom societies. They spring up in winter, being got up by ladies; they give temporary relief only, and then die out.
1181. Is it a fact that some of these local societies cannot give relief to any extent for want of means? That is a fact. The St. Vincent de Paul Society have sent cases to us on that ground.
1182. Suppose these twenty societies have not much means, could not the committee, having passed deserving cases, administer the relief through the societies, instead of having to bring everybody to your place? That would be handing over our functions to another organisation.
1183. Supposing that at Newtown or Ashfield there was a benefit society with a certain number of your pensioners in their area, of course, your inspector would still report to your committee, and could you not arrange that the actual relief should be handed over by the local society? Yes. It would require a large amount of administration, the checking of accounts, and so on, and it would be a very widespread work. I hardly think it would work. You would lose supervision, you would lose control, and the accounts would be considerably sprawled about.
1184. You would lose a certain amount of control and check? Yes.
1185. With regard to people coming in from long distances, we have had information about somebody coming in from Rookwood, and it takes the greater part of a day to come in and return? A case like that we refer to the Parramatta Benevolent Society. The woman would go to the Parramatta Society, and the answer would be "No funds at present." The Benevolent Society in Sydney would relieve the case, and most likely allow travelling expenses.
1186. Which would amount to 1s., I presume? To almost as much as the relief.
1187. Is it not a waste of money and a waste of energy; take the particular case at Rookwood—that woman, you say, would go to the Benevolent Society at Parramatta, and they might have no funds; would it not be better for your Society to put them in funds? Yes; the question would again crop up of supervision. Would it not be better for the Government to endow a society like that, if it has not found its means sufficient to meet local demands, and to put an embargo upon the society in Sydney giving assistance in such cases?
1188. You say that the woman would have to come in from Rookwood, and, besides losing the day, she does not get any benefit from the shilling for the railway fare? These cases are very few. I think our travelling expenses are only about £2 10s. a week altogether.
1189. What is the average daily number of inmates in the Asylum for last year? Adults and children—234.
1190. I am speaking now of the Asylum, apart from the Lying-in Home? Women, apart from the Lying-in Home—thirty-six in all.
1191. How many children? 107.
1192. What ages would those children be? From 2 months up to 12 years.
1193. How many of them would be of an age at which they could be sent to the State Children's Relief Board? They are all sent out, but as one lot is taken away others come.
1194. How many at any one time would be of an age to be sent to the State Children's Relief Board? About fifty.
1195. I want to know whether it is necessary to keep all these children in the depôt at the Asylum when the State Children's Relief Board have a depôt of their own? I have often wondered why it was necessary to keep them at the depôt instead of at the Benevolent Asylum. I understand that they require them there for a few days before they are boarded out to observe their habits, and to see what class of families they could place them in.
1196. I want to know why there are two depôts? The intention was to take them from the Benevolent Asylum, observe their habits for a few days, and get them ready to be transferred to the various homes; but I do not see why that could not be done at the Benevolent Asylum.
1197. I understand that the State Children's Relief Board require them to be kept at the depôt in order to observe their habits? I believe that is the reason.
1198. Why should there be an accumulation of fifty at the Benevolent Asylum? Of course the Benevolent Asylum has been the reception-house for destitute children for all these years.
1198. We come to the same old question, here are hundreds of your pensioners, aged people, who have been good citizens of the country, living in the greatest poverty because you have not the means to relieve them;—here is an organisation established by law to deal with these children, and you have fifty of them of that age in your asylum;—why should that be? The only answer that I can give is that the asylum arrangements were made with the Government for that particular object.
1200. This machinery that I am referring to is machinery established by law, and would override any of your regulations; but you go on keeping those children there, I want you to show the necessity for doing so? They are nearly all sent to the institution by the State Children's Relief Department.
1201. You see how the poor are being kept in poverty by your carrying on a certain branch of business which is otherwise provided for? With regard to the question of finance, the maintenance of these children in the Benevolent Asylum does not affect our financial position with regard to assisting the

out-door poor, because the Government pay for the maintenance of those children in the Asylum as they would if they were kept in the State Children's Relief dépôt. Financially, it does not affect our efforts on behalf of the out-door poor. E. Maxted.
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1202. It affects them in this way: If the attention of the committee and the staff were concentrated on the one business which seems to be their proper function—that of out-door relief—how much more efficient it would be? It is merely a temporary reception-house. The children do not remain there for long periods. Suppose we have fifty one week, they may all go out in two or three weeks, and be boarded in different homes.

1203. *Mr. Powell.*] I do not see that you are losing money by that? No; but we have lost money in the past.

1204. *President.*] Do you consider it is good for these children, many of them precocious, to be down there? No; it is very bad, but it is my opinion that the Society could do its work properly and satisfactorily to the public, and meet all the objections that you raise, and that I have raised myself, with regard to the demoralising effects of the association of these children with, or their being in the presence of, those single women, if the Government granted what the Society asked—that is, resume the present property, and gave them the money to conduct the various departments of their work in a proper building, thoroughly separating all the different portions of the work. In my opinion there is no occasion to make any change in regard to the work of the Benevolent Society. It has a building fund of £10,000. I do not know whether you admit that the asylum is their property, but they ask the Government to resume the property, and give compensation; then they could do their work.

1205. You say you admit that the surroundings of the children are abominable? Yes, at present.

1206. And any possible arrangement would be open to the same objection in the present building? Certainly; there is no proper means of separation in the present building.

1207. And the influences on these children are very bad? Yes; very bad indeed—the mixing up with the women, and want of classification.

1208. *Mr. Powell.*] What is the average time that the children stay there? A couple of months. That responsibility rests entirely with the Boarding-out Department, who know that the children are there, and who are told to come every month and select them for boarding out.

1209. Do the children get any schooling? No; they do not remain long enough.

1210. Is not two months a long time to be doing nothing? They had a school there once, but it was done away with.

1211. *President.*] Do any women come into the institution who have a child? Yes; it occasionally happens that destitute women come in.

1212. What is the longest time that such women would be kept there? They are in the same position as the other women whose children are born in the institution. Suppose a woman comes in with three or four children, and has a baby amongst them, the elder children would be boarded out, and the woman with the baby would be allowed to remain in under the same conditions as the woman whose child had been born in the institution.

1213. Suppose a woman comes without a child? We do not receive a woman without a child.

1214. Suppose the police brought a woman at 11 or 12 o'clock at night? We should take her in, but, as a matter of fact, they do not bring them. A woman without a child, if in good health, is not the subject of the same amount of sympathy as a woman with a child, because she can go to work.

1215. I am supposing a case in which a policeman finds a woman, where would he take her? If he brought her to our place we should receive her for the night, and if she was in good health she could go to the Rescue Home.

1216. You do not receive them? It is not part of our work, but we would receive an isolated case as a matter of humanity.

1217. When destitute women come in with children the elder children are handed over to the State Children's Relief Board and the woman is allowed to keep the infant on pretty much the same conditions as an unemployed woman who has a child in the Asylum? Precisely.

1218. And the ladies' committee make the same efforts to get them employment that they do to get employment for the others? Just the same.

1219. The Government contribute towards the expense of those women? Yes; the whole of the expense of the inmates.

1220. Does the Director of Charities or the Chief Secretary ever send such women there on an order? Yes; the Acting Director of Government Asylums frequently sends cases of that kind, and occasionally the Colonial Secretary does, but not often.

1221. What do you consider the cost of the asylum proper, say 1897 or 1896? Apart from the lying-in.

1222. Give the whole cost? £4,766.

1223. Does that include the expenses of the staff? It includes everything.

1224. Up to what age are children received at the asylum? Up to the age of 12 years.

1225. Suppose a child was 13 or 14 years of age, and the mother came to you destitute with two or three children, what provision would be made? In that case, we would have to take the child in. Such cases are exceptional.

1226. You would take the child in until something could be done for it? Yes.

1227. You have a lot of boys and girls up to 12 years of age;—have they separate dormitories? Yes; there is a boys' ward and a girls' ward.

1228. Have they separate yards to play in? There is a paddock, and there is a fence between them; but they can see one another. It is mostly a separation in theory.

1229. The children frequently see the women, do they not? Yes; they see them walking across the yard.

1230. You think it is objectionable that they should associate with them in any way? They should not see them at all—it is wrong.

1231. Have they any opportunity of seeing or knowing anything about the work that is going on in connection with out-door relief? That is very well separated. The only chance the children have of seeing anything is through a little gate 40 or 50 yards away.

1232. They do not see what is going on? No; that is shut out from them very well indeed.

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1233. Are any of the elder children ever employed in assisting in the distribution of relief? On a few occasions we have had big boys there, and we have employed them in the store, and on a few occasions they have witnessed it.
1234. Do you approve of that? No; it has occurred very rarely. For instance, when any of the hands are sick with influenza we get the boys to help the storeman to pack up. They should have taken the boys out of the store on a Wednesday; I do not know whether they did.
1235. There would not be the same objection during the rest of the week, having boys helping the storeman. The objection is to having them there when people are coming in? Yes. While you are trying to stop the demoralising influence there, it is growing in the internal working of the institution, where pregnant women are exhibited before the boys and girls.
1236. For children who are there until they are taken away you get the ordinary boarding-out rate? We get the usual allowance from the Government—£14 a year.
1237. So that the process is this,—certain children are taken to the Benevolent Asylum, they wait there for a certain time, perhaps some weeks; they are then taken to Ormond House, where they are detained again whilst under observation? They are taken to be dressed; they draw their children generally from outside sources. They admit many children direct up there.
1238. Your children are in your place for weeks, they are then taken to Ormond House, where they are detained again for some time? It is not the rule; but in some cases they are.
1239. If they were sent to the depot at Ormond House, would it not save a lot of repetition of work and expense? Yes; it would save the maintaining of the children in the institution. It would do away with our work with regard to the reception of destitute children.
1240. There is a certain amount of expense in taking them to Ormond House;—how do they send them there? They go up in cabs; the matron pays the money, and it is refunded. I am not quite clear upon this point. The children are sent up from the Benevolent Asylum to be dressed. They have a particular kind of uniform up there when they are taken away from the Benevolent Asylum by the Boarding-out Department. I do not know how many go up there and remain.
1241. If the State Children's Relief Board took the responsibility of these children from the start, and a maternity hospital were established, you would have only one division of your work left—that would be the out-door relief—with the exception, perhaps, of receiving certain destitute children? There is the question of foundlings, abandoned children, and a few of those that come in. If the maternity work were taken away, and the work of receiving destitute children, there would be left the reception of destitute women.
1242. Would not the proper course be for foundlings to be dealt with at the maternity hospital? You ask what ought to be done, and if that is what you want an opinion upon I can simply repeat the opinion which I have come to after long consideration by the directors, and that is that the Government ought to resume the asylum, and also to resume Ultimo House.
1243. The question does not depend upon the resumption of Ultimo House;—I do not think it is necessary to complicate it with that;—I think it can be answered on general grounds? Or some other suitable building.
1244. You say that the building you have now is quite unsuitable? It is unsuitable for the purposes generally for which it is used; that is admitted.
1245. Suppose, then, that the question as to this building is solved, what would you recommend? I would propose that the work of the institution as at present carried on be removed to that suitable site—the whole of the departments.
1246. Including the treatment of these children? Yes; we should have high walls for perfect separation, and divisions for the classification of the various works of the institution;—with regard to women who have been once confined as against those who have been confined two or three times; proper separation of the married from the single women, and the separation of women of vicious habits from those who require a different form of treatment. If you had a site such as the one desired by the Board of Directors, all the departments of the Society could be carried on economically and satisfactorily to the community generally.
1247. Do you recommend that these children from 2 or 3 years upwards should still be treated by the Benevolent Society in spite of the fact that there is machinery provided by the State for dealing with them? I could not see any objection unless it could be shown that the State could do the work more economically and with equal advantage to the children, then I should say the State should undertake the control.
1248. *Mr. Powell.* How many collectors have you? Two.
1249. At what rate are they paid? Five per cent. commission and £60 a year.
1250. Do they collect in the town and in the country as well? Yes.
1251. Do they get commission only upon what actually passes through their hands? That is all.
1252. They do not get commission on anything paid direct to you? No.
1253. Where do they travel? Throughout all the country districts.
1254. How often do they go out? Two or three times a year.
1255. How long would they be away? A fortnight or three weeks each time.
1256. They are each away about six weeks then? I dare say they would be six or eight weeks.
1257. The two are away about thirteen weeks? Yes.
1258. And they are paid £60 a year? Yes, and 5 per cent. commission.
1259. Do they only take the railway line? They never go far off the railway line. They have a pass.
1260. Who pays for that? The Government.
1261. Do they charge it to you? We do not know. We get the pass from the Government.
1262. They do not leave the railway lines? No, they do not.
1263. The whole amount collected in the country in 1897 was £220, according to your report? Yes; there are some items which they collect in connection with the special appeal that are not included here.
1264. The exact amount is £220 11s. 10d.;—the expenses for the collection according to the return furnished amounts to £54? Twenty-five per cent.
1265. There is £12 for commission, and their salaries, then how much have you left out of that £220? I have not gone into the matter from that standpoint.

1266. It seems to me a very small amount? I have here the matter more comprehensively stated. I was just going to hand in this communication from the hon. secretary to the secretary of the Commission. It says:—

E. Maxted.
15 July, 1898.

Sir,—

In compliance with the request contained in your letter of the 12th instant, I have the honor to inform you that the following amounts were collected in the country and metropolitan districts during 1897 by the Society's collectors, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Kenyon, and Mrs. Brown:—

1. Mrs. Clark (succeeded by Mrs. Brown in March), metropolitan district, £112 19s. 3d.; country, nil.
2. Mrs. Kenyon, metropolitan district, £546 17s. 4d.; country, £62 12s. 9d.
3. Mrs. Brown, metropolitan district, £389 11s. 9d.; country, £152 11d.

NOTE.—The above amounts include subscriptions, steamer and Agricultural Show collections, and some special appeals.

1267. The work is not done effectually;—do you think that the Goulburn district is properly canvassed, the amount returned from there being only £1. 10s. 6d.? No; I do not think they are away long enough. They say they are met with the argument by the people that they already have benevolent societies in their own districts, and they refuse to contribute on that ground. They say that they have their own poor to look after.

1268. But they send a great many cases to Sydney? Yes—inmates.

1269. As inmates and for out-door relief? Yes; we try to argue it out from that standpoint, but it seems of no effect.

1270. The amount returned from Orange is £2 11 6d.;—do you think that district is well canvassed? I do not think so. The question is, whether there should not be more collectors. If we take them and put them on country work the city may suffer. We had an old man collecting, and I recommended the appointment of a lady of good presence and smart appearance; but the Board did not at first like the idea. Finally, however, they gave way, and appointed a smart woman; then the collections rose wonderfully. After that they appointed two women. If we get another appointed on the lines you are pointing out, there ought to be a further improvement. The country collections are miserably small. If we put somebody on to collect in the country it would be productive of very good results.

1271. Nineteen municipalities on the railway contributed under £5 each to your funds? It seems a very small amount.

1272. *President.*] You have recently visited Brisbane? Yes.

1273. Would you be prepared to hand in a report regarding your observations and the methods of dealing with charities there? Yes; I will send up a copy.

1274. Are you giving relief to single men? No; they have been refused.

FRIDAY, 22 JULY, 1898.

Present:—

G. A. WILSON, Esq., J.P. (PRESIDENT).

J. POWELL, Esq., J.P.

Rebecca Graham sworn and examined:—

1275. *President.*] You are matron of the Sydney Benevolent Asylum? Yes.

E. Graham.

1276. How long have you held that position? Since the 21st January, 1895.

1277. Were you previously connected with any hospital? I was connected with the Sydney Hospital from September, 1875, until 6th May, 1891.

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1278. In what capacity were you there? As probationer, nurse, head nurse, and, finally, matron.

1279. Had you any experience before going to the Benevolent Asylum of women's hospitals? No; I had not,—not of obstetric work. Of course, I had a good deal of experience of women's diseases, but not that branch; I have since passed an examination, and now have my certificate for midwifery.

1280. Rule No. 6 lays down your duties? Yes.

1281. Rule 6 says:—

The matron shall be solely responsible for the efficiency of the internal economy of the Asylum, and shall report to the manager any breach of the rules of the house, and have power to suspend any nurse till next meeting of House Committee.

I suppose that rules 6 to 14 describe your position pretty well? Yes.

1282. Rule 8 says that the matron shall keep the daily journal;—do you keep that journal? Yes.

1283. Have you brought it with you? No; it goes before the House Committee every week.

1284. You keep the journal, and it is shown to the House Committee? Yes; every week.

1285. Rule 10 says "that the matron shall be present at all meals";—is that rule carried out as far as possible? Yes, as far as possible, but the meals are very much distributed. I have the children in one part of the building, the inmates of the lying-in department in another, and so on.

1286. The spirit of the regulation is carried out? It is.

R. Graham. 1287. As regards the position of the manager;—does he interfere at all with your branch? No; we both work together very agreeably.

22 July, 1898. 1288. I presume, though he is head of the institution, domestic matters are entirely in your charge? Yes.

1289. Therefore, unless you refer to him for advice or instruction, he does not interfere? No; he never interferes.

1290. There is no friction? No; there has never been any friction.

1291. Does your control extend to the arrangement of the dormitories, the dietary, and all that sort of thing? To the whole of the internal management.

1292. Therefore, the arrangement in the dormitories and the dietary and the control of the nurses will be in your hands? Yes; of course the arrangement of the dormitories is subject to the approval of the house committee. I could not change from one dormitory into another without consulting them about it.

1293. Rule 90 says:—

Students before commencing their duties must report themselves to the matron, and be under the control of matron and manager during the term the students are in hospital.

How is that responsibility divided? Well, I think the rule is to a certain extent necessary, because we have found that with young medical students it is necessary to have a manager who can be called in. With the exception of in 1896, however, I have never had any trouble at all. The students have been most amenable to myself, and the work has gone on very smoothly and satisfactorily.

1294. Whilst the students are in your part of the premises you are the controlling authority, but you do not hesitate to call in the manager if necessary? No.

1295. Do the students reside on the premises? Yes; since 1894. They were there when I came there.

1296. Do you think that is necessary? It is for the sake of getting their cases. They would lose cases if they did not reside there.

1297. What do they pay for this? Five guineas, I believe.

1298. Do you consider that sufficient to reimburse the institution for the room they occupy and the trouble that is caused? I have not thought of that matter. Their time varies very much. Sometimes they are only in the house six days, although we have students in the place for six months. It does not mean that every student is in for six months.

1299. No, but your room is occupied for six months? Yes; but I mean to say that it is occupied by various relays of students. We had twenty-three men this year, and five guineas is paid by each man.

1300. How many do you consider it is necessary to have on the premises? We have only six at a time.

1301. And you consider it necessary to have the six? Yes; we have been obliged to do that during the last year or two, there have been so many men to get through. That is subject to the approval of the medical staff. If the medical staff think there should be a less number we are obliged to take them, but it has worked so smoothly for the last couple of years there has been no objection to it. Two must be there if they wish to get their cases. It rests with them if they lose their cases. They cannot get through for the year. That is the only place which the young medical men have in which to obtain that particular branch of practice. We generally have them in from the middle of December up to the end of April.

1302. Are there any objections to their being there, considering the nature of the work and the women? No; I do not see that there is any objection to it at all.

1303. As far as you know, the medical officers approve of the present arrangement? Yes.

1304. How many students do you say there are? We have had twenty-four on the premises this year. Why I mentioned twenty-three was that we only received the money from twenty-three; one is from the year before. He came in to finish up his cases.

1305. These six reside in the institution? Yes; there are six beds there.

1306. Do they have any meals there? They provide themselves with food.

1307. In the institution or outside? They provide themselves inside.

1308. What is the arrangement? They employ their own baker, butcher, and milkman.

1309. How is the cooking done? One of the inmates is told off, usually a married woman, to wait upon them.

1310. Then it costs the institution nothing for food? No; it simply means lighting, fire, and room.

1311. Do they pay this woman anything? Yes; they usually allow her a gratuity.

1312. Does the institution pay the woman anything? No.

1313. Have you had any trouble with these young men at all? In 1896 I had a great deal of annoyance, but never since.

1314. Was that serious? It was very serious for the time being.

1315. Was it one or two unruly spirits? Yes. Three of them came in about half-past 1 o'clock in the morning. I think they must have been under the influence of liquor. They upset the whole place. I think myself that the police ought to have been called in.

1316. Have you no power of suspension? I suspended them from the ward. I would not allow them to take their cases until the President was seen. They were brought before the Board, and reprimanded, and I have had no trouble since.

1317. The committee supported you? Yes; and the house committee gave me more power to act.

1318. How long do these students remain in the institution;—how long are they in going through their studies? They vary. We might put them through their cases in six days or in three weeks. It depends upon the number of cases admitted.

1319. It depends upon the number of cases and upon themselves? They very seldom miss any cases, if they do they have to be put back, and they do not care for that. If a student neglects to attend to the cases, we have power, with the consent of the medical officer, to let him stand by.

1320. Rule 94 says:—

No students shall enter the wards except by permission of an honorary medical officer or the midwife in charge.

? Yes; the students are not allowed to enter.

1321. Except under those conditions? No, they have never attempted to do so; we have had no trouble in that respect.

1322. Is it possible that they enter without your knowing? Oh, no.

1323. About the classification of these women, have you any means of separating married women from single women? No. R. Graham.
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1324. Do you consider the present arrangement is a desirable one? With the class of women that I have had with very few exceptions, it really makes no difference whether they are divided or not. Sometimes when I have had a very decent married woman in, I do what I can for her. We have no ward, and the number we receive is not sufficient to ask the Committee to provide one. When more cases were taken in there were wards for them, but not since my time.
1325. Putting the married women out of the case, there must be all degrees of virtue amongst the other women, are there any means of classifying them? No; but we have been helped very much there by the Female Mission Home in Bridge Road. All young girls in their first trouble are sent there. They send them to us for confinement. They only remain fourteen days in the ward, and they are quite separate from the general class of women admitted.
1326. So to that extent the state of things has been ameliorated? Yes.
1327. These girls would only be a few days in the asylum? Yes.
1328. They do not mix with the asylum inmates at all? They are removed by the matron of the Home as soon as they are able to go out.
1329. I understand that you cannot have any proper system of classification? No.
1330. You cannot put one comparatively virtuous woman away from those who are less virtuous? No, we cannot do that; but really speaking of the women we have had for some time, although their history appears to be bad, they are wonderfully well behaved, and in some instances behave better than persons from whom better behaviour would be expected.
1331. As an abstract question, it is very easy to see the desirability of some better classification? Yes.
1332. Whilst your experience may be that these women behave very well, there may be some who are more objectionable than others? Yes; I have no doubt that it is so. Of course, I think the influence of old offenders would be very bad for young girls.
1333. Even supposing their conduct was good, the mere association would hardly be a good thing for the young girls? No.
1334. How many nurses are there in training at the institution? We have eleven pupils this year.
1335. Do they reside on the premises? Yes.
1336. They have board as well? Yes.
1337. How do they deal with them;—on what terms do they come in? They pay fifteen guineas entrance fee, and reside there for six months.
1338. Do they sign any agreement? No; there is no agreement signed. If we find they are not suitable from the state of their health, or any other cause, I believe the fee can be returned to them, and they can be sent away. That has not occurred since I have been there.
1339. Does that fee of fifteen guineas cover the cost to the institution? I should think it would; we find them in food and lighting, and there is the room. They provide for their own washing.
1340. That amount covers the cost? Yes; we have to take into consideration that we make use of their services as well.
1341. You get a certain amount of work from them? Yes.
1342. There is another division of your work by which women are attended in their own homes? Yes; we have had seven cases this year. We had six cases last year.
1343. What does the institution provide in a case of that kind? A midwife has to attend the case, and she takes a student with her if there is one in the house. When the pupils are in the house she takes a pupil, and the woman is nursed for ten days; sometimes we have to provide them with suitable soft food.
1344. You give them nourishment and occasionally clothing? Yes; we have to provide them with sheets and blankets.
1345. As a rule, the women whom you attend at home are too poor to pay? Yes; any that we have been attending have been in those circumstances.
1346. Is the institution prepared to deal with patients who are not absolutely poor, and who might be able to pay something;—suppose a husband came and asked you to send assistance to his wife, and he could pay something, but could not pay the whole cost, would the institution send assistance? I have not asked the Committee about that. No one has applied under such circumstances. I think from a conversation between myself and the medical staff it is considered only fair that anyone who can afford to pay should employ nurses from outside.
1347. I am not supposing anyone who could pay the whole cost, but, say, a labourer who could pay something, in a case like that, would the Committee help them? Such a case has not come before me.
1348. You commenced in June last year? Yes.
1349. How is the work of the Benevolent Asylum affected by the homes recently started;—I suppose there are fewer cases? Yes; our cases ought to be increasing, but they are not increasing. We have actually fewer.
1350. So you have lost the natural increase and something more? Yes; the number has been very heavy for the last month or two, but I generally find that when we have a very heavy number there is something wrong at the other home.
1351. Have you a ward in the lying-in home for separate treatment? No; we receive the patients into an isolated block which is really a hospital, and is used for influenza cases. We have received one or two such cases.
1352. You do treat such cases? Yes, a few.
1353. Why does the Society take up cases of that kind? That I do not know. If we did that we should require a resident medical officer.
1354. What I mean is—why are such cases not sent to the hospital? Sometimes it is a case with a certain amount of septic trouble. For instance, a woman would be admitted fourteen or fifteen days after confinement. We had one or two this year.
1355. What I want to get at is this—is it really part of the proper work of the institution? No; it is not, under existing conditions, but if a married woman who is very ill is brought to the door, for her own sake we are obliged to receive her.
1356. According to that, any other institution would be obliged to receive her too;—is this a proper application of the funds of the institution, and is not provision made elsewhere for such cases? Provision is made elsewhere. 1357.

- R. Graham. 1357. Then why does the society undertake the work? Cases that have been treated up to this time have been cases following confinement, so that it is partly connected with maternity work. We do not take in any operation cases.
1358. Are the cases that you have treated all cases of poor people? Yes; in which there has been very great poverty. I think that in three years we have had only three cases altogether.
1359. Do I understand you to say that you have not taken in any cases except those really connected with your own institution or confined in your own institution? No; they have not been cases confined in our own institution, but following confinement.
1360. And all very poor people? Very poor people, as far as I know. We have not had anyone who could afford to pay.
1361. *Mr. Powell.*] Did you say that you had only three such cases? Yes; since I have been there. They usually go to St. Vincent's Hospital, the Prince Alfred Hospital, and the hospital in Crown-street and the Sydney Hospital.
1362. *President.*] Generally, these cases are taken to another hospital? Yes.
1363. Would it not be better, except where there is danger in removal, when these cases are taken to your institution to have them sent to another hospital? Yes.
1364. Is it your proper function to take in such cases at all? I should have to take them in. The medical officer would see them, and on his recommendation they could be removed.
1365. If it was safe to remove them? Yes.
1366. But you take them in and the committee keep them? Well, the three cases that I have spoken of have been kept.
1367. Do you know anything about the Women's Hospital in Melbourne? I do not.
1368. You have never seen it? No.
1369. Do you consider that the premises of the Benevolent Asylum are suitable for the work you are engaged in? I think the results obtained speak very well for them. They are very comfortable and convenient.
1370. It is not what you would call a modern hospital? No; but still the lying-in wards are very comfortable.
1371. Are they in a good sanitary condition? Yes; the sanitary arrangements are very good. Since the 1st January, 1895, up to the 30th June this year, we have had 1,252 confinements, and no deaths from septic causes.
1372. Still it is not up to date? No, it is not up to date; but it is a building which if more money were spent upon it from time to time might be made very comfortable.
1373. Have you ever applied for improvements, or the cleaning, or the painting, or anything of that kind which the Committee were not able to do for you? I have asked for the downstairs lying-in ward to be painted, and the upstairs we have put in order since I went there. The w.c.'s. have been attended to, and the flushing arrangements are very good.
1374. You have an isolation ward, have you not? Yes.
1375. What is the purpose of that? In maternity work if a patient shows any suspicious symptoms such as a high rise of temperature, she is put in there. We have often to take in cases from outside, women having started in labour, and perhaps convulsions setting in, or we may get a case from a suspicious quarter where there is scarlet fever, and we put them in there.
1376. Have you a separate ward for the children? Yes; we have, in which we deal with cases of itch, ringworm, and so on.
1377. When a child is brought in, is the child isolated? Not unless we see reason for it at the time of admission.
1378. What is the daily average of patients in the isolation wards during last year, they were frequently empty, I presume? Oh, no. In the children's isolation ward I have had from twenty-four to thirty-three children more or less.
1379. Is that an average? Yes, that is our average. It is rarely that we have less than fourteen or fifteen there, and of women from nine to ten.
1380. Are these wards visited daily by a member of the medical staff? One of our medical officers when on duty visits every day. They take so many months on and off. We are not visited every day by any except that one man. The other gentlemen will come once, twice, or three times a week, they usually come when they are telephoned for.
1381. One medical officer when on duty visits daily? Yes.
1382. The other medical officers visit occasionally? Yes.
1383. Is that at your request? Sometimes I have to request them to come, at other times they will come without. Sometimes we need them; at other times, there is nothing very serious.
1384. Are the officials in charge of the wards trained nurses? Yes; all trained nurses.
1385. How long before confinement do you admit women to the institution? I think that by our Rules we are only supposed to have them in one month. In many cases of destitution, they are in much longer than that.
1386. A woman comes and requests admission, and having nowhere else to go to, you admit her? We endeavour to get her to bring proof that what she says is true. Sometimes when they come, they have simply had a quarrel with their friends, and have come for a refuge. If they bring proof that what they say is true, they are taken in on a recommendation. In some instances they cannot bring such proof. A girl from the country arrives at the Sydney Railway Station, and does not know where to go; she asks a porter who directs her to us.
1387. You contend that the institution has no choice in such cases? It does not appear to me to have any choice in such cases.
1388. Is there any provision made anywhere else for girls to wait their confinement? None; except in the Mission Home. Then it must be the girls' first confinement.
1389. Suppose a girl, awaiting her first confinement, comes to the Benevolent Asylum, do you refer her to the Mission Home? Yes; I make inquiries into her surroundings first. We do not care to send girls of a very low class there. The place is kept as much as possible for the one class of girl—not that I have anything to do with admitting them. We have nothing to do with the Mission Home.
1390. How long after confinement do you retain healthy women and their children? Only fourteen days, if they have a home to go to, providing that they know that they will be comfortable, and are willing

willing to go, but if it is a poor destitute home, and we think the woman requires nourishment, we advise her to remain longer.

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1391. Some you send to the Infants' Home? Yes.

1392. What about these women who have been there for months after confinement? Any that I can, I get situations for. The Infants' Home will not admit women with a second or third child. A lady does not care about taking such women into her house, nor do I like to recommend such girls. If the lady engaging is willing, so much the better. We sometimes get a great number of girls situations. This year we have got a good many situations for all classes.

1393. And some of those women who are retained for some months after confinement, are some of them not deficient in intellect? There is one woman whom we have had there for some time, who has a very repulsive appearance. I have taken her several times before ladies who wanted girls for the country, but cannot get anyone to take her. There is one instance of a woman with weak intellect. But if we take the baby from the mother the poor little thing fades and dies; however indifferent the mother is the baby will live if she has the care of it. We keep a woman of that sort for a time, and then send her on to Newington.

1394. Take the case of a woman with a weak intellect whom you did not like to separate from her child, would not a child like that be taken into the Infants' Home? They will not take it without the mother to wet nurse. These babies are a great care and anxiety, as anyone who has had charge of infants knows. At the Infants' Home at Ashfield they will take in a woman who will wet nurse her own baby and another. We sometimes do that. I have got a girl to wet nurse her own and another.

1395. Do not the rules of the Infants' Home presuppose that they take them without the mother? They may do from outside, but I do not think they will from us. I know that they have infants there without mothers, but one girl takes two babies.

1396. That presupposes that it would not be an exceptional thing if they took these children without their mothers because they take others? I suppose so.

1397. So I understand you to say that where a woman is retained at the Benevolent Asylum for months after confinement with her child it is because you have exhausted all means of finding employment for her? Yes. I have one woman who has been acting as wardswoman for some time. She has left us once or twice, but drink is her trouble. She cannot keep a situation on account of that weakness. A second case I have sent out on several occasions, but in that case the child is very delicate and gets ill, and a mistress will not keep a servant with a sick baby, and she has to come back. There are several instances in which women have been on our books for a long time. That is owing to these cases of sickness of the infant or drink.

1398. Take the case of a woman who has been in service and who has been forced to come back to you through her infant being ill, is there no other place for her? Not that I am aware of.

1399. Then if employment can be found for them and they are sufficiently strong, what do you do? We would not send a woman with a fourteen days' old baby out to a situation.

1400. If they have friends they go out after fourteen days? Yes.

1401. And those who can be provided with employment are sent out as soon as possible? Yes.

1402. And those who have been much in the institution are women that you really cannot make other provision for? Yes.

1403. Or who would be returned on your hands again? Yes, after their being sent out to a situation.

1404. No doubt you use all the means you can to get situations for them;—do you think if there was any organisation for that particular purpose it would be easier to get employment for them? I do not know; probably it would be. We have advertised at various times in country papers and in the Sydney papers. Sometimes we have never had one application, and at other times we have had a number of applications.

1405. Do you think you could make use of the Labour Bureau for a purpose like that? We have tried that. We sent women there—not this year, but I think in 1896—several women were sent, but it did not lead to anything.

1406. Suppose the Labour Bureau were instructed by the Department to assist you, do you not think it would be a material help to you? Yes; it might be in that case.

1407. They have connection with stations up the country? Yes; we have no connection of that kind.

1408. Yours is not an organised attempt, but they have proper organisation? Yes.

1409. You have a certain number of women in the Asylum who are really not provided with work of any kind, I understand—unemployed? Yes; but they must all assist in keeping the dormitories clean and washing out the institution.

1410. There is a certain number of women who are doing domestic work in the institution, and who receive gratuities; these I do not call unemployed, but, in addition to these, are there not women who have no work to do? Yes; they are employed, but do not get gratuities.

1411. They assist in the work of the institution? Yes.

1412. I suppose they keep their own premises clean, but do not work beyond that, whilst those who receive gratuities are practically the domestic servants of the institution? Yes.

1413. The unemployed are not, except to a very limited extent? No.

1414. Have you ever considered whether you should not start some employment for them—say, for the sake of argument, a laundry? I do not know. The class of women we have there would not be much use at laundry work.

1415. Under a competent laundress? Perhaps, under a competent laundress, they might.

1416. I suppose you are aware that certain institutions in Sydney carry on large laundry businesses? Yes; I have heard of their doing so.

1417. Have you ever considered the possibility of starting a business of this kind to find employment for these women—these unemployed women, that you really cannot get rid of? No doubt it could be done if the committee were prepared to spend a good deal of money in fitting up a proper laundry.

1418. Of course, it is a matter of policy for the committee in the first instance;—do you consider it to be practicable? No doubt it would be; but very few people from outside would care to send washing to an institution like the Benevolent Asylum, where you have a number of isolated cases. I am afraid we should not be patronised very well.

1419. Would not that objection hold good to some extent with regard to other institutions? I do not know. I do not know what their work is.

1420. If you had a laundry established these women could be trained? Yes, at that work. 1421.

- R. Graham. 1421. And would, therefore, become less helpless? I have endeavoured to train some of the girls in housework, and have got situations for many of them.
- 22 July, 1898. 1422. You think there is nothing not feasible in the idea? No; nothing at all.
1423. If the women were put under a competent laundress, and had to work, getting a little for it, that would be an inducement to them to learn the business, and go out to work where they could earn something? Yes.
1424. *Mr. Powell.*] I suppose they work in your own laundry? Yes; they are employed in the wards and in the laundry. A good many women work in the laundry, who do not get gratuities. The reason for introducing the gratuity money was that I found so much destruction to the clothes. The women would tear them up; but for a shilling a week they would probably do better.
1425. Are you aware that at the Sydney Female Refuge, which is carried on a few doors away, they have a laundry? Yes; they have had it for years. I think they rescue first-offence cases from the gaols, and keep them for two years. We send some of our girls—the outrageous cases—there for a couple of years.
1426. Do you know whether that refuge is a profitable concern? From what I have heard I understood that it pays its expenses.
1427. There are certain children who are received for boarding-out at the Asylum? Yes.
1428. Are those children allowed to mix with the women who are in for confinement? No.
1429. Do they see them at all? Yes.
1430. Do you approve of that? No; I think it is a very bad arrangement, especially when we have boys and girls 11 and 12 years of age there.
1431. You have no means of preventing it? No; the only way I do is to urge the boarding-out officers to get them away as soon as possible.
1432. Do you consider that it is necessary to have those children there for boarding out;—I suppose you are aware that the State Children's Relief Board have a depôt of their own at Paddington? Yes; but I understood that it was not large enough to receive all the children, so we relieve them.
1433. Of course, it is no necessary part of the Sydney Benevolent Society's work to receive these children at all? No; I do not think so.
1434. If arrangements can be made elsewhere for the State Children's Relief Board to receive the children it would be rather an advantage to your work? I do not know that it would be an advantage to us. I suppose it would mean some loss of income.
1435. You are not supposed to be making a profit out of them; but if you had not to keep them, what loss would there be? As it is now, I have found very great difficulty in that respect.
1436. Assuming that it would be no loss to the institution, you would rather be without the children? Yes; and it would certainly be very much better for the children. I cannot altogether isolate them from the women, and I place women above them who are as suitable as possible.
1437. Do they remain there any length of time? With very few exceptions. We sometimes have very delicate children. We have one child who has been there nearly twelve months.
1438. *President.*] Do you consider that a particularly suitable place for a delicate child? Our children look very well, as a rule. There has been a difficulty about getting her away. She is a Roman Catholic, and the homes for Roman Catholics are full.
1439. *Mr. Powell.*] That is an exceptional case? Yes. There is another case of a boy with a deformed face. People will not take him on account of his appearance. It is difficult to know what to do with him.
1440. *President.*] As regards the married and the unmarried women, one woman does not know whether or not another is married, does she? No; not if they do not mention it.
1441. How do the nurses address them? They address the younger girls by their Christian names; but they would address the others as Mrs. Brown or Mrs. Jones, whatever her name was.
1442. Are their cards by their bedsides? There are no bed cards; the only thing used is the chart at the foot of the bed.
1443. Is there not the name on it? Yes; the name is on it.
1444. And Mrs. or Miss? No; only what is usual in hospital work.
1445. Does this card state the number of times that they have been in the institution? No.
1446. It is just to give medical information as to temperature, and so on? All that is on the chart is the patient's name and her age, and the sex of her child. Formerly we put on the chart first, second, or third child. I got that stopped, because the women got to know one another's histories. We used to put that on for medical information. That information is now kept in a book in my office.
1447. That information is not given now? No; if the patient herself does not volunteer any information, there is no need for the other inmates to know anything about her business.
1448. The chart is the usual chart? Yes; it gives the morning and evening temperatures. The use of it really is to record the temperature.
1449. Then the chart has the Christian name and surname of the patient? Yes.
1450. You have a ladies' committee? Yes.
1451. Are you immediately responsible to the ladies' committee? Yes.
1452. Have you anything to do with the ordinary committee? Not any further than to go in and read my report, and to place any want that I have before them.
1453. Your department is under the charge of the ladies' committee? Yes. I think I am to consider myself subject to them to a certain extent.
1454. Do these ladies go over the institution, and look over its domestic arrangements, in accordance with the by-laws? Yes, they do.
1455. Do they always go round when at the institution? Not every week.
1456. How often? Never less than once a month. It is always entered by the secretary.
1457. Is there any book in which their visits are recorded? Yes. Mrs. Holme keeps the book.
1458. Does every applicant have to go before the ladies' committee? Only those who want to come months before their confinement. There are many cases of destitution, and so forth, that the manager has to use his discretion about taking in. All urgent cases must be taken in at once.
1459. When a girl comes and requests to be taken in months before the proper time, she has to go before the ladies' committee? Yes.
1460. Then the necessary particulars are obtained from her by the committee? Yes; they have a book with printed questions.
- 1461.

1461. And on that they act? Yes.

1462. But in urgent cases or ordinary cases this is not done? There must be some reason given why the girl could not wait until Tuesday.

1463. The point is as to whether the girl has to go before the full ladies' committee, and to go into all these particulars, I understand you to say that, when they request to be taken in some weeks before the proper time, they have to go before the full committee? Yes.

1464. In other cases the woman has not to go before the committee? If the manager has to take a woman in before the proper time she has to go before the committee before leaving.

1465. All the cases have to go before the committee, either when going in or before coming out? Yes.

1466. Do you consider it as a desirable thing, or is it not a particularly painful thing, for a girl to go before the committee? They seem to be very much distressed about it very often.

1467. Do you not think that, if you saw them yourself, got the particulars from them, and reported to the committee, that would be quite sufficient? I should think so.

1468. You think it is painful for them? Yes.

1469. It is a very painful ordeal for a young girl to have to go before the ladies' committee and go into all the particulars of her case? Yes; it seems to distress them very much.

1470. *Mr. Powell.*] Do you not think that they would be more communicative to you personally? I think so. The printed questions I use, there is nothing that is objectionable in any of the questions.

1471. *President.*] You think it would spare their feelings to a very great extent if you or someone who could be trusted, could get the information from them, fill up the form, and hand it in to the ladies' committee? I think so.

1472. *Mr. Powell.*] What information is required by the form? Their name, age, religion, native country, father's name, mother's maiden name, also whether their parents are living or dead, where they are residing, if they have means to provide for their illness; and then the name of the seducer, his occupation, where he resides, and one question which seems to cause a great deal of unpleasantness, is the question, "What were you doing at the time of seduction?" Of course, it means what were they employed at; but this question is always misunderstood, and seems to cause them a great deal of unpleasantness.

1473. Do you think there is any advantage gained by pressing this particular question? I always understood that these questions were asked at the request of the Government.

1474. From your own personal feeling, do you regard this as necessary? It is necessary to have some private information. A girl may die, and it would be very necessary for that. It is necessary to have information as regards her parentage.

1475. Yes; but I am speaking about this particular item? The only reason for that question is that the man may be communicated with. It is necessary for the institution to know who he is.

1476. The institution gets no advantage from this question? No; I cannot see that it does.

1477. Then you think generally that the asking of questions in that particular direction serves no good purpose? Not that I can see. I think that to a great extent these questions are of the old days.

1478. *President.*] It might be desirable to revise them? I should think it would be better.

1479. You have never represented this to the committee? No; I have sometimes, in private conversation to the manager, told him how very upset the girls have been. As regards revising the questions, the book we are using is gradually getting finished up, and before a new book is got the questions may be altered.

1480. *Mr. Powell.*] Yours is not a society to punish vice? No; it is for us to help those who are in trouble.

1481. Simply to give assistance? Quite so.

1482. *President.*] Do you think that when a girl is taken before the committee she is more or less likely to give correct information than she would be if sitting down quietly in a room with yourself? It is very difficult in any case. We find them very untruthful, but I think it is excusable to a great extent, because the girl at the time is in very great distress. It is very natural. It is very rarely to begin with that they will give their own names.

1483. Is it more or less likely that they will give truthful information to the committee? I should think they would be more likely to give it to one individual than to the committee.

1484. *Mr. Powell.*] There is a general disposition on their part to suppress information on the subject? Yes; I think it is a very natural inclination.

1485. *President.*] Do they represent themselves as married women? They do come and represent that they are married women, but a married woman is expected to bring her marriage lines, and they are asked to do that if they represent themselves as married.

1486. Do you know what is the custom in other hospitals, say Dr. Graham's—in reference to that? I understand that the patients are taken in there without any questions being asked, but I only have that from hearsay.

1487. Regulation 50 provides that all children's hair shall be cut short;—is this rule carried out entirely? I have not carried it out strictly unless a child's head is so dirty that we cannot do anything with it. It is a very great disfigurement to a girl to have her hair cut short, but at the same time if her head is very dirty the hair must be cut off.

1488. Then you use your discretion in the matter? Yes, I have done; and I do not think there has been any objection to it. I once had a sharp letter about children leaving with very dirty heads, so I made it a rule that the children should have their hair cut off if desired by the authorities at Ormond House. It is a great disfigurement to a woman to have her hair cut off.

1489. Have women who have gone into the institution with children complained at having their hair cut off? No; I do not remember any complaints of that kind.

1490. Have you ever made any representation to either the men's or the ladies' committee in regard to the question of hair-cutting? Yes; I have mentioned it.

1491. What was the result? They left it to my discretion.

1492. Are women who remain a considerable time in the institution after confinement allowed to go out to look for work? Yes. At first when I went there the women used to go in and out a great deal, but I found that they did not do very much good, therefore, I limited their outings. I kept them in until they

- R. Graham. they would make an effort to get work outside. I did not allow them to go out so much as they had been in the habit of doing, but I sent them out from time to time to get employment.
- 22 July, 1898. 1493. Has it resulted in anything? We are not nearly so crowded as we used to be. I do not know whether it is owing to that or to other institutions having sprung up. Other institutions may have some of those women.
1494. Do they go out alone, or accompanied by officials? They go out alone.
1495. And they may or may not seek work when they are out? I have to trust them as to that.
1496. Are you aware whether any girls come from other colonies to be confined here? We get some from Victoria and a few from Queensland.
1497. Do you think they come for that purpose? I think so.
1498. Have you had many cases? I should think we get from ten to twelve or thirteen applications in the twelve months; many do not enter upon being told they cannot leave the infant.
1499. Are any measures taken for returning those people to their own colony? No; I generally find that in those cases they are provided with means to get back again.
1500. Are there any women remaining in the asylum now from the other colonies who cannot be provided for—unemployed women? There is one. I remember her, but not any of the others. She wants to get to Melbourne to her mother. She has three children on the State and one child with her.
1501. Three children on the State in this Colony? Yes; she wants to get back to Melbourne. Her husband is a Japanese. She says that if she got back to Melbourne she would get a home, and then send for her children.
1502. Is it easier to get a home in Melbourne than in Sydney? I think it is on account of her mother being in Melbourne.
1503. Is it in the power of the committee to grant that request? No; she would have to get permission from the Government.
1504. Could not the committee move the Government in the matter? Yes; it is being done now. I think the woman has a pass to Albury, and she could complete the journey if her mother will send her the means to go from there.
1505. Would it not be better to give her a ticket, as it would only be a matter of £1 from Albury to Melbourne;—is Mr. Maxted moving in the matter now? No; he gave her a card to go to Mr. Hanson.
1506. That is the only case of unemployed that you know of? The only one that I can remember. There may be others that I have not taken a note of.
1507. Ten or twelve come to this Colony every year expressly to be confined, and in most cases they have means, and return to their own colony? Yes.
1508. Do you know of any such case that has become a charge on New South Wales? No; I do not think there has been any other case since I have been there. There was one woman from Queensland, but that was a case of destitution, not a maternity case.
1509. The case you have mentioned is a serious one if the State has to support three children while the mother and another child are in the Benevolent Asylum? Yes; of course, she takes that child with her.
1510. Regulation 51 says:
- No written communication shall be sent by any inmate out of the institution except through the matron; and all letters addressed to the inmates shall be opened in her presence.
- Does this mean that you are to be made acquainted with the contents of the correspondence of all the inmates? It reads so.
1511. Take the case of a married woman, does it imply that if she writes letters to her husband those letters are to be seen by you? According to the rule they are, but I have used my discretion in these cases. All letters are opened before me, but I do not really know their contents.
1512. Do you consider that some such safeguard of the kind is necessary? No; I do not see that it is. I do not know that there is any object in a letter being opened in my presence.
1513. If a letter is opened in your presence, and you do not read it, is there any advantage in it at all? Only this: that money might be sent in a letter. Inmates have stated that money was sent in their letters, but that when they received the letter there was no money in it.
1514. Rule 52 provides that inmates who are able shall assist in the general work of the institution;—does that apply to women other than those receiving gratuities? Yes; to all women.
1515. They are supposed to do anything that they are told to do? Yes.
1516. But you cannot find constant employment for some of them? No; we generally make use of them up in the sewing-room.
1517. Do inmates who are not paid do the same class of work as those who are paid? Yes; they will assist in the laundry work along with those who are getting gratuities.
1518. Then why should one be paid and not another? Because the one who is paid becomes a sort of forewoman or assistant to the laundress. I can hold her responsible if I miss an article of clothing.
1519. She will take care that the things are not misused? Yes; or burnt. They used to put some of the clothes under the copper and burnt them rather than wash them.
1520. So that the woman who is paid is practically a fore-woman? Yes.
1521. In 1897 the gratuities amounted to £215 12s.? My gratuities usually come to £2 7s. 6d. a week.
1522. These are for laundresses, cook, and wardswomen? I do not think that the laundress is an inmate, or the cook.
1523. Would it not be possible to do away with that gratuity system, and have the work done by the inmates without any gratuity? As regards my own work, there would be very great difficulty. Take a wardswoman for instance. I pay a wardswoman 2s. 6d. a week. If I got a nurse in to do the work that the wardswoman does we should have to pay her from £45 to £52 a year.
1524. But would you have to get a nurse, seeing that practically the State keeps these women and children. The assumption is not as between women with gratuities and a nurse, but women paid and the same women not paid? We can call her a servant. There must be somebody responsible for the ward. I must have some responsible person where the children are. We must have some responsible person to see that the children are fed properly, bathed and clothed, and that their clothes are given out to wash, and are returned in a proper condition. If we put an outside person to do that work we must pay from 10s. to 12s. a week.

1525. Could you not put the same women on without gratuities? There is no doubt that that can be done. The women are in the institution, and are being sheltered, and there is no reason why they should not do work without any gratuity. R. Graham.
22 July, 1898.

1526. Is it unreasonable to expect that women who have been taken in perhaps more than once, who have got over their trouble, and who are fed and clothed by the State, should do the work of the institution without payment until they can find employment? No; I do not think it is unreasonable, only we have found a difficulty in getting it done successfully.

1527. Then there is another aspect of the matter;—is it not likely that if a woman is expected to do this work without any gratuity she will make greater efforts to obtain employment outside? Yes; no doubt. That would be the case with strong healthy women, but the women I have employed have generally been women for whom we could not get anything to do. One is a great sufferer from rheumatism, and if sent away from us would have to go to Newington; another has a failing, being given to drink; a third woman has a very delicate baby, but as soon as her child is strong enough I shall expect her to take a situation. I think that in going over the gratuity list you would find a great many changes. I have not always employed the same people. They are expected to try and get situations, and the gratuities will provide them with clothes, so that they can get situations decently.

1528. Will you state your views as to why gratuities should be paid; I understand that whilst you admit that it would not be unreasonable to expect the women to work without gratuities, you think, on the whole, that it is wise to pay gratuities? Yes; so as to encourage the women to take more interest in and look after the ward. The woman will take more interest in it if she is paid than she would if expected to do the work for nothing.

1529. You think that you get better service by paying a small gratuity? Yes; there is no doubt about it.

1530. *Mr. Powell.*] What is the highest gratuity that you pay? Three shillings and sixpence.

1531. Are there not some getting 7s. a week? I do not understand that they are on gratuity.

1532. *President.*] The laundress gets 7s. a week, the scamstress 7s., the cook 8s., Mrs. R * * 5s.? Yes; that is the highest gratuity that I am aware of.

1533. There are two at 7s. and one at 8s.; you have told us that you think the system of gratuities is defensible, because it leads to better work; now we come to the question of the amount of the gratuities;—does not 7s. or 8s. a week appear to you somewhat high, seeing that the institution is keeping the woman and child? Yes; I think it is. I understood that these women were servants of the institution. L * C * *, I think, was a servant of the institution.

1534. What do you think should be the maximum gratuity, I suppose it would vary according to the work, one woman having charge of the laundry, and another having charge of the kitchen? Well, you could not expect a laundress to take charge of the laundry for less than 7s. or 8s. a week. Suppose we engaged a woman with her child for the ordinary duties in the ward, I think 2s. 6d. a week would be quite sufficient.

1535. Do you think that an inmate in charge of the laundry who was supported with her child, and clothed by the State should get as much as 8s. a week? Well, it seems rather a high gratuity considering that the woman is being kept by the Government.

1536. Not only kept, but clothed as well? Yes.

1537. She and her child cost the Government £42 a year? Yes.

1538. *Mr. Powell.*] And you are giving her a premium to prevent her from going out?—

1539. *President.*] It must have the effect of taking away any incentive to find employment? Quite so. I do think it is high.

1540. *Mr. Powell.*] Would you say that the amount of gratuity should not be more than 2s. 6d. a week in any case? No. I think in the case of a laundress the person must be paid more than 2s. 6d. a week, there is a great deal to be done. I should not like to offer an inmate 2s. 6d. a week to take full charge of the laundry and be responsible. She has to be responsible for a great deal.

1541. *President.*] The institution is charging the Government £42 a year for their keep? Yes.

1542. Suppose these women were all discharged, how many capable general servants would be necessary to take their places? One for the kitchen, one for the laundry, not counting the wards-women who average from 2s. to 2s. 6d. a week. There would be three general servants required.

1543. You see that each of these women costs the Government £28 a year, and each child £14; that is £42 a year which the Government are paying to the institution? Yes.

1544. And the Government having provided more than sufficient to keep them in the institution, the institution gives them 8s. a week;—what do you estimate is the cost for clothing for a mother and child? I never thought about that. I do not think the expense is very great. Boots would be the heaviest item.

1545. Would it be £5 a year? I do not think it would come to quite that for the twelve months.

1546. There is one thing that must be remembered as far as clothing the women is concerned, that there are frequent changes in the institution, and many of these women have to be presented with a proper outfit, and it would be a question of a succession of women? In our institution the dresses are made so that they will fit anybody. It would be very expensive if we had the clothes made to fit each inmate.

1547. If you had permanent inmates it would cost so much per head, but you have a continuous succession of people so poor that they come in with very little outfit, and they cannot be sent out without a proper equipment of clothing? We do not provide them with clothing to go out in, those clothes are generally found in other ways. We get donations to the institution. The institution is at no cost for providing clothes for women going out except for boots.

1548. Rule 59 says:

Parents and relatives shall only be allowed to see the children in presence of the matron or an official of the Asylum.

What is the object of that Rule? I must plead ignorant of that. I have never noticed that Rule. We have a visiting day—the first Friday of every month—and I generally allow visitors to see the children in the hall. A nurse stands at the door of the dining-hall, and the nurse sees that all the visitors come before me before going in. I endeavour, in the case of mothers, to see whether I cannot get them to remove their daughters recently confined.

1549. There are some parents, I suppose, whom it would not be desirable to allow to see the children? In cases like that I send them to Mr. Hanson's department, and he would give the order.

R. Graham. 1550. Rule 76 says :

22 July, 1898. The duty of discharging all patients who have been in the hospital less than thirty days shall rest with the honorary medical officer in attendance.

Is this confined simply to the maternity division? Yes, simply to that. You are asking what the cost would be to clothe a woman; fully clothed, each adult would cost about £1 12s. 6d. That would last for twelve months. Children would cost more, as they require a greater change.

1551. Rule 76 says :

That if a patient has been in the hospital less than thirty days the duty to discharge her shall rest with the honorary medical officer.

Then, whom does it rest with if she has been there more than thirty days? His attention is drawn to that case when he comes round. I recommend a patient's discharge to the manager when a maternity case is convalescent. The medical officer's attention is drawn to her, and he gives permission that she can be discharged from the time he has seen her. Then it rests with myself and the midwife. If anything should develop it has to be reported to the medical officer, and the patient must be kept in till he sees her.

1552. I presume the reason of the resolution is that up to thirty days it must be a matter for the doctor, but after that it is presumed that the woman will be so well that she can go out? Yes, that is it.

1553. It seems strange that a medical officer has power to discharge a woman who has been in the hospital for less than thirty days, but not when she has been there more than thirty days? I think the reason of that Rule is that the patients have given trouble by saying that they had to leave the institution at a certain time. No doubt it is to provide against that.

1554. Rule 68 says :

When a consultation is required, the honorary medical officer attending the patient shall direct the resident medical officer to summon the other members of the staff.

There is no resident medical officer, is there? No.

1555. Do you think there ought to be a resident medical officer? There is not sufficient work for a resident medical officer.

1556. Do you think you ought to have an officer of your own who could be called upon? We can do that now. The medical men, as a rule, come immediately they are telephoned for, but I think it would be better if there was a medical officer who visited the institution every day.

1557. You think it would be a good thing to have a medical officer receiving some small salary to visit the institution daily? I do. For an institution like that, especially where we have a number of young children, some of whom may be well one hour and ill the next.

1558. And this medical officer would go the round of the whole institution? Yes; it would be very much more satisfactory.

1559. It seems that now you have to depend upon the services of doctors who have their own practice to attend to? Yes; they are all very busy men. As it is now they come at once when telephoned for, especially Dr. Foreman and Dr. Crago.

1560. You do not think there is sufficient employment for a resident medical man? No; there is not. Sometimes there is very little medical work when the children are thoroughly healthy, and the patients in the maternity wards.

1561. The outbreak of puerperal fever occurred before you were in charge there? Yes.

1562. Personally you know nothing about it? Nothing at all.

1563. *Mr. Powell.*] When the women go out on leave to seek situations do they return at night all right? Yes; we have no trouble. I give them a stated time, they return before dark as a rule.

1564. They do not abuse the privilege? No; they have always come home sober and respectable.

1565. With regard to those children who are kept in the Aylum for two to twelve months, is there any provision for their education? No; nothing more than Sunday services.

1566. All the children there are positively untaught? Yes.

1567. Do you not think that that is a disadvantage? As a rule we do not have the children in there so long, only in some cases. A few weeks, and at the most, two months is the longest time.

1568. If a child is there for twelve months, might that child not go to the nearest public school? In the case of the two that I have referred to we cannot send them. One is constantly breaking out with sores, and the other has a very serious deformity. The Roman Catholic Sisters attend to those of their creed on Sundays, and the Salvation Army and the City Mission attend to the Protestants.

1569. They get no secular education? No.

TUESDAY, 26 JULY, 1898.

[The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board, at 10 o'clock a.m.]

Present:—

G. A. WILSON, Esq., J.P. (President).

F. BARLING, Esq., J.P.

J. POWELL, Esq., J.P.

James Pollard Grant sworn and examined:—

J. P. Grant. 1570. *Chairman.*] You are the chief inspector in connection with the Benevolent Society? Yes.

1571. How long have you held that office? Seventeen years.

26 July, 1898. 1572. Have you been chief inspector all that time? I was the only inspector at the start. There was a previous inspector who got the managership. I applied for this position and got it.

1573. Have you any colleagues? Yes, one—Mr. Roseby. He has been an inspector for the last two and a half years.

1574. Up to that time you had the whole of the inspection to do? Yes, and the distribution as well.

1575. What do your duties consist of? They commence on Tuesday afternoon with the committee. I attend the meetings of the house committee, and I attend to all the people who come for relief, present recipients,

recipients, and fresh applications or renewals. I am there to advise the committee, and give them all the information that is necessary in connection with each case. Mr. Maxted sits there and minutes all the cases. The inspectors' reports are read to a sub-committee. There are so many people coming for relief that a sub-committee hears the reports, and the suggestions from the sub-committee are submitted to the full committee, and they are carried out as a rule.

J. F. Grant.
26 July, 1898.

1576. The people are relieved accordingly? Yes; the next morning I get a list of these cases from the minute-book.

1577. You referred just now to renewals? Yes; all renewals or fresh applications are dealt with. I take the list and enter it in my issue-book on Wednesday morning.

1578. You write the cases up, in fact, in your book? I note opposite each name what is for them, so that there will be no mistake, and when the persons come before me, I can see at a glance what the person is to have, and order it.

1579. You preside over the distribution of relief on Wednesday? Yes.

1580. How many cases are receiving relief per week at present? The number for the first week in July was 1,174 cases.

1581. How many individuals would be comprised in those cases? 3,915. About three and one-third to the family.

1582. How many of these are receiving rental allowances in addition to rations? Between 340 and 350.

1583. *Mr. Barling.*] How do you arrive at that average of three and one-third;—have you worked it up from statistics, or is it a rough guess? It is worked out from the figures. I have to give a return and the classification of persons receiving relief at the end of each year. On the first week in each year I ask every person how many children there are.

1584. The average is based on the return for last year? Yes.

1585. *President.*] There is no money, except for rent? Yes; money is allowed for travelling in a few cases.

1586. Each of these cases represents a separate home, I presume? Not a separate home; they are classified. There were cases of widows with one child, and cases of widows with two children.

1587. These would still be separate homes? They live in one room or two rooms.

1588. What we want to get at is the number of inspections—if you have half a dozen families in one house that would be only one inspection;—I want to know how many separate homes there are? Nearly all of them have separate homes.

1589. The number of cases with two or three females living in one home is very small? Very small.

1590. Will you state the distance from which people come for relief? They come from all round.

1591. Do they come as far as from Rookwood? Yes; I have two cases at Rookwood now.

1592. Then they come from all the suburbs of Sydney? Yes. I have been as far as Liverpool myself, but that was a long time ago.

1593. Then you get your cases from every suburb, and even from beyond the suburbs? Yes.

1594. How many local benefit societies have those districts? I do not remember one in Rookwood.

1595. Do you not get a statement from the benefit societies within the suburban radius? No. We have tried to get that; we have asked for lists from Erskineville.

1596. Would you be surprised to hear that there are twenty of these societies? No. A good many have cropped up during the last two or three years.

1597. Take your pensioners from Rookwood or Liverpool;—how do they come in for rations? By train.

1598. What would it cost a person who comes from Rookwood by train? One shilling return.

1599. What is the average relief that you give per case? A single case:—Two loaves of bread, 2 lb. flour or meat, 1 lb. sugar, and $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of tea.

1600. What is the value of that? Eleven-pence.

1601. Does a man or woman come in from Rookwood to get a ration like that? She gets four loaves of bread.

1602. What is the value of her ration;—is it a double ration? Yes; the value is 1s. 6d.

1603. You actually bring a woman in from Rookwood for 1s. 6d. worth of food, and you pay 1s. to bring her in? That is the fact.

1604. Do you think that that is good business? Of course, we have the committee to consider.

1605. Would it not be better business to give a woman 2s. 6d. through some local agency? Would they ensure the same amount of goods for it?

1606. Is there not a benevolent society at Parramatta? Yes.

1607. Could you not arrange for the local society at Parramatta to distribute the 2s. 6d. instead of the 1s. 6d.—I do not say necessarily in money; or could you not establish a credit with a storekeeper for bread, tea, and whatever is wanted for the woman to the amount of so much per week? She would not get the same amount of food for the money.

1608. Would she not get more than 1s. 6d. worth for 2s. 6d.? The increase in the profit would bring it up to nearly 2s. 6d.

1609. Then, if you could not do it that way, could you not distribute that money for the goods through the agency of the local society at Parramatta? That could be done, but is it to come through another society?

1610. The first thing would appear to be to refer the woman to the local society? That is done.

1611. Suppose that the local society at Parramatta is not in funds, I ask you would it not be better to put the local society in funds than to bring a woman in from Rookwood for 1s. 6d. worth of food at the cost of an extra shilling to the institution? You mean, would it not be better to send the 2s. 6d. to the local society?

1612. Suppose a woman applies for relief, and the society at Parramatta say, "We have no funds, and cannot help you," would it not be better for your society to put the Parramatta society in funds, and to give the woman 2s. 6d. instead of 1s. 6d.? That would be amalgamating the work of the two societies to a certain extent.

1613. I do not care how you do it, but could you not give the woman 2s. 6d. worth of food that way, instead of 1s. 6d. worth of food, without costing the society any more? Do I understand that you want to give the woman 1s. more in food instead of the travelling money?

1614. As it is now, you bring in a woman, and she gets 1s. 6d. for food, but it costs the institution 2s. 6d., does it not? Yes; with her travelling expenses.

1615.

- J. P. Grant. 1615. Would it not be better business that the woman should get the 2s. 6d.? I do not approve of money being given like that. The food distributed by the institution is very economically purchased, and they get more of it for their money than they would get in any other way.
- 26 July, 1898. 1616. Then you approve of the present arrangement by which a woman has to come to Sydney for relief at the cost of a shilling? That is if the local society is not in funds and cannot assist her, but I contend that they should be in funds so as to be able to assist.
1617. Suppose that the local society is not in funds, could not your society put them in funds to the amount of 2s. 6d. a week? It could be done, but it has never been tried. Each society has been independent of the other.
1618. That opens up the question as to whether in distributing public money there should not be co-operation amongst them? It could be done in that way in the future.
1619. *Mr. Barling.*] The objection you made was that they could not get food at the same price at Parramatta? They could not.
1620. How do you know that? It is because of the large quantities that we buy.
1621. On account of your large orders you get it at a cheaper rate? Yes.
1622. Then you pay 1s. to enable a woman to come and get 1s. 6d. worth of food, and your argument is that they could not get the food at the same rate at Parramatta, but supposing you could not get it at the same rate, it is not likely that there would be a difference of 1s. in the cost? No.
1623. *Mr. Powell.*] Would the difference be 50 per cent.? I do not think it would be.
1624. How much do you think it would be? I should say 25 per cent.
1625. *President.*] Are there many such cases? No, only two up there.
1626. You told us that you distributed relief all over the suburbs, even to Liverpool? Yes; I have gone to Liverpool, but that was a very isolated case; we have only two cases at Rookwood.
1627. *Mr. Barling.*] Have you many cases at Burwood and Ashfield? There is one case at Homebush, and there are three or four cases at Burwood.
1628. Can you tell how many there are at Ashfield? Three, I think.
1629. I suppose in all these cases you pay train fares? We do not in all cases.
1630. Would you in cases from Homebush and Ashfield? A person from Homebush gets a shilling.
1631. Would a case from Burwood get a travelling allowance? There are four cases, one in Concord, and they all get travelling expenses.
1632. Would a person from Ashfield get travelling expenses? Yes; there are two there, I think.
1633. Up to what limit would you pay travelling expenses,—would you pay travelling expenses from Petersham? It all depends upon the nature of the case. It might be done in the case of an aged person or a person who had not good health.
1634. *President.*] The whole amount spent in a year in travelling expenses is only £44 18s. 10d.;—what I want to get at is whether in the interests of these poor people a woman coming from Rookwood for 1s. 6d. worth of provisions could not be benefited without loss to the institution to the extent of getting the value of the 2s. 6d.? Naturally the woman would be benefited by it.
1635. I want to know how far you work in connection with the local benevolent societies, of which there are somewhere about twenty in the suburbs, do you work in co-operation with them at all? They send in their lists—the Erskineville benevolent society, and the Randwick, Waverley, North Sydney societies, and the Charity Organisation Society.
1636. Do you ever look up the secretary of a local society, and get information in your capacity of inspector in reference to any cases within the radius of that society? I have visited individual cases when I received information that they were receiving relief locally.
1637. Have you interviewed the secretary of the society? No; I have no time to do that.
1638. These societies do not all send in statements to your society? There is the Erskineville society.
1639. I do not want the individual names I want to know whether you get reports from them all? No, we do not; though Mr. Maxted has written to everyone of them.
1640. Mr. Maxted has written and tried to get reports, but cannot get them? No; we cannot get them.
1641. It was done, I suppose, with the view of ascertaining whether certain cases that you were relieving were being relieved by the local society? To prevent overlapping.
1642. You cannot get that information in all cases? Not in all cases.
1643. What steps do you take to inquire into this question of overlapping;—suppose you relieve a case at either Rookwood or Liverpool, do you ascertain whether the person is not being relieved by some local society? We get the information from the neighbours as far as possible. My plan of inspection is this: a person makes application; I get the address; I go and make full inquiries in the surrounding neighbourhood of the place where the person resides, then I have all the information necessary to enable me to ask questions, and I visit the house. When I have got all my information, and if everything is satisfactory, if I feel in my own mind that everything is right, I report to the committee.
1644. Do you consult the police at all? I do.
1645. Do you consult the Charities Department at all? They consult me a good deal.
1646. Do you consult them? No, I cannot say that I do. They come to me very often for information.
1647. You say you do not consult them? I know most of the homes that they know; that is the reason why they come to me for information.
1648. But you do not go to them? I do not go to them.
1649. Do you consider there is much overlapping in your work? No, there is not.
1650. Why does your society grant relief in cases where there are local benevolent societies? They are sent to the institution, and recommended by subscribers.
1651. I am asking why they are relieved by your institution when there are local benevolent societies in their own district;—suppose that a person comes to you from Parramatta recommended by one of your subscribers, does your society refer that case to the local society? It does.
1652. In all cases? Yes, in all cases. I suggested that course to the Committee, and it was carried out.
1653. Suppose a person from Parramatta is introduced by a subscriber and applies for relief, would it be referred to the local society? Yes.
1654. Does the person come back again? She comes back again and says she cannot be relieved there.
1655. Do you check that statement? No; it has not been checked.
1656. So that as a matter of fact a person may come back and say that he cannot be relieved, and all the time he may be getting relief? I do not think that is done.

1657. You say you do not check it, is it not possible that a person may be actually receiving relief from the two societies? We should soon get information about that.

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1658. But you say that you do not check the statement? It is not checked.

1659. Do you not think it ought to be checked?—If they had an established secretary in the locality, or if you could go straight to some office and get the information it could be done, but it is not so easy when you have to go to a district as I have had to go and spend a long time in seeking the persons who could give you the information. If I have any suspicion that persons have been getting relief from two societies it takes up a great deal of my time to inquire into it. I have done it. You have to find these people out, and the members of these honorary committees are often changed.

1660. As a matter of fact you have no record in your office showing the office bearers of these societies so that you could go without loss of time to inquire into these cases;—you have already said that you cannot get returns from these societies? Not from all of them. We have got returns from some of them.

1661. There is the case of a man at St. Peters, do you know that case? Yes; he is an old man.

1662. He is an old man with a family, and he receives certain relief towards his rent and certain rations? Yes.

1663. Are you aware whether he is relieved by any other society? I am not.

1664. You are not aware that he is relieved by a local society? I am not. We have not had the returns in from Cook's River lately.

1665. Have you ever inspected that home? Not personally.

1666. Would it not be the duty of the inspector to inquire into that case? They are always asked if they are being relieved anywhere else. If a person does not tell the truth or you cannot get the information apart from the list that ought to come in it is very difficult.

1667. Besides yourself there are two inspectors? Yes.

1668. How long have they been employed? Mr. Roseby has been assisting me for two and a half years.

1669. And the other man? He has been there twelve months last May.

1670. Up to two and a half years ago you were doing the whole of the work of inspection? Yes.

1671. A good deal of your time is taken up in indoor work, is it not? It has been more so since 1896.

1672. Is that on account of the growth of the work? Yes.

1673. How much of your time is taken up with indoor work? Up to the beginning of this Commission asking for information I was in the office on Tuesday afternoon, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and sometimes Saturday; but since this Commission commenced I have been out very little.

1674. The Commission, no doubt, has deranged your work;—we will take it when things were in their normal condition before the Commission called for information? Then I used to get out two days a week.

1675. So that practically you had very little time for the duties of inspection? Very little.

1676. As regards the other inspectors, before the Commissioners called upon you for information, how much of their time would be given to outdoor work? Mr. Roseby would be in the office on Tuesday afternoon, on Wednesday, and most of Thursday.

1677. So that half his time is taken up with indoor work? Yes, in checking and getting lists out.

1678. Then there is the other inspector? He is wholly devoted to the work, except on Tuesday afternoons.

1679. His whole time is devoted to outdoor inspection? Yes.

1680. Very little of your time is given to it, and only half of Mr. Roseby's? Yes.

1681. So that is about one inspector and a half devoted to outdoor work? Nearly two, because I am out two days a week, and Mr. Roseby three days a week.

1682. A great deal of the time of the inspectors is necessarily taken up by indoor work? Yes.

1683. It practically means that you have two inspectors? Yes.

1684. Do you consider that inspection sufficient for over 1,100 cases? There are a great many chronic cases—cases of very aged people.

1685. And these require very little inspection—they are not improving? No; if you visited them every day you would find no improvement. All these people come before me every Wednesday, and if there is anything in connection with their cases that is not right I question them. They come before me every week, and that is a great help to the work of inspection.

1686. Making allowance for the number of chronic cases, do you consider the inspection sufficient? It is not sufficient.

1687. Is that on account of the great increase in the number of cases? Yes; the great increase and the work. There is additional clerical work.

1688. It involves not only more outdoor inspection, but a great increase in the indoor work? Yes. Another inspector would be desirable.

1689. Have you ever considered the question of getting volunteer inspectors to make use of their local knowledge? Yes; I have a good many volunteer inspectors. I have met them in the suburbs where I have been, and where I am known. I ask volunteer inspectors privately to keep a look-out for me.

1690. Have you organised them as a general system throughout the suburbs? In my work I have, as far as it is practicable to do so.

1691. Could not that system be extended? Yes; if you could get people to take up the work. It is like this: You go to a business person, and you ask a question about So-and-so (of course, you do not like to make yourself known, or your business). Sometimes you are insulted. You ask, "These people have been living here a certain time, have they not?" I say that I have private reasons for asking. Of course, one does not like to publish the matter to everyone, but you have to have a great amount of tact to get the information. Sometimes you are insulted, and do not get any at all. I have had doors slammed in my face. Then there are other people from whom you can get information readily.

1692. You find that volunteer inspectors are of great use to you? Yes; I have always made myself thoroughly known to two or three, and they have given me information readily, when they knew that it would be private, but had they any idea that it would leak out they would not give the information.

1693. *Mr. Barling.*] You spoke about the increase of your work;—has there been any large increase this year as compared with last year? No; the increase is not this year. For the first week in July, 1897, there were 1,259 cases; on the 1st July this year, 1,174 cases, showing a decrease of 85.

1694. The great increase has been since 1891? Yes; it rose rapidly then.

1695. *President.*] About how many times a year is each home inspected by you or the other inspectors—take the chronic cases? Suppose a widow applies for relief, and we visit her and find that everything about

- J. P. Grant. about her is satisfactory; she perhaps has half-a-dozen children; you are satisfied in your mind that the woman is in need of relief, and that almost becomes a chronic case afterwards.
- 26 July, 1898. 1696. The only point is that the woman's circumstances might improve? Yes; but then you are satisfied that she is the person who would tell you the truth.
1697. What inspection do you consider necessary in ordinary chronic cases? Very little would be necessary. They come before me every week.
1698. That is sufficient inspection for chronic cases? Yes.
1699. As regards cases that are not chronic, how many inspections do you consider necessary in a year? I have a statement here showing the number of inspections from 4th May, 1897, to 30th April, 1898:—James P. Grant, inspector, 31 weeks, 879 cases; weekly average, 28. S. T. Dickinson, inspector; time, 48 weeks; cases visited, 3,226; weekly average, 67. I might say here that it all depends upon the weather. If the weather is wet you cannot do the work that you could do if it were fine, and that brings down your record at the end of the year.
1700. What I wanted to know was what inspection you consider necessary for cases that are not chronic; what is a sufficient number of inspections per annum? About half a dozen in the year.
1701. One every two months? Yes.
1702. You think that if they are visited six times a year in ordinary cases, that is sufficient inspection? I think so, where there is no suspicion. If there is anything suspicious we keep an eye on the case.
1703. Do you consider that your staff of inspectors is sufficient to do that? No; not at the present time.
1704. Did you give the number of Mr. Roseby's inspections from that return? His time was 43 weeks, the number of inspections 1,734 being a weekly average of 40. The total number of inspections was 5,839.
1705. You say that the cases ought to be inspected six times a year, but your staff is not sufficient to do that? No; not to visit each case six times a year. With an average of 1,000 cases, that would represent 6,000 visits.
1706. You consider that the interview that you have with them on Wednesday yourself is a pretty good check? A very good check.
1707. Is it not a fact that you are so rushed on that day that you cannot give much time to individual cases? No; I have such a grasp of the work that I know the people, and I can remember the character of each case.
1708. Have you time to talk to them? I do talk to them. It is very amusing to listen to the conversations. On a Wednesday I am watching every person who passes, and if they do not look well I ask if they would like a little light food.
1709. Rule 33 says:—
The chief outdoor inspector shall keep a record of the names, addresses, amount of relief afforded, its continuance and discontinuance, and the persons recommending all outdoor cases.
- Do you keep such a book? Yes; I have here a specimen copy of the outdoor relief book. It is a new book.
1710. That is the big book that you yourself keep? Yes.
1711. You attend each meeting of the house committee? Yes.
1712. Then you report and advise the committee? I do.
1713. Rule 47 says:—
Money for rent may be allowed on special recommendation of a subscriber after a full inquiry by the inspector in necessitous cases.
- Is it necessary to have a recommendation from a subscriber before anybody can be relieved in the way of rent? No, not necessarily. People come, and the committee hear their cases. Of course, the case is subsequently visited, but no money is given until there is a report upon it.
1714. It is not necessary that the person should be recommended by a subscriber? No; the recommendation of any citizen will do.
1715. Is the rent allowance granted before the inspection is made and the report is in recommending it? In very rare cases.
1716. Would it be for more than one week? Only one week.
1717. Awaiting the inspector's report? That is all.
1718. What is the maximum allowance for rent? Three shillings a week.
1719. The amount up to 3s., of course, would be determined by circumstance, and would depend upon the report? Yes.
1720. Is it not a fact that a great many of those who receive rations only are quite as poor as some of those who receive rent? Yes; but then they have some income. Some of the family, perhaps, are working, and there is not such necessity for rent as there would be in cases where the children are young.
1721. You do not consider, then, that females receiving only a ration are in equally bad circumstances with some receiving rent? There are some, but the funds of the society are low, and the committee have not allowed rent money in these cases, although they are deserving of rent money.
1722. If the society had more funds do you consider that there are persons receiving only rations now, and small rations, who would have an equally good claim to receive rent money? Yes.
1723. It is a matter of funds in some cases? It is.
1724. On what principle are the rations distributed;—tell us how the maximum and minimum rations are decided? The maximum ration is six loaves of bread, 3 lb. flour, 3 lb. meat, 1 lb. sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of tea and sago, arrowroot, or rice, for the child.
1725. What is a single ration? Two loaves of bread, 2 lb. of flour or meat, 1 lb. of sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of tea; the next ration is 3 loaves of bread, 1 lb. of flour, 2 lb. meat, 1 lb. of sugar, and $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of tea.
1726. The second ration is for how many people? For a woman and child. It all depends upon the age of the child what amount is allowed; an older child will get a little more than a young one. No. 3 ration is 4 loaves of bread, 2 lb. flour, 2 lb. meat, 1 lb. of sugar, and $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of tea.
1727. What number is that for? A woman and two children, or perhaps two children and an infant. An infant is allowed a little light food. The next ration would be 5 loaves of bread, 2 lb. flour, 3 lb. meat, 1 lb. of sugar, and $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of tea. That would be for three children. For four or more children the allowance would be 6 loaves of bread, 3 lb. flour, 3 lb. meat, 1 lb. sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of tea and light food.
1728. Is that the maximum ration? It is.

1729. Although the quantity of bread and flour is increased according to the number of individuals it seems that you always give the same quantity of tea and sugar? Yes. J. P. Grant.
1730. Can you explain that? It is a matter of funds. If you increase the quantity it runs into money. 26 July, 1898.
1731. A woman with four healthy, well-grown children, will receive the same quantity of tea and sugar as a woman who receives one ration? Yes.
1732. And you explain that on the ground of want of funds? Yes.
1733. Do you consider the maximum ration a sufficient ration? No.
1734. A woman with four children cannot do much work, and if she has no other means the family must be living very poorly? Yes; but the neighbours are very kind and often give them food. If they are stuck up for food they will go and ask for it. They always have some friends; the poor help one another very considerably.
1735. Take the question of the aged and infirm people—the ration is very stereotyped here; do you consider that it is varied enough—that they have enough choice of food? They have sago, rice, arrow-root, oatmeal, tea, sugar, bread, flour.
1736. I thought sago was only given in case of sickness? They get light food as well if it is necessary; I never refuse it if they ask for light food.
1737. You do not consider the maximum ration sufficient unless it is supplemented either from other sources of their own, or by the charity of the neighbours? That is for women with families. Aged people do not eat so much.
1738. Suppose the case of a very old man not able to earn anything at all, quite past work, and possibly in very feeble health—he would get 2 loaves of bread, 2 lb. of meat or flour, 1 lb. of sugar, and $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of tea; would not that old man be suffering great privation on a ration like that? The amount of relief given by the Society is not intended to support them; it is simply to prevent starvation.
1739. To aid in supporting them? Yes.
1740. I presume that you have got many such cases as I have mentioned on your books? A good many.
1741. Take another case: Suppose that a young woman quite fit for work had a child, what would you allow her? Two loaves of bread, 2 lb. of meat or flour, 1 lb. of sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of tea, and a little sago or rice for the child.
1742. Is not that much more liberal treatment than in the other case? No; the other may get a little money for shelter.
1743. But this woman is fit for work? She cannot get work with a young child; it is very difficult; it is not as it was ten or twelve years ago; there are so many girls available without children. When cases like that come before me, I am most earnest in urging them to help themselves.
1744. If it were not for the child you would not go to the relief of the woman at all? No; the child is the consideration.
1745. So that, really, the child is costing this ration? Well, if the child were taken into an institution, it would cost a great deal more.
1746. I will refer to a case actually visited by a member of this Commission:—The husband seriously ill, a delicate woman and five children, the oldest 9 years old, and the youngest a baby;—what relief would you give in that case? The maximum relief, unless they got some relief from another source. Perhaps they would not want so much food, and I would give them a little extra tea and sugar to make it up, also light food.
1747. Your inspector inspected this case before the visit of the Commission;—does he look into the question of the clothing for these people? No; we have nothing to do with the clothing. We have some clothes occasionally, and when we have I pick out the people I think the poorest, tell them to come up next day, and they take what they want.
1748. Would it not be the duty of an inspector to inquire if a family were suffering in that way, and to report to you? We cannot give them clothing.
1749. Is there not a sum for the distribution of clothing and blankets? For blankets and bed-covering. You look round the house, and see for yourself what is required in the house, but as regards boots, or anything like that, I have always let them ask for those things themselves. If they say, "I want a pair of boots badly," I report it. I do not think it is wise for the inspector to go and ask persons as regards all that they want, because they might wish you to supply all that is necessary for the house. We have to use a certain amount of discretion.
1750. Would you consider a full ration sufficient for that family of seven? Of course, if there is no other source of income, it is not sufficient to keep them.
1751. Then your inspector does not consider it his duty to inquire into the health of these people, and as to whether they require medicine, medical assistance, or clothing? If they see that there is sickness, they report it to me, and I give them a card, which enables them to go to the hospital at once; or if a doctor is required, we try to supply one.
1752. But the inspector does not go into the question of clothing? No; we cannot supply it.
1753. Except bedding and blankets? Yes, or a bed. If the bed is in a very bad state we supply a straw bed to keep them off the floor.
1754. Would your inspector, if he found a case of the kind referred to, recommend an increased ration, and would the society give it—some special ration? That question has never cropped up. The maximum has always been given in such cases.
1755. Suppose anyone came to you on Monday, and said they could not carry on till Wednesday, what would you do? Give them some food.
1756. On your own responsibility, without waiting for the committee at all? Yes.
1757. Have you authority from the committee to give relief in these cases? Yes; and if when I visit the house there is no food in the house, I give them an order at once.
1758. You personally attend to the people that come on Wednesday, and see them all? Yes.
1759. Your interviews with them must be very short when there are so many of them? It all depends on the nature of what I have to ask them.
1760. If it is a case that requires inquiry you keep the person there and let the others wait? No; I make a note of the name and the case, and give that to the inspector or visit the case myself.

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1761. Suppose that on Wednesday you had a representation that the relief given to a family was not sufficient, and you thought the family were in distress, what would you do then? I should say that they had better come and see the committee. I do not remember a case of that kind ever cropping up.
1762. The only check, I presume, on the visits of the other inspectors is the check that you yourself can apply on a Wednesday? No; we take the addresses, and the inspectors have their different districts.
1763. But suppose Mr. Roseby has handed in a report, then you on Wednesday see these people and talk to some of them, and that is to some extent a check upon Mr. Roseby's reports? Yes.
1764. And that is the only check that you have upon the reports of the inspectors? Yes.
1765. Have your your report-book here? I have. [*Produced.*]
1766. I see, in reference to that family I just spoke of, that the inspector in July visited the case, and reported that the society granted a pair of blankets on the strength of that report? Yes, on the 17th July. Mr. Powell and Mr. Maxted visited the case, and telephoned up to the office, asking if one of the officers could be sent down to the house to inspect it, with a view to giving more nourishment and bed-clothing. The inspectors were all away, and I visited the case myself specially, as previously we had given a pair of blankets to the family. I ordered light food, and I told the person to come up soon afterwards. I telephoned down to Mr. Powell that we had sent a pair of blankets and that another pair would be sent, and I gave them and reported to the honorary secretary.
1767. About the condition that outdoor recipients of relief have to come personally to receive rations, is it not a fact that many aged people are not able to come? They make an effort. It is only in a very few cases that they cannot come. A few send orders, but I should think not more than a dozen.
1768. There are certain people who are too infirm even to go before the committee, and they will get no relief at all? If I know of a case like that I tell the person to ask a neighbour to come before the committee.
1769. So that these people, if they do that, may be relieved? Yes.
1770. If any genuine recommendation comes to the committee from a neighbour somebody is sent out to investigate the case? It would be relieved at once, and the neighbour would be asked to come before the committee. The case would be recorded in the minute-book just as if the person who required the relief had attended herself.
1771. Suppose a man or woman came before the committee on Tuesday afternoon, stated their case, and asked for relief, and the committee were to say, "Have you anything in the house for the children and yourself?" and the applicant said, "No, we have nothing";—what would the committee do? Relieve them at once.
1772. How many cases might be relieved on a Tuesday afternoon in that way? I should think about a dozen.
1773. Would there be twenty? I do not think there would be twenty. They get enough to tide them over until the next day. The committee are very considerate in this respect. Suppose a person lives a long way out they say, "Give the relief at once," and the person's name and address are taken, to prevent any hardship in coming in the next day.
1774. About the weekly visits of some very aged and feeble people;—does it not cause these people a great deal of inconvenience and trouble to come to the institution? No, I do not think so. Of course, they have nothing else to do, and it is a little relaxation for them; many of them like to come.
1775. Still there must be some who are very infirm and unfit to be about? Yes, a few.
1776. How would you provide for a case of that kind? They will not go into the institution.
1777. I mean to say how would these people get their relief supposing they are too infirm to come? They send for it.
1778. Some years ago was not the relief given by the asylum authorities much larger than it is now? Yes.
1779. How do you account for that? Because the committee's funds were larger than they are now.
1780. The average amount distributed in rent is not so large as it was? No.
1781. Is it a matter of money? It is.
1782. Have the rations been reduced? No.
1783. The reduction in the amount of the rent allowance is simply because the committee have not the money? Yes.
1784. Have you ever calculated what the relief comes to per day per individual? I sent in a return. We took 100 cases.
1785. We make it out to be a little over 1d. a day per individual? I suppose it would not be much more than that on the average.
1786. Your theory is that this relief is not meant to fully support them? No. That is what I have always understood.
1787. It is meant to assist them? To assist only.
1788. But you are still of opinion that it is not sufficient? It is not sufficient in these times. Work is not so plentiful as it used to be for these people, they cannot get work. People who used to employ others now do the work themselves.
1789. The applicants are put through a strict examination by the committee on the Tuesdays, are they not? They are.
1790. Are these examinations recorded? No. There is simply an entry made "Mrs. so-and-so, widow, so many children," "Mr. and Mrs. so-and-so, aged couple, allowed so-and-so."
1791. Does the society provide medical attendance in cases of pensioners being ill? There is no medical attendance available except through the hospital. When I have given a card, I have been put to great straits through that. I have had to call upon private practitioners to do the work in urgent cases, and that has caused them great inconvenience.
1792. The society have no medical officers of their own, and if a case is brought under their notice they use whatever influence they have to get it attended to? We do not rest until it is attended to. If I had to pay the doctor out of my own pocket I would see that the case was attended to.
1793. The society has no machinery for this? No.
1794. Do you consider that the society should have such machinery? There would not be sufficient work. If the Board of Health have an officer available the society's officer might ring him up for a special case.
1795. It would be sufficient if the society were able to call in a Government medical officer? Yes.

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1796. Do you consider it would be an advisable thing that such officers should go through the institution daily? There are three medical officers in connection with the institution, and they attend to the inside cases. I do not think any outside interference is necessary.
1797. You think all that is necessary is that some medical man should be available on the order of yourself and Mr. Maxted, or other authorities of the institution, to visit the homes of the out-pensioners who may be found to be suffering from illness? I do.
1798. At present there is no machinery? No.
1799. But the officers of the institution go the best way they can to get medical men to attend such cases? That is the position.
1800. Does the society provide medicines at all? No.
1801. Nor medical comforts, such as wine or brandy? No, very rarely. In only one or two cases in my experience has that been done, and those were cases of consumption.
1802. Is there much difficulty in your getting people attended to by a medical man? Yes, there is a great deal of difficulty. If a private practitioner knows you very well he might oblige you as a matter of courtesy. I had a case at Leichhardt of a man who was very ill. I visited the man at night, and went to a medical gentleman and asked as a favour if he would go to the patient, and he did so. It appears that he was already attending the man.
1803. Have you any difficulty in getting the services of a Government medical officer when you want them? The Board of Health ask for a medical certificate, certifying the nature of the complaint, or require us to send the party in to their place down here.
1804. You mean to say that they will not attend a case? We have to send the cases in. We have gone to them and said, "What are we to do? Here is a person dying." In a case like that they will stretch a point and attend, but it is not in the ordinary routine of their work to attend to cases of that character. We have been very anxious sometimes to know what to do.
1805. Then you have had it pointed out on several occasions to the medical officers that your pensioners are in need of medical attendance and medicine? Yes. Although they have never absolutely refused to attend, great pressure has had to be brought to bear before we could move them.
1806. In case of the death of one of your outdoor pensioners, how is the burial attended to? The Coroner will give an order.
1807. With reference to those who are receiving rent allowance, the check, I understand, is the production of the last week's receipt? Yes; or the receipt for the last amount they have paid.
1808. How do you know whether these receipts are genuine? We have to rely upon them.
1809. Of course you know that the officer who is paying that money is too busy to do more than look at the receipt, and put it on the file? He examines the receipts very carefully, and if he sees anything not right he refers to me. If I know the person to be straightforward, and feel in my own mind satisfied that it is all right I order the money to be paid.
1810. Do you admit that there is a possibility of fraud? Very little, because we should soon get to know. The landlords have come and asked me if persons were receiving rent money.
1811. Is it not possible for a person drawing a rent allowance to get a receipt signed by some other person than the landlord? Of course it is possible. In two or three cases we have found them out, and the money has been discontinued, and the whole of the relief would have been discontinued, but for the age of the parties, and their having little children.
1812. Do you ever pick out from amongst the receipts two or three doubtful ones, and check them by making inquiries as to whether they are genuine or not? No.
1813. Say 300 receipts are received, do you ever take half a dozen suspicious looking ones, hand them to an inspector, and say, "You find out whether these are genuine or not"? No; that has not cropped up; it is very rarely that any reason to suspect deception occurs.
1814. You do not know how often if you do not inquire? These people move about. They do not stop long in one place. To do what you suggest, we should have to have an inspector appointed purposely to look after the landlords. Your suggestion in reference to examining the receipts is a very good one, and I will note it. These poor people will move into a suburb, stay there two or three weeks, and not being able to pay their rent they have to move. In fact, sometimes the landlords pay them to get out.
1815. Your contention is that if there is a possibility of fraud, the actual fraud must be very small? Very small.
1816. But you have not checked the receipts in the way suggested? No; I have not done that.
1817. Have you ever communicated with the landlords? No; I have no communication with the landlords at all. I always make it a rule to inquire what is the rent of the house.
1818. Do you not think that the local societies could distribute the relief, instead of recipients being brought from a distance into the centre of Sydney? It is a matter of cost. It would cost more.
1819. Why? Because in the different centres they would not obtain the goods so cheap. The large supplies contracted for by the society enable us to supply food more economically than the local societies could.
1820. That is your opinion? That is my opinion. I can tell you what might be done. The society might have the control of the suburban societies, and have depôts, so that we could forward the food to those depôts, and supply the people in the different suburbs from there.
1821. You are relieving a great many women with children? Yes.
1822. You are aware, of course, of the operations of the State Children's Relief Board? Yes.
1823. Are you not to some extent, in relieving these women and children, doing what the State Children's Relief Board ought to do? If the resources of the society are going to women and children who are otherwise provided for, then you are really curtailing the relief that you ought to give to people for whom the law does not otherwise provide? But the Board send the children to us, and we send the children to them. Then they relieve them for a certain time, and send them back again. They do not relieve them permanently.
1824. But they can board these children out? They are not relieved permanently. They are kept three months, and then forwarded back to us.
1825. They throw these cases on your hands? Yes; some of the cases; I do not say all of them.
1826. Some of them are really thrown on your hands by the State Children's Relief Board? Yes.

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1827. I suppose you are aware that the Act of 1896 enables the State Children's Relief Board to board children out to their own mothers? Yes.
1828. You say that a lot of these cases that you have sent on have been sent back to you? They have been relieved by the Board and returned to us.
1829. Do you know the case of a woman, Mrs. E——, in Kent-street? Yes.
1830. Tell us what you know of that case? She has been receiving relief for a long time.
1831. How many years? From memory, I should say nine or ten years.
1832. How many children are there? Five or six.
1833. Has she a husband? No; he is dead; he died from consumption. It was a pitiful sight; one of the worst cases I ever saw. He was a living skeleton.
1834. What do you know of the case? All I know is that she has always been a respectable person.
1835. Have you ever seen the home? I have. The home is not very bright? The disadvantage has been that she has not been over-clean.
1836. When did you last visit the place? It is some time since I visited her.
1837. Do you consider that a home like that is a home where young children should be brought up? I spoke to her about it, but she says that when a woman goes out to work and leaves little children they will make the house dirty if it is the best of homes.
1838. The question is whether, in the interests of the children, it would not be better if they were boarded out? They will not part with their children; they would sooner die. I reported that her circumstances had improved, and the money was reduced to 2s., and there were six children. The amount had been 3s. Their income was 26s. 6d. a week, and the rent, 12s. 6d., that left 14s.
1839. Do you allow relief in respect of that oldest girl, who is 16? No; there are four younger children, and that would justify the maximum amount of relief.
1840. *Mr. Powell.*] Is that girl at work? I could not answer that. They get situations. A great deal depends upon how the children are reared. If a girl is properly reared she has no difficulty in getting into a good home; if she is reared in a slovenly way, and has slovenly habits, it is difficult to get her a situation.
1841. You told us about the B—— family? Yes.
1842. You told us that the rations supplied by the society were insufficient? Yes; in that case.
1843. Are they, or are they not, sufficient? She was getting food elsewhere.
1844. Are the rations you supply sufficient? She said so when I asked her.
1845. Take the case of Mr. M——, St. Peters;—when did you last visit that case? Mr. Roseby visited that case. We have our different districts.
1846. You do not know when he visited it last? I could not say for certain.
1847. What rations are they allowed? From memory, I should say five loaves of bread, 2 lb. flour, 3 lb. of meat, and a little light food, and 2s. 6d. a week.
1848. Is that sufficient to keep the wolf from the door? They do a little work; they make jam. They are a family who help themselves. I think it is sufficient. There is only one child.
1849. If your relief is not sufficient what objection can there be to their receiving relief from other societies? There is no objection if the relief we give is insufficient. When I find a case that has overlapped I question the people and make myself acquainted with the character of the case, and in some cases I know that the outside relief they were receiving in addition to the relief from the institution was necessary.
1850. May there not be a great number of overlapping cases of the same kind, in which the people are insufficiently relieved by you, and that relief is supplemented from other sources? Sometimes the neighbours give them relief.
1851. I am thinking of institutions where the Government may probably supplement the subscriptions of the local people, as, for instance, out at St. Peters, where the Government give something? Yes.
1852. In that case do you think it right that Mr. M—— should draw relief from both societies? If our relief is not sufficient I do not see any harm in it. They are very respectable people.
1853. *President.*] You would not say that it is a good business arrangement to have two societies relieving the same persons? Not if one society gave them enough.
1854. *Mr. Powell.*] But you have admitted in your evidence that you do not give enough? We act in accordance with the rule.
1855. The question is whether you give enough to support these people? Not in all cases. The amount of relief given to one family of four children, viz., six loaves of bread, would not do for another family.
1856. If they get relief elsewhere you do not think that there is anything very wrong in that? No.
1857. About the rent matter, have you knowledge of any case in which a daughter rents a house, and her mother receives relief and rent from you? Yes; I can give you particulars of rent money given to pensioners who reside with relatives.
1858. Are there many of these cases? No; about a dozen.
1859. In that case you take the daughter's receipt? We must.
1860. And where people live in single rooms you take the receipt from the persons in charge for the time being? From the tenant of the house.
1861. As a matter of fact, you do not know whether the landlord receives his rent or not? We are satisfied to know that the person who is receiving the relief has got a shelter, because she would be turned out in some cases if she could not pay a little. I have known people quite terrorised—frightened to go back to their homes.
1862. You do not know anything about it except that you get a receipt from somebody for rent? That is it, and we believe it is from the tenant or from the landlord of the house. As Mr. Wilson suggests, to take half a dozen receipts and check them would be a very good thing, but all that takes time. If there was a little additional inspection by another inspector I could look into these things myself, and not go out at all, possibly.
1863. You are of opinion that the inspection is really not sufficient? Not with the extra work.
1864. Does that additional work include the extra business imposed upon you by the Government in relation to the unemployed? Yes; we have over 300 unemployed now.
1865. I mean the special Government cases for which a grant of money was given to the institution to provide for these people;—are they inquired into by the inspector of the asylum? Yes; there is a special inspector on the work. We have only had that work six weeks. 1866.

1866. Are those cases included in the returns you have given? No; they are separate altogether. J. P. Grant.
1867. Is it a fact that you give a larger measure of relief in those cases than in the cases of your own poor? Yes, we do; they are healthy people, and eat well. A man and his wife and four or five or six children require more food. 26 July, 1898.
1868. How much more do you give? Double the amount.
1869. Are they visited? Yes; they are being visited now as fast as it is possible to do it.
1870. Have you any communication from the Labour Bureau about that? We have.
1871. Do you ascertain whether the men have refused work? No; we get a list of names, and we check the names of those who have gone away (say) to Moss Vale, Mittagong, and so on. When one has been away for a fortnight we send to the Labour Bureau to see whether they will not assist the wife out of the wages of the husband whom they have sent into the country.
1872. When the bedding of these poor people is in very bad condition, you say that you supply a straw bed in some cases? Yes; if necessary.
1873. Here is the case of an unfortunate woman in Cornwallis-street, Redfern, living in one room in a filthy condition? You mean in Cooper-street, Waterloo?
1874. No; in Redfern? That woman has been in a state of filth for the last twenty-five years; she was always the same. She used to buy things and hoard them. She puts me in mind of Quilp, a character in one of Dickens' novels. However, she is steady and respectable.
1875. She is sleeping almost on the bare boards? I will note the case.
1876. Do you know whether she has any friends? She has not a soul in the world. Her husband was a builder in comfortable circumstances, a respectable man, but they had no family.
1877. Do you produce a specimen of your travelling-book? Yes; I have brought a specimen of the travelling-book, also of the book in which the cases are registered, and specimen copies of the rent allowance and receipt-book.

Edwin Thomas Penfold further examined:—

1878. *President.*] Have you something to say? You asked me a question about the burial of poor people. If any person comes and states to us that they have not the means of burying a deceased relation, we give an order upon our undertaker to bury the corpse after inquiry. E. T. Penfold, J.P. 26 July, 1898.
1879. *Mr. Powell.*] We have been told that the parties were sent to the Coroner? I did not understand what was meant by that. If we have any deaths in the institution the Coroner is notified, and he gives an order for burial. There is no inquest. I should like also to state that when we send people up to Liverpool the authorities there are very courteous. If we recommend a case Dr. Paton will always, if possible, attend to it. We also find Mr. Hanson exceedingly courteous and willing to do all that he possibly can to assist in relieving the poor. I do not know whether I stated that the amounts allowed by the Government through Mr. Hanson's department are totally inadequate, and that we write and ask to be allowed to give rations in addition, which they grant.

TUESDAY, 2 AUGUST, 1898.

[The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board at 11 o'clock a.m.]

Present:—

G. A. WILSON, Esq., J.P. (President).
J. BARLING, Esq., J.P.
J. POWELL, Esq., J.P.

The Hon. Sir Arthur Renwick, M.D., M.L.C., &c., sworn, and examined:—

1880. *President.*] You are President of the Sydney Benevolent Society? I am. Sir Arthur Renwick. 2 Aug., 1898.
1881. You are also President of the State Children's Relief Board, and a Member of the Legislative Council? Yes.
1882. You have taken a great interest in public charities? Yes; for the last thirty-five years.
1883. You assisted to pass the State Children's Relief Act, under which the boarding-out system has been established? Yes.
1884. Did you promote an amending Bill, which provided that children might be boarded out with their mothers? Yes; that was during the last Parliament.
1885. In your opinion, has the extension of the system in this direction had beneficial results? I am quite sure that it has.
1886. Has it increased the number of State children materially? It has diminished the number of ordinary State children, the children who were boarded out to strangers, but up to the present time I cannot say that there is a ratable proportion between the numbers of the two classes.
1887. Have you reason to suppose that many of these children suffered much hardship before the passing of the amended Act? I have no doubt whatever on the subject.
1888. Are very close inquiries made before children are boarded out with their mothers? Always. Our inspectors report on these cases, and they are dealt with by the Board on the reports of the inspectors, in which all the different circumstances connected with the cases are given in detail.
1889. Is the inspection more rigid in those cases than where the children are not boarded out with their own mothers? There is the same inspection, and similar reports.
1890. Are the children frequently inspected afterwards? They are inspected, at least in the metropolis and the neighbouring districts, three or four times a year. In more remote parts, according to the distance and the circumstances of the case, they are inspected once or twice a year.
1891. It has been stated in evidence that a large number of widows with children are still receiving outdoor relief from the Sydney Benevolent Society? That is true.
1892. They cannot be transferred to the State Children's Relief Board, because the Board have not sufficient means? That is only partly the reason. The reason is this: We knew that those people were receiving supplies, whether they are adequate or inadequate, and we thought that urgent cases, where no assistance was

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was being obtained from the Government, or from other sources, ought to be attended to first; but we do hope eventually to take from the Benevolent Asylum all the cases that come under the statutory provisions. That is the whole reason of the matter.

1893. How long has the amending Act been in operation? I should say within a year.

1894. Has it been taken advantage of to a greater extent than you anticipated? At first it was. There was a great rush at first, but the thing is now being gradually brought under proper control and regulation.

1895. Has your finance become strained on account of it? No; it has not on the whole exceeded my original anticipation when I moved for the Bill.

1896. Have you received the money that you have asked for in connection with the State Children's Relief Board? Always. The Colonial Treasurer has always provided ample means. There may have been necessary delays occasioned by official circumstances.

1897. It has been stated here that a good deal of the Benevolent Society's funds are expended in the relief of widows with children who could be legitimately relieved by the State Children's Relief Board, and that consequently the finances of the Benevolent Society have been so strained that the relief for the aged poor has had to be curtailed? That is a mistake. There has been no change whatever in the circumstances of the Benevolent Society in that respect at all. The only difference is that we have taken a limited number of persons from the Benevolent Society, and have assisted them, but we have not relieved them to the extent that we hope to do by-and-by when the system is in proper working order. I regard the administration under section 10 of the Act, dealing with widows and deserted wives, as only being in its preliminary stage at present. We require to have a little more experience of it in order to bring the whole of the widows and deserted wives under our special control.

1898. So that you hope to have the whole department under the State Children's Relief Board? Eventually. We are doing that now, but we do not want to go at a too rapid pace.

1899. You want to feel your way? Yes; it is far better to act in that way. If we were to take over the whole of these widows and deserted wives at once, in all probability it would lead to such a large expenditure on the part of the State that there might be an outcry in Parliament and elsewhere on the subject, but doing it gradually as we are doing it, relieving the urgent cases as we have done throughout the country, I think we are doing the best that is possible under the circumstances.

1900. Does it not follow from what you say that the aged poor who are the recipients of relief from the Benevolent Asylum will have their relief curtailed by the State Children's Relief Board not taking these people over? No; because the society are doing that work, and have been doing it for years. It makes no difference to them. What we take away from them will be a diminution. As it is now we have diminished their work to some extent. Of course, as regards the operations of the Benevolent Asylum during the last few years, there has been a large augmentation in the number of applicants for relief, and consequently they do not at present feel the relief that we are giving them, but they will feel it by-and-by.

1901. Is the amending Act so constructed that it is practically considered part of the original Act? Yes; it runs with it, and is read with it.

1902. Is not the Colonial Treasurer empowered to advance funds in anticipation of the consent of Parliament? There is a provision of that kind.

1903. Has it ever been availed of? I think it has.

1904. I understand you to say that there has not been any difficulty about obtaining funds for the State Children's Relief Board? We have never had any difficulty.

1905. Have you had to make repeated applications for funds for the Benevolent Asylum? Yes, on many occasions, and at the present moment.

1906. Is it a fact that those who are relieved by the society are not properly relieved for want of funds? I am quite sure that the Benevolent Society have done the very best they could for the poor under the circumstances. No case has been unrelieved; but whether the relief afforded has been adequate or not is quite another question. The great aim of the Benevolent Society has been to keep people from starvation, but not to supply them with the full amount of assistance that they might possibly require. That has been the principle on which the Society has acted all through its history. In other words, the aim has been not to create a class that would become permanently dependent upon the State. That is the reason why I and others, who think with me, are opposed to the establishment of a poor rate similar to what they have in Great Britain. We are quite sure that there is a tendency in the direction I have indicated, and if Government aid were substituted for aid such as is given by private societies and by the Benevolent Society undoubtedly a pauper class would very speedily be created in this Colony.

1907. Your object, then, is to see that no case goes unrelieved? Quite so; and at the same time not to supply them in such a way as to make them feel that they have a permanent claim upon public funds.

1908. Not to relieve them to an extent that would be an incentive to them to become dependent upon the State? That is exactly the point.

1909. *Mr. Powell.*] We have it in evidence that some cases have been on the books of the Asylum for eight or nine years? Yes; I have no doubt about that. I know there are cases of that kind—cases that have been even longer than nine years; but in those cases the individuals are positively unable to earn a livelihood for themselves. Such cases are reported from time to time. We know of their existence, and we regret it; but we see no way of putting those persons in a position to work for their own living. Most of them are cases of aged people and people suffering from incurable disease.

1910. Such persons would become chargeable on the State under a poor-rate system? Yes, undoubtedly.

1911. *President.*] Do you give mothers of children under section 10 the same amount of relief per child that you give to the foster-mothers? Certainly not. The amounts vary from 5s.—the usual allowance to persons who are not mothers—down to 1s. 6d. per child. Every case is scrutinised most carefully, and we receive very full reports respecting them from the inspectors. We do not rely entirely upon inspectors' reports. We find that we cannot place implicit confidence even in inspectors' reports. The Board uses its own judgment in each case. We weigh up the circumstances, and consider how much ought to be allowed. Every case is dealt with singly and independently.

1912. Then with regard to the reduction in the grant to the mothers as compared with the foster-mothers, that is on the same principle as you have already expressed—that you do not wish to take away all inducements to them to earn a living, you do not want to pauperise them? That is the first principle, and the next is this—we hold that a mother, from natural affection and impulse can much more easily maintain her children than a stranger could.

1913. A stranger might be supposed to make something out of the child? We do not look so much at that. We know that there is a tendency in that direction; but we think that the natural feeling of a mother will lead her to strain her efforts to do something for the child, and it is always well to keep that principle in view.

1914. Have you lately reduced the grant? No; we have made no change.

1915. Have many of these mothers represented that the grant is insufficient? Occasionally representations of that kind occur, and they are investigated by the Board as a special report. If we find any necessity for an increase it is granted. Sometimes, in the intervals between the Board meetings, reports are brought to me—there may be twenty or thirty in a month—in which a variation in the Board's decision is absolutely necessary. Recommendations may be made by clergymen, Members of Parliament, or others, who take an interest in the matter; they bring all the facts before me, then I act on my own judgment and report the matter to the Board at the next meeting. A list of such cases is always laid before the Board, so that they may know what has been done.

1916. I understand you to say that the increase in the cases of mothers boarding their children has led to a decrease in the number of foster-mothers? It has just begun to tell within the last two months. There was a diminution in the previous month of some thirty cases, and a diminution of twenty-five at the last meeting of the Board.

1917. It has been stated in evidence that the State Children's Relief Board has relieved cases for several months, and then referred them to the Sydney Benevolent Asylum? There are some cases of that kind. There are cases in which we consider it would be better for the relief to be obtained from the Benevolent Society from the special circumstances connected with their history. For instance, there is the case that Mr. Powell alluded to in which a person had been receiving relief for ten years, and is dragging out a miserable existence. We consider that the relief given by the Benevolent Society is more adapted to the wants of such cases than the relief that we could give. It is better to let them have the necessaries of life than to give them money which might not be expended in a proper way. I do not suppose that there are half a dozen such cases.

1918. Do you consider your present staff of inspectors sufficient? I do not think so, because the whole principle of boarding out depends entirely upon satisfactory inspection. Everything depends upon that. If we had an additional inspector or two I am sure that the work could be carried out more satisfactorily. We have lost one or two inspectors lately, I think, and I observe in to-day's paper that Mr. Ardill has written a letter calling attention to the fact that our inspectors do the work under the Children's Protection Act, and that he thinks it inadvisable. That is a matter that might be discussed. Our desire is to have the fullest and best inspection that we can. With that object in view we not only employ paid inspectors, but we also have honorary lady inspectors all over the Colony.

1919. Do you find that they materially assist you? There is no doubt about it at all. They take a very active part in it. Some ladies who have acted as inspectors for a number of years have rendered invaluable assistance to the State in this respect.

1920. What is your opinion of the lady inspectors? I think that lady inspectors are superior to males for this particular work.

1921. *Mr. Barling.*] I suppose you find no difficulty in getting ladies in every district to take up the duties of inspection? We have changes continually occurring amongst them. They get tired of it sometimes; sometimes we have had applications for the payment of expenses and other things of that kind, but we have always asked these ladies to act in a purely honorary way, and we have had no difficulty.

1922. *President.*] What is your opinion of lady inspectors for the work of the Benevolent Society? I do not think it would be quite so good to have ladies for that. That is a different class of work altogether. A great number of aged people are visited by the inspectors, and I think that male inspectors can do the work more satisfactory than females. One female might be employed perhaps with advantage in cases where there are women with children. The work of inspection for the Benevolent Society is carried out, I think, satisfactorily.

1923. Do you consider that your inspecting staff is sufficient? I certainly do not.

1924. Then, you would have no objection, supposing you had three inspectors, and a fourth were appointed, that the fourth should be a lady? Certainly it would be a move in the right direction.

1925. *Mr. Barling.*] Do you think you could institute in connection with the Benevolent Asylum the same inspection that you have in connection with the State Children Relief Department? The Benevolent Society is a metropolitan institution, but the State Children Department extends all over the Colony. In the metropolitan district a man can go on his bicycle and visit dozens of places. Where there are domestic arrangements women are much better for the work.

1926. *President.*] Women would talk more freely to them? Yes, and they go into domestic details which a man does not always understand.

1927. As regards the Benevolent Asylum, do you as a medical man, and from your experience of the institution approve of the maternity division, the receiving house for destitute women and children, and the system of out-door relief being carried on in the same institution? I should like to tell you what ought to be done. I think that the time has come, and indeed has long passed, when the Benevolent Society's work should have been removed from its present position. I suggested some few years ago to Sir Henry Parkes and to other Ministers, that this step should be taken. It is impossible in the building that we have there now to carry out the work in what we should consider an adequate or satisfactory way. The buildings are old, they never were adapted for the purposes to which they are now applied, and if we had proper buildings, and proper arrangements the poor could be attended to more satisfactorily than they are at present. The scheme which I have suggested to the Government, and I have laid it before them as a member of several deputations, is this: That some land such as the site of Ultimo House should be taken for the purpose. The place must be in the centre of population, so that the poor will be able to get relief in the easiest possible way. Ultimo House would suit our purpose admirably. What I suggested was that the land should be divided into three portions. The maternity part should be kept entirely distinct from the other two departments. Then there should be an outdoor relief department entirely separate. It would not require any very large building for that purpose. And then the third place should be for the reception of women and children, and for keeping those who must be retained a certain time after their confinement. That was the proposal that I made. The scheme was drawn up very fully, the expenditure was explained, and I pointed out that the Board of

Directors

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Directors of the Benevolent Asylum would be only too happy to arrange with the Government on adequate and reasonable terms to carry out this plan. The result was that Sir Alexander Stuart's Government stated that it was proposed to resume the land for railway purposes. We received the necessary notice to that effect, but the thing was not carried out. With regard to the separation of the lying-in department, or what you may call the lying-in hospital, from the other departments, there is this advantage in utilising the Benevolent Asylum for the purpose, that the Society have the means, they have had experience of training nurses and doing the work generally, and they have the funds at their disposal to carry out a large amount of this work. It is done at a much less expenditure to the State by the Society than it would be if a separate institution were started by some other people. There are at least five or six little maternity homes scattered throughout Sydney, but that is a great mistake. It diverts charity. You have people subscribing to four or five different places, whereas if there was one adequate institution there would be no difficulty in the matter at all. There is one thing which must be stated in favour of the Benevolent Asylum. I may say from a long practical experience in connection with the subject that what has been a matter of extraordinary surprise to me all through its history is the extraordinary absence of mortality amongst the women confined there. I have had experience in connection with the large maternity hospitals on the Continent, in England, and in Scotland, and I know of no similar institution where the rate of mortality is so low, notwithstanding the incongruities surrounding the institution. We have had cases of puerperal fever, but they have been short-lived, except on one occasion when I happened to be absent. Notwithstanding that outbreak, the institution has been carried on with results which have been extremely favourable. The ordinary mortality rate of this institution is really below that of nearly every similar institution that I know of. In this respect there is the greatest possible difference between it and the maternity institution in Melbourne; but still it is not adapted for its present purposes. A place of that kind should not only be satisfactory in regard to the reception of the women, but it should be situated where medical pupils can be trained for their profession, and where nurses can be prepared to undertake work throughout the country. The buildings were erected many years ago; they contain no modern appliances, and the work is carried on with extreme difficulty. This is a thing which I have pointed out to the Government from time to time, but it being a social question and not a political one it has not had that attention which ought to have been given to it.

1928. Do you think that in a suitable building the machinery of the society would be best for conducting its present operations? Yes; it could be done more economically to the State.

1929. The State provides the whole cost of the lying-in hospital? Yes, under arrangement.

1930. If what you suggest led to the closing of the other homes, the whole cost would then fall on the State? I do not think it would make a great deal of difference. It would not make such a large difference as might be imagined. For instance, you have the Catholic Home; that would not be closed under any circumstances. Then there is the Home at Surry Hills. It would make very little difference to that. I do not think the existence of that home has made a difference of more than twenty or thirty women in a year to the Benevolent Asylum.

1931. Your views have been impressed upon the Government? Yes; by letters, deputations, and otherwise. In the time of Sir Henry Parkes the matter was postponed in consequence of a scheme that he had for erecting large public buildings in prominent parts of the city, and in the case of Sir Alexander Stuart, because they were going to bring the railway into the city. At present I do not know why it is postponed.

1932. Have you ever had a valuation of the property? Yes.

1933. *Mr. Barling.*] Have you any idea in your own mind how it is that there is such immunity in the Benevolent Asylum as compared with other asylums from puerperal fever and other diseases? It may seem strange to say it after the remarks that I have made about the necessity for proper scientific arrangements, but there is a homeliness about the Benevolent Society that I think has had a great deal to do with the satisfactory results obtained, and the medical officers have introduced the antiseptic system very completely throughout the whole place. There is a very home-like arrangement about the whole institution.

1934. Would anything be due to the fact of students attending and regular medical officers not having so much to do with the cases—that the students have not come in contact with cases of erysipelas, &c.? No; I do not think that has had anything to do with it. Of course, there are some risks in connection with the matter. We have had proof of that in Sydney, but I do not think that medical attendance, or the attendance of nurses and students makes much difference. The cases that prove fatal are cases that require operative interference.

1935. *President.*] What valuation do you put on the property? That is a very difficult question to answer. We have had valuations made by different persons at different times, and they have varied very much. I do not think that the valuation made now, with all due respect to the Land Tax Commissioners, would be exactly the valuation made a few years ago. I should not like to put a figure on it. Independently, however, of the valuation, I should like to make this remark—that as far as regards the price fixed upon the land, which we consider our own, we do not stand upon that point at all. As a Board we are there for a public purpose; we are willing to agree to any suggestion of a satisfactory nature in regard to the future interests of the Society and of the poor of Sydney, which the Government may make. The value of the property is a matter of secondary consideration.

1936. As a matter of fact, the question of price has never really been discussed? It has not been discussed with the Government. We have valued the property for our own private reasons, to see how we could work our future operations in connection with any means that might be given to us. We hold our position only to serve the public.

1937. Do you approve of the present arrangement for the medical work of the asylum, that work being done by honorary officers? I think that it is desirable, notwithstanding that there might be a resident medical officer, or one constantly in attendance, that we should have a man of large experience to refer to in critical cases. I have known three or four instances in which lives were preserved, simply by the fact that a man of larger experience could come in and give assistance in a critical position of affairs. When operative interference is necessary, it is indispensable that there should be some person of larger experience to refer to, and from whom to obtain assistance.

1938. Do you think that the society should have the services of a paid medical man? I approve of that. The present system was established on the recommendation of the Medical Adviser to the Government,

as a matter of economy, and I suppose of efficiency also; but my own impression is that it would be infinitely better to have a paid officer with honorary medical men to whom he could refer in cases of emergency.

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1939. Is there any provision made for medical attendance for people receiving outdoor relief when they have sickness in their families? Originally the dispensary at the Sydney Hospital carried out that work. The cases were attended by outdoor surgeons, but latterly it has not been done to the same extent, in fact, I do not think it is done at all now. At one time we provided dispensary assistance in cases of diseases of women and children, but I do not think that is done so much now. This is a great defect of our charity system. Of course this matter is rather out of the scope of this particular inquiry, but it might come under your purview in another way. The great defect is, that unlike other large cities, such as Glasgow, Edinburgh, and London, there are no parish doctors who could be applied to by the poor in the different districts of the city for medical assistance. If district medical officers were appointed in that way, it would be a great boon to the poor, and it would relieve this country to a very large extent. At present at the Sydney Hospital, thousands of cases are dealt with every year, and the number dealt with at Prince Alfred Hospital is increasing. If the system which I recommended some time ago to the Colonial Secretary, of paying a small sum, from £50 to £100 a year, to a doctor as a retaining fee were adopted, it would save the poor a great deal of trouble, and meet wants which are not adequately provided for in Sydney at present.

1940. A paid medical officer at the asylum would not have enough to do, I presume? I would not associate the two things together. It would be a source of extreme danger. A medical officer visiting the poor of Sydney would often come in contact with cases of contagious disease, and those are diseases which people never speak about to a doctor, they keep it quiet. If a medical man went to a scarlet fever case, and then to a confinement case, it would be certain death to the woman.

1941. There are a good many children in the Benevolent Asylum, some of them sickly;—would not the proper place for them be in the cottage homes at Mittagong? Yes; they ought to be removed as soon as possible. I suppose the scheme which I suggested of cottage homes on a new plan has been brought under the notice of the Board.

1942. You propose to have them together? No; at a distance of a quarter of a mile from each other, so that there could be no intimate relations between the mothers.

1943. The children then could go to school? Yes. Why the Government have not carried out the scheme, I cannot conceive.

1944. You have made many visits to the Mittagong homes? Yes; I go occasionally. The ladies undertake that work, and they go every month. When there is anything special, or any circumstance requiring my presence, I take a run up.

1945. You consider that they are doing very good work there? Yes; very good work.

1946. Is it a fact that many children who go there sick are soon restored to health? Yes. At Mittagong the ferruginous nature of the soil provides a strengthening influence, apart altogether from the climatic influence. That is the reason why I recommended it as admirably suited for the purpose. There are iron springs underground.

1947. You made a definite proposal to the Government in regard to homes? Yes; I sent a copy of my report to the Premier and to the Chief Secretary.

1948. Supposing it were carried out, would the homes be in a better position to take over these children from the Benevolent Asylum? You could take a large number. You might have two or three extra cottages for that purpose.

1949. Is it a fact that you have plenty of homes for the children? Yes; we have no difficulty in that respect. When the first Bill dealing with the matter was brought before Parliament by Sir Henry Parkes the objection was raised that we should not be able to find homes for the children, but we have never had any difficulty in that respect from the initiation of the system.

1950. Sometimes there are as many as fifty children waiting in the asylum;—could they not be removed? They ought always to be removed without delay. I understand that they always are, as far as possible.

1951. It has been stated in evidence that there are frequently as many as fifty waiting? I am sorry to hear that. It must be because of the inadequacy of the State Children Relief Board's machinery. At every Board meeting we fix on eighty or ninety homes, so there is no scarcity of homes whatever.

1952. There has been a very great increase in the number of outdoor relief cases of recent years, has there not? Yes.

1953. In 1890 the number of individuals relieved was 4,607; in 1895 it was 6,634; in 1897 the number of individuals was 10,767? Yes; there has been a great increase.

1954. Can you account for that? Simply a wave of poverty has passed over the country.

1955. There is a lack of employment? Yes; a lack of employment.

1956. Are you actively connected with the new organisation in connection with metropolitan charities? Yes; I am a vice-president of it.

1957. Can you tell us what they propose to do? The object of the organisation is, in the Metropolitan district, to establish a bureau at which information is to be provided for all the different institutions, so that there shall be no overlapping. Lists will be kept in the first place; in the next place, small committees will be established in association with societies in the various municipalities, so that the two may act together, and there may be no difficulty in giving immediate relief in deserving cases at once in their own district. Of course, in that respect it would be a great relief to the Benevolent Asylum. It would deal with the metropolis, I suppose, in conjunction with the City Mission and the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Those three societies would deal with the whole of the city proper, then the suburban cases, instead of having to come to the Benevolent Society from such places as Rookwood, would be relieved in their own municipalities. It is a large scheme, and it is now in its initiatory stages. Societies will be established in all the municipalities, and the Charities Organisation Society will act in association with them.

1958. And I suppose the Sydney Benevolent Society would act in cordial co-operation with them? Yes.

1959. When you were in America, did you devote any attention to the method of giving charitable aid there? Yes; they have a rate there, but it is the States and municipalities that deal with the matter. We might call them districts. They make their own arrangements in connection with their charities. Even the hospitals are provided for in that way. The State generally passes a vote, and the administration

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of the vote is reported upon every year by the hospitals or by the societies, and in most cases where they relieve the poor they have a provision for them to do a certain amount of work in return for the charity bestowed upon them. It is a much superior system to the English system.

1960. That presupposes a system of local government? It is purely local government all through. That is why I think that if the Charity Organisation Society is ultimately a success it will be in that direction.
1961. *Mr. Barling.*] You are aware that the object of the Commission is to take evidence so as to be able to suggest to the Government some method by which the charities of the Colony may be more economically carried on? Yes.

1962. Is there any suggestion you can give us, not only in connection with the Benevolent Society and the State Children Relief Board, but on the subject generally. If you cannot give any suggestion, you might be able to indicate lines of examination that would produce valuable results? I think it would be a very good thing if the charities which now act in such an irregular sort of way were all brought under one head. This Charity Organisation Society is going in that way, but you can see that the Government money is spent in a rather haphazard fashion. There is no definite control in connection with the dispensation of public money. It is true that you have gentlemen at the head of all these charities who make annual reports, but you want a more direct control than there is at present. Then I consider, further, that it would be a very excellent thing if instead of having the State Children's Department looking after a certain class of children, a Minister looking after children in reformatories and industrial schools, and other authorities looking after the action of the Children's Protection Society, if all these were placed as they are elsewhere under one Board. I think it is very desirable that that should be done as speedily as possible. Of course, the work would be immense in connection with it. In South Australia all the State children in the country are placed under the State Children's Relief Board. If that were done here it would be a move in the right direction; there would then be better control over the expenditure. We should know exactly how the money goes, and there would be a responsible body dealing with the matter. As it is now in this Colony some of these children are under one authority and some are under another; in fact, under different Ministers, which, I think, a great mistake, as regards both economical and efficient administration.

1963. Would you propose the establishment of a new Government department, or would you propose that the system should be under the control of independent gentlemen, like yourself, for instance? I think that eventually it would be a very good thing if you could have a Board who could take charge of the whole of the charities dependent upon the State, having one gentleman sufficiently expert to look after the lunacy department, another to look after the relief department, a third to look after, perhaps, the prisons, or something of that kind. A Board of that sort could take all these dependents of the State under complete control. I would not destroy the private Boards throughout the country, but I would give these Boards a controlling influence in regard to the disbursing of money and in regard to inspection.

1964. Would you have a sort of Minister of Charities? Eventually it would be that, but instead of having a separate Minister I would make one Minister deal with it, having the Board under him.

1965. An independent Board? Yes; an independent Board.

1966. You would not have Government officers, but a Board under the Ministry? Quite so.

1967. It would take complete control of all the charitable institutions of the Colony? Yes; that is the system in the United States of America. There they call it the "Board of Charity and Correction." They deal with the prisons, schools and other institutions containing children dependent on the State.

1968. *President.*] The Board would have supreme control? Yes; I would point out that the inspectorship of charities has always failed, because the person appointed has not been in touch with the charities. They have regarded him as a kind of spy, instead of as a friend and guide.

1969. *Mr. Powell.*] Are you assuming that there should be paid officers? They could not do the work without pay.

1970. They must be a paid Board? Yes; the work I am doing in connection with charities takes up three-fourths of my time. It could not be done by anyone else unless he was paid.

1971. *Mr. Barling.*] If such a body as that were created, in the event of a new charity being started it might be referred to the Board, and the Board might recommend as to whether that charity should be subsidised. Would not the Board then be able to say there is an institution of exactly the same kind carrying out exactly the same work, and it would be throwing money away to establish another? Yes; it would prevent all this overlapping, and take the place of the Charity Organisation Society.

1972. It is a large subject? It is a very large subject, but to have charities properly administered that is the only course to adopt.

1973. Would it be too much trouble for you to think a little more over the scheme, and put it before us in writing? If I had time I should be only too glad to do it.

1974. Would you like to come here again? When you have got near the close of this investigation I shall be glad to do so if you find that you want to ask me any further questions.

1975. *Mr. Powell.*] According to your own evidence, and that of other persons, the relief which you give is only in aid, it is inadequate for the support of the individuals? Yes.

1976. If these poor people get relief from other sources, do you think there is any wrong in their accepting it? I should like to point out that, whilst the Benevolent Society do not give an amount adequate to the support of the poor, they give them sufficient to prevent them from applying to any other charity for assistance. I take that for granted. The overlapping I referred to is not so much the overlapping of individual cases—and I do not think they are so numerous as people imagine—but the overlapping in the work itself, which is a mistake. It is a waste of labour.

1977. It would be better that one society should give more than that two societies should give the same amount? Quite so. There are a number of small societies that have started within the last few years, and have done exceptionally well in their work. If you look at their reports, some of which have appeared in the papers, they are putting money to their credit at the end of the year. That I consider a rather objectionable feature; but, putting that aside, there are other societies not doing that who do a certain amount of work. Take the Marrickville Society. It is unlike the one at Randwick, or the one at Waverley. It is not in funds. It expends all its funds, and then the poor have to come to the Benevolent Society. That committee has to wait until it gets more money, which is a most stupid thing, in my opinion. That is what I mean by overlapping. It is an overlapping of energy on the part of charitable people who mean well, rather than an overlapping of individual cases receiving assistance. 1978.

1978. Have you met with any cases of gross imposture? No, I have not.

1979. In connection with this new organisation society, have any cases of imposture been brought under your notice? They have not got to any practical work yet. There is one great drawback in connection with the Charity Organisation Society, and that is the great want of sympathy on the part of the public in connection with it. The subscriptions in a year do not amount to £50; but it is to be subsidised by the Government. Would it not be better for the Government to act in a bold manner, and take the whole thing into its own hands?

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1980. When the Government subsidise an institution the public generally seem content to throw all the responsibility upon the Government? Yes; that is the universal experience.

1981. *Mr. Barling.*] I suppose it is utterly impossible to form an approximate idea as to what private charity is doing? Quite so. I think private charity is not doing so much work now as it used to do, on account of the establishment of these numerous institutions in the metropolitan district.

1982. *Mr. Powell.*] The greatest help is given by the poor to the poor? No class assist each other more than the poor assist the poor. That is my own experience.

Ernest Hanson sworn and examined:—

1983. *President.*] You are the Acting Director of Government Asylums and Boarding-out Officer under the State Children Relief Board? Yes.

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1984. How long have you held the position? Since 23rd November, 1897.

1985. Have you to pass claims for Government subsidies for maintenance at Sydney Benevolent Asylum? Yes.

1986. And you board out children from that institution? Yes.

1987. Have you recently declined to pass any charges? Yes; about three months ago. Altogether I deducted from the voucher £150 for the quarter's subsidies. I made out a memo. [*produced*] giving the reasons for so doing. There is a sum of £94 10s. for the child of Nurse * * *, a salaried officer, in addition to which the Government were paying for the keep of her child. There were also other cases of persons who were receiving weekly gratuities of small sums from the institution, in addition to which they were making the Government pay for their keep as well. Some of these persons had been in the institution more than two years. I took all those who had been in over six months, and would not pay for the quarter. I made the proposal to the Chief Secretary that the Government should not be compelled to pay for anyone who had been in the institution more than six months.

1988. Is that how it stands now? I think the Chief Secretary has decided that the period shall be sixty days. I do not think that sixty days is enough. The contention was that they could not get rid of these people, but I pointed out that some of them had been there for two years, and Mrs. * * * about nine years.

1989. *Mr. Barling.*] She was employed in a domestic capacity? She was in charge of a ward.

1990. *President.*] The Government were paying £14 a year for her child? Yes; and her salary was about £30 a year.

1991. *Mr. Powell.*] Is it the rule that they shall remain there sixty days? No. I recommended that the time should be six months. The Chief Secretary says sixty days. The President has written a letter to the Chief Secretary, asking for a conference between him and myself upon the matter.

1992. *President.*] The money has not been paid? No.

1993. *Mr. Barling.*] I understand that you only object to the Government paying contributions in respect of women who are paid by the institution? That is all, and when they are there such a long time.

1994. I understand that you object where anything is paid on account of a woman to a contribution being made by the Government on account of a child when the mother is earning money from the institution? Yes.

1995. *President.*] Is it part of your duty to administer the amending State Children Relief Act? It is.

1996. How is section 10 administered? In the first place, a form is filled in by the applicant and submitted. It may be the case of a deserted wife or a widow. That form gives all the information about the family. Then, on that, an inquiry is made by either one of the inspectors or the police. In the country it is done by the police if an inspector is not in the district. Then the reports are submitted monthly to the State Children Relief Board.

1997. And if they are approved some relief is given? Yes.

1998. How long has that amending Act been in operation? Since September, 1896.

1999. Can you say how far it has increased the number of State children? Yes; I have a return here, showing the numbers of children and the rates approved by the State Children Relief Board to be paid to mothers towards the support of their children:—

STATEMENT showing Rates, approved by State Children Relief Board, to be paid to Mothers towards the support of their Children, on 30th June, 1898.

5s.	4s. 6d.	4s.	3s. 9d.	3s. 6d.	3s.	2s. 6d.	2s.	1s. 6d.	1s. 3d.	1s.	Total.
22	2	20	1	9	462	818	870	288	3	20	2,515

Statement of Rates payable towards the support of Children boarded out with their Mothers on 31st December, 1897.

5s.	4s. 6d.	4s.	3s. 9d.	3s. 6d.	3s.	2s. 6d.	2s.	1s. 6d.	1s. 3d.	1s.	Total.
25	2	27	1	10	496	862	699	83	4	22	2,231

2000. How far has the amending Act increased the number of State children? At present we are paying for 2,515 children. There is a slight decrease which section 10 might fairly be credited with. In the past the ordinary increase of boarding out children under the principal Act, has been about 300 a year. This year it has decreased by thirty—that is, the year ended 5th April, 1898.

2001. You may credit the amending Act with 330? Yes.

2002.

- E. Hanson. 2002. Are the amounts to be paid decided by the Board? Yes.
- 2 Aug., 1898. 2003. Are the reports handed in? Yes.
2004. Every case is inquired into before relief is given? Yes; with reference to that I have brought down three documents—the original document that is put before the Board, an abstract of the cases, and the returns showing how they were dealt with. Then I have had one made out showing what the inspectors recommended, and what the Board did with the cases.
2005. Of course, the Board do not necessarily agree with the inspector? No. Shortly after I went to the State Children Relief Department as Acting Director, the President proposed that the inspectors should not recommend any rate of relief. It was only on my pointing out to the President that the inspector was the only person who could gauge the amount required to keep the family going that they went back to the practice of the inspector recommending an amount. The Board rarely give as much as the inspector recommends. In regard to these returns, I have given the reasons why they have refused some cases, and those are a fair criterion as to what is done in the other cases.
2006. *President.*] Are the amounts paid under section 10 as a rule sufficient, in your opinion, or adequate for the cases? No; I do not think they are. The smallness of the amount has been pointed out several times, and the President has voiced that opinion. The Board have generally acted in this way: They have fixed the allowance at a small amount, leaving it to the recipients to ask for more if that granted was not sufficient.
2007. It is fixed at a small amount, the recipients having the option to come and say that it is not enough? Yes; and if they do come forward the amount is generally raised if I recommend it. The principle they fixed upon was to give smaller amounts, leaving it for the recipients to raise the point as to whether it was or was not enough.
2008. The Board did not propose to give an amount that would be sufficient to cover everything? No.
2009. Have you had any difficulty in getting funds for the operations of the State Children Relief Board? None whatever under section 10. As a matter of fact, we ran out of money towards the end of last year, ending 30th June, 1898, but there is a clause in the Act which gives the Colonial Treasurer power to make payments pending a vote of Parliament. Under section 10 the Board have been granted £10,600, pending the approval of Parliament.
2010. *Mr. Barling.*] When did the amending Act come into force by which you are enabled to board out children to their parents? On the 10th September, 1896.
2011. *President.*] Is it a fact that the amounts granted to widows and deserted wives have been reduced since the commencement of the amending Act? They are not as large as they were formerly.
2012. What was the reason for the reduction? It was thought the allowances under section 10 were getting too large.
2013. Are you aware that a considerable number of widows with children are maintained by the outdoor relief department of the Sydney Benevolent Asylum? I believe they are.
2014. Do you know whether they are also receiving relief from the State Children Relief Board? Only under very exceptional circumstances.
2015. Would the Benevolent Society relieve them on the authority of the State Children Relief Board? Yes; the Board might grant them 3s. or 4s. a week, and refer them to the Benevolent Society for extra relief.
2016. Why does not the Board relieve the Benevolent Asylum of those cases;—it is in evidence that recipients of relief from the Benevolent Asylum are in some cases suffering great privation owing to insufficient relief being afforded;—why should not the State Children Relief Board relieve the Benevolent Asylum of the deserted wives and widows? There was an application made by the Benevolent Society in April, 1898, by letter, in which it was asked that, as the cases came within the scope of the amending Act, the Board should cause such steps to be taken as would ensure relief being granted to the women under the provisions referred to. In reply to that letter I wrote and pointed out that the widows and deserted wives in need of relief must make application to the State Children Relief Board in the usual way to have their children placed with them under the boarding-out system, and that each case would then be dealt with upon its merits after the necessary inquiries had been made by the Board's inspectors. The number of cases referred to in that letter was 126, and out of that 126, eighty-two individuals have never applied to us at all.
2017. Eighty-two who have been relieved by the Benevolent Asylum have not applied? Eighty-two did not apply; twenty-seven cases were refused by the Board, thirteen of which were refused by the Board themselves, and fourteen on the reports that were handed in; ten had allowances granted, four were postponed, two applications were withdrawn, and one was under consideration. In March they sent down fifty or sixty poor old women, some were widows who had not any children, and some had children grown up, so that they did not come under the Act. I had to send them all back. When the children are over 12 years of age they do not come within the scope of the Act.
2018. Many of the cases sent to you were cases of persons who were not proper recipients of relief from the State Children Relief Board? Yes.
2019. Did your Board or did you ever state in refusing relief to these people that you had to do so for want of funds? Never; we have always had funds.
2020. Has your Board ever made application under the section that you mention, authorising the Treasurer to advance money in anticipation of a vote of Parliament? Yes; under instructions from the President I made applications for £10,600.
2021. And you got the money? Yes; without any difficulty at all.
2022. It was not for want of money that you refused to take these cases over from the Benevolent Asylum? No; certainly not.
2023. Some you did take over and others were not eligible, or were reported against by the inspectors? Yes.
2024. Are mothers paid the same allowance as foster mothers? No.
2025. Does the Act provide for the allowance for the mothers? For foster-mothers, 5s., but not for mothers or other relations. The regulation published in May, 1898, provides that:—

The rates of payment shall be 7s. a week for every child under 3 years of age, and for every child of 3 years and under 12 years of age, 5s. per week, except in special cases, when the amount of payment may be fixed by the Board. Children placed out as boarders with their mothers or their grandparents, or other near relations, shall be paid for at rates

to be fixed by the Board after the special consideration of each case. But except in special cases the total amount of payment to any mother for maintenance shall not exceed £1 per week. E. Hanson.
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2026. *Mr. Powell.*] It says, "to any mother shall not exceed £1 per week"; that would include foster-mothers? They hardly ever have more than four children. I think in one case there are six.

2027. *President.*] The Act provides for a sum in the case of a foster-mother, but not in the case of a mother? Yes.

2028. But why is the reduced scale given to mothers; there must be a reason for it? The allowance given to a foster-mother—5s. a week—is to support the child. The allowance given to a mother is to assist her to support the child. I have made a careful search, and that is the only reason I can find. The Board adopt this course: A widow makes application under section 10 for relief. If the Board do not think the home suitable, or if they think there is anything wrong in the locality or in the woman's character, they will offer to take the children away and board them out to someone else, and to pay 5s. a week. I have here a statement which I shall put in, showing the number of mothers receiving relief:—

STATEMENT showing number of mothers receiving relief, under section 10, on 31st December, 1897.

Widows.	Deserted wives.					Total.
	D.W.	Husbands insane.	Husbands in gaol.	Husbands in asylums.	Husbands in hospitals.	
533	127	23	16	11	4	714

Statement showing number of mothers to whom payment of allowances had been approved on 30th June, 1898.

Widows.	Deserted wives.					Total.
	D.W.	Husbands insane.	Husbands in gaol.	Husbands in asylums.	Husbands in hospitals.	
577	138	27	20	18	6	786

2029. *President.*] Have any representations been made that the relief given under section 10 is so small as to cause hardship to the mothers? Occasionally. We have had letters from the people complaining that they could not live on what they got. If anyone writes to that effect, and I put the letter before the Board they raise the amount.

2030. It has been stated that your Board have relieved the cases of widows for several months, then handed them back to the Sydney Benevolent Society;—is that correct? Yes. I took one case that I thought would be a fair sample, the case of a Mrs. C. She was receiving relief under section 10, but we found out by inspection that her husband had returned, and of course that shut her out of section 10. Then I sent her to the Benevolent Society, and some correspondence took place on the subject.

2031. Her husband having returned, of course she could not come under section 10? No.

2032. Have there been many such cases? Not many.

2033. Have you in many cases stopped the relief and sent the parties back to the Benevolent Asylum? Not very many.

2034. Is it part of your duty to deal with cases relieved from the Vote for the relief of destitute persons? Yes.

2035. What process is followed in that case? There is a form of application for relief under the Charity Vote. That is filled in, and the same system is pursued as in the case of State children. A report is made by either one of my own inspectors or by the police, and on that I make a recommendation to the Chief Secretary. When the recommendation has been approved by him, they send word over to the Treasurer by schedule to pay the money. The papers are sent back to me, and I notify to the parties and each benevolent society in the district in which the applicant lives, that the allowance has been granted.

2036. Can money be paid from that Vote without your intervention at all? Yes, in this way, the accountant of the Chief Secretary obtains an advance for special cases.

2037. These are simply cases that are referred to you for investigation? Yes.

2038. Is there a certain amount of duplication in this work it being administered by two authorities? I think it would be better for it to be administered altogether by one department.

2039. Is the relief that you are arranging for under that Charity Vote increasing or otherwise, according to your experience? I cannot give you that information. It can be given by the accountant of the Chief Secretary's Department.

2040. Are you aware that it is customary for children to be retained a considerable time in the Benevolent Asylum at the Government expense? The system is this: an officer of the State Children Relief Department attends there when the children are available and inspects them.

2041. How does he know what children are available? They produce them.

2042. Suppose they are there three or four months, and they are drawing money for them all the time? It is shown that that has been going on by the case of Mrs. Faggart.

2043. It is in evidence that there have been as many as fifty children there;—why does not your officer take them away? He might not see them. In the case of these women for whom subsidies are paid, the chances are that if we went to board the children out the mothers would not let them go.

2044. *Mr. Powell.*] Your officer only deals with children who are brought under his notice? Quite so; and the Benevolent Society send down an official list of the children that have been inspected.

2045. *President.*] Of course, you would have this check on them—that you can tell what children have been there, because you pass the payment? Yes; the question of how long children have been in the Benevolent Asylum was never gone into until the other day, when I stopped those subsidies.

2046. *Mr. Powell.*] Have you the names of all the children now waiting in the asylum? No.

2047. You do not know who they are, or anything about them? We could turn up our orders. For instance, during the last quarter the number of children boarded out by the State Children Relief Department is seventy-two; admitted by directors' orders, sixty-five; admitted by Police, two; admitted by the Benevolent Society, five.

2048. Do you know anything about the names and ages of the children? We have them with regard to all the orders that we issue, and obtain them from the Benevolent Asylum for all other children admitted.

- E. Hanson. 2049. *President.*] Have you a large number of approved applications for State children on your books?
We have.
- 2 Aug., 1898. 2050. So there is no difficulty arising from the want of homes? None at all.
2051. If there are fifty children at the asylum, it is not for want of homes? No; the supply of homes is greater than the demand.
2052. *Mr. Powell.*] If the children were in a receiving depôt of your own, could you find places for them? Yes; but I must point out that if we did that it would entail a great deal more work. I think there are homes available for over 1,000 children.
2053. Could you not arrange that children sent to the Benevolent Asylum should not be retained there more than a few days? Yes; we could do that.
2054. Do you think arrangements could be made for accommodating more children at Ormond House? Yes; by making additions to the building.
2055. There is not enough accommodation for more children than you have at present? Yes, there is. The daily average at Ormond House at present is twenty-four. We could accommodate forty-nine, exclusive of five who are in the isolation ward.
2056. You could take twenty-five more? Yes.
2057. *President.*] Does not the present way of dealing with them, partly at the Benevolent Asylum and partly at your establishment, add to the expense? Yes.
2058. You have been to the cottage homes at Mittagong several times? Yes.
2059. Could not the delicate children at the Benevolent Asylum be accommodated there? Yes; it would be better for them. We should have to have another home. They would be better there than at the Benevolent Asylum. They would have more chance to recover their health. It is a good climate, and there the children would have family life.
2060. Has the matter ever been brought under the attention of the State Children's Relief Board as to whether the sickly children at the Benevolent Asylum could be accommodated at Mittagong? No.
2061. How are the children attended to medically? If we want a doctor we have to get one.
2062. You get an ordinary practitioner? Yes; the medical expenses have been £108 from the 1st January to the 30th June this year in the Metropolitan district for all boarded-out children.
2063. Assuming that Ormond House were used as the sole depôt for State children waiting to be boarded-out, would it be necessary to arrange for a doctor at any time? Yes; we should want to have the children examined when they came in. There would be a possibility of their having some contagious disease. If we wanted to use Ormond House as a depôt we should require a receiving place. There would be room for that at the back, where we could put up a cottage in which we should be able to keep the children for two or three days to see whether they could have a clean bill of health.
2064. You will have to have a receiving depôt as well as the depôt at Ormond House? The two could be combined.
2065. Could it not be arranged that your department, instead of waiting till you are sent to by the Benevolent Society, should receive them weekly or fortnightly? It would be possible, but it would entail a large amount of extra work. Taking the children out of the Benevolent Asylum is nothing of itself, but there are arrangements that have to be made incidental to their removal from the depôt to the country, the preparation of their outfit, and for their transfer along each route, and giving notice to applicants long distances from the railways to meet the trains, &c. An attendant would take children from Liverpool to Mittagong and intermediate stations, and we have to advise people on the way to be at certain stations at certain times, and we should have a great deal more of this.
2066. You would until you got these cases placed out, but after that if you took the children as they came in you would not have so much trouble? No.
2067. You would only have the extra work whilst you are actually reducing down the numbers, but when you had exhausted that lot the trouble would not be so great? No.
2068. So that this would only apply to a month at the outside if you have plenty of homes? We have plenty of homes.
2069. After that the condition of things would be normal? Yes, it would. We have always tried to keep the Benevolent Asylum clear of children. In the month of July we transferred to the depôt sixty-five children—that is, in and out, irrespective of the Benevolent Asylum.
2070. Do you think that instead of the children being sent in the first instance to the Benevolent Asylum they could be sent direct to you? Yes. I will read an extract from the annual report referring to this matter:—

The policy of adopting a uniform system by placing all reformatory and industrial schools under the Minister of Public Instruction necessitates the transfer of the Shaftesbury Reformatory from under the control of my Board, but the officials in charge were not relieved, and were in consequence unable to take over their duties at the Central Home until recently. The reformatory had been utilised, perhaps, in a strictly legal sense, irregularly, as a receiving home for State children and for disciplinary purposes wherever girls had shown themselves unfit for private service. This change necessitated recourse to the former practice of sending children to the Sydney Benevolent Asylum before being boarded-out, and, in the absence of legislation enabling incorrigible girls to be sent for a time to the Industrial School before being again tried at service, the unwise policy of changing them from home to home had again to be resorted to. The transfer of the staff to the Central Home has, however, materially lessened these objections. A number of direct admissions are now made there, and some of the more troublesome children are also admitted to assist with the domestic work of the depôt. With a little extra accommodation, and provided the legislation outlined by me is given effect to, my Board will no doubt be able to admit all children direct to control and discontinue the practice of sending children to the Benevolent Asylum.

2071. Is it the aim of the Board to do this? Yes. There is another portion of the report which refers to the trouble which we have to get rid of the unruly children:—

The most serious difficulty that the State Children Relief Board has now to contend with is the absence of legislation enabling the President to recommend and empowering the Chief Secretary to sanction the transfer of incorrigible State children for corrective treatment in industrial and reformatory schools, when, in the interests of the children themselves, such a course becomes a matter of urgent necessity. The absence of this provision in the social reform Acts of this Colony was not so seriously felt by my Board when the numbers under control were less, but now that the aggregate has reached 3,700 children, legislation is urgently required to remedy this omission. That this is so must be obvious when it is recognised that the Board's officials receive direct from the police almost the whole of the children who have been rescued from vicious parents and the deplorable surroundings of slum life, and, acting under my Board's instructions, place them with tried guardians in the country districts, rather than press for a commitment to industrial schools before first affording such children an opportunity to reform under the beneficial influence of wholesome family life. Experience has shown the wisdom of adopting this method of dealing with these waifs, but it is not to be expected that each and every child

child rescued in this way can be successfully treated under this system. Failures in isolated instances there must be, and it is to meet these exceptional cases that legislation has been introduced in the other colonies, and requires to be brought into effect in the social reform Acts in New South Wales. There are at present under the control of the State Children Relief Board from thirty to forty incorrigible and inolent children cunning enough to know that even were they to thieve or wander, and thereby bring themselves within the jurisdiction of the Industrial Schools Act, the respectable guardians with whom they are placed would refuse to appear against them at the police courts in order to secure their commitment to an industrial or reformatory school, nor is it to be expected that they should do so, consequently these offenders have to be removed periodically from home to home at considerable expense to the Government; the unsettled lives they lead without firm discipline or proper punishment encourages them to continue their misconduct; the impression they create on the minds of the public militates against the credit of the system, and numbers of excellent homes for apprentice children are lost to others whose good conduct and faithful service would have been appreciated. Were it not for the continuous misconduct of these children, who cannot be reformed in the absence of the legislation outlined, I have no hesitation in affirming that in this Colony there would have been very little, if any, occasion to pay for the maintenance of well-developed and healthy children after the age of 12 years.

E. Harrison.
2 Aug., 1898.

2072. What is the cost per head? £9 5s. 2d., at Ormond House.

2073. Does that include salaries? No; but these figures should not be taken as the actual capitation cost. A lot of children will go in to-day, and will leave to-day, and they must come on to the numerical strength, and will build up the average.

2074. They just pass through the place? They just pass through, but they have to go on the books.

2075. What increase in the staff at Ormond House would be required if the arrangement were made that has been suggested now? I think it would only increase the staff at Ormond House by one attendant. It might be necessary to provide for somebody else at the head office. It would increase the work of boarding-out for a short time, and we might require a little temporary assistance.

2076. How many cottage homes have you for old couples at Parramatta? Twenty.

2077. All occupied? Yes.

2078. Have you always suitable people to put in them? Yes; the way the Department has been working is this: Suppose an old couple are getting relieved from the pauper vote, if we have a home vacant we recommend them.

2079. What is the cost per head at these homes? £19 16s. 4d.

2080. You have homes at Newington? Yes; twenty-four.

2081. Are they all occupied? There are nine occupied, and fifteen empty.

2082. How is it that they are empty? We are selecting suitable people to go into them. We are very particular about whom we put in.

2083. *Mr. Powell.*] Suppose a husband dies, how do you manage then? The woman would have to go to Newington.

2084. *President.*] She would very likely get into one of the cottages at Newington? We should put her in the asylum.

2085. Would you not give her a chance to get one of the cottage homes? No; they are for couples.

2086. Might you not get another woman to go in with her? Three or four months ago an old man was in a cottage home at Parramatta, and his wife died. We told him that he would have to go into one of the asylums, but he found an old woman at an asylum and married her.

FRIDAY, 5 AUGUST, 1898.

[*The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board, at 11 o'clock a.m.*]

Present:—

G. A. WILSON, Esq., J.P. (President).

J. BARLING, Esq., J.P.

J. POWELL, Esq., J.P.

William Henry Crago, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., sworn and examined:—

2087. *President.*] You are a registered medical practitioner? Yes; and a member of the honorary staff of the Benevolent Asylum. W. H. Crago,
L.R.C.P., &c.

2088. How long have you held that position? This is the fifth year.

2089. Are there other honorary medical officers of that institution? Yes; Dr. Graham and Dr. Foreman.

2090. Are your duties the same as theirs? Yes.

2091. Your duties are to visit and make the rounds of the institution? Yes.

2092. Do you attend daily? When on duty I generally attend nearly every day.

2093. You divide up the time? Yes. At present we have two months on duty on one side and one month off, then two months on the other side and one month off. There were four of us up to the end of last year; then we each had six weeks on and six weeks off.

2094. What are your duties when you attend;—do you go through the institution? When on the children's side we do, as a rule. We generally see those cases to which the matron draws our attention. At present I am in charge of the children's side. The other side is the lying-in side.

2095. Then the medical man who visits the children does not, during that month, visit the others;—is that through fear of infection? Possibly; and for the equal distribution of the duties. Primarily, the object is not to run any risk.

2096. Do you know much about the outdoor relief business? Nothing at all.

2097. Do you approve of the lying-in hospital, the reception-house for destitute women and children, and the outdoor relief department being all administered in the same building? No, I do not. We have made representations in the past to the effect that they should be separated.

2098. Why do you object to that? Where so many people are constantly coming round it is impossible to keep away infection. That is the chief objection.

2099. So many people coming there from poor homes? Yes. It might be the means of bringing scarlet fever, or something of that kind.

2100. I presume that these three departments have really no necessary connection with each other? No. They are kept as distinct as the premises will allow us to keep them.

2101. Have you any suggestion to offer in regard to that question? I have not thought the matter out. Three or four years ago the whole staff considered it, and they recommended that what is called the women's

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W. H. Crago, women's hospital should be distinct from the other parts of the institution, and on a separate lot of ground. Of course, we do not consider those old buildings suitable.

L.B.C.P., &c.

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2102. Take the buildings first, you consider them radically unsuitable? Yes; out of date.

2103. Patching them up would be of no use? No. The staff on one or two occasions made strong representations that another building should be procured.

2104. Seeing that the present building is unsuitable, there would be an opportunity to make a new start, and your idea would be to have an entirely separate building for the lying-in department? Yes; it would be very much better.

2105. Is the nursing staff of the asylum a satisfactory one? On the lying-in side very satisfactory. There is no doubt that we get excellent results in that department, and I think it is largely due to the good nursing care that is given there. I think that the nurse in charge of the principal lying-in ward, Mrs. Cooper, is a very able woman, and Miss Mason is also an excellent nurse. The nursing is very good. The nursing on the other side also has been improved during the last few years. Formerly they never had trained nurses there; they trusted to inmates. Now they have two trained nurses on that side.

2106. You said that there is some danger to lying-in patients undergoing surgical treatment from the receiving-house; children who are brought in there possibly bringing infection? There is some slight risk. I do not know that it is very real, because when they get inside the building they are kept separate. It is really only when they are going through the hall that there is any risk.

2107. Which would be disposed of if the buildings were separate? Yes.

2108. Have you a ward in which children are placed who are suffering from infectious disease? Yes; we have the isolation department.

2109. Is it what you would consider a proper isolation? I do not know quite how to answer that question. It is not up to modern ideas, but it answers its purpose fairly well.

2110. It is the best you can do? Yes; it is the best we can do on those premises. The isolation ward has been under a trained nurse lately, and the cases are very well attended to. We put cases of ophthalmia in there. I am sorry to say that we have about thirty cases of measles there now.

2111. Do you consider that that ward is a source of danger to the patients who are lying in. No; it is fairly well separated by distance, and I do not think that there is any communication between the two in any way, unless through the matron when going her rounds. I think there is no communication between the inmates of that part and the lying-in department.

2112. Do you recollect an outbreak of puerperal fever taking place in the lying-in department? The principal outbreak was before I went there. The present staff succeeded the old staff afterwards; in fact, that was what brought about the change.

2113. Have you formed any opinion as to the cause of that outbreak? I was never able to ascertain it.

2114. Is it a fact that hospitals of that kind are liable to it? Certainly. If one case gets a footing it is likely to spread. The infection is conveyed chiefly by the hands of the attendants, but of course it may hang about the wards. We have not had a case of ordinary puerperal fever for four years, and I daresay that the results that we get would compare favourably with those of almost any lying-in hospital in the world. The figures, according to the last three reports, are: for 1895, 387 women, and only two deaths during the puerperal period; in 1896, 366, and only two deaths; last year, 320, with three deaths; making a total of 1,073 women delivered, with seven deaths in the puerperal stage, or a mortality of 0.65. I may say that in my opinion those deaths would have been almost unavoidable in any institution. In one or two of the cases the patients were in a moribund state when admitted. The wards are clean now, and the midwives are competent, and it is only due to the extreme care taken that we ward off these outbreaks. My experience goes back to the beginning of 1894 in the institution. They had an epidemic in 1893, when Dr. Warren was there. Then, on the recommendation of the Government medical officer, they took a separate place in Flinders-street for the lying-in department, and put a qualified woman in charge, but unfortunately the change was followed by an outbreak in that place.

2115-6. Have you had any experience of the place to which the patients were transferred on that outbreak? I did not have much personal experience of it. Dr. Graham was the honorary medical officer in charge at that time. Within a few weeks of its being opened there was an outbreak of puerperal fever, and the honorary medical staff recommended its closure. There was a further outbreak after we went back to the institution. After that we had all the walls scraped and painted, and I think that has been a great improvement. I do not think I exaggerate when I say that there was from one-eighth to one-quarter of an inch of colouring on the walls that had been put on coat after coat during the last fifty years. We had it scraped off, and three coats of paint put on, and things have been better since that was done.

2117. Do you think the present system of employing honorary medical men quite meets the case, or should there be a medical man receiving some remuneration attached to the institution? I think that is a suggestion that might well be entertained. I do not think, on the whole, that the practice of having only honorary medical men quite meets the case. We have in the past recommended that a house-surgeon should be appointed. If there was a resident house surgeon then everything would be all right. Probably some of the directors think that there is not enough work for a resident medical officer, and perhaps there is not; but there is no doubt a great deal of work there which honorary medical officers can scarcely be expected to do, such as looking after this epidemic of measles, and examining children for boarding out. Sometimes we have as many as twenty or thirty children for boarding out, all of whom have to be examined. It is not quite the sort of work that ought to be expected from honorary medical officers. I think that one of two things should be done. They should either appoint a resident house surgeon or give one of the present staff, or somebody else, an honorarium to ensure his visiting every day. If there was someone who could visit the institution every day, I think it would be all right. I do not know anything about the attendance of my colleagues. When on duty myself I go nearly every day, or probably five or six times a week. I know that the honorary medical officers used to hold the opinion that they ought not to be expected to visit every day, but that to visit twice a week was as much as could be expected from honorary officers. On the lying-in side as a rule we have to go when we are sent for.

2118. Are the honorary medical men expected to examine the children for boarding out? Well, we have to do it, and it takes a lot of time. We have to certify as to the children being free from infectious or contagious disease. The children accumulate there for boarding out; sometimes there are six, sometimes a dozen to examine. The examination is not a very serious one; we just have to strip them, and see that there is no eruption of the skin, or contagious affection of any kind. That seems to me to be work that should scarcely be expected from honorary medical men.

2119.

2119. You have no knowledge of the outdoor relief business? I have no knowledge at all of that beyond seeing the motley crowds at the asylum on Tuesdays.
2120. It has come under the notice of the Commission that many of those people who are recipients of outdoor relief are in a very poor state of health, and of course liable to sickness, and that there appears to be no provision made for them by the institution? No, there is not.
2121. Would there be any objection, suppose there was a resident house surgeon at the asylum, to his visiting the homes of those people? It would be rather a large order. No doubt it could be arranged, but I do not think anyone would be willing to take it up in an honorary capacity.
2122. I am not speaking of honorary officers;—suppose there was a paid medical man attached to the institution, would there be any objection to his visiting the homes of those people on the ground of carrying infection back to the institution? I do not think so. A medical man has to visit all sorts of cases, and I suppose that those cases would not be any more infectious than the average of his private patients. It would not do to go back to the lying-in home without any precautions being taken; but a medical man can be trusted to exercise discretion in such a matter.
2123. You understand that these people are not provided for at all? I suppose they are the class of people whom the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the City Mission, and others, call upon us to visit. I believe we visit most of them at the request of those societies. Not a week passes that I do not make two or three such visits. They might be better attended to in the way you suggest perhaps.
2124. How is the dispensing done at the asylum? That I think is done by arrangement with one of the chemists near, who comes in every day for a certain time to make up any medicines. If in case of emergency he is not there they send to one of the chemists in the neighbourhood. I think the present arrangement is satisfactory. There is not sufficient work by any means for a resident dispenser.
2125. In addition to the trained nurses, you have several probationary nurses at the lying-in home? Yes.
2126. Have all your regular nurses received a proper training there or elsewhere? Yes.
2127. You are quite satisfied about that? Yes; they have given every satisfaction. Lately, pupil nurses have gone there to learn midwifery. Students are there for six months, and pupil nurses the other six months. The nurses used to be there from about May till the end of October. They began later this year, however, as the students did not get through their work in time for them.
2128. The nurses that are trained there are not trained in all the departments of hospital work? No; simply in midwifery. They get a good practical training.
2129. About the isolation wards, are there separate wards for boys and girls? I am not quite sure. At the present time they are very crowded. There is one large ward, the boys being in one part and the girls in the other. At the present moment there is a great strain on that part of the institution, more than there has ever been before in my time.
2130. Do you know anything about the cottage homes at Mittagong for sickly children? Nothing, except that we give certificates for children to go to the cottage homes.
2131. Do you consider it desirable to retain sickly children—I do not mean infectious cases, but other cases—at the asylum for some months, as they do? I think not.
2132. Seeing that there are cottages built expressly for delicate children? As far as my own experience goes, I think they get them away as fast as they can. At times there are many children suffering from ophthalmia. We do not like to send them away whilst the complaint is in the acute stage. Those cases might run on a good many weeks. I think that practically as soon as it is safe they are sent away to the cottage homes. For the cottage homes they will take children whom they would not take for ordinary boarding out. They would not mind taking children with sore eyes.
2133. I suppose that the medical staff determine the periods of residence in the asylum of lying-in women? We drew up some rules a few years ago, chiefly founded on the rules of the Women's Hospital in Melbourne.
2134. Rule 76 says:—
The duty of discharging all patients who have been in the hospital less than thirty days shall rest with the honorary medical officer in attendance.
- Why should it be limited to under thirty days? I think that is so that no one could be sent out too soon; that if a woman is not fit to go out, she should not be discharged without the sanction of a medical man.
2135. I suppose the presumption would be that after that period she would probably be fit to go out? Yes; and she would be dealt with in the ordinary way. She should not be sent out too soon, however, without the consent of the medical man in charge.
2136. About the classification of the women in the lying-in home, it has been stated in evidence that there is practically no classification, that women and girls are in the same ward, the better class being associated with less desirable characters? It is so; there is no means of classification there at present.
2137. Do you consider that there should be such classification? I think there should be. In the erection of any new hospital, arrangements should be made for it. It seems almost impossible to be carried out in the present buildings, but I think it would be a very desirable thing. Those women who have been there time after time are very case-hardened.
2138. Should that classification extend to the yards? I suppose it should, to be of any use. Of course, it would enormously increase the expense of working the place to keep the women separate. It would probably entail extra nurses and attendants.
2139. At any rate, it should extend to the wards? Yes; although, perhaps, in the wards when the women are in bed they are not so likely to upset one another's morals, because they are more under observation when they are in the lying-in ward than they are whilst they are waiting for confinement, or afterwards. The matter is one to which I have not given serious thought, but still I think there ought to be some system of classification. Arrangements should be made for it in any new institution.
2140. It is not possible except in a very limited degree in that building? No.
2141. You say that the mortality compares very favourably with that of any hospital which you know of? Yes; for the last three years. I confine that statement expressly to the midwifery side; the mortality on the other side is very high.
2142. Who regulates the dietary scale for these women? I think the rules provide that the doctors shall do it, but it is not a matter that we very often interfere with. We have the right to order anything that is necessary. Anything in the way of stimulants the doctors order and also any extras.

W. H. Crago, 2143. In visiting the lying-in home do you see every one of the inmates, or only those to whom the L.R.C.P., &c. matron directs your attention? I generally study every temperature chart. I may give more attention to one case where it seems necessary. If I find from the temperature chart that there is anything out of the normal I investigate the case, but if everything appears to be going right I do nothing.

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2144. Is it found that the time required for the efficient discharge of this duty interferes very much with the time of the honorary medical officers? I cannot say that it does, except, perhaps, at the present time, when there is such an amount of sickness, and we are all so busy; then it becomes a little irksome, but otherwise it does not interfere much with our business.

2145. Do the honorary medical officers take their turn to lecture to the students? We lecture to the nurses. We are not supposed to lecture to the students, as they get their lectures at the University. We sometimes give them a little clinical lecture. We take it in turn to lecture to the nurses. An honorarium of £50 a year has been granted for that purpose, so that the duty is not quite honorary.

2146. Is there a ward for the treatment of women who are not there for confinement? There is a place which they call a hospital with six or eight beds in it, where cases of that kind are taken in.

2147. Your duties extend to that too? Yes; the medical man who attends on the children's side gives his attention to that hospital too.

2148. Are those cases connected with child-bearing or following confinement? Not necessarily; any woman taken ill in the institution is put there or in the isolation ward. Lately, they have more frequently been taken to the isolation ward, because the nursing is better there. There is not a trained nurse for that little room which is called a hospital.

2149. Have you any knowledge of the out-division of the midwifery department? No; I have not. Only on one occasion I visited a patient whom some of the nurses had attended.

2150. Is the midwifery department of the Benevolent Asylum increasing or decreasing? Decreasing.

2151. To what do you attribute that? There are three or four rival institutions growing up—one or two at Newtown, St. Martha's Maternity Home, Elizabeth-street, Strawberry Hills, and the Women's Hospital in Crown-street. I think those institutions are always drawing cases from the Benevolent Asylum. The figures which I have given show a diminution from 387 in 1895 to 320 in 1897. I think that this year the number of cases will be about up to the average, but I see from the Registrar-General's returns that the number of cases in those other institutions is gradually increasing.

2152. We find that women are admitted into the asylum long before their confinement;—do you know under what circumstances that is done? In cases in which they have not friends with whom they can live, and cannot continue in their situations.

2153. In cases coming from the country, for instance? Yes. I have sent several cases from the Church Rescue Home at Paddington. I have sent girls from there two or three months before they were expected to be confined, because it was undesirable to have them in the Church Home, but I think that these cases are mostly from the country.

2154. And they have no option but to receive them? I think it would be rather cruel in many cases to refuse.

2155. Do you know that women are kept in the institution for long periods after confinement? Yes. I do not know why. I see certain women there for a good while. Many of them are made use of as wardswomen. I think it is when they have no friends to go to.

2156. In the medical report for 1897 it is stated that of 282 infants dealt with in the institution in 1897, eighty-three died, twenty-four being under 1 month old? Yes; that is a pretty high rate of mortality.

2157. To what would you attribute that? Many are admitted in a very bad state. Cases of marasmus or wasting disease are the most common of all. In a tabulated form given on page 24 of the report I have specified the number who died from each disease. From marasmus—that is, wasting away—no less than thirty-one children died; then the table below shows that twenty-four of them were under 1 month old. Many of them were foundlings. These children almost inevitably die. They were admitted into a ward where they had a most devoted trained nurse, Miss Freeman, who had had experience at the Children's Hospital at the Glebe. She is really devoted to her work, and I had great hope that when she was appointed the result would be a diminution in that mortality, but it has not been so. Whether it is due to the fact of such a number of children being brought together in one ward I cannot say.

2158. Their vitality would be very low at first? Yes, in many of them. The mortality even out of doors amongst children who are bottle-fed is enormous. If a child does not get the mother's care its chance of living is not very good. I was struck some years ago by an article on the subject written by a Scotch doctor. I was astounded at the time by his statement that 50 per cent. of all the children that are bottle-fed die in the first year of their existence. I suppose that the great thing is the loss of the mother's care. If a mother has a child which she wants to rear there is even more than giving it the breast milk. It is a great loss to lose the breast milk, but no one can replace the mother in the nursing of a baby.

2159. *Mr. Barling.*] Especially when you have to deal with a great number together? Yes. Many of these unfortunate women are simply praying for their children to die. They die in great numbers in the summer time. In the winter months many of the very young children die of acute bronchitis. Recently a child there was taken ill at 4 o'clock in the morning, and died in the evening. In summer, disorders of the digestion take off a great number.

2160. Have you any general suggestion that you could make to us which would aid us in the object of our Commission; that is to say, as to whether any measure might be devised to bring about a more economical and at the same time a more satisfactory arrangement in connection with either this charity or any other? I am afraid that I have not. Since I heard that I might be called I have not had time to think of anything. As I have stated already, the sooner new buildings are provided for the Benevolent Asylum the better.

2161. Is not the lying-in hospital at the Benevolent Asylum a very healthy place? Yes.

2162. The evidence of Sir Arthur Renwick tends in the same direction, so that apparently every attention has been paid to the keeping of the walls perfectly free from any taint of contagion? Great improvements were made. The whitewash on the walls, the accumulation of years, was all scraped off, the walls were painted and made perfectly clean. I think it is owing to our attention to that, and absolute cleanliness on the part of the midwives, that we have such good results, but I do not say that the buildings are at all suitable.

2163. Still it is very satisfactory to find that there is no fear of the building containing infection? None whatever. The deaths which occurred there have been inevitable, and might have occurred in the newest hospital. W. H. Crago,
L.R.C.P., &c.

2164. As far as the lying-in hospital is concerned there is nothing to be desired? No; the results obtained have been very satisfactory. 5 Aug., 1898.

2165. Do you think that the situation of the building is as convenient as might be desired? Of course, the situation is very central and very convenient, but I think that a more suitable place could be found, one further away from the railway station, for instance.

MONDAY, 8 AUGUST, 1898.

[The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board, at 10 o'clock a.m.]

Present:—

G. A. WILSON, Esq., J.P. (PRESIDENT).
J. BARLING, Esq., J.P.
J. POWELL, Esq., J.P.

Robert Anderson sworn and examined:—

2166. *President.*] You are a director of the Benevolent Asylum? Yes. R. Anderson.

2167. *Mr. Barling.*] How long have you been a director of that Institution? About five years.

2168. *President.*] Perhaps you will state your views on the matter into which this Commission is inquiring? I will. What I have to say on the subject I have put in writing:— 8 Aug., 1898.

Being on the House Committee of the Benevolent Asylum, I have given special attention to the persons receiving outdoor relief from that institution. In the first place, I will notice the relief given to the aged and infirm. The rations given are good, but not sufficient in quantity. It would be a great improvement if rations were issued twice a week instead of weekly as at present. The maximum allowance for rent is 3s., but this is too little and ought to be increased. Indeed, I cannot describe the dole of rations and money allowance given to the aged poor as anything short of semi-starvation. The homes of those poor old people are generally damp, dilapidated, badly ventilated, and, of course, unhealthy. In their poverty they naturally look for the cheapest house accommodation they can get. As an example of the sort of homes occupied by the aged poor, I may mention the case of a worthy old couple residing in Marrickville. The house occupied by this man and his wife is situated in the low land, and is often in flood. The floors are very damp and the walls are quite wet 3 and 4 feet from the floor. The man is over 70 years of age, and is utterly unfit for any kind of employment. He has been in bad health for several months, and was fourteen weeks confined to his bed. The wife has suffered very much for some time with sore eyes, and is at present an outdoor patient of the Sydney Infirmary. I have no doubt but what the unwholesome house and insufficient nourishment is the chief cause of the sickness of the aged and infirm couple. Since December last they have been receiving 7s. per week from the State Relief Department. Out of this, 2s. goes for rent, and the wife goes twice a week to the Sydney Infirmary, which costs 1s., leaving 4s. to supply them with food, fire, and other necessaries of life. I brought this case under the notice of the House Committee, and they agreed to supply the helpless couple with rations if no objection was made by the State Relief Department.

The case I have described is not a solitary one, and I think it is highly necessary that adequate provisions should be made for the aged and destitute, many of whom are in that condition through no fault of their own. Healthy homes and a more abundant supply of nourishing food would greatly mitigate the sufferings of this unfortunate class of the community. A very unpleasant feature of our social life is the general unwillingness on the part of young people to assist their aged parents when overlaken by poverty and ill-health.

Next to the aged and infirm, widows left with young children should be more liberally assisted than they are at present. I know many widows who have a terrible struggle to support themselves and their children on the small pittance allowed. During the past five years, owing to various causes, there has been a great lack of employment for women to what there used to be, and many of the widows that I know will be weeks without earning a shilling. On Tuesday last the case of a widow with eight children—one of them a baby at the breast—was brought under the notice of the House Committee. She had been granted 12s. per week by the State Relief Department, but we considered that sum quite inadequate, and granted her a certain amount of rations if no objection was made by the Department.

During the past five years the number of deserted wives has greatly increased, and most of these unfortunate women have large families. They are in some respects worse off than widows, for a widow has generally some assistance and sympathy from her neighbours which a deserted wife rarely receives. The greater part of those inhuman husbands who have deserted their wives and children have gone to Western Australia, and it is high time that something were done to make them contribute towards the support of their wives and children.

About two months ago, at the request of the Premier, the House Committee gave rations to the unemployed, and I was deeply impressed with the number of worn-out old men who asked for assistance. A majority of the men were over 50 years of age, and to all appearance quite incapable of any severe exercise of manual labour. Several of them had been at the Government works at Shea's Creek, but had at once been discharged as unfit for the work. It was pitiful to hear these poor old fellows relating how that every job they applied for young active men were selected. A peculiarity of these old unemployed men was that most of them had got married late in life to young women, and most of them had large families of children. I daresay a good many of these men had been improvident when times were good, but I recognised some who had been always steady and industrious and were destitute through no fault of their own. There is no doubt but what much distress and hardship was prevented by the timely assistance given to the unemployed.

Among the general cases assisted there are a large number of men who, from various causes—such as general debility, deformity, deafness, &c.—are utterly unfit for any sort of hard work; but they have all wives and, in many cases, large families, and these cannot be allowed to starve.

An impression prevails with some people that the Benevolent Asylum is greatly imposed upon; but I have no hesitation in saying, from my experience on the House Committee, that such is not the case—at all events, to any great extent. If unworthy persons succeed in getting assistance once, they are soon discovered, and the relief is stopped. Strict inquiry is made into every fresh application for relief, and our careful and intelligent inspectors give periodical reports of the circumstances and prospects of every person receiving assistance. These are duly considered, and wherever the reports show improvement in the condition of the recipient the relief is discontinued.

The Benevolent Asylum has done noble service in the cause of suffering humanity, and my chief concern is that, from want of funds, we have not been able to give that measure of assistance to the aged and infirm, the widow and the orphan, and the poor and distressed generally, that they honestly deserve.

2169. About the issue of rations twice a week—do you think that practical as a matter of administration? Yes. It might require some more assistance. I heard a great many complaints from old people that they could not take meat, especially in the summer months, and the bread gets very dry in summer time. It is not fit to be eaten at the end of the week. I have given the subject a lot of attention owing to the complaints that have been made. I think it would be a great improvement if rations could be given twice a week, though it might require a little more assistance. We need only give bread and meat twice a week.

2170. Assuming that it is possible as a matter of administration, what about the funds? There would be no great difficulty. 2171.

- R. Anderson. 2171. Would your funds permit you to do it? I do not think it would involve much additional expense.
2172. You would issue smaller quantities of bread and meat on the Wednesday? Yes; and again on Friday or Saturday.
2173. It would not mean a double ration? No; I would give the same as at present, but I would give the bread and meat twice a week.
2174. As a matter of administration, you think it quite feasible with a certain amount of assistance? Yes.
2175. But your present means would not enable you to do it? I am certain that they do not get the full benefit of the rations getting them once a week.
2176. It has been stated in evidence by Sir Arthur Renwick, in dealing with the question of the rations being inadequate for the support of the family, that one principle adopted was that the ration is not intended for the whole maintenance of a family, but is simply a grant in aid of other means? That may be so in some cases, but in the cases of the aged and infirm, and widows and children, a full allowance ought to be granted.
2177. That narrows it down to this: that where there are no other means the rations ought to be increased? Yes, certainly.
2178. But with your present means you cannot do that? No; we have not the funds.
2179. You are drawing on your capital now? Yes; and I think we have an overdraft of £5,000 or £6,000.
2180. It is in evidence that a good many women and children are maintained at the Benevolent Asylum, and are paid for by the Government? No doubt.
2181. Would you not have more money available for the relief of the aged poor if you gave up keeping those women and children there;—there are sometimes as many as fifty waiting to be taken over by the State Children's Relief Board? That would certainly relieve the indoor department.
2182. And that would give more time for attention to the administration of outdoor relief? Yes.
2183. Which is your proper business? I think so. I have not studied that much, because I am connected with other societies, and my time is fully occupied.
2184. You say that the homes of these people are in a very insanitary state? Yes, very.
2185. Have you any idea how that question can be met? I have an idea, but the element of expense would be against it. Something in the shape of cottage homes would be the right thing for those people.
2186. Does that mean homes subsidised or maintained by the Government? I would rather that the public generally gave assistance to a scheme of that kind. But if it could not be done otherwise I should say that it would be money well spent if the Government built homes for these aged people.
2187. You think that at the present time they are suffering very great privations? I am certain of it. It is really a painful thing to see, and it is especially painful to see the unhealthy homes which these people inhabit.
2188. You take a great deal of interest in this question? Yes.

THURSDAY, 11 AUGUST, 1898.

[The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board at 2.15 o'clock p.m.]

Present:—

G. A. WILSON, Esq., J.P. (PRESIDENT).
J. BARLING, Esq., J.P.
J. POWELL, Esq., J.P.

Joseph Foreman, Esq., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., surgeon, sworn and examined:—

- J. Foreman, Esq., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.
11 Aug., 1898.
2189. *President.*] You are one of the honorary medical advisers to the Benevolent Society? Yes.
2190. Your duties, I suppose, are very similar to those of the other honorary medical officers? They are all the same.
2191. Do you know much about the out-door relief system carried on by the Benevolent Society? I cannot say that I do.
2192. Your duties, of course, are connected with the lying-in hospital? Yes.
2193. Have you anything particular to say about that? Do you wish me to speak about the building?
2194. First of all about the building, and then about the lying-in home being associated with the other branches of the asylum—the out-door relief department, and the reception of women and children? In the first place, as regards the building, that is in every sense most unsuitable. It is in no way up to modern requirements; it is a very old building. The floors have been renewed, but it is a very difficult matter to keep them perfectly right. It is only with the greatest care, and it reflects very greatly to the credit of the institution, especially of the nursing, that outbreaks of puerperal fever have not been more frequent. There have been several outbreaks, one of which unfortunately I was mixed up in. It happened when I first went there. Since then we have not had any further outbreak. It is only with the greatest difficulty in the world that it is possible to avoid it, and I feel sure that it might at any time break out again. In the lying-in home we get temperatures which we ought not to get in a suitable building, though there has been no actual outbreak recently of cases which we speak of as puerperal fever, the most troublesome thing that can happen, still the temperature has run up in a way that it would not have done if the building was up to modern requirements. I have no doubt whatever about that.
2195. Is the place itself insanitary? I think the place itself is insanitary. Those are old buildings for these cases, which so easily go wrong.
2196. I understand from the evidence of other witnesses that it is very difficult to keep that building in the state of perfect cleanliness that is required? It is most difficult. The building seems to be saturated, as we often find old buildings, with bacteria.
2197. Your evidence points, then, to the necessity for some modern building for that particular purpose;—have you any views as regards its being associated with the other parts of the Benevolent Asylum? Yes, very strong views.
2198. We should like to hear your views upon that? We cannot have a better instance than we have at the present time. The place is full of measles brought there by children, and there is no doubt whatever that, under ordinary circumstances, if we had a proper lying-in hospital entirely separate, we should not have any measles at all.
2199. If you had a properly-isolated hospital? In all probability in a properly-isolated hospital we should not have this thing. The same applies to scarlet fever and other infectious diseases.

2200. With people constantly coming in from all quarters there is a possibility of their bringing in some infectious disease, such as scarlet fever? Exactly, the children particularly. Of course, the people who attend to the lying-in patients must of necessity circulate between the children and the women. It is impossible to avoid it. J. Foreman,
Esq.,
L.R.C.P.,
M.R.C.S.
2201. Therefore, there is always a danger of infection being brought in? Always very great danger. We have a very good instance at present. Several nurses are down with measles, and there are over twenty cases amongst the children, and, of course, it may extend. There is no reason why it should not extend to the lying-in department. 11 Aug., 1898.
2202. Do you consider that there is any particular danger to the lying-in division from the fact of there being 1,100 or 1,200 people coming there every Wednesday in connection with the outdoor relief? I think there is very great danger. I think it is a most unpardonable thing. It is against all ideas of modern medicine.
2203. *Mr. Barling.*] Speaking about the measles, is the contiguity of such cases dangerous to lying-in women? It is always an element of very grave danger.
2204. Just as dangerous as scarlet fever cases? No, not so dangerous as that; but still it can never do any good, and very probably will do a very great deal of harm.
2205. *President.*] As a matter of fact, whilst the conditions have been very unfavourable, the mortality in connection with the lying-in home has been exceptionally small? Wonderfully so considering the building.
2206. As regards the nursing staff, is it in your opinion efficient? I think it is most excellent. As far as I have seen the nursing has certainly been as good as one could possibly wish. I am speaking of the state of things that has existed lately, because when I first went there the nursing was certainly very inefficient, but the present matron has been matron of the Sydney Hospital, and she, as far as she possibly can, is inaugurating a very good system—more on the principle of modern hospitals.
2207. As regards the infant mortality, it is pretty high, is it not? It is very high.
2208. Could you state the reasons for that? Yes. In the first place, there is a great number of cases of congenital syphilis, and most of the children are illegitimate births. It seems that in a great number of instances these children are born in a very puny state, whatever is the reason. As a rule, they are born very weak and very puny, and that must always be the case; but I have very little doubt that if there was a separate establishment the mortality would not be anything like so high as it is.
2209. With regard to the position of the honorary medical advisers, taking it first of all from the point of view of the Benevolent Society;—does the present arrangement meet all requirements? Yes; I think so.
2210. Do you think it would improve the position at all if there were a resident surgeon or a house surgeon, who would be available at any time, in addition to the honorary medical staff? Well, that is just a matter of opinion. There is always a surgeon available, because we have only two months on one side and two months on the other. There are two medical men on, one for the children and one for the lying-in department, and the third stands out for two months; but if one is not available one of the other two always is.
2211. You, as one of the honorary medical officers, are satisfied with the present arrangement? It seems to me to answer fairly well.
2212. There appears to be no provision made for the out-pensioners to be visited by a medical officer? That would have to be under a different arrangement. There is no provision at present. Do you mean women?
2213. No; I mean the families? That does not come under the present system at all.
2214. The question arose whether it would be desirable to have a resident medical man who could, when necessary, be called upon to attend not only to the internal part of the institution, but also to the out-pensioners? In my opinion that is not very desirable. If the medical officer were to visit out cases it would necessitate his going to all kinds of fever cases, and he would have to attend the lying-in women afterwards. That would be most undesirable.
2215. Does not that apply to any medical man in general practice? Yes; but when a medical man is attending entirely to lying-in women he is always very careful. If the medical officer had to go out and attend all sorts of cases, he would be liable to bring back infection, and his duties are entirely with the lying-in women. It would be very dangerous in my opinion.
2216. Is the number in the lying-in hospital increasing? I think it remains about stationary.
2217. You know that there are other lying-in homes in Sydney? Yes; there are two.
2218. Do you consider that in a place of the importance of Sydney it is desirable to have various homes, or that these cases should be all located in one or two institutions? I think they ought all to be in one central establishment.
2219. What would be the advantage of that? You would have them under better control, and you would be able to do the work better. At one time I was in Vienna, where they have the largest lying-in institution in the world, and they found there that that system worked better in every way. The mortality is less than it otherwise would be, and I think they have the cases under better control, and there is a better system for teaching purposes.
2220. From the point of view of University students and nurses, it would be an advantage to have one great central institution? I think so.
2221. There is an isolation ward in the asylum? Yes.
2222. Do you consider that that is an element of danger? No. You must certainly have an isolation ward in every hospital.
2223. Is not this isolation ward for the children? No, not particularly. There is an isolation ward particularly for the lying-in cases. If a case came in and any infection broke out it would be placed in the isolation ward at once.
2224. As regards cases of sickness amongst children, I understood that there was an isolation ward for children? There is an isolation ward for women also. There are two. Children can be put in the women's place and infectious cases of lying-in women in another. They are entirely separate.
2225. Do you know whether there is a separate isolation ward for the boys and one for the girls? I do not think so.
2226. As regards classification, it is in evidence that these women—good, bad, and indifferent—are all together, that there is no attempt at classification;—for instance, a comparatively innocent woman may have to associate with a less reputable person;—do you think that there should be a means of classification? Yes; it is very desirable if it were possible. 2227.

- J. Foreman, Esq., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., 11 Aug., 1898.
2227. Is it possible now to any extent? I do not think so.
2228. You would require a certain number of wards? You would require separate wards; but the thing is not possible under present circumstances.
2229. Suppose you had a new hospital, with the means of proper classification, would it add very much to the expense? I do not think it would add one penny to the expense.
2230. It would be an architectural matter; it would have to be arranged in the plan of the building? I do not see how it could add to the expense, because you could keep a certain class of women in a separate ward by themselves, and another class in another ward.
2231. It is simply a matter connected with the plan of the building? Entirely.
2232. There are certain sick children who are retained in the Benevolent Asylum sometimes for considerable periods;—do you consider that that is a good place in which to keep children? I am certain that it is not.
2233. Are you aware that there are certain cottage homes for sick children at Mittagong maintained by the Government? Yes.
2234. Do you not think that as soon as these children can be moved it would be better to send them to such places as those cottage homes? Yes.
2235. You think they ought to be sent there as soon as they can be moved? I think so. The asylum is a most unsuitable building for them in every respect.
2236. It is in evidence that women are admitted to the asylum long before the time of confinement? Yes.
2237. In your opinion, is that necessary in some cases? I think it is absolutely necessary, because these unfortunates have no place to go to, and no one to keep them.
2238. That is to say, that a girl may come from the country and have nowhere to go to, so that they are almost compelled to admit her? They must do so.
2239. *Mr. Barling.*] I suppose that these women are incapable of work for a month before confinement? Absolutely. They are not fit for work for a much longer period than that, and it would be cruel to refuse them admittance.
2240. *President.*] It is in evidence that after confinement these women are retained there for many months; do you consider that there is any necessity for that;—the reasons given for it are two—first, that the more useful women do the work of the institution; and, second, that the other women are kept there because it is impossible to find employment for them;—do you know anything about that? I know that they are kept there for a long time, and the reasons given are those which you have stated, but it is not a good thing to have them there if it is possible to send them away.
2241. It would be better if there was some agency to which these women could be transferred within a certain time after confinement? Certainly.
2242. These women have nothing to do, and whilst they are there they are in sight of the children? Yes; that is the fault of the present system. What is wanted badly in a city of this size and character is a lying-in home pure and simple, with all other things dissociated in every way. There should be no children in connection with it, and no system of relief carried on at such an institution. The patients should be received just a little before confinement, and when they have recovered they should be transferred to some other place.
2243. If there was such a lying-in home as you suggest there ought to be an agency, I understand, to provide for the women up to within a short time of confinement—the women to be transferred to the institution before confinement, and as soon as they have recovered to be taken charge of again? Yes. That is what is done in Vienna. In Vienna the women go to the institution two or three weeks before confinement; then shortly after confinement they must go out, and thus the hospital is kept to its proper use and purpose, and naturally the results are good. But this hotchpotch, this higgledy-piggledy system that we have here, is the most awful that it is possible for a medical man to conceive.
2244. Have you anything else to add? Only most emphatically to say that I hope some means will be brought about to have a proper lying-in place devoted entirely to its proper uses.
2245. Do you think that the Government should assume the responsibility of such a thing as that? Most decidedly; there is no question whatever about that. It is the duty of the Government to do it.
2246. I suppose you are aware that the Government at present pay the whole cost of the lying-in home? I was not aware of it, but it is very probable. I think they ought to face the problem.
2247. You think they ought to assume the responsibility of building this home and managing it? Yes; most decidedly.
2248. Should that be made a branch of Dr. Thompson's department, the same as the Coast Hospital? I do not know sufficient about that, but it ought to be under Government control.
2249. That would mean under the control of the Chief Medical Officer? I should think so; but of course I cannot express any opinion upon that; it is the duty of the Government, in my opinion, to take over this work, and to see that it is properly and thoroughly carried out.
2250. Do you consider that in any other hands it would be liable to abuses? Well, there are several reasons why the Government should undertake the matter. Where it is in private hands, or under a private committee, there is apt to be a lot of cliquism. If the institution is under Government control, the Government have everything to say in the matter. We find Government institutions like the Little Bay Hospital, for instance, controlled in a satisfactory manner.
2251. They are liable to public criticism? Yes; they are liable to public criticism, and there can be no cliquism about it. Where the lives of women and of children are at stake, I think it most important that the Government should have absolute control.
2252. I understand that in your opinion the lying-in home should be absolutely separate, and should be under Government control? Yes.
2253. That the outdoor relief should be administered entirely apart from it? Yes; there is no question about that.
2254. And that the receiving house for women and children should also have no connection with the lying-in home? None whatever.
2255. *Mr. Barling.*] Would you propose that the Government should take such complete control as to exclude the services of honorary medical officers? No; I think they should have honorary medical officers, but I think that the appointment and the control of them should be in the hands of the Government, unless the Government appoint a committee, as it practically does in the case of the Sydney Hospital,

Hospital, of the committee of which I happen to be one of the Government members. The Government should have thorough control. They ought to appoint the whole of the committee, if they have a committee, and the Government ought to be responsible for the whole of the patients, as they are at Little Bay. The institution ought to be conducted on lines entirely similar to those on which the Little Bay Hospital is conducted, except that the lying-in home ought to be in a more accessible part, where the patients can be easily and properly attended to. The work ought to be done, as it is now, by an honorary staff. If you had a hospital of that nature, you would naturally require a house surgeon—a resident medical officer—the business to be conducted entirely on the lines of the Sydney or the Prince Alfred Hospital. To allow a thing like this to be dependent upon public subscriptions or private endowments would mean that it would always be in want of funds; it would always be striving to make ends meet in one way or another, and the results would be most unsatisfactory. Appeals would have to be made to the Government, and the Government practically would have to keep it going. The Little Bay institution is conducted in a very efficient manner, and much more economically than any of the other hospitals. If a lying-in hospital on the same lines were built in an accessible part, and the Government were to assume the whole control, having an honorary staff, I think that would be the right and proper course.

2256. I think that honorary medical men do not attend the Little Bay Hospital? It is too far away. It is left to the Government officials, because it is so far away that it is not possible for anybody to go there; but if we had a proper hospital for lying-in women, with a house surgeon and an honorary medical staff, practically appointed by the Government, I think that that would be the most efficient and the best way to deal with the matter, and I think it is only right that the city should have such an institution.

2257. The Government, I suppose, would have no difficulty in getting the services of an honorary staff? None whatever. It would be a very desirable thing to belong to an institution like that. It would be a very good appointment. There would be no difficulty whatever about the honorary staff. The only medical man who would have to be paid would be the house surgeon.

2258. Then you advocate the amalgamation of all the lying-in homes in Sydney, and their concentration in one central institution, to be controlled entirely by the Government? That is my view.

2259. Of course, you are aware that our Commission is to inquire into the charities generally, with a view to their more economical management, and we should be glad to get any suggestions from you in reference to them? I do not know sufficient about them to express any opinion as to that.

2260. *President.*] Probably, when the time comes, you may be prepared to say something about the hospitals? Yes; I might say a very great deal.

J. Foreman,
Esq.,
L.R.C.P.,
M.R.C.S.
11 Aug., 1898.

The Rev. J. J. O'Driscoll sworn and examined:—

2261. *President.*] You are the Catholic chaplain at the Benevolent Asylum? Yes.

2262. You do not know anything about the lying-in part of the Benevolent Asylum? I attend there. I may mention that the girls appear to be dressed in a very slovenly fashion. To my mind, it is rather degrading, rather demoralising, for young girls to be dressed in the way they are there.

2263. Of course, you understand that all sorts and conditions of women go there, and that it might be difficult for the management to keep them well dressed? Yes, it might be, no doubt; but I have seen some who were very tidily dressed when they were out, and the way they were dressed there formed a great contrast.

2264. Some of these women are engaged in the work of the institution, and they would naturally be more tidily dressed when you saw them in the street than they would be when at work in the asylum? Yes; but even at work they need not be so untidy and slovenly.

2265. Do you know anything about the outdoor relief system? I have from time to time met people who received relief, and I have been told by people who were assisted by that society that they were asked what religion they belonged to. There may be some reason for that, but I did not think that that question ought to be put to them.

2266. I notice that some of the authorities of your Church have stated at a public meeting that the institution made no difference in regard to its treatment of applicants for relief, and that they professed themselves perfectly satisfied with the treatment? Yes, I am perfectly satisfied; but poor people on one or two occasions have complained that the question as to their religion was asked. Another matter came under my notice lately. I was speaking to two non-Catholic children—little boys—and they remarked that whilst they could attend the services of any other church, they were not allowed to attend the Catholic services.

2267. Did you make any representation about it? None whatever, because it did not concern me. They told me that their mother often sent them to the Catholic Church when they were at home.

2268. That would be a matter more for representation to the proper authorities than to bring before us? Of course. It is not a matter that concerns me, they being non-Catholics.

2269. Have any of these poor people represented to you that they were suffering hardships from not obtaining sufficient relief? Yes; they have told me that what they got was not sufficient to support them. A case came under my notice to-day of a woman whose husband had deserted her. Because she had a husband, she said she was not allowed to get assistance from this institution.

2270. You do not know that of your own knowledge? No.

2271. *Mr. Powell.*] Do you know anything about the working of the St. Vincent de Paul Society? I do.

2272. Can you tell us anything about their methods;—do they give relief directly or by ticket? The officers of the society make inquiries, and if a person wants food they give an order on a grocer. They also pay the rent for poor people. They assist them in any way that they think will be best.

2273. Do you know whether there is any maximum amount that they give for the payment of rent? No; it all depends on the state of the funds, which are usually very low.

2274. Do you find the Benevolent Society and the St. Vincent de Paul Society sometimes giving relief in the same case? Yes; I have met with cases like that. In such cases the relief given by each society would not of itself be sufficient. One society pays the rent and the other gives an order for food.

2275. You do not think you have discovered any case of imposture? No; I have not.

2276. I believe that the St. Vincent de Paul Society is unsectarian? It is entirely unsectarian. They never ask a question about religion before relieving anyone.

2277. Does that society receive any Government subsidy? None that I know of.

Rev. J. J.
O'Driscoll.
11 Aug., 1898.

MONDAY,

MONDAY, 22 AUGUST, 1898.

[The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board at 2 o'clock p.m.]

Present:—

GEO. ALEX. WILSON, Esq., J.P. (PRESIDENT).
 JOSEPH BARLING, Esq., J.P.
 JAMES POWELL, Esq., J.P.

James Graham, M.D., M.P., sworn and examined:—

J. Graham,
 M.D., M.P.
 22 Aug., 1898.

2278. *President.*] You are one of the honorary medical advisors to the Benevolent Society? Yes.

2279. Are you aware that at the Benevolent Asylum the outdoor relief, the receiving-house for women and girls, and the lying-in hospital, are all carried on together? Yes.

2280. Are you of opinion that these three departments should be carried on by the management of the Benevolent Asylum? I have no hesitation in saying that the midwifery portion should not be there, and should not be carried on by them:—

(1.) My claim to express an opinion on this important matter rests on the following grounds:—

(a) I am intimately acquainted with the medical needs of the community, having been in active practice for the last sixteen years, and the various appointments that I have held, and do now hold, have given me every opportunity of gauging the medical requirements of the sick poor in Sydney.

(b) The appointments I refer to are:—Medical Superintendent of the Prince Alfred Hospital, Honorary Physician in charge of the out-patients at the Prince Alfred Hospital, for over five years, when I must have personally treated at least 50,000 of the sick poor. An honorary medical officer of the Benevolent Asylum. A director of the Sydney and the Prince Alfred Hospitals who has for some years taken an active share in the management of these institutions, and the teacher in midwifery at Sydney University. I was chiefly instrumental in founding the Women's Hospital in Crown-street, and act as its senior medical officer.

(c) Nine years ago I visited Europe for the special purpose of inspecting the principal midwifery hospitals there, as it was clear to me then that some radical change would have to be made in Sydney to bring this branch of its medical charity into line with modern methods, so that I trusted that my mission one day might be turned to some practical use. I am familiar with the working of midwifery hospitals in England, Ireland, Scotland, France, Germany, Austria, and Italy.

(2.) How the maternity work among the poor in Sydney has been provided for.

Provision for attending to the needs of the necessitous lying-in women in this Colony, especially in Sydney, has hitherto been of the most primitive kind, and the fact that no very great disaster has overtaken our pregnant sick poor, is to be ascribed to the mercy of Providence rather than to the forethought of man. For years past we have been well supplied with general hospital accommodation, designed and managed in the most modern and approved way. Our general hospitals, such as Prince Alfred and the Sydney, are among the best to be found this side of the equator, and they will bear comparison with any in the old country.

The reason why we are so well ahead in this respect is to be found in the fact that some few in the community have made it their hobby and their business to interest the Government and the public in the condition of our general hospitals, with the result that these institutions are replete with all modern resources, and the results of treatment therein approach the maximum point of success. No philanthropist or public-spirited person has so far taken the same interest in the maternity branch of medical charity, and what most large communities have made their first care we in Sydney have made our last.

The Sydney Benevolent Asylum up to the last few years was the only public institution that provided for the treatment of poor pregnant women. A portion of its buildings has for years been set apart for such cases, the other parts of the institution serve as a storehouse for food and clothing for distribution among the destitute, and for the housing of destitute women and children. Of these there are always a large number.

To carry on delicate scientific work, like midwifery, in an institution that also houses a large number of destitute women and children, and around which hundreds of unwashed people gather to receive doles of food, is an anomaly, and a violation of the canons of medical and surgical science.

(3.) The origin of the Women's Hospital.

When I joined the honorary staff of the Benevolent Asylum about six years ago, I took, with others, the place of a staff of paid medical officers, who had resigned because, in their opinion, the work could only be carried on in the Benevolent Asylum buildings at the risk of the lives of the lying-in women. There had been one or two serious outbreaks of puerperal fever, with a high mortality, which these gentlemen ascribed to the insanitary state of the buildings and its surroundings. At that time I found the nursing staff very crude; indeed, the nurses in several instances were women who had entered the institution themselves as pregnant patients, and had quietly assumed the role of nurses. There was no attempt at keeping an accurate record of cases, and even temperature charts were not in use.

The impression that forced itself on me was this—that while the Board of Directors of the Benevolent Asylum were decent and worthy men, who could be of great service in managing the affairs of an asylum for destitute people, they could not appreciate the difference in the management of a highly scientific department like a midwifery hospital, for the subjects were wide apart, and from the point of view of management, incongruous.

A further outbreak of puerperal fever, with a high mortality, led the Government to appoint a Commission to inquire into the whole matter, with the result that it recommended the removal of the maternity work from the Benevolent Asylum, and establishing a hospital which would deal only with maternity work and nothing else.

The present School of Industry was suggested as being a suitable building for such a purpose, and it was understood that the Directors of the School of Industry were not averse to changing their quarters.

Shortly after this there came a change of Government, and the matter lay dormant.

When no definite action seemed to come from the Government the matter was taken up by the public. A meeting was called in the Town Hall, presided over by Lady Windeyer, at which several leading citizens urged the establishment of a women's hospital for Sydney, so that poor pregnant women might receive that care and treatment such as they alone could get in a modern hospital, and thus remove the degradation of compelling them to go to a poor-house to give birth to their children. This movement led to the establishment of the present Women's Hospital, which was established to meet an urgent public necessity.

(4.) The Women's Hospital scheme, and the way the directors have carried out their work.

(a) A representative committee was appointed under the presidency of Lady Windeyer, and subsequently under Judge Backhouse, its President Chairman.

(b) A building in a central portion of the city was rented, and a plan of work closely following that adopted by the leading British hospitals has been quietly and effectively carried out.

(c) A large deputation accompanied the directors of the Women's Hospital, and laid before the Colonial Secretary the urgent need there was for providing the Women's Hospital with a building adequate to the needs of its work. That deputation represented all classes in the community, and included a large number of Members of both Houses of Parliament.

The Colonial Secretary was so impressed with the value of the work that he immediately granted the hospital the pound for pound subsidy, and recommended a special grant of £500 to procure instruments and furniture. He further promised to endeavour to procure a suitable building or a suitable site on which a suitable building could be erected. On the promise of the Colonial Secretary the directors of the Women's Hospital had prepared plans of a building which it was considered would answer the purpose. These plans the Commissioners examined at their recent visit. J

I may add that we have already had several promises of substantial donations from citizens as soon as we are in a position to announce our plan and see our way for erecting a permanent structure. J. Graham, M.D., M.P.

So far the expenses of the Women's Hospital have been met by public subscription and by fees derived from training nurses and students; the assistance received from the Government has been used for the purpose of procuring furniture and surgical instruments. 22 Aug., 1898.

Financially, it has been well supported by the public, and that it has met the needs of that class whom it is designed to help, the hospital statistics afford abundant proof, and are unique of their kind from the point of view of high rate of complete recoveries.

The plan of work followed may be briefly given as follows:—

(1.) An outdoor department, or what is called in the European hospitals "the externe." This branch of work embraces the treatment of poor parturient women at their own homes. It provides them with the comfort of a skilled obstetric nurse and medical assistance when such is necessary.

This branch of work had been entirely neglected in Sydney until the Women's Hospital took it up, and the proof that it was urgently needed is to be seen the fact that this year 500 poor women applied for assistance. It might be asked how were these women provided for in former times, before the Women's Hospital came to their assistance? They were allowed to do the best they could, or were dependent on the charitable assistance the medical profession gave them; but I would point out that our general hospitals have always been largely filled by a class of women who sought admission for surgical assistance—for the repair of injuries incidental to child-bearing life—especially where such births were conducted without the aid of skilled nursing or medical assistance. I would further point out that such cases constitute the most expensive class in the general hospitals, the reason being that from the nature of the injuries they take a long time to recover; the operations that they have to undergo are often extensive and delicate, and compel them to be kept in bed for a long period. As the Government had these patients for the most part to keep in hospital, the expense from this cause alone must have been very great, and an institution conducted as the Women's Hospital is will necessarily lead to a large saving in this direction. Moreover, it will tend to reduce the average length of illness in the case of a poor lying-in woman, and that means untold benefit to her children and to the household. Experience goes to prove that while nature in most cases is quite equal to manage a woman in labour without any skilled assistance, still among those who do not get that assistance there are very many who get into a chronic state of ill-health, and so become a charge upon the State.

Another important aspect of this externe department is that it affords excellent opportunities for training the obstetric nurse amidst surroundings such as she will have to work under when she follows that calling as a means of living.

A nurse only trained in the hospital in this subject has not the opportunity for becoming generally useful; the additional advantages of nursing as learned in the patient's house makes her more full of ready resource.

During the time the Women's Hospital has been established over 200 women have sought and obtained the benefit of such training. Many of these women who for years had carried on the calling of "midwives" without any previous instruction in the art.

As a result of such a state of things, as a body of ignorant women being allowed to follow a skilled calling, I believe has been that the mortality of newly-born infants and lying-in women must have greatly increased beyond what it should have been.

The Women's Hospital has done its best to displace these dangerous Sarah Gamps by giving the public a supply of intelligent and properly instructed obstetric nurses. Personally, I am endeavouring to further safeguard the public by getting a Bill through Parliament that will cause all such nurses to be registered.

(2.) The Women's Hospital has also established an indoor department consisting of two branches. The one is set apart for the reception of pregnant women whose cases are complicated from any cause, and those who have no home of their own. The other branch is set apart for the treatment of those cases who suffer from surgical injuries incidental to child-bearing, and which in the past have formed the most expensive and the most numerous type of female patients in the general hospitals.

In regard to the indoor branch for pregnant women, so far as the space would permit of judicious classification, an attempt has been made to follow a system that provides for the treatment of married and single women in separate wards. In the Benevolent Asylum they are all warded together.

The wards set apart for the surgical cases are far too small. There are generally very many cases waiting their turn. As a matter of fact, if the Board said, "We will devote the whole of the hospital to these cases," it would be filled straight away. Under proper supervision, with skilled nursing and medical care, there would be fewer such cases. If a woman is injured during her confinement some one is responsible as a rule. It is an exceptional thing if she does suffer injury. If she is left to the rough and ready assistance of a woman who knows nothing about her business, she may be injured, and may become a burden upon the State as the result.

2281. *Mr. Powell.*] By teaching women to nurse you will prevent that sort of thing? Yes.

2282. *Mr. Barling.*] And you not only prevent it in the houses of the poorer classes, but in all sections of society? Yes, obviously.

2283. *President.*] You mentioned that in the Benevolent Asylum the lying-in women are all warded together;—it is not possible to separate them, is it? In the past, whilst this work has been carried on largely by the Benevolent Asylum, there has really been no intelligent effort made to guide it in a scientific way, the Society have been so burdened with the tremendous work of providing for the destitute women and children that the maternity portion seems a kind of something thrown in, which they simply had to look after. They have not risen to a conception of its scientific importance. It has been allowed to drag along as best it could. The fact that for years they never had any charts, and took no records, and allowed pregnant women to take up the *role* of nurses, proves that they did not attach any great scientific importance to the work; neither could they, seeing that this business was taken up in connection with the work of affording relief to the destitute on a large scale. The task of placing this special charity on a proper and scientific basis seems to me to be now a very simple one. The establishment of the Women's Hospital has really made the matter a very simple problem for the Government to solve. In the Women's Hospital there is all the machinery of a complete and scientific maternity hospital; and only a larger building is wanted to bring it into line with our general hospitals, and make it worthy of the Colony. I believe the work could be conducted in a much more economical manner than it has been done in the past. As the Women's Hospital it would have a strong claim on the public for support, and it should become largely self-supporting. The money that is voted by Parliament to the Benevolent Asylum is largely swallowed up by the maternity branch, and its other important department, viz., the relief of the destitute, is thereby seriously impoverished. My view of the matter is this: that the Benevolent Asylum should conduct that very important branch of work which deals with the reception of destitute people until otherwise provided for; that it should be the centre where the destitute can get relief. In other words, that it should continue to perform its present important functions, with the exception of the lying-in work; that should be done by the Women's Hospital. That institution could do it in a much more inexpensive way, in a much more efficient way, and in a way that would be more in keeping with its scientific and medical importance, and in a manner worthy of this country.

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2284. *Mr. Barling.*] Do the nurses who go out remain at the houses of the patients during the whole time of the patient's sickness? They remain during the whole time of labour, and systematic visits are made during the time that they are ill.

2285. I suppose the nurses go to the better-class patients too? Yes; they do.

2286. Of course, those patients will have to pay? They do.

2287. You do not think that a lying-in institution could be made self-supporting? A person seldom goes into the Prince Alfred Hospital without being able to contribute a little. Most patients give a little. They feel that it is their duty to contribute something if even only a shilling or two or 10s. a week or something of that kind. But once patients enter the Benevolent Asylum they are considered to be recipients of poor-house relief, and therefore you do not get anything out of them. But if patients entered a maternity hospital carried on under public auspices like the Sydney Hospital or Prince Alfred Hospital, a certain revenue would be obtained from them which would go towards supporting the hospital. That is what happens in the case of the general hospitals.

2288. You would be much more likely to obtain a revenue from the patients if you had a separate institution? You would get it without any difficulty.

2289. *President.*] Suppose the Government agreed to consider this proposal do you think it would be taken up in a vigorous way by the profession and the public? It would. The profession have been waiting with open mouth wondering who was going to take up this work. There is a universal feeling amongst the profession that we are far behindhand in regard to this work. Somebody is wanted to set the thing going. It was with the view of giving the thing a start that the Women's Hospital was established. It is far from what it should be as regards size, but it was considered that if it was started there would be a *raison d'être* that would justify an appeal to the public to complete the work.

2290. Would the public be likely to respond? I think so, from the fact that we have already had numerous offers of support, but no one will give donations until there is proof that we have really made a start towards erecting a permanent building.

2291. I suppose you are aware that at present the cost of the lying-in home at the Benevolent Asylum falls on the Government? Yes. On the other hand, as a proof of what I contend, the whole cost of conducting the midwifery work in the Women's Hospital has been defrayed by public subscription, and the money from the Government has gone to furnish the building and buy instruments. We have not spent a farthing of Government money on our patients.

2292. You would take the particular site that you have mentioned? Yes; the School of Industry.

2293. In your opinion is the site sufficiently convenient and central? Yes. For work of this kind it must be within easy reach of the densely-populated centres. It should be as nearly as possible in the heart of the city. That is the situation of the lying-in hospitals in every city that I know.

2294. That site would answer your requirements? Yes, admirably.

2295. About the building, is it entirely suitable? The present building of course would not be adequate. As it stands, it would be a fairly good building for administrative purposes, but there would have to be a wing set out on each side. There is plenty of space for the buildings. There are 3 acres of land there, and it seems a pity that such a space in that position should not be put to a better use than it is at present.

2296. Having wings on either side would help towards the classification of the patients? Yes, very much. It would give ample opportunity for classification in the most approved way.

2297. What about the surroundings, are they in every way desirable? There is nothing unfavourable in the surroundings to an institution of this kind. There would be no young girls about. Most of the patients would be in bed, and when able to get up they would be removed. There would be no permanent dwellers as it were in the institution; the patients would only be there for a fortnight and then pass out. As far as the surroundings are concerned I do not think that they are such as would militate against the institution in the slightest degree.

2298. I was referring more to the nature of the buildings in the neighbourhood;—there is a gaol on one side? Yes; but there is never any noise.

2299. There are a church and a school at the other end? Yes; but they are quiet.

2300. And there is a hospital below? Yes; but there is no dense thoroughfare passing by. No leading thoroughfare, and you do not get the sound from the main street. It is a secluded spot well adapted for the purpose.

2301. As regards University purposes, I presume that the place would be convenient enough? Absolutely. As a matter of fact the present building, the Benevolent Asylum, is most unsuitable. You have to send twenty or thirty young men there into a building where there is no proper accommodation for them. Recently an empty room has been given to them, but before that they used to hang about day and night waiting till a case came off. The youths board outside, but wait and sleep on the premises. It is not a nice thing to have these young men about the building, where there are all sorts of women going about, and women of a most undesirable class, so that from the point of view of the University the building is a most undesirable one. I have begun a system of taking the young men up in batches to Crown-street, putting them into boarding-houses there, and conducting the work in the Women's Hospital, but from the point of view of the University the School of Industry would be admirable. There would be a portion of the building set apart for a number of resident students who do the work. I was in Melbourne some time ago and I found that there they take two students every six weeks all the year round.

2302. In your opinion, is the Melbourne Hospital up to date? Yes; it is the pride of the Melbourne people.

2303. They have no outdoor relief department connected with it? No; I think not. If you talk to the people at Melbourne they all know about it, and they all take a great interest in the institution. The year before last the cry was raised that they would have to shut up one of the wards for want of funds, and immediately a sum of £4,000 was raised. They take an intense interest in the institution. It is beautifully kept and it is visited by the ladies of Melbourne, so that the public sentiment around it is very strong.

2304. You think it would be equally so here? I am sure of it. It is one of those things which would rapidly appeal to public sentiment.

2305. You think that the carrying out of this proposal would be a great reform? I think it a very urgent and desirable reform, and one that would please the public immensely.

2306.

2306. Do you think there is much in the argument which might be used against it—that children born in the Asylum would be practically born in a poorhouse? No. Of course, it is a very unpleasant thing for anyone to find out when he grows up that his birth-place was a poorhouse, but when one comes to learn that he was born in a hospital that is a different matter entirely. There is no doubt that we should regard the Maternity Hospital as being to some extent just as much a hospital as the Sydney and Prince Alfred Hospitals. J. Graham,
M.D., M.P.
22 Aug., 1898.
2307. As a public hospital? Yes. You cannot take away the fact that there is a certain stigma attached to the fact of a person being born in a poorhouse.
2308. *Mr. Powell.*] That stigma exists now as far as the Benevolent Asylum is concerned? I have been called in to attend poor women who had to lie on the floor, and I have asked them why they would not go to the Benevolent Asylum, and the answer was that they could not allow their children to be born in a poorhouse. They lay on the floor, and refused to go to the Benevolent Asylum for that reason. The women in such cases were certainly risking their lives.
2309. You think they would rather go to a hospital if they had to pay even the small sum of 5s.? Yes, and the women would get better more quickly, and in that way, directly or indirectly, the State would be benefited.
2310. And the woman would not have the mental anguish of knowing that her child was born in a poorhouse? No.
2311. *President.*] Is there a Committee in charge of the Crown-street hospital? Yes; a committee consisting of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and other members elected by the public. It is purely a public institution.
2312. What was the amount of the public contributions for last year? £143.
2313. Is any special effort made to collect money? None at all. We also get a large amount of money in fees for teaching, which goes into the funds.
2314. Have you received any special grant from the Government besides the ordinary subsidy? We got £500 for instruments and furniture.
2315. I understand that the fees paid defray a considerable portion of the cost of the establishment? Yes; and they ought to do. In every institution of that kind the officers should work for nothing. These are sources of revenue which keep the place going.
2316. Do you know whether the operations of the Crown-street establishment have very much decreased the operations of the Benevolent Asylum? Very much. There is one important aspect in regard to that, and it is this: Recently the Benevolent Society thought they would try the experiment of establishing an external branch. They got one or two casual cases, but no one ever thinks of being assisted by a poorhouse when they can get assistance at a properly-equipped institution. We get thirty or forty a month.
2317. What is the usual period of residence? About fourteen days.
2318. I suppose you are aware that at the Benevolent Asylum the women remain for months, and even years? Yes; one or two women I have seen there during the whole of the time that I have been going and coming.
2319. It is in evidence that there are about twenty-nine women there for whom they cannot find employment;—how would you suggest that they should be dealt with? The women who go into the maternity hospital should be regarded in the same light as women who go into a general hospital. They come for the treatment of their illness, and once that is over, and they have recovered, it is for them to look out for a home. In the case of a man in the Prince Alfred Hospital, if a man says that he has nowhere to go he is sent to one of the asylums.
2320. The proper course with the women would be to send them to Newington? Yes.
2321. And with regard to children? They ought to be dealt with by the State Children Relief Department.
2322. Up to what age should the mother have the care of the child? Up to the school age.
2323. The mother of the child should be sent to Newington, and the child should be taken away after having been weaned? Unless she can provide a home or her friends can do that for her. There should be little difficulty about it. That question would solve itself in the case of a women's hospital.
2324. It would in the case of a women's hospital, but not in the case of the Benevolent Asylum? No; if a woman goes into the Benevolent Asylum, and says she is unmarried, and yet pregnant, she has upon her the stigma of having an illegitimate child, and she gets into a moping condition in some cases, and seems to never want to show her face to the world again.
2325. *Mr. Barling.*] When we were at your institute, you showed us that you had given considerable attention to the question of the cost of the proposed building to be used for a maternity hospital? Yes.
2326. Could you give us a rough idea of what it would cost to add two wings to the School of Industry? I think a sum of £5,000 should do it.
2327. Would that be sufficient to build the two wings and put them in proper order? Yes. The type of building that is wanted for a work of that kind has to be very simple. It should be a building which you would look forward to demolishing. The first principle of a women's hospital is that it must not be too old, and it must be easily demolished, because the germs of putrefaction, puerperal germs, if allowed to get a hold in women's hospitals, will play havoc. In Berlin, in a women's hospital which had got too old, 300 women were carried off.
2328. How many beds should be provided to start the thing in a proper way? From sixty to 100. Sixty should be ample for present needs, and there should be a portion set apart for special cases.
2329. There should be thirty beds in each wing? Yes; provided that you carry on your external department. That would be essential. If you did not do that you would have these women flocking to the hospital.
2330. *President.*] Do you mean that sixty should be accommodated in the wings, and a certain number in the central part of the building? Yes; I think the present building as it stands is a little too big for administration. Some portion could be utilised for classification purposes.
2331. The matron states that she can accommodate forty-eight girls? Yes; but they are a little too crowded. You have to give each lying-in patient 2,000 cubic feet of air. They have nothing like that there; they are huddled together.

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2332. *Mr. Barling.*] A great deal would have to be done to put the Darlinghurst building right? Yes. The drains would have to be seen to and the place would have to be thoroughly cleansed. They have a hole dug in the ground for a bath-room, and the children go down into the black hole, as they call it. The place would have to be thoroughly modernised. The first essentials are air, light, and perfect cleanliness.

2333. *Mr. Powell.*] The whole cost of the lying-in branch of the Benevolent Asylum is borne by the Government? That is so.

2334. And that is the only hospital in Sydney where the whole cost is defrayed by the Government? It is.

2335. Do they, as far as your experience goes, in any way interfere with the professional management? No. They have always carried out our suggestions. The old staff rather assumed an attitude, not of hostility, but of firmness, towards the Board, which the Board resented. They said, "You must do something at once." They objected to that, and said, "We have done everything, and made the place clean."

2336. None of the funds subscribed by the public for the Benevolent Society are applied to the lying-in branch? I believe that they have a collector in connection with the Benevolent Society, but there is never any appeal made for that special branch, so far as I know.

2337. We are told that the full cost is defrayed by the Government? Practically so.

2338. Do you propose in any alteration that you suggest that the institution would remain as a sort of mixed institution, partly supported directly by the public, and indirectly supported by the public through the Government? No. I think it ought to be entirely supported by the Government. I think that work of the kind which the Benevolent Society is expected to do should be essentially pauper work.

2339. In that case it appears to me that the pauper stigma, which you consider undesirable, would remain if the new institution had this mixed support from the public by contributions, and was managed in the same way as others? You are talking of the purely benevolent portion of the work.

2340. I am speaking of the midwifery portion. As it is now the Government support the whole institution;—supposing the Government took away the Benevolent Asylum, would you have the lying-in hospital as a mixed institution, partly supported by public subscriptions and assisted by the Government? I think that, as far as possible, it should be supported by the public, because, after all, we lean too much upon the Government in these things. This is a thing which ought to have a strong claim upon the public.

2341. As the Benevolent Asylum is wholly supported by the Government, under your proposal, if private subscribers would assist to pay the expenses, the Government would virtually save by assisting you? I think it would be a very great saving.

2342. And the mothers would be better attended to, and at a less cost to the Government? Yes. I think the work which the Benevolent Society should do should be of that kind which is generally conducted by the parochial authorities in the old country.

2343. *President.*] And which the Government should not directly do? No.

2344. It is arranged by the Government that they shall not under any circumstances give outdoor relief directly, but there is the Benevolent Society to do it? Yes; that ought to be their function. It is utterly foreign to all conception of medical propriety to have dirty children and dirty women coming into a building which approximates a department where the very presence of dirt or contagious matter means death to those women. The fact that we have had no epidemic recently has been due to our extra vigilance. To show how treacherous the thing is, I may mention that when I joined the staff of the Benevolent Society we urged the directors to take another place altogether, because the building was evidently saturated with germs, and they removed us to Flood's house in Flinders-street; but we were no sooner there than the epidemic broke out in that building. I was puzzled to know how it was, but on making inquiries I found that the attendants were the old nurses, and those nurses had little notion of antiseptics. In a week we lost eight women there. We have had nothing of the kind since, because we have been scrupulously careful, introducing the chart system and a proper kind of nurses, who are instructed in regard to antiseptics, and who know the *rationale* of the matter. The result is that we have kept the thing in check. If we were to revert to the old system that we found there we should soon have the epidemic again.

2345. *Mr. Powell.*] Do you give certificates to your nurses? First of all, we are careful to select the proper type of woman before we train her. We see that she has a certain degree of intelligence, that she can read and write, that she is a woman of good moral character; then she goes through a series of systematic lectures, and she has to take charge of so many lying-in women. Afterwards these women have to submit to an examination oral, and *visa voce*. We have special examiners and they report as to the fitness of the persons examined. If the candidates come up to a certain standard they get a certificate. Some fail, and to those we do not give certificates. We look carefully to the standard of knowledge that they possess before we grant a certificate.

2346. I suppose that it is necessary that you should have some legislative enactment? The Board think that something might be done by legislation which would have the effect of causing all these women who claim the title of midwife to be placed on a register, and to come under some supervision.

2347. And that no person should be allowed to practice without? That no person should be allowed to claim the title of midwife unless she had a certificate and was registered. You can hardly prevent a woman from going to assist a neighbour; but if a woman who lays claim to the title of midwife is employed by a confiding public, on the strength of that title, she ought to be registered.

2348. *Mr. Barling.*] The Registrar-General finds it necessary to record the fact of all the medical practitioners being duly qualified;—would not the same apply to nurses? It ought to be so. I have a Bill before Parliament now, which I introduced on the last sitting day, with the object of affording protection to the public. An untrained midwife may easily be the means of bringing death to a woman in this way: she is ignorant as to how to control bleeding, which may be fatal to a lying-in woman. A woman may die almost in a second, because the floodgates whence the blood flows are enormous. On the other hand, no lying-in woman should lose her life from hemorrhage if she is properly attended to. If she does, there is something like criminality on the part of the attendant. Then a woman is very susceptible to contagion in that condition, and she is in great danger if attended by a nurse who does not know the difference between a dirty instrument and a clean one. Sydney has been deluged with these women for years, and no systematic effort has been made to deal with the question. Because no one likely

liked to interfere with the Benevolent Asylum the matter has been hanging fire. We used to say, "They will do something some day"; but they have done nothing. The only man on the Board who could reasonably be expected to know something about the matter is the President, Sir Arthur Renwick. The others are worthy men, fit to carry on a work like providing food for the destitute, but they have no conception of the importance of a subject like this.

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2349. *Mr. Powell.*] I suppose that few families have escaped the consequences of the ignorance of these women? Very few. The consequences are appalling sometimes. A little instruction removes the possibility of their recurrence. We have done good work by providing the country with a class of women who are qualified to nurse. To show that our work is appreciated, I may mention that we get young women applying to us who want instruction from Melbourne, South Australia, Queensland, Tasmania, and even from New Guinea and Fiji; so that evidently our fame has travelled far and wide.

2350. *Mr. Barling.*] What fees do you charge? We encourage them to come by charging a merely nominal fee, so that we may justify our existence, and provide the public with a safeguard. Three guineas was the charge in the first instance, and we treated them for six months, the nurses boarding themselves. We have since raised the charge to 4 guineas. Of course, the nurses who live indoors have to pay for their board, and that comes to a little more. Besides that, we not only instruct the nurse in the bare elements of obstetric nursing, but we give her a turn at the wards where the injured are, so that she will know what happens to a woman from neglect; therefore she is doubly armed.

2351. *Mr. Powell.*] Unless you can get this proposed legislation, the Mrs. Gamps will be too strong for you? No; the public is awaking to the fact that there is something in the art of nursing after all, and especially as applied to midwifery. People in all parts of the city apply to us for trained nurses.

2352. *Mr. Barling.*] The question of the overlapping of charities has, of course, come under your attention. We have taken a good deal of evidence on the point, and the suggestion has been made that there should be a general Board appointed to take the oversight of all the charities? Yes.

2353. Have you ever thought the matter over? Yes. Of course, you know that Mr. Reid brought an organization society into existence, but it has always appeared to me—and I attended one or two meetings of that committee—that any organization is helpless unless it has the authority of law behind it. If such a society is to do any good it should be appointed by the Government, and it should have absolute control over the funds provided by the Government.

2354. There should be a general body having control of the charities of the Colony which are subsidised by the Government? Yes.

2355. What kind of a body should that be—should it be composed of Government officers? No; I think it should be a Board very much like the Board of Health. There you have one permanent officer who presides; then you have six or seven men who are respected in the community, and who possess a reasonable knowledge of the work. The Board might sit systematically once a week or so. It ought to be a Board of that kind.

2356. And that body should have practically the distribution of the Government subsidies to charities? I think so. Every little charity goes to the Government now, and gets assistance; but every farthing which goes to any charity ought to filter through some such Board as that.

2357. Could you get gentlemen on the Board who would give their time to that—gentlemen like yourself? I think there should be no difficulty, but I do not think you would get them to take the trouble to form a Board of that kind unless they had authority from the State to deal with the matter in an effectual way.

2358. That is to say, they should have the power of saying yes or no? Yes; they would have to be men of discreet judgment who would not interfere with the administration of any building, but who would have a right to criticise and report to the Government in reference to any defect in connection with any institution subsidised by the Government.

2359. *President.*] It would be a Board that would be the means of administering the subsidy? It ought to be that. Little organizations have arisen from time to time, and they have written to the Colonial Secretary, or they have got a member to apply, and they have received a £ per £ subsidy. That is how it has all grown up.

2360. Would you have a permanent official at the head of the Board? No; I think you ought to have a permanent secretary, but all the members of the Board should be honorary. It should be a small Board, worked very much like the Board of Health.

2361. We are using the word charity in a wider sense than you are using it—we include not only charities proper, but also the asylums and gaols? Of course that means a great work. It would have to be undertaken by men who could devote their whole time to it. If, however, you could map out a certain line of charities, such as hospitals, the Benevolent Society, and all those institutions which receive Government aid apart from the purely Government institution, such as gaols, I think you might get people to do the work. You might get the work done in the metropolitan area in that way.

2362. Would not a Board of this kind do—one comprising the Director of Charities, the Comptroller-General of Prisons, the Inspector-General of Insane, and the President of the Board of Health? Yes. The only fault of that would be that it would be so essentially a Government Board that there would be apt to be grumbling on the part of disappointed institutions and the public. I think that a lay Board, properly selected, is a better type of Board for work of that sort, although what you suggest would be a very strong Board, and could do their work well. I think that the introduction of the lay element, and as much as possible the honorary element, would commend itself more effectually to the community. Of course, if you are going to have a Board of that kind, there is no reason why they should not have the supervision of all the charities.

2363. *Mr. Powell.*] If the funds are supplied by the Government, does it not discourage the public from subscribing? Yes. It has always seemed to me a farce that an institution like the Sydney Hospital should receive huge Government aid and be allowed to spend it in any way they liked without any checking or controlling authority. Recently matters have been more carefully looked into; but my own experience is that in the past they have simply sent in returns and got the money, and the Board have spent the money any way they liked. They may have spent the money well—I do not say that they have not—but there has been a want of control on the part of the Government.

2364. *President.*] In the reports sent, in that is one of the recommendations—that where the Government subsidises an institution, the Government should have a right to enter and consider the propriety of the expenditure?

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expenditure? Of course they had some form of supervision. Some years ago there was an officer called the Inspector of Charities—Mr. Robison. He used to go and formally walk round the hospital and write a report, but no steps were taken to carry out the suggestions he made. Of course you must leave as much as possible to the institutions the feeling that they are run by the public. At the same time, whilst they are run by the public, if they are receiving Government assistance that assistance should only come to them through a Board that has taken the trouble to carefully scrutinise their methods of management. If anything is done by an institution that is deemed to be an offence in the eyes of the Board, then the subsidy should be withheld in a proper way.

2365. *Mr. Powell.*] It is an extraordinary position. Take your institution: suppose you have 300 subscribers at £1 a year; they can attend meetings, pass resolutions, and do what they please; but the Government who subscribe £300 are not represented? No. Under the present system, in some cases there are Government nominees on the Board, but the system has not proved satisfactory. I am a Government nominee of the Sydney Hospital Board, but to my knowledge the Government have sent as nominees men who were absolutely of no assistance to us. This has been in the exercise of political patronage. That is where the evil of the Government nominee system comes in. At the Prince Alfred Hospital things have been managed differently, because fortunately the right sort of men got hold of the management. The result is, that we have there an institution that is almost perfect in its management, and which will compare with any other institution of its kind. I do not know of one that is better managed. You have the Sydney Hospital, with a huge Board which is like a small Parliament, consisting of Government nominees, and the result is that the thing is not so well managed. If the Government could be conscientious, and make the appointments a serious matter, it would be all right.

2366. *President.*] The great thing is for the Auditor-General to be able to send an inspector, at any time, to question the propriety of every item of expenditure? Yes.

2367. *Mr. Barling.*] Have you ever taken into consideration the fixing of the fees to be charged by the nurses you have trained; I ask that question, because certain classes of our population are in poor circumstances, and yet are quite able to pay for assistance of that kind, but they cannot afford to pay the very heavy fees that the nurses generally charge; have you ever thought whether you could lay down a certain scale of fees for efficient nurses? As a matter of fact that aspect of the question should right itself. There is such a plethora of trained nurses that there should be no difficulty in a poor man or woman getting a nurse at almost their own figure. I have never had any difficulty in putting trained nurses into houses at figures which the parties could afford to pay; 10s., 15s., and £1 a week would be about the average. The ordinary nurse asks two guineas a week, which is more than some can afford. I have put dozens of nurses into houses for 15s. and £1 a week, and they have willingly gone.

2368. If it is understood by the population that there is an institution to apply to, and that there nurses will be assigned to them at certain fees, that would be a great public convenience? We have done that at the Women's Hospital. When anyone has sent for a nurse we have supplied them; and if the parties were poor we have let them pay what they could—5s. or 10s. a week—and the money has gone to the funds of the institution.

2369. The class to whom I am alluding are persons with £100 or £200 a year to whom the payment of six or eight guineas for a nurse would be a terrible tax; if they could send to an institution such as you speak of, and get a qualified nurse at a certain rate, it would be a great boon to a large portion of the community? What I should like to impress upon you is this, that in the future hospital which will undertake maternity work, the work should be as largely as possible self-supporting. It ought to be a public institution as much as possible. Of course you can hardly expect it to start from its own efforts; it would have to receive some Government aid, but it ought in time to become a first charge upon the charity of the public.

2370. What I suggest is, that the people might be able to send to the institution, where they would get a respectable nurse at a very moderate rate? Yes. Of course other institutions have risen, but I do not think that one need take them seriously, because you will have them whether you have a well established public institution or not. Every church organisation has its fad, and if they care to pay for it one cannot object.

2371. *President.*] Your scheme would be for a great central institution? Yes; and to provide all the machinery for a great organisation.

[The evidence from Question 2372 to 3195, inclusive, relates to Institutions other than the Benevolent Society, and will be printed with a subsequent Report.]

THURSDAY, 24 NOVEMBER, 1898.

[The Commission met at the Offices of the Public Service Board at 9-30 a.m.]

Present:—

G. A. WILSON, Esq., J.P. (President).
JAMES POWELL, Esq., J.P.

The Acting Director of Government Asylums was also present.

E. Maxted further examined:—

E. Maxted. 3196. *President.*] We are very much startled, Mr. Maxted, by the increase in the number of outdoor relief cases from 1891 to 1897 of 147 per cent. as against an increase of 18 per cent. in the population; the number of "husbands sick and afflicted" in 1897 is 604, against 372 in the previous year? I may say, in reply to your remarks, that this matter was pointed out to me by your Secretary some considerable time back, and I thought well over the matter, and endeavoured to arrive at something like a reasonable conclusion as to the cause; and I must say, I find myself unable to arrive at any satisfactory

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satisfactory conclusion. I regarded it at the time as a difficult social problem to solve. The only possible conclusion I can arrive at is that it may be within the bounds of possibility that stringent measures have been taken at the various Government Asylums of later years to ascertain whether the inmates should be discharged or whether they should be retained; and if the discharges of later years have been abnormally large, compared with former years, and these people have left the institutions and come down to the Benevolent Society for outdoor relief, that may to a large extent account for the increase. E. Maxted.
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3197. That is a hypothesis, of course? Yes; merely a passing thought. Then another thought is passing through my mind, which is also merely a matter of theory. As I stated before, I am practically unable to answer the question reasonably, but a point that I think might be investigated is: Have more stringent measures of later years been adopted to prevent persons from entering the Government Asylums? Because if such measures have been adopted, it is reasonable to assume that these refusals to admit persons to the institutions have resulted in these particular persons coming down to the Benevolent Asylum for relief.

3198. We could soon test that by the evidence of the Government Medical Officer; these, of course, are assumptions? Mere assumptions. As to giving anything of value in the form of evidence, I am unable to do so.

3199. If the wave of poverty is an explanation, the increase should show, of course, in other charitable agencies? To which agencies do you refer?

3200. Take, for instance, Government Asylums; it should show all round;—inmates of Government Asylums have increased only 28 per cent. in five years? It is merely a theory. I was going to say, with regard to the popular scheme of old-age pensions which is being floated, it is also possible that persons, instead of going into Government institutions, are waiting for the passing of this scheme, and are meanwhile managing to subsist on a small amount of outdoor relief instead of entering the Government institutions.

3201. That is only a theory? Yes; but I think that the old-age pension proposal must affect the question to some limited extent.

3202. Of course it would have to be a very large extent to account for it. *To Mr. Hanson*: Is there anything within your knowledge to lead you to believe that any stringent or exacting conditions now exist in regard to admission or discharge from the asylums? No.

3203. Are they subject to more stringent conditions with regard to being kept than they were in the past? No, sir.

3204. They are occasionally reviewed so as to see whether they are proper inmates? Yes; as to whether they are able to work.

3205. *To Mr. Maxted*: Then that is all the information you can give? That is all. I am sorry to say that I cannot help the Commission further.

MONDAY, 28 NOVEMBER, 1898.

[*The Commission met at the office of the Public Service Board at 9.30 a.m.*]

Present:—

G. A. WILSON, Esq., J.P. (President).
JAMES POWELL, Esq., J.P.

The Acting Director of Government Asylums was also present.

E. Maxted further examined:—

3206. *President*.] Have you given any further thought to the matter of the increase in the outdoor relief? I have been thinking over it a great deal. I have telephoned to the Sydney Hospital to see if there has been an increase in the outdoor cases during the past three or four years, and the Secretary said he would send me the information. So far as 1898 is concerned, there has been a most extraordinary increase in the number of cases of sickness, and I was wondering whether there had been the same in 1896 and 1897. E. Maxted.
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3207. The Medical Officer of the Government, Dr. Payton, who comes in contact with such cases, says there was not. With regard to admissions and discharges at the Government Asylums, to which reference was made the other day, statistics supplied by the Department of Charities show that there was nothing abnormal in the numbers? *Witness, after examining the figures*: There is nothing extraordinary about the figures—they are quite normal.

3208. In reference to the cases of "husbands sick and afflicted," do you think there is anything wrong with your classification? I think not. I have gone thoroughly into the matter with the officer who classifies the cases, and he says he has made no difference in the method of classification right throughout.

3209. Supposing even that there had been a large number of discharges at the Government Asylums, the pressure would be on the robust, who perhaps would be likely to be in a position to earn some money, they would not be the sick and afflicted? I think it is possible they might not be eligible for retention, and yet not be able entirely to maintain themselves, and they come to us for help.

3210. But they would not be the sick or afflicted? There are a very large number of middle-aged people taken into the Asylum. If they were sick they might not be able wholly to support themselves, but they could earn a little.

3211. Those turned out of the Asylum are comparatively robust? Comparatively.

3212. Would not the proper classification be "aged destitute men?" Not unless they were over 60. If they were not 60 and ailing—not proper subjects for an institution—we should call them "sick and afflicted men."

3213. However, you cannot solve the matter of the increase at all? I cannot. I can see at a glance there is nothing extraordinary about the Asylum figures, so the theory entirely breaks down.

3214. *Mr. Powell*.] Did this matter of the great increase engage the attention of your Board at all? Not particularly in any section, but the question of the increase generally has been a matter of most anxious thought.

3215.

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3215. Was the increase in the number of "husbands sick and afflicted" dealt with by the Board? No; only so far as the whole increase is concerned.
3216. Did you call attention to it yourself? No, I did not. I have called attention to the increase as a whole.
3217. I think you told us you did not notice it? I did not until the figures were brought under my notice by your Secretary. Still, to define a cause would be outside of my capacity, just as much as to define a cause for the general increase.
3218. *President.*] In regard to the "husbands sick and afflicted," could you not have got someone to go over the cases; suppose, for argument, you found a hundred of the cases came from other colonies, that would throw light upon the matter; not to make some investigation seems to me extraordinary? The whole of the cases on the books are taken at the end of the year and classified. The officer brings them to me, and shows me his balance of the number he has classified with the number on the books, and I see that it is within the bounds of reason. With regard to the causes of the increase, it is quite outside my power to make a discovery.
3219. Did you adopt a different way of classifying in 1897? The same system has been adopted right through.

APPENDIX.

REPORTS ON Cases visited of Outdoor Relief recipients.

CASES OF DISTRESS AT "HART'S BUILDINGS."

HART'S Buildings, off Gloucester-street, Church Hill, were visited by a member of this Commission without previous notice. The object of this visit was to see two Benevolent Asylum out-pensioners. Hart's Buildings consist of about sixteen, more or less, dilapidated tenements in a confined, low-lying, dirty square, which is the common yard of the neighbourhood. The day was cold and gloomy. The square was like a vault. In summer it must resemble a furnace. There were a number of little children playing in this unwholesome spot. In a house of two very small rooms, for which 6s. 6d. a week rent is paid, reside three old dames, whose combined ages are 210 years. The tenant is Mrs. G. aged 70, who has been a widow sixteen years. She has no children. In consequence of an accident she has been crippled since 11th May; and, judging from her apparent helplessness, is likely to remain so for some time. She is otherwise healthy. She receives relief from St. Vincent de Paul Society, in provisions, to the value of 1s. 6d. a week, which are issued by local tradesmen on the Society's ticket. "It's a handy way of getting [food]," she said; "because when they know what you are, they make you a ha'porth of salt or a penn'orth of soap, and you can get a little of anything you want." She does not receive help from any other charitable society. She applied to a Benevolent Asylum inspector who, she alleges, said she could not obtain relief there unless she went for it personally. Her "greatest trouble is the rent." She managed to get along by letting the upstairs room to two out-pensioners of the Society, who each paid her 2s. a week, and by casual assistance from friends. This appeared to be so precarious that it was obvious the old dame needed systematic relief. Your Commissioner represented her case to the Benevolent Asylum's officials on the same day, and as a consequence food was sent to her, and she was placed on the relief list. There was not any record of her case at the Asylum, but her statement accords with the practice of compelling applicants to appear before the Committee before relief is given.

On the day of your Commissioner's visit, Mrs. G. . . . and her tenants were found in the lower room of the house. This is her bedroom, and also the common kitchen and dining-room of the aged trio. It was almost filled by a bed, a small table, several common chairs, a few cooking appliances, and a flight of perilous stairs leading to the apartment above. The old ladies chatted freely, and did not complain of the hardship, which their narratives showed they experienced. Indeed, in this home, as in others visited by your Commissioner, want of the means of life did not seem to be regarded as a matter to be complained of, but rather as an ordinary condition of every-day existence.

Mrs. F. . . . stated that her age was 70 years. She was formerly a tailoress, but cannot work now because of old age and infirmity. She receives from the Sydney Benevolent Asylum two loaves of bread, 2 lb. meat, or (when she does not take meat) 2 lb. flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea, 1 lb. sugar, and 1s. 6d. towards the rent weekly. The value of this ration is 11d; also has a ticket for provisions to the value of 1s. 6d. a week from St. Vincent de Paul Society, and a friend occasionally gives her 1s. When asked if she went to the Benevolent Society every Wednesday for her allowance, she replied, "Yes; and I find it very hard. I suffer from heart disease, and it takes me two hours to walk there. Coming home with the food it takes me longer, as I have to sit down frequently; and when I get back I am completely knocked up." In answer to the question, "Don't you find the bread go stale and the meat turn bad in summer before you can use it?" She said, "I've got a friend who buys a loaf when I get the bread, and I buy a fresh loaf when I want it, and in summer I cook the meat all at once as soon as I got home; when the bread gets hard I soak it in the tea." Here, as in Mrs. . . . case, the provision ticket seemed to be appreciated, because it enabled this feeble old woman to obtain a little variety of food.

Mrs. McK's . . . case is similar to the others, except that, although aged, she is not an invalid, she receives the same kind of rations from the Sydney Benevolent Asylum, but only 1s. a week towards her rent; she also receives a 1s. provision ticket from the St. Vincent de Paul Society. She is a deserted wife, and has no children or friends able to help her.

It was obvious in these cases that the relief granted was neither sufficient nor suitable to the requirements of the aged recipients. They did not parade their wants, but when questioned said they had difficulty in procuring enough bedding, warm clothing, and boots. They, however, preferred freedom and comparative want to becoming inmates of any asylum in which all their needs would be fully met, one old lady remarking with emotion, "I would not like to go into the poor-house." An allowance of 5s. a week each would, they said, enable them to pay rent and live comfortably. These three old women are undoubtedly fitting subjects for admission into the Newington Asylum, where they would be properly cared for at a cost to the State of between £15 and £18 a year each. Otherwise they should receive an adequate allowance outside, not to exceed that amount. The Benevolent Asylum does not meet the requirements of such cases in any essential particular, and to continue to deal with them as at present is to perpetuate hardship which decent aged persons ought not to be subjected to in a charitable community.

A WIDOW'S HOME IN KENT-STREET.

Mrs. E. . . ., a widow with six children, the eldest being a boy of 17 years of age, and the youngest aged 6, reside in Kent-street. This family have been in receipt of outdoor relief for nine years, and the father was included in it for seven years. He was an invalid, and is dead about two years. The relief granted is 6 loaves of bread, 3 lb. flour, 3 lb. meat, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea, 1 lb. sugar, and 2s. towards the rent. The house contains four rooms, and is in a dilapidated condition. The home is one of poverty, dirt, and idleness. When your Commissioner visited it, at 1 o'clock in the day, the beds were unmade, the rooms apparently unswept; on every side there was evidence of carelessness which perpetual poverty seems to engender. In one corner there was a pair of girl's dancing shoes. Mrs. E. . . . is a healthy woman, and earns about 5s. a week; her eldest boy earns 8s., and she lets one room for 3s. a week; a boy aged 14 formerly earned 5s. a week as a driver, but has been out of work for some weeks; her daughter aged 16 had earned a little at dressmaking, but had also been out of employment for some time. The total income for the maintenance of seven persons is thus 18s. a week, out of which 10s. a week is paid for rent, and the food allowance is valued at 1s. 11d. Boots on occasions have been supplied from the Asylum to Mrs. E. . . . and her two girls. When there are means, vegetables are bought at Paddy's Market. In granting this relief the Benevolent Asylum Committee doubtless assumed that efforts at self-help would be made by the family. Judging from

from Mrs. E's . . . statements, such endeavours appear to have been very limited. She said, "The daughter of 16 is not at service, because I promised her father she should not go from home, and I like to have her under my own eye." She was reminded that there was greater moral safety at respectable domestic service, than at the precarious, illpaid occupation of a dressmaker. The boy of 14 was trying to procure work, but Mrs. E. . . could not say in what direction. The Society's inspector visited the home, and knew her circumstances. It appears to your Commissioner that outdoor relief in this case is not only useless, but that it is pauperising, as well as demoralising the family, by encouraging them in idleness, which may naturally lead to something worse. If it is withdrawn, the mother should be able to go to service with the eldest girl, and a portion of their earnings should contribute towards the maintenance of the three younger children, who should be boarded out by the State Children's Relief Board in a respectable home in which their relatives might visit them. They would, under this method, be well fed, clad, and educated; and eventually provided with employment. The two elder boys should be able to maintain themselves. One feature in this case is characteristic. The Society's maximum relief has been granted for nine years, although several of the children have grown up in the meantime, and ought, under proper training, to have been able to lessen the burden of their mother. On the day of your Commissioner's visit the only food in the house was some bread, and a small quantity of pumpkin and turnips. Under existing conditions the family are being partially starved.

A HOME IN GLOUCESTER-STREET.

A member of your Commission visited a home in Gloucester-street, at which outdoor relief is granted by the Sydney Benevolent Society to two families, named B. . . and H. . . The tenant is a respectable woman named N. . . who made statements, which were obviously true, disclosing a sad condition of distress in this home. Mrs. N. . . is a married woman, whose husband is out of work. He is usually employed about five months in each year, during which he earns about £2 10s. a week; he has been three months out of work. There have been seventeen children in this family. Eight are living, the others died when nearly grown up, so that the family has known sorrow. One son is married and away; he has a family, and is also out of work. Only two of Mrs. N's. . . children who reside at home can help her; one earns 10s. a week, the other 17s. The house contains six rooms and a kitchen, and the rent is 15s. a week; it is very barely furnished, and the back portion is not weather-tight. Although suffering great poverty, Mrs. N. . . is not in receipt of outdoor relief, and her case is only thus briefly referred to because of her connection with two of the Benevolent Society's cases, and also as an illustration of how the poor help the poor.

Mrs. N. . . is the guardian of three children of Mrs. B. . . a widow, aged 29, who formerly rented a room from her. Mrs. B. . . while an inmate of this home, received weekly from the Benevolent Asylum three loaves of bread, 1 lb. of flour, 1 lb. sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of tea, 3 lb. meat, and 1s. 6d. towards her rent. Her children are aged 12, 5, and 3 years, the eldest, a girl, being delicate. As this allowance is for four persons, its value is about 4d. a week, or a little more than halfpenny for each per day. Finding this help and her own occasional earnings insufficient for her family, Mrs. B. . . obtained a situation at 6s. per week, which, with the rations drawn from the Asylum, she now gives to Mrs. N. . . who, with this allowance, provides for the three children. If she acted as their guardian under the State Children's Relief Act she would receive 15s. a week and an outfit. On several occasions the 6s. a week has been returned to Mrs. B. . . when her family urgently needed clothing or other necessaries. The children appeared well cared for; they were convalescing after measles, through which Mrs. N. . . had nursed them, her experience having rendered medical attendance unnecessary. Mrs. B. . . does not receive assistance from any other charity, and as the value of the provision from the Asylum is about 1s. 8d., Mrs. N. . . is acting guardian of three children for less than 8s. a week, while their mother has not sufficient means of obtaining clothing.

During Mrs. N's. . . narrative it transpired that she rented a room to Mrs. H. . . a poor widow, with two children, aged 6 and 2 years, who receives weekly from the Benevolent Society 4 loaves of bread, 2 lb. of flour, 1 lb. of sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea, 2 lb. meat, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. sago for the baby, but no rent allowance. The value of the ration is about 1s. 5d., or $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a day for each person. This case is a painful one. Mrs. H. . . rent is 4s. a week; Mrs. N. . . when asked if she received it, replied, "The poor thing has not been able to pay me for a long time; her baby is very ill, and is not getting proper food." In reply to the question, "Why have you allowed her to keep the room, seeing that you are yourself so poor?" Mrs. N. . . said, "I couldn't turn her and her children into the street. She'll pay me when she gets it; and if she can't I'll manage to get over it." Mrs. H. . . stated that sometimes she does a day's washing, by which she earns a few shillings; and at these times her landlady looked after her children. Mrs. N. . . remarked that as there had been seventeen of her own children to look after "a few more or less of other people's made no difference."

On the day of your Commissioner's visit the three families in this home were in a state of destitution under very painful circumstances. There was nothing in the house but bread. Thirteen persons, including the two children of Mrs. N. . . who were at work, had breakfasted off bread and water; and the midday meal was to be similar. Of the truth of this statement there could be no doubt. Mrs. H's. . . youngest child lay in a cradle by the kitchen fire, apparently dying from measles. It had been taken to a doctor eight days previously, but had not been seen by one since. And Mrs. B's. . . three children who were recovering from measles, as already stated, certainly needed generous diet, which could not be obtained for want of means.

Your Commissioner at once requested the Benevolent Asylum authorities to provide suitable food for the children, and medical attendance for the baby. The Society's relief in these cases is inadequate; and there is another organisation established by law for dealing with them to which they should be transferred. The State Children's Relief Act provides for boarding-out children under 14 years of age, either with their own mothers or suitable guardians; and in order that they may be sufficiently fed and clothed the families of Mrs. B. . . and Mrs. H. . . should be thus dealt with.

THE . . . FAMILY.

B. . . aged 33, his wife (a young woman), and five children (the eldest aged 9 years, and the youngest 3 weeks) reside in Barker's-lane, off the lower end of Bathurst-street. A poverty-stricken home, in a poor, close, insanitary neighbourhood. Visited by a member of this Commission, without previous notice, on Friday, the 8th instant at noon. This home, which consists of three small rooms (including kitchen), is the upper portion of a small house, and is reached by a flight of wooden steps from a confined dirty backyard. The family were in a sad state of sickness and destitution. B. . . was bedridden with asthma, apparently in a very serious condition, and suffering greatly. His wife, a little, delicate emaciated woman—who stated it would be necessary for her to go into a hospital for an operation—was attending, as well as she was able so to do, to the wants of her young family, and the sick man, who was too ill to be questioned. She made no complaint of the poverty and illness, which were distressingly evident; but answered questions with an obvious sincerity and abnegation of self that impressed your Commissioner most favourably. This case discloses such features of patient suffering, and neglect to sufficiently relieve it, that there is difficulty in confining a narrative of it to the ordinary language of an official report. The statement of Mrs. B. . . which so far as it relates to the present, was supported by the condition of the home, briefly summarised, is as follows:—Her husband has been ill for the past twelve months; during all that time he has been unable to work; he has been three times an inmate of the Carrington Convalescent Hospital, and cannot now be admitted to the Sydney Hospital, because his case is incurable. Doctor Norrie prescribes for him, and supplies medicine without charge, but says, "Nothing further can be done." Ever since B's. . . illness outdoor relief has been received from the Sydney Benevolent Asylum. This help now consists of 2s. 6d. a week towards the rent, and the following allowance of food, which is drawn from the Asylum every Wednesday:—Two lb. sugar, 4 lb. flour, four loaves of bread, 4 lb. meat (including bone), $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea, and also 1 lb. oatmeal for the sick husband. The latter has not been able to eat solid food for some time, but on the 7th instant he ate a little thin water-gruel. On that day Mrs. B. . . had no means of obtaining milk, but on Friday she bought a halfpennyworth, half of which she gave to the sick man in his gruel, and the other half she was keeping for him until the evening. The rent of the rooms is 5s. a week; she always pays the Benevolent Society's 2s. 6d. a week towards it, and before receiving that allowance has to produce the landlord's receipt for the previous payment to him. She has no help from any other charitable society; but the Rev. Mr. Albury, of Christchurch, visits the home, either weekly or fortnightly, and on such occasions leaves a shilling, and sometimes two. Mrs. B. . . in consequence of her own illness, has been unable to earn more than a couple of shillings during the past three months: but occasionally, not often, a friend gives a shilling, and this sometimes helps to buy a little extra food, but generally it goes towards the rent. As to clothing, sometimes a friend gives an old skirt or so, which she makes up for the children, and the Benevolent Society has granted several pairs of boots.

boots. She was herself insufficiently clad, and almost shoeless—this fact was obvious, and it was elicited by questions. Mr. Dickinson, an Inspector from the Benevolent Asylum, visited the family about three months ago, and also previously; and another Inspector (an elderly gentleman) visited the home on Friday, the 1st instant. On that day B. . . . was able to go out a little. The doctor had ordered medical comforts for him, including cocoa and milk, but Mrs. B. . . . had not had means to obtain them. She managed to get vegetables for the children sometimes, and "the carters at the markets were very good, as they allowed the eldest boy to pick up potatoes which fell from the carts." When pressed to say whether the family ever suffered actual hunger, this frail woman, who had thus far shown a brave front, broke down for a moment, and then said, "Well, you see, we have not large appetites; he (meaning the husband) is sick, and can't eat the kind of food we get; and a cup of tea almost satisfies me now." "Does the 4 lb. of meat include bone?" she was asked. The reply was "Yes; but we do not care about meat—none of the children seem to want meat"—the woman's manner now clearly indicating that she shrank from disclosing the full extent of her poverty. There was at this time no meat in the house. When questioned as to the bedding, she said she would be grateful for a pair of blankets. It was apparent that they were required. The value of the rations supplied to this family weekly is, according to the Benevolent Society's prices, 2s. 3½d., or two-thirds of a ld. per day per individual, excluding the infant. Including the tea, sugar, and oatmeal, the total weight of these rations (inclusive of the bone in the meat) is 19½ lb., or less than 7½ oz. daily per individual, excluding the infant. The conditions which should be apparent to or ascertained by relieving officers visiting this home are:—(1) That the relief granted is inadequate in quantity; (2) that it is unsuitable for the husband, and also for the wife, who is "nursing" a baby, and who must, judging from her appearance, and also her admissions, which were not volunteered, be partially starved; (3) that immediate sufficient provision of more generous diet, possibly including a little stimulant, should be made for the husband and wife, and that the rations of the children should be increased, and some milk allowed; (4) that the bed-clothing is insufficient, and that the mother and children are insufficiently provided with clothing; (5) generally that the common necessities of this case have been neglected, and that the whole family, but particularly the husband and wife, must have suffered great hardship, which might have been ameliorated under a better system of inspection and relief.

Acting under instructions, an officer of your Commission represented the requirements of this case to the Sydney Benevolent Society, which thereupon sent down another pair of blankets, and some food.

On Sunday, the 10th instant, your officer again visited this home in the forenoon. B. . . . was still too ill to be questioned. Some further statements were elicited from Mrs. B. . . . She was going to have the baby christened that day. It was suffering from "thrush." She sustained the infant wholly from the breast, and "felt very weak" because she subsisted "principally on tea," as she "had no appetite for anything else." She was quite destitute of warm under-clothing, and her "nightgowns and bits of petticoats and things had to be made up for the children." After the birth of the baby, a few weeks ago, she "had to get up in a few days, before her time, to attend on the others." There was sufficient provision in the house to last over the following day. Some cocoa and stimulant had been procured for the sick man, but he had been unable to retain it.

Your officer had an interview with the Rev. Mr. Albury, of Christ Church, on Tuesday. That gentleman said he had an intimate knowledge of this case for the past eighteen months. Until two months ago he had visited the home weekly. The family, to whom he gave a high character, was not now in his parish. For more than a year Mr. B. . . . had been unable to work, "but," said Mr. Albury, "I have known him to go out when he ought to have been in his bed, to try and earn a little by doing work for which he was really incapacitated by illness." Mr. Albury's knowledge of the home fully bore out the statements made by Mrs. B. . . . and the observations of your Commissioner.

Owing to your Commissioner's action, the family is now being provided for from the Parliamentary Vote for the relief of destitute persons.

A WIDOW AND FAMILY AT CHIPPENDALE.

Mrs. R. . . ., a widow with four children—the eldest being 12 and the youngest 2 years of age—resides at Chippendale. She receives from the Sydney Benevolent Asylum weekly six loaves of bread, 3 lb. flour, 3 lb. meat, 1 lb. sugar, ¼ lb. tea, and 2s. 6d. towards her rent. The house, which is damp, contains two small rooms and a kitchen; the rent is 5s. a week. She is able to earn 1s. or 2s. a week. Mrs. R. . . ., who is evidently a respectable woman, has had a deal of trouble, and her home is in the lowest depth of poverty. Her husband died of consumption on Good Friday last, after an illness of four and a half years, and she fears her daughter of 10 years of age has inherited his complaint. The boy of 12 has had one eye destroyed by an accident. He has not attended school for more than two years, "because," said his mother, "to tell you the truth he has had to help to keep the house alive by gathering old rags and bottles for sale." At this occupation he earns on an average 2s. 6d. a week. Your Commissioner found this family in a pitiable state of destitution. The Society's allowance is usually exhausted by Saturday, and from then until the next Wednesday (relieving day at the Asylum) the food supply is precarious. The day before your Commissioner's visit the family had lived on dry bread and tea, which, with some sugar, had been supplied by a neighbour. On the following day all the food in the house was half a loaf of very dry bread, a few crusts, about ½ lb. of sugar, and a little tea. The breakfast had consisted of bread, but the family were looking hopefully forward to the Society's allowance later in the day. Some poor neighbours gave scraps of food occasionally. The delicate girl could seldom eat coarse food, "and so," said the mother, "she had nothing to eat yesterday, because she didn't feel well." The home is almost bare of furniture. The front room contains a couple of boxes, one or two small articles, and a bed covered only with a thin pair of blankets. In this sleep the mother and the three girls. The adjoining room contains a bed and another pair of thin blankets. The boy sleeps here. The third room is used as a kitchen and dining-room. It contains a small table, a form, and an old safe. When questioned about fuel, Mrs. R. . . . said, "We chopped down an old tree in the yard; that has lasted some days, and the man at the corner is very good, as he lets us have a penn'orth of wood whenever we want it." The family are almost without clothes, and must have suffered greatly from the cold during the winter. "I have to wash on Sundays," said Mrs. R. . . ., "so that the children may have clean clothes to go to school in on the Monday; and my boy has not worn boots for two years." When questioned with regard to milk and vegetables, she replied, "I buy a half-porth of milk sometimes, but we hardly ever have vegetables, except when a neighbour, who is very good, gives us a cabbage sometimes." She spoke gratefully of a tradesman, a neighbour who had written off a debt incurred during her husband's illness, "and who," she said, "would let me go in his debt further, only I don't want to." Although there must often be dire want in this home, Mrs. R. . . . did not make the complaints that might have been expected under such circumstances. Indeed, in this, as in other cases visited by your Commissioner, long experience of poverty seems to have reconciled the sufferers to it. The Benevolent Society's relief had been received for about four and a half years. An analysis of this case, which might be taken as an example of many others, shows that the weight of the weekly ration received from the Sydney Benevolent Asylum, including tea and sugar, and the bone in the meat, is 19½ lb., or under 9 oz. for each person daily. The total income is not more than 7s. 6d. a week; when rent is paid there is 2s. 6d. over with which to eke out the food supply and provide clothing.

The case is one which should be dealt with by the State Children Relief Board. Mrs. R. . . . said she would never part from her children, but it was explained to her that under a law recently passed to provide for such cases this Board had power to board them out to their own mother. The family could thus be provided with means to procure food, and the delicate girl could occasionally sojourn at one of the Board's cottage homes, where she might become strong under the generous treatment there bestowed upon delicate children, and the healthier conditions of life in the country.

SOME AGED WIDOWS' CASES.

Mrs. R. . . ., aged 80, rents a room for 2s. 6d. a week, in Macquarie-street South. She receives from the Sydney Benevolent Society 1s. 6d. a week rent allowance, 2 loaves of bread, 2 lb. of flour (or otherwise 2 lb. of meat), 1 lb. of sugar, ¼ lb. of tea. She has six children, five of whom are married and have families. A statement of their earnings disclosed that they are all very poor. One son, a journeyman carpenter, has six children; another, who works at the tram-sheds, has three children; a daughter is married to a shoemaker, and she has seven young children; another is a boot-maker, with seven children; another is a boilermaker, with eleven children. The eldest son, aged 50, is a bachelor. When asked why she did not live with one of her children, Mrs. R. . . . said, "They would give me a home, only I won't give up my eldest boy; he don't drink, but he can't get constant work; he chops wood sometimes for a bake-house." There could not be much doubt, from other answers, that this son shared his mother's small means. He did not appear to have any place of residence, and the old lady was much affected when speaking about him. Her daughter helps her occasionally, but it was clear that she was suffering great hardship. She was very insufficiently clad, and stated that she suffered much from the cold in consequence. She also asked for a blanket, as she had not sufficient bed-clothes. Your Commissioner

Commissioner visited this home on Monday. Mrs. R. . . , who is in feeble health, had then a little tea and sugar and some bread and jam only to subsist upon until the following Wednesday, when she would receive the Society's ration, including meat. The relief afforded to this woman is neither sufficient nor suitable in view of her age and weakness. Her children are not legally liable for her support, and the Society would be acting most kindly by stopping its benefaction, as, in that event, Mrs. R. . . would be compelled to go into an asylum, where she would be sufficiently provided for, or to the home of one of her children. As she now lives she is half-starved with cold and hunger.

Mrs. H. . . , aged 76, rents a room in Cornwallis-street, Redfern, for 2s. 6d. a week. She receives from the Sydney Benevolent Asylum 2 loaves of bread, 2 lb. of flour (or 2 lb. of meat), 1 lb. of sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of tea, and 1s. 6d. a week towards rent. She also obtains boots from the Asylum. A Church society allows her 1s. a week, and assists her to procure clothing. She has been forty-two years in the Colony, and her husband has been dead fourteen years. He was a builder, and he appeared from her statements to have been fairly well off until about three years before his death. She has no family. Your Commissioner visited this home on Wednesday (the Benevolent Society's relieving day). Mrs. H. . . is a feeble woman, and her room is a dirty hovel. There was reason to believe that for several days she had been partially starved. She made the following statement:—"I do not get enough food, and I cannot work. The Society's ration only lasts until Saturday. A poor neighbour sends me a dinner on Sunday, and I saved part of it for Monday. Since Monday I have only had a little bread and jam. To-day I have had no breakfast, nor shall I have anything until this afternoon, when I will get the Society's ration. My landlady is too poor to help me, even with a little food." She obtained "a pennyworth of firewood at a time." When asked whether she would not rather go into Newington Asylum, and be well cared for, she answered, "I would sooner have my liberty, and live even as I do." She said that an allowance of 6s. a week would provide her with everything she required. At present she is living in dirt and misery, and her surroundings are so unsanitary that it would be true charity to stop outdoor relief and to compel her to go into any home where she would be kept clean and properly nourished.

Mrs. J. . . , aged 76 years, resides in Irving-street, in a room for which she states she pays 4s. a week. This charge, if made, is excessive. The room was very clean, and was sufficiently furnished. In this case an allowance similar to that of Mrs. H. . . is granted by the Sydney Benevolent Asylum. Mrs. J. . . has a friend who has allowed her 2s. a week for some years, and her married daughter, who is very poor, helps her occasionally. She is a helpless cripple, and moves with difficulty on crutches. It is certainly not safe for her to be left alone. She admitted that if she fell in the fire she could not rescue herself. Her daughter visits her or sends someone to her daily, but in view of her condition this intermittent assistance is not sufficient. This case is quite unsuitable for ordinary outdoor relief. Mrs. J. . . should either be in an asylum, or a home where she would receive constant attention. If she is not thus dealt with she will probably be found severely burned either through smoking in bed (she uses tobacco), or falling in the fire when there is no help at hand. In reply to your Commissioner she stated that she did not reside in her married daughter's home, because there was not room there. This, however, was probably, not the true reason, as the majority of these old persons seem to prefer the independence of their own little homes, no matter how poor they may be, to living with relatives, and it is, doubtless, this sentiment that causes them to decline admission into an asylum.

Mrs. M. . . , aged 52, resides with her married daughter (who is delicate), at Park Road, Marrickville. Although not of very advanced age, Mrs. M. . . , who was not at home when your Commissioner called, is said to be delicate, and suffers from ophthalmia. She receives relief from the Sydney Benevolent Asylum equal to that granted in the previous case. She has eight children (the youngest is aged 15), but it is alleged that they are unable to help her. Two reside in the same home with her, but their earnings are stated to be hardly sufficient to keep themselves. The rent of the house is 7s. a week. It contains four rooms, is very damp, and is, consequently, undesirable as a residence for two delicate women. Her son-in-law, with whom she lives, is receiving small wages as a porter at a Boys' College. There are not any features in this case requiring special comment, beyond the fact that if the present relief ceased the recipient would, doubtless, be provided for by her children in her present home without cost to the public. She has now been on the Society's books continuously for eighteen months, but was in receipt of out-door relief on a previous occasion. Although she is stated to be weakly, Mrs. M. . . is able to walk a long distance to and from the train every week in order to procure the Society's ration. If her children are unable to keep her, and her condition is as stated, she would be better provided for in an asylum, as the food she receives is not suitable for a delicate woman. Her daughter, who has not any children to maintain, receives from her mother the Society's rent allowance.

SOME RESPECTABLE AGED COUPLES.

A case which is worthy of most generous assistance is that of Mr. and Mrs. G. . . , who rent a house in Irving-street, Chippendale. The husband, who is 72 years of age, has resided in the Colony since 1835, and his wife aged 76 has been a colonist for fifty-seven years. Mr. G. . . , who is a member of the New South Wales Pharmaceutical Society, was, at different times, dispenser at Gladesville Asylum, assistant-surgeon and dispenser on immigrant ships, manager of a leading druggist business in Sydney, and assistant to the late Dr. . . . He and his wife are a very intelligent couple. They have three daughters whose husbands are too poor to help them. Mr. G. . . is very feeble, being crippled by a broken hip, and he is also partially paralysed; his wife is more robust, and is still able to perform the domestic duties of her little home. The rent is 9s. a week. Two rooms are let for 7s. a week, one being occupied by an out-pensioner of the Sydney Benevolent Society. Mr. and Mrs. G. . . receive from the Society 3s. rent allowance, which with their lodgers payments, and their allowance of 1s. 6d. a week from their church, leaves them 2s. 6d. over their own rent, with which to procure clothing and pay 6d. a week towards a burial insurance fund. The Society's provision allowance is 1 lb. sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea, 3 loaves bread, 3 lb. flour, and 1 lb. oatmeal. The value of this ration is about 1s. 5d. The food is not suitable for this aged couple, who both require much more generous diet. They are also able to procure firing for cooking purposes only. The wife stated she had just passed through ten days illness, during which she had required other nourishment but had not been able to obtain it. Mr. G. . . badly needed a crutch and a pair of spectacles. Arrangements have been made for these to be supplied. Blankets and clothing are both much needed by husband and wife. The old gentleman seemed very grateful for the help he is receiving. He chatted freely about his antecedents, and is proud of his connection with a bible class, from which he had obtained two interesting books as annual prizes for regular attendance; and also of several family relics. These latter included portraits of his father and grandfather, both bearing a strong resemblance to himself, which although modelled in wax sixty-five years ago are in a perfect state of preservation; and a photograph of a monument erected to his father as a tribute of respect from his fellow-townsmen in his native city in Scotland. Mr. G. . . likes his newspaper, but cannot afford to buy it. His only luxury is tobacco, and it is also very difficult to procure this from his limited means. Representations are being made for the purpose of removing this case from the Society's books, in order that it might be more liberally provided for. Although no complaint was made by the old couple it was obvious to your Commissioner that they were not being provided with food requisite for their physical condition; and that they needed milk, and additional tea, sugar, and warm clothing, and other necessaries which they cannot at present procure.

Mr. M. . . a feeble man, aged 73 years, and his wife aged 52 years, but looking much older, reside with their daughter, aged 9, at Brown-street, St. Peters. The house contains two small rooms and kitchen, and the rent is 5s. a week. The relief granted by the Sydney Benevolent Society consists of 2s. towards the rent, 5 loaves of bread, 3 lb. meat, 2 lb. flour, 1 lb. sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea, and also 1 lb. of oatmeal for the use of the old man, who is recovering from influenza. The St. Peter's Benevolent Society also grants a ticket on which provisions to the value of 2s. 6d. a week can be obtained. The Sydney Benevolent Asylum supplies the family with two pairs of boots a year, and a year ago the local society had given a pair of blankets. This couple are better off than many others, as they make jam, of which they sell about 6 dozen bottles a week, the profit being 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a bottle. The total value of food allowance to this home is 4s. 5d. a week, or 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a day for each person. The money income is 11s. a week; there is, therefore, after paying rent, 6s. a week with which to provide extra food and clothing. Mr. M. . . stated that each society was aware the other was helping him. Thus, although the whole assistance that they receive is barely sufficient, this family is in an unduly favourable position as compared with others who have only the Sydney Benevolent Society to rely upon, and no income from earnings. The local society should be left to deal with this and similar cases, and the Sydney society's benefactions distributed among more needy pensioners.

Mr. and Mrs. F. . . , each aged 78 years, reside in O'Connor-street, Chippendale. The man is a feeble cripple, and the woman is decrepit. They occupy a dirty apartment, which serves the purpose of bedroom, sitting-room, dining-room, and kitchen, for which they pay a poor widow, who had also been one of the Sydney Benevolent Asylum's out-pensioners, 4s. a week. This old couple have been fifty-seven years in the Colony, and have not any children. They bear an excellent character. The man, who has been a master-baker, broke his hip twenty years ago, since when he has been

very

very helpless. He failed at business, and his injury at nearly 60 years of age, prevented him from obtaining work as journeyman. They receive the following relief from the Society: 2s. a week towards rent, 3 loaves of bread, 3 lb. of flour, 1 lb. sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea, 3 lb. meat, 1 lb. oatmeal. A lady allows them 2s. a week to enable them to "make up the rent," and also assists them with clothing. Occasionally, friends give them a shilling or two. Their bedding is very poor, the sole covering being a thin double blanket. They also suffer for want of sufficient firing. These old people did not complain, but when questioned said they frequently had not sufficient food. They had applied for a cottage home at one of the Government asylums, when there was not one vacant, but did not now wish to go into an asylum. This case is one of great hardship. The relief afforded to it is inadequate in every respect. If one of the cottage homes is empty at Parramatta, where the inmates are provided with all necessary comforts, and enjoy the privilege of free citizens, the Society should, by stopping its relief, compel this old couple to avail themselves of it. They are now living amongst most unwholesome surroundings, and are literally partially starved for want of sufficient food and warmth.

Mr. and Mrs. W. . . . , a comparatively hearty old couple, each aged 60 years, occupy a neatly-kept room, for which they pay 3s. 6d. a week, in a very clean home at Newtown. They receive from the Sydney Benevolent Asylum 2s. 6d. a week towards the rent, 3 loaves of bread, 2 lb. meat, 1 lb. sugar, 1 lb. flour, 1 lb. rice, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea. The husband suffers from rheumatism, and cannot work. The old lady, who is a pattern of neatness, occasionally earns a couple of shillings by washing. They have been thirty-six years in the Colony, and have three married children with families, who cannot help them much, two being out of work. This old couple were badly in need of boots, and they also required a pair of blankets. The old dame had not had a pair of boots for five years. She had managed with one pair by repeated patching. The husband exhibited a badge which showed he had been the best shot in his regiment in Ireland, in which he had been a sergeant-major for sixteen years. He stated he had bought himself out in order to come to this Colony. This couple require additional assistance. They are very respectable, and the case is properly one for a cottage home, or sufficient relief outside to provide them with comforts which are necessary in old age. As in all the other cases visited, they spoke of the kindness and courtesy with which they were treated by the Benevolent Society's officials.

Mr. C. . . . , aged 69, and his wife, aged 72 years, reside at Surry Hills. The man has been laid up for nine weeks with sciatica, and his wife suffers from chronic rheumatism. He is a blacksmith, and, notwithstanding his age, is able to earn a little occasionally, but during the last seven months he has only earned 6s. This couple pay 5s. a week for two rooms. They have three married children with families, who help them occasionally, but a statement of their means showed them to be all very poor, one having been out of work for some time. The Benevolent Society allows 1s. a week towards the rent, two loaves of bread, 4 lb. flour (or 2 lb. of meat), 1 lb. sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea, 1 lb. rice. On the day of your Commissioner's interview with Mrs. C. . . . at her married daughter's home, she had come out to borrow 2s. to make up her rent. She said the Benevolent Society's officers were very kind to her when she went to the Asylum for its help, but walking there and home again distressed her greatly, as she was not very strong. At the beginning of last summer she had managed to earn 15s., but had been unable to do any work since. Although this old couple are in a better position than others, because of the help obtained from their children, they are living under miserable conditions. The food is not suitable nor sufficient, and they have not enough clothing.

A WIDOW'S HOME IN ATHLONE PLACE.

Mrs. O. . . . , a strong young woman with two children, aged 6 and 3 years, resides in a room for which she pays 2s. a week, at Athlone-place, off George-street West. She receives 1s. 6d. a week rent allowance from the Sydney Benevolent Asylum, also four loaves of bread, 2 lb. flour, 2 lb. meat, 1 lb. sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea. She earns about 4s. a week by washing; has been a recipient of help from the Asylum for two years and a half. Your Commissioner visited this home on Saturday. The Benevolent Society's ration, which usually lasts half a week, was then exhausted, and Mrs. O. . . . had 1s. 6d. with which to provide food for her family until the following Wednesday. Boots and clothing were required by mother and children, and additional bed-clothing was also needed. The children were said to be strong and healthy. This family is living in extreme poverty, and, there can be no doubt, often feels the want of sufficient food.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

PUBLIC CHARITIES.

(REPLY TO THE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON.)

Printed under No. 18 Report from Printing Committee, 22 December, 1898.

A Reply from the Board of Management of the New South Wales Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind, Newtown-road, to the Report and Recommendations of the Royal Commission on Public Charities respecting the above-named Institution.

1. The Directors of the New South Wales Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and Blind, having been favoured with copies of the Report of the Royal Commission "appointed to make a diligent and full inquiry into and report upon the methods of carrying on the Government Charitable Institutions," are glad to find that, taken as a whole, the Report is favourable to the Institution. But they regret to state that, in their opinion, certain portions of the Report made by the Royal Commissioners, as well as some of the recommendations it contains, exhibit want of knowledge of the peculiar character of the work of the Institution and its objects. This, to some extent, might have been anticipated, from the fact that the Royal Commissioners have had no opportunity of gaining personal experience of such Institutions. It is, therefore, greatly to be regretted that they have not obtained the results of the experience of the Directors themselves, some of whom have been connected with the management of the Institution since its foundation, and were therefore qualified in the highest degree, by experience of this and cognate Institutions in other parts of the world, to give the Commissioners assistance of an expert nature, which, it must be clear, in such an inquiry, was eminently necessary.

2. Errors have consequently occurred in the conclusions arrived at by the Royal Commissioners in some important matters, and recommendations have been made which the Directors are satisfied would never have been imported into the Report if the Commissioners had acquired information from those who have had long experience in the working and management of the Institution. While the Directors cordially accept those portions of the Report which specially refer to the general management and mode of instruction and other details, conclusions authenticated by the independent and expert reports of examiners appointed by the Public Instruction Department, they regret that the financial recommendations and those having reference to expenditure in connection with the erection of the buildings connected with the Institution prove that the inquiry was imperfect in character; hence the conclusions adopted are materially affected, as will be shown hereafter by an examination of the financial statistics of the Institution, and of the very full report made by the architects. Further, some of the subjects incidentally referred to, in connection with the Reports of the British Royal Commission, are yet undecided; and future experience alone can determine whether they are based on sound foundations.

Audit of Accounts, &c.

3. In considering the recommendations made by the Commissioners (page 32, section 184), it will be found that, in the first place, it is advised—"That a responsible officer of the Government shall have power (1) to audit the accounts at any time; (2) to ascertain if the funds are expended for proper purposes, and with due regard to economy; (3) to see that the rules and by-laws are carried out in their integrity; (4) to report generally on the management of the Institution, with a view of bringing under the notice of the Government and the Committee any defects that may, in his opinion, exist in connection therewith."

4. Now, in this connection it may be stated that no objection has ever been offered by the Directors to the supervision herein referred to, although the amount contributed by the Government, compared to that derived from other sources, is very small. With reference to the remarks of the Royal Commissioners (page 2, clause 9) in regard to Institutions generally, that the absence of Government supervision "has probably not only resulted in serious defects of management, which might have been prevented by the supervision of an independent responsible official, but also to large, and in some instances unnecessary, demands upon the Public Treasury"; the Directors consider that these remarks do not apply to this Institution, as no "large or unnecessary demands" have ever been made upon the Public Treasury by this Institution. Up to the present time the Government has only contributed £5,000 towards the erection of the buildings, and given a maximum annual subsidy of £450. These amounts cannot be considered large or unnecessary for the work this Institution has performed.

5. As regards the power to audit the accounts at any time, it may be stated that the books of the Institution have been examined periodically by a Government official in connection with the claim for the annual subsidy already referred to, and special returns, as well as copies of the Annual Report, are furnished every year to several of the Government Departments. Further, two auditors appointed by the Board audit the accounts of the Institution annually, and the result of their examination is printed and published in the Annual Report presented to the subscribers and published in the daily Press after the annual meeting.

6. With regard to the further suggested examination in connection with this official supervision, it may be stated that the Directors have no desire in any way to prevent the closest scrutiny of their management of the Institution or the application of its funds. The Directors perform their duty without fee or reward and devote a large amount of time and money in order to carry out satisfactorily the work of the Institution, and they consider themselves only trustees for the public in their philanthropic work.

Receipts for Subscriptions.

7. The second recommendation suggests—"That receipts be given for all subscriptions, and that the auditor should include in his audit a thorough check of the receipt-book butts."

8. This recommendation must have been made unadvisedly, and without knowledge of the facts of the case. Receipts, without any exception, are given for all subscriptions, and the butts of the receipt-books are systematically checked by the Hon. Treasurer, so that it will thus be perceived that this recommendation has really been carried into effect for many years back.

Canvass for Subscriptions.

9. Another recommendation is—"That a more extended energetic canvass for public subscriptions be made, particularly in the country districts of the Colony."

10. This recommendation is evidently made in view of remarks in the general report as to the desirableness of the Society dispensing with the aid at present annually derived from the Government, and also in view of the reduction in amount of the annual subscriptions within the last few years. The Directors would gladly dispense with the Government aid, were it in their power to do so, but, although the Institution has a large amount of accumulated funds, the interest only of this amount of money can be used, and the rate of interest now ruling has fallen so low that the sum received from this source is barely equal to one-fourth of the cost of maintenance. As the Commissioners themselves point out (page 9), the income for the year ended on 30th September, 1897, was £4,134 12s. 11d., while the expenditure during the same period amounted to £4,238 9s. 1d., leaving a deficiency on the year's operations of £103 16s. 2d.

11. It cannot be argued that there has been any extravagance in the management, for the Commissioners themselves are satisfied, from the comparison they have made with the expenditure in similar Institutions elsewhere, that the management has been conducted on a sound economical basis, and yet it will be observed that there was a deficit in this case. The rate of interest, also, now being received for a very large proportion of the accumulated funds is only three (3) per cent; it will therefore be seen that the condition of the Institution's finances necessarily demands the very small subsidy annually voted by Parliament.

12. Referring to the matter of the diminished amount derived from subscriptions, this result may be attributed, in large measure, to the altered circumstances of the country. Since the Bank and Building Society failures and the collapse of the land boom, a few years ago, many who subscribed for years to the Institution have been compelled either to discontinue their contributions or to reduce them. The imposition of the Land and Income Taxes, which fall almost entirely on those who have been the chief supporters of Charitable Institutions, has accentuated this result, and these causes have also checked the accession of new subscribers. It is to be remembered that the number of Charitable Institutions maintained more or less by private subscriptions has greatly increased of late years, and the demands on the private charity of those who are the chief supporters of this and kindred Institutions have also been very numerous.

13. Other Institutions have suffered even more from decrease in subscriptions. The subscriptions of this Institution fell from £1,613 in 1891 to £1,068 in 1897, being a decrease of £544, or 33·75 per cent. in six years. The subscriptions of the Industrial Blind Institution fell from £1,226 in 1893 to £672 in 1897, the decrease being £554, or 45·18 per cent. If this Institution's subscriptions has decreased in the same proportion, the reduction would have been £728 instead of £544.

14. Whilst urging these circumstances, the Directors are prepared to admit that there are certain centres of population in the Colony which have not been canvassed for subscriptions. Up to the present time the Assistant Secretary has performed the work of collection in addition to the office work, and double duty (of a most responsible character, as the Directors are fully aware) has been thus carried on purely as a matter of economy; but it is the intention of the Board to make other arrangements in connection with this matter.

Collection of Fees.

15. Another recommendation is—"That measures be taken to collect all arrears now recoverable, and that, in future, payments in advance should, as far as possible, be insisted on as provided in the Committee's form of security; and that any special arrangements for reduced payments which it may be necessary to make with parents or guardians who may not be in a position to pay the prescribed fees be strictly enforced, and any payments so arranged for be made in advance."

16. This matter is also referred to on page 15, clauses 75-77, and it deals with a subject regarding which the Commissioners have formed an opinion with an imperfect knowledge of the case. As a matter of practical experience, in dealing with the fees payable for children on admission, the Directors have found it absolutely necessary to deal with each case on its own merits, and if an unvarying rule were adopted it would lead not only to hardship in connection with parents of afflicted children, but also, in all probability, to the exclusion of many of the pupils. The Directors take all possible pains to carry out the provisions of their form of security, and moneys owing for maintenance and instruction of pupils are never finally written off until every effort short of legal proceedings has been made to recover the amount. In cases where there is reason to believe that the parents, although at the present time unable to pay, may ultimately be in a position to do so, the amounts owing have been carried forward and kept in suspense. The Directors are confident, from their experience, that if they were to insist on payment in advance

advance many of the children would be deprived of the advantages of the Institution; and that if legal enforcement were adopted in all cases of debt, the result would undoubtedly be to alienate from the Institution not only the parents of children, but also the sympathy and support of the subscribers. If complete evidence had been taken on this subject, it would have been found that every effort of a reasonable nature had been made by the Directors to obtain from parents and guardians the sums required for the maintenance of the children.

Government Pupils.

17. With regard to the recommendation "that Government payments for the maintenance of inmates of the Institution be confined in future to children under the control of the State Children's Relief Board," the Directors desire to point out that the small subsidy annually voted by Parliament to the Institution is to a large extent utilised for the purpose of maintaining the children of poor parents unable to pay anything but a small fee; and if any limitation is made in connection with the payment for inmates recommended for admission by the Government officials, it will be necessary to increase the annual subsidy voted by Parliament.

Additional Accommodation.

18. Recommendation No. 7, page 33. The Royal Commissioners have seen fit to advise that "in order to secure the additional accommodation at the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind, which the Committee state is required, the Roman Catholic children now there should be transferred to the Roman Catholic Institutions at Lewisham and Waratah, if satisfactory arrangements can be made for such transfer; and that, in future, all deaf and dumb and blind children of that Church, who may be at any time under the control of the State Children's Relief Board, should be maintained in the Institutions established for that purpose at Lewisham and Waratah."

19. The Directors of this Institution would respectfully point out the inconsistency of the Commissioners in making this recommendation. In their first recommendation they advise "That, as long as State aid is continued, a responsible officer of the Government shall have power (1) to audit the accounts at any time; (2) to ascertain if the funds are expended for proper purposes, and with due regard to economy, etc." Surely the Commissioners to be consistent, should have made a similar recommendation in connection with the Institutions now referred to; but the Commissioners must be aware that such conditions would not be permitted for a moment in connection with the Institutions referred to, and it is incomprehensible to us, as Directors and persons having some experience of public life, how the Commissioners, under these circumstances, could have made such recommendations as those contained in the above clause. But further, the Lewisham Institution for the Blind, we are informed on good authority, does not admit or retain boys over 8 years of age. For example, it is within the knowledge of the Directors that a blind boy was recently sent back to Tasmania from the Lewisham Institution in consequence of his being over the prescribed age, and the documents in connection with this matter are in the possession of the Directors. The presence of the children belonging to the Roman Catholic faith in this Institution is sufficient evidence that their parents prefer to send them to this Institution, and it would be unreasonable to interfere with their desire in this respect.

Roman Catholic Pupils.

20. The following is a list of the Roman Catholic Pupils in this Institution on the 30th September, 1898, with their ages, etc.:-

Names.	Age.	Amount of School Fees.	Amount Owng.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
DEAF PUPILS—			
Aubrey W. Guilfoyle	17	10 0 0	
Clotilda Planchenault	16	36 0 0	Government Pupil.
Alice J. Ware	19	36 0 0	Government Pupil.
Reginald Brennan	16½	Free.	0 2 0
Aila E. Causley	13	10 0 0	
Essie A. Causley	8½	5 0 0	
Ethel A. Carroll	11½	20 0 0	0 8 0
Charles A. D. Smith	10½	10 0 0	19 14 0
Christina Vanzuela	13½	13 0 0	11 2 6
Alice Backhouse	8½	5 0 0	12 10 8
Ethel M. Hogan	11½	5 0 0	1 14 6
Milton C. O'Sullivan	9	6 10 0	
BLIND PUPILS—			
Teresa Rogers	18½	6 0 0	10 8 6
Matilda Holland	15	36 0 0	Government Pupil.
John McDermott	13	36 0 0	Government Pupil.
Mary Reynolds	15	36 0 0	Government Pupil.

21. It will be seen from the above that only five of the Roman Catholic pupils in this Institution are under the control of the State. The education of three of these is nearly completed, while another, John McDermott, is not eligible for admission into the Lewisham Institution, as he is 13 years of age. Some of the other pupils have almost completed their education, too, and as they were placed here by their parents, they could not be removed without their parents' consent.

School Inspection.

22. In connection with this matter there is one point which the Directors desire to specially emphasise, and which may be considered by the Government and the public as of very great importance, viz, the testing of the educational acquirements of the pupils by Government officials. This is done annually at the New South Wales Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind, and the Government in this way has a guarantee that the money paid for school fees for State children, or as subsidy, is judiciously expended.

23. As stated elsewhere, the small annual Parliamentary subsidy to some extent warrants the claim for the public inspection of the scholastic department of the Institution, and the Directors are glad to find that the results in this respect are eminently satisfactory.

24. The following is the summary of the report on the examination of the pupils by Messrs. H. Skillman and H. D. McLelland, Inspectors of the Department of Public Instruction:—"This Institution was visited for examination of the pupils on the 6th and 7th December, 1897. The favourable comments made on former occasions respecting the class-rooms and their appliances still hold good, and the general impression conveyed by a visit to various parts of the building is that both care and skill have been shown in the arrangements made for carrying on the work of this important Institution. Of the attitude of the children under examination it is impossible to speak too highly. Their attention never flags. In every class, no matter what subject is being dealt with, they are constantly on the alert, and take genuine pleasure in trying to acquit themselves well. Their demeanour is always cheerful, and the interest they take in every portion of their work reflects the highest credit on the teaching staff. The general discipline is practically perfect. When one considers the affliction from which these children suffer, it must be conceded that the scheme of instruction covers a sufficiently wide range. The results of the examination of the various classes indicate careful and thorough teaching, and there is abundant proof that the general aim of the teachers is to develop the intelligence and train the thinking powers of their pupils. Their efforts have been attended with well-merited success.

(Signed) "H. SKILLMAN,
"H. D. McLELLAND, } Inspectors."

The full text of this and previous reports may be seen in the various annual reports of the Institution.

Age of Discharge.

25. The recommendation No. 8—"That the age at which pupils should be discharged from Institutions in receipt of aid from the Government for the education of the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind should not exceed 16 years"—exhibits still further proof of want of that knowledge which experience alone can provide in connection with this subject. From the large extent of the Colony of New South Wales, and its sparse and scattered population—from the fact that, in many cases, parents are most unwilling to part with their children, and retain them long after the period at which they should be brought under the educative influences of such an Institution as that for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind, and from other difficulties of a similar nature well known to and recognised by the Directors, it is found to be almost impossible to fix the date of discharge of the children by any invariable rule. As a matter of fact, however, the Directors endeavour to persuade parents to send their afflicted children to school at or about 7 years of age, and as these children require eight or nine years of tuition and training, in the majority of cases they are discharged about the age of 15 or 16; but where children are brought to the Institution at a more advanced age, and imperatively demand the assistance which the Institution provides, then the Directors, with the advice of the Superintendent, carefully consider the peculiarities of such cases, and, if necessary, extend the period of tuition to a slightly more advanced age.

26. The great object of the Directors is to afford the best possible educational influences to these children while in the Institution, so as to add to the happiness and comfort of their future life. Should, however, the Legislature, in its wisdom, at any future time pass a compulsory law, providing that parents should send their afflicted children to school at 7 years of age, there would be no difficulty in adopting this recommendation; but, until such step is taken, the Directors believe it is in the interest of the children and of the Institution to deal with each case on its own merits and according to its necessities. A reference to the Thirty-sixth Annual Report of this Institution will show that 20 per cent. of the deaf pupils and 30 per cent. of the blind were over 10 years of age when admitted.

27. In order to prove that the Institution does not retain the children longer than is absolutely necessary to give them a fair education, the following table has been prepared containing the names, ages, and time at school of all the pupils paid for by the Government on 30th September, 1898.

28. It will be observed that some of the older pupils have not been at school very long; for instance, Mary Reynolds, 15 years old, one and a quarter years at school, and Kate Ford, 14½ years old, three years at school. In the case of the eldest on the list, viz., Alice Ware, it should be mentioned that, although she is 19 years old, she has only had six and a half years' tuition, which everyone who knows anything about education will admit is anything but excessive for a deaf and dumb child.

29. The difficulty, as already pointed out, is to get the children in at an early age, say 7. If that could be done, then they would be ready to leave when about 16.

Government Pupils.

30. List of Pupils paid for by the New South Wales Government in the New South Wales Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind on 30th September, 1898:—

Names.	Age.	Time at school.	Names.	Age.	Time at School.
DEAF AND DUMB—			DEAF AND DUMB—continued.		
Boyd, James	15	5½ years.	Muelie, Nellie	9	1 year.
Fairhall, Charles	12½	4½ "	Planchenault, Clothilda	16	7 years.
Fairhall, Arthur	10½	3½ "	Smith, Edith M.	8½	2½ "
Hammond, Percy	11	3½ "	Ware, Alice J.	19	6½ "
Harris, John	7½	1½ "			
Lovett, James Henry	14	8 "	BLIND—		
Perry, George A.	13	4½ "	Bartley, Arthur	8	1 year.
Perry, Ernest Job	9	1½ "	McKay, Alfred T.	13	5 years.
Philp, Albert E.	14	2½ "	McDermott, John	13	4½ "
Riddell, Inness C.	13½	4½ "	Taylor, James	15½	8½ "
Riddell, Richard F.	13½	1½ "	Young, Arthur J.	11½	2½ "
Adams, Lily May	11½	1½ "	Ford, Kate	14½	3 "
Davison, Ellen R.	12½	5½ "	Holland, Matilda	15	8½ "
Hepperlin, Annie E.	16	9 "	Reynolds, Mary	15	1½ "

Total, 26 pupils; average time at school, about 4½ years.

Indigent Deaf and Dumb and Blind from other Colonies.

31. As regards Recommendation No. 9—"That there should be legislation for the purpose of controlling the admission of indigent deaf and dumb and blind persons from other Colonies into New South Wales"—the Directors, as far as this Institution is concerned, have no desire to express any definite opinion; they would point out, however, that for many years, in the absence of similar Institutions in the other Colonies, they have been in the habit of receiving deaf and dumb and blind children from other Colonies on the recommendation of the various Governments, and the question of the exclusion of adults is one which scarcely comes within the purview of the Directors of this Institution. Perhaps this recommendation might have been more appropriately included with those having reference to the Industrial Blind Institutions, for this Institution is purely a boarding school for children.

Investment of Funds.

32. Recommendation No. 10—"That in view of the risk attendant upon lending money on mortgage of freehold property, the Directors in future invest their accumulated funds in Government securities." The Directors are quite prepared to acknowledge the value of this suggestion; but they desire to point out that at the present time the sum of £3,535 only is invested on mortgage of freehold property. The Directors, however, who are business men of considerable experience, may be trusted to exercise the fullest discretion in regard to the investment of the funds of the Institution.

Finance.

33. Referring now generally to the question of finance, as discussed in the Report and recommendations of the Royal Commissioners, which may be considered as summarised on page 8, clause 45, viz.: "The Institution is in a much stronger position financially than any other kindred Institution in Australia. So satisfactory is the condition of its finances, that the Committee might well now consider whether they should not set an example worthy of being followed in other directions, and forego all further claims to State aid, except for services rendered."

34. In reply to this suggestion, the Directors have no hesitation in stating that if the Government would undertake to pay for the maintenance of all the pupils whose parents are unable to pay the full amount of £40 per annum (receiving credit, of course, for any payments made by the parents), the Directors would willingly forego all further claims to State aid in the form of subsidy. But as it is improbable that such a course is ever likely to be adopted, the Directors are unable to adopt the above suggestion. Even with the Government subsidy considerable difficulty is experienced in keeping the Institution in a sound financial condition, and it may be easily understood that, as the scope of its operations becomes extended, and the number of pupils increases, the expenditure must *pro rata* be also increased, and the liabilities referred to be continued. During the four years ended on the 30th September, 1898, the expenditure exceeded the income on general fund account by £108 5s. 8d.

35. The subscriptions to this Institution during the past seventeen years totalled £26,905, while the annual Government subsidy for the same period only amounted to £7,650, or about 28 per cent. The Industrial Blind Institution in six years (1892-7) received £4,852 in subscriptions and £5,746 in Government subsidy, or 118.42 per cent. The attention of the Government is specially invited to this fact, that an Institution which has hitherto endeavoured to carry on its important work with so little aid from the Government may receive that consideration at the present time which it both needs and deserves.

36. At the present time the accumulated funds, of which the interest alone can be used, amount to £37,617 10s. 6d. Nearly the whole of this amount is invested at 3 per cent., bringing in an annual income of about £1,150, which is only a little more than one-fourth of the present annual expenditure. Subscriptions provide about another fourth, and the balance is made up of school fees, Government subsidy, etc. To relinquish State aid under these circumstances, and before it is known whether sufficient funds can be obtained from other sources, would be very unwise, and would probably land the Institution in debt, a position which the Directors have always strenuously endeavoured to avoid.

37. It should not be forgotten that this Institution relieves the Government of a very great responsibility, viz., that of educating and training those children who are afflicted with deafness or blindness. *It is as much, and more, the duty of the State to provide education for those who are so sadly afflicted as for those who have all their faculties.* These children cannot well be educated in ordinary schools, therefore it is necessary that an Institution such as this should be maintained and properly equipped for carrying out in a satisfactory manner this most important work. And the reports on the work of the Institution, which have been issued from year to year by the Department of Public Instruction, prove conclusively that the Institution is doing that, and it is therefore fairly entitled, not only to that amount of support which it has received from the State in the past, but also to further assistance towards providing the additional accommodation now required.

Funds for New Buildings.

38. The recommendation of the Commissioners (No. 3, page 32)—"That the request of the Committee for a grant of £6,000 for building purposes be declined, the Committee having ample funds for necessary buildings"—must be taken in connection with the conclusions on which they have based that recommendation. Those conclusions are contained in paragraphs 62 to 66, pages 12 to 13, of the Commissioners' Report. In the first place, exception is taken to the estimate of the probable increase in the number of new pupils being based upon the figures of the past four years, when the number of pupils increased from 76 to 114, or exactly 50 per cent.

39. The Commissioners state that these "figures, to be of value, however, and to make the comparison fair, ought to have extended over a longer period." The Directors maintain, however, that the comparison between the figures of 1893 and 1897 was perfectly fair. It would not be fair to go back beyond 1893, because before that year we had all the Queensland pupils, who left in a body at the end of 1892 to enter the Brisbane Institution. The increase since then of 50 per cent. in the number of our pupils was the natural normal increase in our own Colony, and the Directors are perfectly justified in coming to the conclusion that the increase during the next four years will be in the same proportion.

Transfer

Transfer of Legacies.

40. The Commissioners also take exception to the transfer of legacies amounting to £2,265 from the Building Fund to the Perpetual Subscribers' Fund, and say that, if that transfer had not been made, "the Building Fund would have been in a position to provide a new kitchen and laundry, which are undoubtedly required." That transfer was made before there was any intention of increasing the accommodation, or of approaching the Government for assistance towards that object. It was made because the Directors considered that it was never intended by the legators that the principal should be expended, but that only the income should be used. It was an error in the first instance to place the money to the Building Fund Account. Had it been credited direct to the Perpetual Subscribers' Fund the Commissioners would probably never have referred to the matter.

41. Many years ago the Directors passed a resolution that all legacies of £50 and upwards should be placed to the Perpetual Subscribers' Fund. From time to time this resolution was carried into effect, as on the occasion referred to by the Commissioners; but, as a matter of fact, in consequence either of the urgency of the case or for other important reasons, some legacies, unfettered by conditions in the wills of the legators, have been expended on buildings, in order to save unnecessary delay, and to prevent what the Directors always enter upon with great reluctance, an appeal to the Government for assistance for building purposes.

42. There can be no doubt that if the Government had provided the funds for the buildings and improvements to which such unfettered legacies have been appropriated, *the Directors would at the present time be in a position to do without State aid in the form of subsidy.*

Alleged Excessive Expenditure on Buildings.

43. In their Report (page 10, clause 54) the Commissioners practically charge the Directors of the Institution with extravagance in expenditure on buildings; but if they had carefully considered the details of the expenditure as shown in the following statement, and all the surrounding circumstances, which are fully explained in the Report from Messrs. A. L. and G. McCredie, the architects of the Institution, hereto appended, they would probably have arrived at a different conclusion. The total amount set down for buildings and improvements is £47,753 18s. 5d., being the total expenditure in that direction from the commencement of building operations. It includes the cost of building the Superintendent's residence, boundary walls and iron palisadings, laundry, cowshed, gymnasium, etc., making and tar-paving the roadways inside the grounds, tar-paving the footpaths, and constructing a sewer outside the Institution boundaries, turfing the lawns, planting trees and erecting fences, also heavy charges for alterations, painting, and repairs during the last twenty years, which might fairly have been carried to the maintenance account. Take one item alone, that of the wall on the Darlington-road frontage; owing to the conformation of the ground, and the necessity for keeping the sanitary buildings on a level with the other buildings of the Institution, this work was of a very expensive character, and cost no less than £5,417.

44. It is a matter for deep regret that when the Royal Commissioners held their inquiry into the working and cost of the buildings, etc., of this Institution, compared with the Institution for the Blind at Lewisham, that more attention was not directed to the details of cost, etc. It should not be forgotten that competitive designs and estimates for our building were submitted by the leading architects of the city; also, that many items in the accepted plans were omitted, through the slenderness of the funds available. Still, the site being a prominent one, it was felt that some attention should be given to appearance, as well as to utility; for effect, the architect recommended the use of patent pressed bricks, which cost much more than the ordinary bricks, and it was hoped to avoid the heavy expense of cementing the walls externally. To avoid damp, the walls were built hollow, a plan which at that time was largely in vogue, but the exposed position proved that hollow walls were not damp-proof, and subsequently the whole of the walls had to be cemented on the outside at great cost. It was also decided to leave the internal walls plain brick, lime-washed, except a small portion, but in after years, as their porosity threatened to absorb infection, the Directors determined to have nearly the whole of them plastered with adamant plaster. This work cost over £700. At the various periods, some years apart, when alterations and additions became necessary, opportunity was always seized to modernise such portions as could be dealt with, and to make good all wear and tear, etc. These expenses were always included in the tenders and contracts, and, of course, became a charge on the Building Fund Account, when, more correctly, they should perhaps have gone to a maintenance account. The amounts thus expended came to a considerable sum, but it is difficult now to pick them out of the account.

45. Another item improperly charged against the building account proper was the cost of erecting a superintendent's residence. This should be deducted from the Institution Building Account. When all these items are taken from the total amount spent on buildings, it will be found that, taking into account the prices of material and labour when the largest portion of this building was put up and the cost of the same at this period, that very little, if any, complaint of extravagance in building will hold good. The number of beds given as the accommodation available in the Institution is really misleading, as no account is taken of beds occupied by the staff, which it is considered should be counted when the estimates are made as per bed; nor is consideration given to large apartments which, if counted as dormitories, would entirely alter the estimates.

46. The bed and sitting room accommodation provided for officers and servants when the building was first erected was subsequently found to be quite inadequate. Hence when the last additions were in hand this was remedied to a limited extent by the conversion of the two top-floor dormitories, which had accommodated 13 beds each, into six single bedrooms, thus losing 20 beds. It would be only just to have counted these as 26 beds.

47. These facts, which are fully set out in the Architects' Report, should all be taken into consideration when comparing the cost of this Institution with that of another quite differently situated, only in its infancy, not fully equipped, and for one class only of the afflicted, viz., the Blind.

48. It should also be remembered that, although the cost per head of the pupils of this Institution during the year ended on 30th September, 1897, was £38 10s. 7½d., the Government contribution in school fees and subsidy was only £10 12s. 4d. per head for the total number of pupils. It will thus be seen that the Institution relieves the Government of nearly three-fourths of the cost of maintaining and educating these afflicted children.

49. Another important point in connection with this matter is the fact that, in charging the Government £36 per head for State children, the Directors are charging less than the bare cost of maintenance and education. Nothing whatever is charged for interest on money invested in buildings, to the cost of which, so far, the Government, as already pointed out, has only contributed £5,000. This statement is borne out by the Commissioners in clause 53, page 10, of their Report.

Cost per Bed.

50. In paragraph 60, page 12, it is stated that "the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind, Newtown-road, cost nearly £48,000, and as, with 113 pupils, the Directors state it is occupied to its full capacity, the expenditure for accommodation alone has amounted to over £430 per pupil."

51. Here the Commissioners do not take into consideration all the surrounding circumstances already referred to. They are also in error in stating that the Institution is occupied to its full capacity. The girls' dormitories are full, but there is accommodation in those for the boys for about 16 more beds. Altogether there is accommodation in the dormitories for 77 boys and 51 girls, and in the hospital for about 12 beds. The present number of pupils is 61 boys and 53 girls.

52. Again, the prominent position on which the Institution stands, close to the University, Colleges, and Prince Alfred Hospital, demanded a building worthy of the site. And when the difficulties encountered are taken into consideration and allowances made for expenditure outside the main buildings, as fully set forth in the Architects' Report, it will be found that the cost per bed is much less than that stated by the Royal Commission.

Expenditure on Buildings, &c.

53. The following is an epitome of Expenditure on Buildings and Improvements:—

	£	s.	d.
Buildings	28,580	14	4
Excavating, fencing, and other works	729	11	4
Laundry	292	13	0
Verandahs	1,012	16	9
Guttering, road-making, planting trees, and turfing lawn	256	14	9
Dwarf walls and iron railings	1,967	11	6
Cowsheds, gymnasium, &c.	901	15	6
Cementing buildings	593	0	0
Tar-paving roadways inside and footpaths outside	1,222	1	3
Back wall, water-closets, and outside sewer	5,417	0	0
Plumbing and sanitary works	686	19	0
Additions and alterations	266	18	6
Superintendent's residence	1,779	2	6
Painting	881	13	9
Gas lamps	106	0	0
Lightning conductors	92	0	0
Venetian and other blinds	68	11	6
Architects' commission and Clerk of Works' salary	2,898	14	0
	<hr/>		
	£47,753	18	5

54. The following shows the state of the Institution's finances on 30th September, 1898:—

	£	s.	d.
The amount placed at interest belonging to the Perpetual Subscribers and Mrs. Baillie's Legacy Fund is	37,089	10	1
The amount standing to the credit of the Building Fund Account is	401	0	10
The amount required for building purposes according to the suggestions of the Royal Commission is			
The amount required according to the suggestions of the Board is	6,000	0	0

55. The grounds upon which the Directors claim necessity not only for completing the kitchen and laundry, as recommended by the Royal Commissioners, but also for the whole work, as submitted to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary by a deputation of the Board, are that—

- (1) There is an absolute necessity for the completed buildings, as already pointed out, and that the work can be cheaply and effectively done if carried on at the present time.
- (2) It has been pointed out by practical men that, in consequence of the cheapness of materials and the low price of labour, the present is a most opportune time to carry out the said work.
- (3) The Directors, having at their disposal, for building purposes, only the sum above referred to (£401 Os. 10d.), and being unwilling to make a charge on the Institution's finances in regard to their future application to the purposes of the Institution, are of opinion that, in view of the small amount hitherto granted by the Government, and the important work done by the Institution for the public, it is only reasonable for the Government at this particular time to give the assistance necessary for the purpose of erecting the additional accommodation required for the purposes of the Institution.

Conclusion.

Conclusion.

56. It would have been in the power of the Directors to enter into a further and more extended criticism of the Report of the Royal Commissioners; but their endeavour has been to avoid the discussion of outside matters, at the present time quite undecided upon by those who have expert knowledge of Deaf and Dumb and Blind Institutions (such, for example, as the influence and results of inter-marriage of the deaf and dumb, etc.)

57. The object they have had in view has been to rectify conclusions arrived at by the Royal Commissioners, after a somewhat hasty investigation of the management of the Institution, and to show that the Directors are only asking a fair consideration of their claim to Government assistance in their earnest endeavours to give enlarged and better accommodation for the deaf and dumb and blind children.

58. The Directors would especially point to the Architects' Report as a complete rejoinder to a very unfair criticism of the expenditure on buildings connected with this Institution. And as regards the financial questions involved in the recommendations of the Royal Commission, it will be seen from the statements now made that the Directors have always adopted the best and most advantageous methods in the interest of the Institution.

Signed by resolution of the Board of Management,

ARTHUR RENWICK,
President.

Sydney, 7th December, 1898.

APPENDIX.

REPORT of Messrs. A. L. and G. McCredie, Architects, on remarks made by the Royal Commission on Charitable Institutions as to the relative costs of the New South Wales Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind, Newtown-road, and St. Patrick's Institute for the Blind, Lewisham.

Martin Place, Sydney, 30 August. 1898.

ELIAS ROBINSON, Esq., Hon. Secretary, New South Wales Institute for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind, Newtown-road, Sydney,—

Dear Sir,

In accordance with your instructions, we have made an inspection of St. Patrick's Institute for the Blind at Lewisham, with a view of reporting on the remarks made by the Royal Commission on Charitable Institutions in its report as to the relative cost of that Institution and your own; and to see if there was anything at that Institution that could be advantageously adopted in the plans of the proposed additions to your Institution, and now have the honor to submit the following report:—

We find that St. Patrick's Institute for the Blind is in its infancy, and only a small portion of the buildings has been erected; and, in our opinion, this Institution is not sufficiently advanced to form a satisfactory basis of comparison.

We are of the opinion that the Royal Commission, in stating the relative costs of the two Institutions at so much per bed, is adopting a very unfair method, as the two Institutions are widely different in many particulars, to which we shall subsequently refer.

It seems to us that the Royal Commission has also based its cost of St. Patrick's Institute largely upon estimates which may, or may not, be correct; while the following points, which to our mind have not been taken sufficiently into consideration by the Royal Commission, will tend to equalise the cost of the two Institutions:—

1. The date of the erection of your Institution.—The buildings of St. Patrick's Institute were erected in 1896, when everything connected with the building trades was at its lowest ebb, and work was done at the lowest possible cost; while your Institution was erected twenty-seven years ago, when the cost of building materials, as well as labour, was very much dearer than during the last three years; and the same remark applies to the additions which have been made from time to time, as they have all been carried out at periods when the building trades were in a much more prosperous condition than in 1896. Another item of considerable cost which had to be provided for at your Institution was water conservation and storage, involving the construction of expensive underground tanks; while at St. Patrick's Institute they had the advantage of a complete water supply from the Water and Sewerage Board's main at a comparatively trifling cost.

2. The sites of the two Institutions do not admit of comparison, as that on which your Institution stands involved much expense in the—(a) Preparation of the ground for the buildings; (b) the design of the buildings; and (c) retaining-walls. (a) The site of your Institution was originally a mound rising from the Newtown-road, and falling precipitately towards Darlington-road at the back, thus necessitating excavations in the front portion and filling-in at the back; and as no buildings could be erected upon the filled-in portions, the foundations had to be carried up from the original ground level to the level of the front, before the buildings proper could be commenced. Thus a considerable cost was incurred for which at the present time there is nothing to show, and which does not actually accommodate a single inmate. On the other hand, the site at Lewisham involved comparatively small outlay for foundations. (b) The St. Patrick's Institute buildings, being in a practically lonely situation, with no public buildings near them, could be, and have been, erected in a plain style, without much ornament as regards design; while your Institution, occupying a commanding position and surrounded by the University buildings, Affiliated Colleges, Prince Alfred Hospital, etc., and being a semi-public building, demanded a design in keeping with its surroundings, and as time went on it was changed from a brick and stone building, in which it was first designed, to a cemented one, and ultimately took its present form when the extensive additions were made in 1891-2. (c) Retaining-walls.—The precipitate fall towards the Darlington-road involved an expensive retaining-wall, so that playgrounds of sufficient area, shelter-sheds, w.c.'s, etc., could be made level with the main buildings, and steps—always dangerous in the case of the blind—avoided as far as possible; while at Lewisham nothing of this kind is required.

3. In taking the cost of your buildings into consideration the Royal Commission has included the cost of maintenance and repairs, and, as this extends over a very long period, it amounts to a considerable item. The buildings at your Institution have been painted, both inside and out, several times, and kept in repair; the playgrounds, carriage-drives, etc., tar-painted; the drainage and sanitary arrangements have been overhauled from time to time, and brought into line with modern requirements, and many other items of expense have been met with; while St. Patrick's Institute has, so far, not had to incur any expense in this direction, nor has any allowance been made for it in the Royal Commission's statement of the cost.

4. Since your Institution was first built many improvements have been made in the methods of treating the inmates, and this has necessitated considerable additions and alterations from time to time in the buildings. The number of the inmates has increased, and more room has had to be provided for their accommodation; portions of the old building have had to be enlarged, and others, such as the old hospital, have had to be entirely removed and rebuilt, to bring the Institution up to modern requirements, and the cost of these alterations has been included in the Royal Commission's totals, without any allowance being made for the buildings removed; and this course has considerably added to the proportionate cost per inmate, and, in our opinion, very unfairly, as no deduction has been made for the old buildings; and it is always a more expensive method to adapt an existing building to modern ideas than to build a new one, when the initial cost of the existing building is added to the cost of the alterations, as has been done by the Royal Commission in the case of your Institution.

5. Even were everything else equal, which is far from being the case, your Institution, accommodating both sexes, of more advanced ages—entailing separate dormitories, playgrounds, latrines, hospital wards, etc.—would necessarily be more expensive than one which accommodates only one sex; and, added to this, there is the fact that, in addition to the blind pupils, you have also deaf and dumb scholars to provide for in extra and separate class-rooms, with entirely different methods of treatment. Thus, it is practically impossible to make a comparison in the matter of cost, at so much per bed, between your Institution and one which accommodates only blind pupils, and those practically of one sex. The separation of the pupils also entails more accommodation for officers and attendance, as a larger number is required.

6. Another very important item in the cost of your Institution is the provision made for hospitals in separate wards with fire-proof means of escape to each ward, fire-proof stairs to the large dormitory, etc., none of which are to be found in connection with St. Patrick's Institute, there being a general hospital in close proximity, and, we believe, under the same management as the Institute, to which their sick pupils can be sent.

7. A considerable expense has also been incurred in connection with laying out the grounds, etc., at your Institution; providing separate tar-paved playgrounds for both sexes, cricket-grounds, gardens, etc.; and also in the dwarf walls and iron railings in Newtown-road and Codrington-street, and the retaining-wall, shelter-sheds, w.c.'s, etc., on the Darlington-road frontage; the gymnasium and workshops for the boys, and many other conveniences provided at your Institution, which are totally wanting at Lewisham; and the Royal Commission has included the cost of all these in their cost per bed at your Institution, but has allowed nothing whatever for them in the case of St. Patrick's Institute. No doubt, were they provided for, the apparent discrepancy in the costs would be materially reduced.

8. The drainage at your Institution has also been a costly item, as at the time connections were made with the sewer the nearest point was some distance from your boundaries down Codrington-street, so that a line of pipes had to be carried along the whole length of your Darlington-road frontage and a long way down Codrington-street; and, in addition to this, the old latrines, drainage pipes, and pits had to be removed, to give place to the more sanitary arrangement of the present system. St. Patrick's Institute, if it has any connection with the sewer at all, has nothing nearly so extensive and costly as this.

9. The magnitude of your Institution, and the absence of steam laundries at the time of its erection, demanded a laundry building, while at Lewisham nothing of this nature has been provided beyond what might be found in any ordinary dwelling-house, and they also have the advantage of steam laundries under the control of similar bodies to that managing the Institute itself.

10. Your Institution is also provided with a large concert hall, which is a valuable adjunct, as it enables the annual meetings, displays, and examinations of the pupils to be held without the expense of hiring halls elsewhere, and the consequent inconvenience and risk of taking the inmates to and from the Institution on such occasions, and it also serves to bring the

subscribers and general public out to the Institution on these times, and in the meantime it is very useful as a class-room for music and drawing pupils. The basement of this wing is utilised as workshop, wet-weather playground, etc., and the top storey forms a commodious dormitory for the boys. St. Patrick's Institute has no provision for these things at all, nor, as far as we can see, has any allowance been made for them in the estimated cost of the completed buildings.

11. A residence for the Superintendent of your Institution is also included in the cost set down by the Royal Commission, and as there is no provision made for anything of the sort at Lewisham, we do not see that it should have been included in the comparison made by them. This building alone cost nearly as much as the buildings at St. Patrick's Hospital, although there is nothing extravagant about it; but at the time of its erection much higher prices were ruling in the building trades than in 1896.

12. *Area per Bed.*—A very important item in the comparison of the two Institutions is the respective spaces allowed for each bed in the dormitory accommodation, and we find, on going into this question, that in the large boys' dormitory you have an area of 3,720 square feet, with 54 beds, equal to an area of 68.88 superficial feet for each bed; and in the other four dormitories you have an area of 1,048.75 square feet in each, with 17 beds in each, equal to an area of 61.69 superficial feet for each bed; while at Lewisham the total area of the present dormitories is 1,706.25 square feet, estimated to be sufficient for 35 beds, equal to 48.75 superficial feet for each bed.

The cubic contents of the dormitories at your Institution give 826.56 cubic feet per bed in the boys' dormitory and 740.28 cubic feet in the others, with suitable appliances for ventilation; while at St. Patrick's Institute the space allowed is only 682.5 cubic feet per bed.

When these figures are compared with those of the requirements of the Licensing Act and the most modern authorities on such Institutions as yours, it will be seen that the provision you have made is far from excessive, while that at Lewisham is totally inadequate.

No allowance whatever has been made by the Royal Commission for the more spacious accommodation at your Institution.

From the foregoing remarks it will be seen that, as we have previously stated, a comparison of costs, worked out to so much per bed, as has been done by the Royal Commission in their Report, is most unfair, inasmuch as no allowance has been made for the more advanced condition to which your Institution has attained, nor for the special requirements of the site, different sexes of the inmates, diversity of afflictions, additional number of attendants, teachers, and general staff required for the larger number of pupils, larger area per bed, etc., provided in your buildings.

As to the charge "that a large expenditure has been unnecessarily incurred upon the buildings of your Institution," we cannot see that any foundation exists for it. An examination of the buildings will show that, while they are substantial in character, they are not extravagant in construction, ornament, or design, while the fact that they are now fully utilised, and leave no room for further expansion, sufficiently answers any charge as to their being too extensive, while if they were compared with similar Institutions elsewhere it will be seen that they are comparatively economical; but if they are to be compared with such Institutions as St. Patrick's Institute, which has nothing beyond dining and day rooms and dormitories, and is totally unprovided with the more modern requirements such as class-rooms, workshops, gymnasium, etc., to say nothing about the bare condition of its surroundings, they may seem to be extravagant, especially when the comparison is so unfairly based as is the case in the Royal Commission's Report.

We have examined the costs of the different portions of the buildings carried out prior to our appointment as architects to the Institution, and are satisfied that when the different prices ruling when the various works were carried out are taken into consideration that the costs have not been excessive, and since we have been the architects for the Institution the whole of the works carried out have been completed below our estimates.

With regard to the new additions for which we have prepared plans, they consist of new dining-room, kitchen, scullery, pantries, and verandahs, on the ground floor; dormitory, attendant's bedroom, bathrooms, lavatories, clothing or linen-room, on the first floor; together with servants' quarters and box-room over the kitchen, etc.; and dormitory, attendant's bedroom, bathrooms, and lavatories, clothing or linen-room, and water storage on the second floor; with stone fire-escape stairs connected to the present dormitories in the main building.

From their general nature they require to be placed in as central a position as possible, and that occupied by the present dining-room, etc., is the most suitable.

The present dining-room is even now too small for the number of inmates, and it is absolutely necessary to provide for a greater number in the near future so as to meet the growing demands made upon the Institution. The kitchen arrangements are also incapable of expansion, while more dormitory accommodation is needed for the girls and staff.

To build only what would meet present requirements would be a short-sighted and expensive policy, consequently a building of such general utility has to be arranged to meet future developments.

In preparing the designs we have made the buildings as plain as possible, and in keeping with their more immediate surroundings, and advantage has been taken to as far as possible utilise the present foundations, and at the same time to encroach as little as possible upon the playgrounds.

Using the site of the present dining-rooms, kitchen, &c., necessarily entails the provision of temporary accommodation while the new ones are in course of erection, and this all adds to the cost of the proposed additions. The servants, of whom a larger number will be required than at present, are now accommodated at the main building; but new quarters will be provided for them in the proposed additions, and the rooms they now occupy will be available for the resident officers or other purposes.

The water pressure at the Institution being very low, it is necessary to provide storage, so that ample supplies may be available at all times and to provide for hot-water circulation and fire-hydrants. This storage will be provided for by means of tanks on the second floor level and the roof.

The fire-proof stairs will be accessible from the new dormitories direct, and from the present ones by means of the balconies.

The laundry accommodation at present provided is also inadequate to meet the requirements of the present and future, so a new one has been designed which will be fitted with the most modern requisites, and a portion of the Darlington-road wall has been utilised, and will form one wall of the new building.

In preparing these designs we have been actuated by a desire to provide the necessary accommodation as economically as possible consistent with stability and general appearance; every attention has been paid to such important matters as ventilation, accessibility, cleanliness, fire-escapes, and utility, and we do not think that the buildings could be placed in a better position or be more economically arranged, considering the various requirements.

We are,

Yours faithfully,

A. L. AND G. MCCREDIE.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

MANAGEMENT OF THE COOMA HOSPITAL.

(RETURN RESPECTING.)

Printed under No. 4 Report from Printing Committee, 29 September, 1898.

RETURN to an *Order* made by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 25th August, 1898, That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

“Copies of all documents, communications, papers, &c., received by the Chief Medical Officer, or any other officer of the Government, respecting the management of the Cooma Hospital.”

(Mr. Miller.)

The Secretary, Cooma Hospital, to The Chief Secretary.

Sir,

Cooma Hospital, 22 May, 1895.

In accordance with a circular letter received from the Principal Under Secretary on the 12th December last, I have been directed to submit the name of Henry Dent for approval as wardman of this hospital. The Committee of Management have carefully considered the matter, and given due attention to the fact that the Government desire, in the terms of the circular, trained wardmen, “*as far as possible*,” and are by a large majority satisfied that Henry Dent has sufficient training and experience to enable him to carry out his duties to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Dent is a teetotaller, and intends to marry the present matron.

I enclose a declaration made by him. May I ask that the matter receive your earliest attention, as the committee are anxious to receive a reply before their next monthly meeting, to be held on the 3rd proximo.

I have, &c.,
N. BLACK,
Secretary.

The Medical Adviser, for report.—C.W., P.U.S., B.C., 29/5/95.

[Enclosure.]

1. HENRY DENT, of Cooma, do solemnly and sincerely declare that early in the year 1875, and subsequently until November, 1876, I was attached to the Ambulance Corps on field-days of H.M.S. “President,” and performed various kinds of ambulance and hospital work.

2. During my convalescence—from an injury received—in the Portsmouth Royal Naval Hospital I was required to, and did duty as an hospital attendant for some five or six weeks.

3. After leaving H.M. Navy I went to New Zealand, and while in Wellington the house I resided in was burned down. By the fire I lost, in addition to my personal effects, my naval discharge and marine certificates. I am, therefore, unable to produce same to the committee. And I make this solemn declaration, conscientiously believing the same to be true, and in virtue of the provisions of an Act made and passed in the ninth year of the reign of Her present Majesty, intitled “An Act for the more effectual abolition of Oaths and Affirmations taken and made in various Departments of the Government of New South Wales, and to substitute Declarations in lieu thereof, and for the suppression of voluntary and extra-judicial Oaths and Affidavits.”

HY. DENT.

Made and signed before me, at Cooma, }
this 18th day of May, 1895,— }
N. BLACK, a Commissioner for Affidavits.

67—A

G. T. C. Miller,

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G. T. C. Miller, Esquire, M.P., to The Principal Under Secretary.

Dear Sir, Parliament House, 29 May, 1895.
 Just a line to support the nomination to the post of wardsman for Cooma Hospital of
 Mr. H. Dent.
 I have known Mr. Dent for a number of years, and am aware that he has had considerable
 experience in hospital work. He is besides a thoroughly trustworthy man, sober, industrious, and
 intelligent. I have, &c.,
 GUS. T. C. MILLER.

G. T. C. Miller, Esquire, M.P., to The Medical Adviser to the Government.

Dear Sir, Parliament House, 29 May, 1895.
 As I am given to understand that the appointment of hospital attendants in country towns
 must be submitted to you for approval, I shall be pleased to give my testimony to the worth and
 suitability of Mr. Henry Dent, who has recently been appointed to the position of warder to the Cooma
 Hospital. He has had considerable experience in the Navy Hospital, and is, in addition, a trustworthy
 man.

I shall be glad if you will approve of Mr. Dent's appointment.

Faithfully yours,
 GUS. T. C. MILLER.

The Deputy Medical Adviser to The Medical Adviser to the Government.

As to proposed appointment of Henry Dent, Cooma Hospital.

10 June, 1895.

I do not think the affidavit herewith deposes to such instruction as entitles the applicant to be called a
 trained hospital attendant.

Under the circumstances of this hospital, which are the subject of another communication, it is
 indispensable that there should be attached to it at least one chief officer, thoroughly well-trained and
 competent. I do not consider that the present matron answers to this description.

The object of the regulation lately made is to secure the presence in hospitals of at least one officer
 competent as a nurse in every respect. The phrase quoted by the secretary to the committee from the
 regulation, namely, "as far as possible," is copied from a sentence which was written by way of advice, and
 should not have found place in a regulation. However, what was meant by it was that above-mentioned
 * * * to make sure that in small hospitals one superior officer at least should be trained and competent
 to care for the sick in all ways not distinctively medical.

Under these circumstances, I do not think the application made by Henry Dent, and submitted by
 the secretary of committee, should be approved.

J. ASHBURTON THOMPSON,
 Deputy Medical Adviser.

The Principal Under Secretary.—There appears to be only one conclusion to be drawn from this
 report, viz., that, however otherwise excellent, the matron is not suitable for the position of matron owing
 to the lack of training and knowledge of nursing. As Mr. Dent is (also) entirely without such training, I
 cannot in the circumstances recommend the approval of his appointment.—A.S., 11/6/95.
 Inform accordingly.—C.W., 13/6/95.

The Principal Under Secretary to The Secretary to the Cooma Hospital.

Sir,

Chief Secretary's Office, Sydney, 14 June, 1895.

In reference to your letter of the 22nd ultimo, recommending Mr. H. Dent for appointment
 as wardsman at the Cooma Hospital, I am directed by the Chief Secretary to state that the Medical
 Adviser to the Government reports that as it is indispensable that there should be at least one chief officer
 attached to this hospital who is thoroughly well trained and competent, and as, however otherwise
 excellent, the present matron does not answer this description, he cannot endorse the recommendation of
 your committee, as it is considered that Dent also lacks the necessary training.

I have, &c.,

CRITCHETT WALKER,
 Principal Under Secretary.

The Deputy Medical Adviser to The Medical Adviser to the Government.

Inspection of Cooma Hospital.

6 June, 1895.

I VISITED this institution on the 4th instant. There were present the honorary staff (Drs. Hogg and
 Harvison), and the matron (Mrs. Palmer). Subsequently I conversed with the secretary (Mr. Black, C.P.S.)
 and a member of the committee (Mr. Madgwick), and at another time with Mr. Faulkner, a member of the
 committee of long standing.

The questions under present consideration regard management. As to site, that is suitable
 enough; as to building, that dates from 1865, and is a very good house, but a very poor hospital; as to
 general condition, cleanliness, tidiness, and (apparently) repair, those were satisfactory, but cheerfulness
 and matters under that general head were neglected; there were even no (or according to the secretary,
 extremely few) books, and a small pile of old periodicals. The only accommodation for infectious diseases
 was a room in the main building (at my visit occupied by a case of diphtheria), which could not be
 regarded as furnishing isolation, and there was no mortuary.

I found that an attendance-book had been provided, in accordance with regulations recently
 promulgated, and was in use, as well as a prescription-book, in which the original prescription was retained
 at the hospital, while a copy was transmitted to the druggist in the town who dispensed for the institution.

Up

Up to three or four years ago one medical man was appointed to the hospital, and received an honorarium of £50 a year for his trouble; later, two were appointed, who received £50 a year between them. On arrival of Drs. Hogg and Harrison, the hospital funds were low, and after representations made by the committee, they agreed to forego the honorarium which had been usual for a year. Since the lapse of the year six more months have gone by, and they still do not receive any honorarium. They are the only practitioners in the town. I understand that there is a large number of poor in the district. In more or fewer cases these are made out-patients by the committee, who furnish them with medicines, and occasionally with medical comforts, the doctors visiting and prescribing for them gratuitously. At present the medical men, as I was informed, are expected to see, or do see, that persons thus relieved by the committee are fit objects of charity. I feel no hesitation in saying that the gentlemen referred to not only share handsomely in this common benevolence by rendering their outdoor professional services gratuitously, but that learning the condition of applicants is a labour and responsibility which should not be put upon them, and should certainly be undertaken by the governing body itself in any other way they may deem suitable.

The matron of the hospital was appointed (at £65 a year, all found, no uniform) between two and three years ago. She informed me that she had had training at the Children's Hospital at Liverpool (England), had been employed at the Church Home, New South Wales, and in the State Children's Relief Office. I did not think at the time I gathered this information, and I do not think now, that she had had such training as would entitle her to be considered a trained nurse; and there is information in this office that practically she is not considered a competent trained nurse. I am not aware that she is an unsatisfactory officer in any other respect.

The matron has charge, in effect, of a large house usually occupied by five or six people, besides herself and her child, and her duty is to do all the work of it—cleaning, cooking, &c.—without assistance; none is provided by the committee. Additional to this, which by itself would sufficiently occupy one person, are her nursing duties. The work of different kinds thus indicated could not be satisfactorily performed by one person; and, in fact, the matron finds it impossible, and does furnish herself, at her own cost, for wages and food, with such help as she can afford to pay for. Latterly only she has been given assistance to relieve her of night-nursing; the night-nurses engaged and paid by the committee (£1 Is. a week, from 7 o'clock to 7) have in no case been trained nurses. The committee now propose to provide the institution with a wardman. His papers are the subject of another communication.

The institution is entirely unprovided with instruments. I was informed that there was a small collection of splints, a pair of scissors, a pair of forceps, and some other such odds and ends.

Until a short time ago there were no clothes at all at the hospital, except those which patients had brought in with them; in many cases these were what they stood up in, and such patients were, perforce, put to bed in the (usually) filthy shirt, &c., which they wore on admission. Now some night-gowns have been provided, but no other clothes, and there is no swag-room.

I heard statements that the hospital was unpopular, and that destitute sick residents of the town were persuaded with difficulty, or not at all, to enter it; but I do not insist on this, since all knowledge of it was denied by the members of the committee whom I named at first. It is the case (to judge from the numbers) that the institution has received a progressively increasing number of patients during about two years past, but this, by itself, is by no means an answer to the charge of unpopularity; it may, perhaps, indicate a slowly reviving popularity, or it may perhaps be due to causes unconnected therewith. If unpopularity really does exist, I am of opinion that there is reasonable ground for it in the arrangements described, especially as regards nursing.

I do not think I have seen so poor a hospital in any town and district of similar size. The causes of inferiority at Cooma (population about 2,000; of district, about 15,000) must probably be complex, and it is neither necessary nor expedient that I should attempt to name them all. For the present purpose it is enough to remark that the absence of instruments and means of isolating infectious from other patients effectually at a hospital established about thirty years indicates misapprehension of the objects and uses of hospitals; while the absolute dullness and meanness of the appointments indicate either some extraordinary obstacle to the exercise of such charity as extends itself beyond mere pecuniary contributions, or else a singular indifference on the part of the clergy and ladies of the town especially. It is scarcely possible that a hospital should serve its true ends unless it be more attractive than the homes of the poor, who chiefly resort to it, or sufficiently comfortable to attract persons from lodgings, hotels, &c., who by their contributions should be to some extent a source of revenue. It is not possible that such a hospital should confer all the benefits it ought to be capable of conferring on the extremely destitute unless during their stay they can, after being bathed, &c., be cleanly clad in clothes superior to the filthy rags in which some of them enter.

As to a remedy for the bad state in which the institution, as it seems to me, now is, perhaps the general fault may be most suitably described as inertia. The committee are almoners to the more prosperous part of the residents in the district; their duty in that capacity is to provide such efficient service as prudently economical administration of the funds entrusted to them can furnish. But beyond this, if the funds entrusted to them do not suffice for all that is necessary in view of the known requirements of efficient hospitals, then it is their part to urge increase of contributions from the residents, either of individual amounts (of money or kind), or by inducing those to subscribe who have not already done so, and this by a steady and business-like organisation which should operate throughout the year, as well as by occasional entertainments, &c. Farther, as to their position as almoners, their first step should be to see that their executive officers are competent in point of training, and then that they are provided with necessary materials, and not asked to make bricks out of straw.

The executive officers consist chiefly of the medical and nursing staff. As regards the former, the committee are now excellently provided. But they accept the gratuitous services of the two gentlemen who constitute it, and they, in their turn, give their services gratuitously, but not quite voluntarily. Under these circumstances they contribute more to the charity, as a matter of fact, than any others of the community concerned. They are the only medical men in the district, which cannot well support more than two; in common with other members of the profession, they willingly do a great deal of work among the poor, in the ordinary course of practice, for which they know well they can never expect any return. I therefore venture to ask whether, on consideration, this community think it fair that they should accept these services additionally rendered to this hospital without awarding them, when medical attendance is the very thing they are ostensibly providing the poor with, by their own benevolence, and at their own expense.

To

To this extent the community are sailing under false colours, and the case is the worse that the medical staff, as constituting the only medical aid in the neighbourhood, have no choice but to bear this extra burden forced upon them by the charitable.

As regards the nursing staff, I cannot look on that as efficient. A fair provision would be a thoroughly trained and experienced matron, whose wage should be about £80 a year; such an officer would doubtless attract to her one or more young women living in the neighbourhood, who would be anxious to learn to nurse, and glad to begin their career by sound instruction from the matron to the extent of the opportunity afforded by a small hospital, and who would be content with a very small stipend in addition to board and lodging. Additionally, there must be a servant of some sort to do the cooking and the rougher part of the house-work. A wardsman might be necessary or not; if a thoroughly trained nurse suitable for the position of matron happened to be married to a respectable man, devoid of the knowledge possessed by hospital attendants, it might be economical and well to appoint him wardsman; in that case no objection to him would be raised on the score of want of such knowledge, or even an otherwise suitable man, but devoid of hospital, might be appointed, were the matron of the standing described, and were a wardsman thought necessary. But it is absolutely indispensable that the matron should thoroughly well understand her art, otherwise nothing can be satisfactorily effected.

I believe I have now said enough to show that I think reforms necessary at this hospital, and to enable any members of the committee who may feel that necessity to move (with advice of the Medical Staff) on right lines.

There are certain points to which the committee should be officially required to attend without unnecessary delay. They are—provision of isolation accommodation, provision of a mortuary so constructed as to be suitable for performing *post-mortem* examinations, and conversion of existing cesspits to pail-closets. A hint should also be conveyed to them touching the following matter:—I heard that, now or formerly, members of the committee had supplied goods to the institution in the ordinary course of trade; this is manifestly undesirable, or even improper, and during his term of office no committeeman should enter into such business relations with the body of which he is a member. A hospital without instruments is inconceivable, and could become possible only by unacknowledged and practically compulsory requisitions on the Medical Staff.

J. ASHBURTON THOMPSON,
Deputy Medical Adviser.

Copy of this report to the hospital authorities.—A.S., 11/6/95. Done, 13/6/95.

The Secretary, Cooma Hospital to The Secretary, Board of Health.

Sir,

Cooma Hospital, 29 June, 1895.

I have the honor to forward herewith a reply to your communication of the 13th instant, covering the Deputy Medical Adviser's report of his inspection of this hospital.

I have, &c.,
N. BLACK,
Secretary.

[Enclosure.]

THE report of Dr. Ashburton Thompson having been considered by the local committee, in reply thereto I am instructed to submit the following:—

Building and the interior.

The committee agree that the hospital is not as conveniently designed as they would wish, but as it is an old building, this is hardly to be expected. That in August, 1893, the idea of erecting the additions, viz., an infectious diseases ward and mortuary, was considered, and it was then intimated to the Government that the funds of the institution would not allow of their erection, and though since then the matter has always been in view of the committee, still the funds have never been sufficient, barely covering the expenses of maintaining the hospital. It is, therefore, now quite out of the power of the committee to erect these buildings without a special grant for the purpose.

The committee also regret that for want of funds they have not been able to provide pictures and books, but the class of patients usually in the hospital do not miss them, and books are always forthcoming for those who are able to appreciate them, also the daily and weekly papers are provided. It is satisfactory to the committee to know that the other conditions of the buildings are considered satisfactory, and that it is only such additional buildings as lie beyond their power to erect that are said to be necessary.

As regards the closets, they are, and have been since 1892, on the pail system; it is, therefore, apparent Dr. Thompson did not inspect them.

Medical Officers.

It is distinctly understood between the committee and these gentlemen that their services are gratuitously and voluntarily given, on account of the want of sufficient funds, and the committee have not been behindhand in giving them all the praise and thanks that their generous acts entitle them to, and they have again assured the committee that these services on their part are purely voluntary, and will be continued with pleasure, providing that reform in regard to nursing is carried out, which it will be seen hereafter the committee intend to put into operation; so long as this understanding and the present kindly feelings in the matter exist, they fail to see that it is a subject for the severe criticism it has received. It never has been the wish that these gentlemen should be held in any way responsible for the condition of applicants for outdoor relief, and arrangements have lately been made whereby the poor requiring medical aid, &c., are provided with it at the expense of the local Ladies' Benevolent Society, which Dr. Thompson appears to have not been informed existed, and to which society the medical men also give their valuable services free of cost.

Instruments.

Application for a grant to enable the committee to procure these has been made, and they take this opportunity of asking to be liberally dealt with as other committees have been in the past.

Matron.

The present matron is certainly not a trained nurse, but she is incomparably superior to any former holder of the position, and has materially assisted in bringing the institution to its present fairly satisfactory state. She has always been provided with night-nurses when the medical men thought it necessary. The committee, owing to the great increase in the number of patients, and also the more serious nature of the diseases coming into the hospital, and at the suggestion of the medical officers, called for applications for a trained nurse to work in conjunction with the matron, but no applications were received. A wardsman then applied, who intended, if appointed, to marry the matron, but his nomination has been disapproved of.

The committee are desirous of improving the nursing arrangements, and are giving it their careful consideration. Unfortunately, the matron was seized with diphtheria, and the committee have consequently been put to great expense in procuring two trained nurses from Sydney. As this matter is under consideration, something will be shortly done. It would be manifestly unjust to dismiss the matron, who has done so much; has given satisfaction to previous medical officers, and has only failed when the work became impossible for any one person to perform.

Clothes.

Clothes.

This matter will receive the attention of the committee, some having been already provided, and others being under consideration.

Popularity.

Some few years ago this hospital was, no doubt, in great disfavour, but the stigma then cast upon it has disappeared. Patients and subscriptions are on the increase, and in the absence of any proof to the contrary, these appear to be the only signs by which any opinion can be arrived at. The visiting committee are in regular attendance, and all patients are individually asked if they have any complaint to make, and none are forthcoming; but, on the contrary, it is a common practice to publicly thank the matron and hospital committee for the attention and kindness received in the hospital. Amongst the poorer classes there is always an objection existing to go to the hospital, and is attributable more to their ignorance of the life therein than to any true and sufficient reason.

Committee.

While it may appear to those living in larger places than Cooma, that it is undesirable that committeemen should have any interest in the supplying of provisions to the institution under their charge; still it is almost necessary, as the storekeepers and hotelkeepers are some of the staunchest supporters of our hospital, and having the success and economical management of it in view, they no doubt fulfil their contracts faithfully, and as reasonably as any other business people could possibly do. The contracts are all let by tender, the lowest tender nearly always getting the contract; therefore no injustice can possibly arise. Moreover, the remaining committee are surely a sufficient safeguard against any imposition. To exclude committeemen from contracting would result in a large decrease of support; and, if any evil, it is certainly a necessary one for the revenue of this institution (see Rule 12).

General.

The committee, one and all, desire to express their deep sense of the responsibility cast upon them, and their only desire is to do all they can for the proper conduct of the hospital and relief of the patients therein. They desire to point out that they lose no opportunity of collecting contributions, nor do they omit to bring about the holding of entertainments for its benefit. This district is not in a flourishing condition, nor are the general run of persons in affluent circumstances. The committee do not consider the reflection on the ministers of religion and the ladies either just or becoming. They desire also to respectfully express the opinion that however wise it may be for Dr. Thompson to inspect the hospital alone in the first instance, that it is his duty to request the committee to attend the hospital and there discuss matters. If such course had been adopted, much of his report would have been unnecessary.

Further efforts will be made to get in subscriptions, and steps will be taken to get a grant for the buildings considered necessary, and which would undoubtedly be a great addition to the hospital and the efficient working of same.

JOHN L. KING,
President,
For the Committee.

The Chief Medical Officer to The Principal Under Secretary.

Sir, Office of the Chief Medical Officer, Sydney, 25 November, 1897.

I do myself the honor to transmit herewith a letter concerning the management of Cooma Hospital, addressed to me by Dr. Walter S. Harvison, Government Medical Officer at Cooma, and a member of the hospital medical staff. The complaint, though referring to a single incident only, is, in my opinion, a serious one.

2. On 6th June, 1895, I made report on this institution after visiting it. That report, though moderate, was, perforce, strongly condemnatory of the then management, and the most important matter which I then pointed out as requiring alteration was the absence of any trained nurse.

3. It appears that there is still no trained nurse in charge of this institution. This appears to me to be a very serious defect, and one which ought to be remedied as speedily as possible; in the meantime, I feel constrained to say that the public moneys with which the hospital is subsidised are not being expended either in accordance with the needs of the sick poor nor advantageously.

4. You may, perhaps, think proper to draw the attention of the committee to this matter by inquiring whether they have a trained nurse; and, if so, what certificate of training she possesses.

I have, &c.,

J. ASHBURTON THOMPSON,
Chief Medical Officer of the Government.

The committee of the hospital may be written in terms of this communication.—C.W., 8/12/97.
Approved.—J.N.B., 8/12/97.

[Enclosures.]

The Government Medical Officer, Cooma, to The Chief Medical Officer.

Dear Dr. Thompson,

Cooma, 7 November, 1897.

Just a few lines to tell you that the hospital committee held their meeting to inquire into my complaints against the matron, and came to the conclusion that she was not to blame in the matter.

I sent a boy to the hospital, and the same night went up to arrange about an operation on him next morning. I told the matron what I intended doing, and asked her to have him ready at 12 o'clock next day, also telling her what dressings, &c., would be required. When he was put on the table he was simply dirt from head to foot, and I had to scrub him with soap and water before I could do anything. Dr. Ryan, who also attended at the hospital, gave chloroform for me and saw the state the boy was in, and I thought it a good opportunity to bring it before the committee, as he could also prove the charge. He, however, attended the meeting, and stated that the matron would have done quite wrong if she had sponged the boy without my instructions to do so, and if any case were admitted to the hospital, no matter how dirty, no cleaning up should be done without the doctor's orders. I told the committee that I would not insult a woman in charge of a hospital by telling her to have a patient clean when put on the table for operation any more than I would tell her to have his face washed; that every decent nurse would understand that it should be done, and if not, she might have asked in this case, as she knew the boy was very dirty. Other matters came up at the meeting, showing very clearly that the patients were not properly looked after, but as far as I know the committee don't intend to alter them. I wrote and said I would not attend the hospital after the end of the year, as I could not be connected with the place as managed at present, and they wrote and asked me to reconsider the matter, as my leaving would be against the best interests of the hospital. I wrote to-day and said I would have no more to do with them until there was a trained nurse in charge. I also said that as Government Medical Officer I had informed you how the hospital was managed, and would give you an account of their meeting, and if they did not think fit to make any changes perhaps you might do so.

I am very sorry to have to give it up, as there is no work I like so well, but I have tried so often to get things right that I am now going to leave it to them, as they won't be reasonable.

I think the people here will go for the committee when I leave, as they are very wild about the way things are conducted, and a number of subscribers will withdraw their subscriptions. I am very much obliged for your kind letter, and am sorry to trouble you again, and also regret that I have not succeeded better with the committee.

I have, &c.,

WALTER S. HARVISON.

The

The Government Medical Officer, Cooma, to The Chief Medical Officer.

Dear Sir, Cooma, 22 November, 1897.
Please consider my letter as an official one. I am sure if you do anything in the matter it will do a great deal of good for the hospital. The committee only want a little to make them do the right thing.
Yours, &c.,
WALTER S. HARVISON.

The Principal Under Secretary to The Committee of Management of the Cooma Hospital.

Sir, Chief Secretary's Office, Sydney, 9 December, 1897.
With reference to previous correspondence, I am now directed by the Chief Secretary, at the instance of the Government Medical Adviser, to inquire whether there is, at the present time, a trained nurse attached to the Cooma Hospital; and, if so, what certificate of training she possesses.
I have, &c.,
CRITCHETT WALKER,
Principal Under Secretary.

The Secretary, Cooma Hospital, to The Principal Under Secretary.

Sir, Cooma Hospital, 20 December, 1897.
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, and am instructed to reply thereto in the following terms:—
That Mrs. Dent, the present matron, is a thoroughly competent nurse (although not in possession of credentials as a trained nurse), and has given the fullest satisfaction to the committee and all medical men who have been connected with the hospital since her appointment, with one exception. I enclose a report from Dr. Ryan, one of the medical officers of this hospital, on the matter.
I have, &c.,
A. W. WALLACE,
Secretary.

May be referred to the Medical Adviser.—C.W., 22/12/97. Approved.—J.N.B., 22/12/97.
The Medical Adviser to the Government.—C.W., P.U.S., B.C., 22/12/97.
The matron of this hospital is not a trained nurse. I drew attention to this in 1895. I think the committee should be warned that their subsidy will be withheld until the nursing is efficiently provided for by appointment of a trained nurse, in accordance with the circular order.—J.A.T., 30/12/97. The Principal Under Secretary.
The committee should be warned accordingly.—C.W., 5/1/98. Approved.—J.N.B., 7/1/98.

[Enclosure.]

Dear Sir, Cooma Hospital, 20 December, 1897.
As Medical Officer of the Cooma Hospital, I have been requested by the committee to report to you concerning the qualifications of the matron of that institution.
Mrs. Dent, the matron, has occupied her present position for nearly six years, during which time she has acted under five or six different medical officers who were all perfectly satisfied with her, and from whom she holds unexceptionable references.
I, myself, have been acting over two years as medical officer here, and I have always found her a most capable and trustworthy matron, as well as a skilful and efficient nurse, and I do not think we could possibly procure anyone better fitted for the position.
Before coming to Cooma, Mrs. Dent acted as matron to the Children's Home, Liverpool, under Dr. Beattie, from whom she also holds first-class references.
I may state that some complaints were made recently by Dr. Harvison to the committee against Mrs. Dent, but on a searching investigation being held, she was completely exonerated from all blame, and Dr. Harvison's charges were declared to be entirely unfounded. In consequence of this decision of the committee, the latter felt himself compelled to resign his position of medical officer to the hospital.
After this, I fail to understand his present action in writing to the Chief Secretary's Office concerning the matron; and I may state, in conclusion, that he has done so without letting me know anything whatever of his intentions, an act, to say the least of it, of extreme discourtesy to me, his colleague to the hospital, as well as of gross injustice to the matron.
Yours, &c.,
JOSEPH RYAN, L.R.C.S.E., L.R.C.P.E., J.I.P.S.S.,
Medical Officer, Cooma Hospital.

The Principal Under Secretary.

The Principal Under Secretary to The Secretary, Cooma Hospital.

Sir, Chief Secretary's Office, Sydney, 10 January, 1898.
With reference to your letter of the 20th ultimo, in continuation of previous correspondence, on the subject of the qualification of the matron of the Cooma Hospital, I am directed by the Chief Secretary to inform you that unless the nursing is efficiently provided for by the appointment of a trained nurse in accordance with the circular letter from this office, of date the 11th December, 1894, the Government will be constrained to withhold payment of subsidy to the institution.
I have, &c.,
CRITCHETT WALKER,
Principal Under Secretary.

The Chief Medical Officer to The Principal Under Secretary.

Sir, Office of the Chief Medical Officer, Sydney, 28 February, 1898.
I have the honor to draw your further attention to the management of the Cooma Hospital, as represented in letters transmitted herewith, and addressed to me by Dr. Walter Harvison, Government Medical Officer, and until 31st December last a member of the honorary staff of the hospital.
You will observe that in case marked "A" in Dr. Harvison's letter, dated 15th February, a destitute wayfarer, apparently *in articulo mortis*, who had been picked up on the road, and brought into town by a charitable person, was refused admission to the hospital by the matron until the formality of getting

getting an order from a subscriber had been gone through, and until the order had been countersigned by a committeeman, although Dr. Harvison had taken the trouble to drive to the hospital and warn the matron to admit the patient at once, in view of the extreme urgency of his symptoms. Dr. Harvison adds that a majority of the committee subsequently decided that the matron's action was in accordance with the hospital rules; a decision which, if it really were arrived at, amply confirms the opinion of the management of this institution formed by me in 1895, and justifies the terms in which I expressed it. This defence of observance of rules having been raised (although its inaptness is obvious), I append a copy of the Model Rules for District Hospitals, in which provision for immediate admission by the person in charge of the institution of all urgent cases is made.

3. Fortunately for all concerned, the patient above alluded to did not die. In the case described in the same letter, and marked "B," you will notice that the patient did die during the interval which elapsed between Dr. Harvison's first seeing him and his admission, Dr. Harvison having in this instance apparently refrained from seeking the immediate admission which the urgency of the illness rendered necessary, in consequence of his experience in case "A," just fifteen days before.

4. The death in the case "B" Dr. Harvison says he reported to the coroner, who agreed it would be a good thing to hold an inquiry in order to draw attention to the matter, but no inquiry has been held. It is a matter for consideration, in my opinion, whether the Minister of Justice might not be moved to direct inquiry even after this lapse of time, with a view to bringing out some of the facts, which are of public interest in relation to management of this hospital.

5. The committee were warned by you on 10th January last that the subsidy would be withheld unless they provided for efficient nursing by appointing a trained hospital nurse to the post of matron. Five or six weeks having elapsed, and a fresh complaint having been received in the meantime, I now suggest that a letter of inquiry should be addressed to the committee, requesting information as to any steps they may have taken towards engaging a suitable matron.

I have, &c.,

J. ASHBURTON THOMPSON,
Chief Medical Officer of the Government.

A communication should be addressed to the committee, requesting that information may be furnished as to what steps have been taken towards engaging a suitable person as matron, as herein suggested.—C.W., 3/3/98.

Approved.—J.N.B., 4/3/98.

[Enclosures.]

Dear Dr. Thompson,

Cooma, 15 February, 1898.

In connection with the local hospital, I would like you to know of a case that occurred on the 16th December Case A last. Mr. Litchfield, a large station-owner, called at my house, and asked me if I would go at once to see a man whom he had brought into town. He found him lying on the road near the station, 10 miles from Cooma. His clothes were all blood, also the ground near him; and he said he had been vomiting. I went at once, and found the man in a very low condition. I could not count his pulse, and he was hardly able to speak, and had a temperature of 100 degrees. He was still vomiting blood into a vessel beside him. I sent for medicine and let him have a dose at once, and told the people at the house to keep him quiet for an hour or so, until I sent someone to take him to the hospital. I also gave him a note to give to the matron, asking her to admit him, &c.; then, for fear of anything going wrong, I drove to the hospital, saw the matron, and told her to have the man very carefully put to bed, as he had lost a lot of blood, and if it started again it might be impossible to stop it. He was taken to the hospital, and the matron refused him admission, and it was over 100 degrees in the shade, and he had to be taken back to the Coffee Palace, where I had left him. I wrote complaining of her conduct to the committee, and they sent her my letter, to which she replied that the man did not look ill, consequently, in compliance with hospital rules, she refused him admission until he would get a card signed. The man's clothes were covered with blood; he was as pale as a ghost. I had told her an hour and a half before that he was dangerously ill, and yet a majority of the committee decided that she had acted in accordance with hospital rules.

A few days later I was called to see a Chinaman whom I found alone in his hut, with severe hemorrhage from the Case B lung. There was no food of any kind in the place. I returned home and got some, and a bottle of milk, and went back to him at once. He told me when he had taken the medicine and milk he felt better, so I told him he must go to the hospital. I found another Chinaman in a hut near, and directed him how to go about getting a card for his admission to the hospital, and told him to get it as soon as possible. This he succeeded in doing by 3:30 p.m., when he went for a cart to remove him to hospital. I said I would ride down to the hut and wait for the cart, as I wanted to be sure that the patient was fit to start. When I got there, 4 p.m., I found the poor old man lying across the bed, which was only about 4 inches high, with his head on the ground on one side, and his feet on the other, dead. If I could have had him taken quietly to the hospital within an hour or two of the time I first saw him, 9:30 a.m., I think he would have recovered, yet a note from me would not be accepted by the matron, nor even a message given her by myself at the hospital, so I was compelled to get a card signed by a subscriber and a member of the committee, while the poor old wretch was left there to die. I reported the matter to the Coroner, who was also President of the Hospital Committee, and he said it would be a very good thing to hold an inquiry and let the public have the facts before them, and bring the committee to their senses; however, no inquiry was held. A number of subscribers have told me they will not give any money to the place while it is conducted as at present. All the decent men who were on the last committee have resigned, and the new committee has all the objectionable members who were on it before, and no less than four publicans. As it is now, the committee will never know what goes on in the place, as Dr. Ryan and the matron and her husband will stick to one another, and what one says the other two will swear to, so that complaints made by patients will never do any good, and some members of the committee, who know that the matron is not fit for her place, and is doing the hospital a lot of harm, will help her in every possible way to hang on.

You will think, I am afraid, that I am a disagreeable individual, but I am really disgusted at the way things have been carried on. I have done my level best for the last four years to try and make the hospital what it should be, but I had to give it up at last. It is really better for me to be out of it, as my practice has just doubled itself in the last two years, and I will not have much time to spare; but there are so many poor people in the district who would like to take advantage of a local hospital, and many people of means, who would be only too glad to help to keep it going, that I am sorry it is not the useful place it ought to be.

I hope you will excuse the length of my letter, but I feel that I should give you the information in it.

With kind regards.

Dr. Ashburton Thompson, Board of Health.

I am, &c.,

WALTER S. HARVISON.

Dear Dr. Thompson,

Cooma, 22 February, 1898.

I have not been connected with the hospital since 31st December, 1897. I sent the case of hæmætemesis, I wrote to you about, to the hospital on 16th December, 1897. The date of the old Chinaman's death was 31st December, 1897.

Dr. Thompson.

Yours, &c.,

W. S. HARVISON.

Extract

Extract from Model Rules for District Hospitals.

The Matron.

* * * * *

But she shall admit all cases of accident and urgency on her own responsibility, and she shall also admit police cases at any hour.

Admission of Patients.

* * * * *

Accidents, urgent and police cases, shall be admitted at all hours, and, in default of other authority, on responsibility of the matron.

The Principal Under Secretary to The Secretary, Cooma Hospital.

Sir,

The Chief Secretary's Office, Sydney, 7 March, 1898.

I am directed by the Chief Secretary to invite attention to my letter of the 10th January last, on the subject of the appointment of a trained nurse to the position of matron to the Cooma Hospital, and to inquire what steps have been taken by your committee towards engaging a suitable person to the office in question.

I have, &c.,

CRITCHETT WALKER,

Principal Under Secretary.

The Secretary, Cooma Hospital, to The Principal Under Secretary.

Sir,

Cooma Hospital, 10 March, 1898.

I have the honor, by direction of the president and the committee of the Cooma Hospital, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, respecting the appointment of a trained nurse to the position of matron at the Cooma Hospital, and to inform you that the letter in question was considered at a special meeting of the committee, held yesterday, when that body regretted to learn that your letter of the 10th January last escaped the attention it should have received by the late committee, and which, I am informed, was omitted by accident.

I am further desired to inform you that the matron, formerly Mrs. Palmer, now Mrs. Dent, was appointed matron under the old Act, and has been in her present position for some years (five); that she holds very high certificates as to her undoubted qualifications, as you will observe by the enclosed copies thereof.

I am to add that many medical men bear high testimony of her ability, and that the present medical officer of the institution, Dr. Ryan, says "that a more careful or suitable nurse could not be employed by the committee." The committee have the fullest confidence in her, and the general public admit that she is an experienced and kind-hearted nurse.

I have, &c.,

HUGH H. MACDONNELL,

Secretary.

This communication should be forwarded for the information of the Chief Medical Officer.—C.W., 14/3/98. Approved.—J.N.B., 14/3/98. The Chief Medical Officer of the Government.—C.W., P.U.S., B.C., 15/3/98.

I think that on the receipt of the next application for subsidy, payment should be withheld, but in view of the terms of the letter, dated 5th January, 1898, that nothing further need be done just now.—J.A.T., 18/4/98. The Principal Under Secretary.

[Enclosures.]

The "Calliope," Start-street, Bourke, 20 October, 1897.

It affords me pleasure to testify to Mrs. H. M. Dent's proficiency as a hospital (general) nurse.

I had ample opportunities to observe Mrs. Dent when first appointed as matron to the Cooma Hospital, and notwithstanding she entered into her office under most trying circumstances, she, in a most ladylike way, looked on the bright side of an irksome position, and attended with great gentleness and kindness to each patient under her care. Her disposition and cleanly appearance always recommends her to her patients, and any medical practitioner may, without doubt, consider himself fortunate in having her assistance to his success.

F. B. KANE, L.R.C.P., &c.,

Late Hon. Surgeon, Cooma Hospital, Newcastle Hospital, &c., &c.

12 January, 1894.

MRS. PALMER has asked me for a testimonial.

It gives me great pleasure to bear testimony to her intelligence and care of the sick poor in her charge in the Cooma Hospital.

JOHN CLIFFORD,

Physician, &c.

From Drs. Collingwood and Blackwood.

South-street, Summer Hill, 18 May, 1895.

I HAVE pleasure in testifying to the manner in which Mrs. Palmer performed her duties during the time that I was connected with the Cooma Hospital.

Although she had not the advantage of hospital training, she readily adapted herself to the work—was willing to learn, and most careful in carrying out my orders. Her general management of the place was excellent, considering the means at her command. The wards were kept scrupulously clean, and I cannot speak too highly of her kindness to the patients under her care.

F. M. BLACKWOOD, M.D.

Liverpool Asylum, 23 May, 1892.

I AM afforded much pleasure in adding my testimony to that of many others as to the excellent character of Mrs. H. M. Palmer.

I have known her for over three years, and can speak with all confidence as to her capacity and general work while she acted as matron of the Children's Home in this town. Mrs. Palmer is, in truth, a most excellent woman, kindly in disposition, active, and regular and clean in habits, of high moral principle and strictest integrity, and fond of the faithful discharge of whatever duties she undertakes.

J. A. BEATTIE,

Senior Government Medical Officer, Liverpool District.

The

The President, Cooma Hospital, to The Principal Under Secretary.

Re Subsidy for the year 1897.

Sir,

Cooma Hospital, 4 April, 1898.

As the Cooma Hospital is much in need of funds for the payment of current requirements and past liabilities, I have the honor to request that you may be pleased to cause the Chief Secretary to be moved to place the subsidy due to the credit of the Cooma Hospital with the Cooma branch of the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney (Ltd.)

I have, &c.,

T. W. FAULKNER,
President.

The Honorary Treasurer, Cooma Hospital, to The Principal Under Secretary.

Re Subsidy for 1897.

Sir,

May I have the honor of drawing your attention to my letter of the 4th April last, wherein you were asked to be so good as to request the Honourable the Chief Secretary to be pleased to cause the subsidy due for the year ending 31st December, 1897, to be placed to the credit of the Cooma Hospital in the Cooma branch of the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney (Limited).

I may add that, owing to the subsidy not being forthcoming, that I have been unable to pay the wages of the employees or the tradesmen for their supplies for the past quarter yet.

Trusting that you will be so good as to use your influence in having this matter adjusted without delay.

I have, &c.,

DAVID JEFFREY,
Hon. Treasurer.

Will the Medical Adviser kindly state if he is in a position to now recommend payment of this subsidy.—C.W. (P.U.S.), B.C., 13/5/98.

The Chief Medical Officer to The Principal Under Secretary.

Office of the Chief Medical Officer, Sydney, 19 May, 1898.

Payment of Subsidy, Cooma Hospital.

With reference to your inquiry of the 13th instant, on papers returned herewith, and to my note of 24th March last,* nothing has come to my knowledge which would justify me in recommending payment of this subsidy in view of correspondence regarding ill-management of this institution now with you. On the contrary, I have reason to believe that the nursing arrangements and internal management are still what they were, such as to render the institution less useful than it should be as a State-aided hospital, and unpopular in the district.

I am strongly of opinion that the reforms already indicated should be firmly insisted upon, after reference to the correspondence already referred to; and it appears that refusal to pay the subsidy is the only available means of securing them. Allegations of consequent hardship will be made, and in part truly; but for this the committee should be held solely responsible.

J. ASHBURTON THOMPSON.

Shall the committee of management be informed that the Chief Medical Officer cannot recommend payment of subsidy?—A.E.H., 25/5/98. Yes.—C.W., 25/5/98.

The Principal Under Secretary to The Honorary Treasurer, Cooma Hospital.

Sir,

Chief Secretary's Office, Sydney, 27 May, 1898.

With reference to your communication of the 11th instant, relative to the payment of subsidy due to the Cooma Hospital for the period 1st May to 31st December, 1897, I am directed by the Chief Secretary to inform you that the Chief Medical Officer, to whom the claim has been referred, reports that he cannot recommend payment of this subsidy until the matter in dispute regarding the nursing staff is satisfactorily settled.

I have, &c.,

CRITCHETT WALKER,
Principal Under Secretary.

The Secretary, Cooma Hospital, to The Principal Under Secretary.

Sir,

Cooma Hospital, Cooma, 11 June, 1898.

I have the honor, by direction of the President of the Cooma Hospital, to convey to you the following resolution, unanimously passed by the committee at the usual monthly meeting held on Wednesday evening last, viz.:—"That the Secretary be instructed to write to the Principal Under Secretary, and ask that gentleman to be pleased to cause Dr. Ashburton Thompson to be so good as to furnish the committee of the Cooma Hospital with a copy of the report which justified his remarks to Mr. W. M. Madgwick on the 27th May last as to the state and management of the Cooma Hospital."

I have, &c.,

HUGH H. MACDONNELL,
Secretary.

May be referred to the Chief Medical Officer.—C.W., 15/6/98. Approved.—J.N.B., 16/6/98.
The Chief Medical Officer.—C.W. (P.U.S.), B.C., 17/6/98.

The Chief Medical Officer to The Principal Under Secretary.

Memorandum.

Office of the Chief Medical Officer, Sydney, 20 June, 1898.

I do not understand the reference to a report in the committee's resolution. I have none.

But I would suggest that the matter is simple. The hospital is not furnished with a trained nurse, although the Chief Secretary's direction is that any subsidised hospital shall be so furnished. I am not aware that any other matter is now under consideration.

J. ASHBURTON THOMPSON,
Chief Medical Officer to the Government.

Submitted.—C. W., 23/6/98.

G. C. Miller, Esq., M.P., to The Chief Secretary.

Dear Mr. Brunker,

Cooma, 15 June, 1898.

I, together with the people of this district generally, are much exercised over the treatment the hospital committee at Cooma are receiving. I understand that your Department refuse the subsidy due to the committee, on the grounds that Dr. Ashburton Thompson refuses to recommend payment. I have no hesitation in pronouncing the Medical Officer's decision as wrong, and unfair to the committee. According to the published report he absolutely refuses to recommend payment. I ask you to kindly peruse the report, and also letters and remarks marked in accompanying papers. I shall have to fight the matter out, I expect; but I am satisfied, from personal observations and reports, that the statement as to dirt and bad management are utterly groundless. I am so far convinced of the matter, that I shall ask you to kindly refer to officers of the Civil Service for their independent opinions on the matter, and these are men that have left the district:—Mr. Milton S. Love, Chamber Magistrate, Water Police Court, Sydney; Mr. J. L. King, Police Magistrate, Orange; Mr. E. S. Black, C.P.S., Young. I can produce volumes of evidence from the most reliable men in Monaro to refute the statement of Dr. Thompson. I cannot possibly allow the matter to rest here, and I am not certain whether the alleged dirt, &c., will not have to be proven in Court by Dr. Thompson. Trusting that you will investigate the question, and have the subsidy paid forthwith.

I am, &c.,

GUS. C. MILLER.

The Chief Medical Officer.—C.W. (P.U.S.), B.C., 21/6/98.

I think this letter is covered by papers returned to you yesterday; but I attach some newspaper cuttings received since then. The Principal Under Secretary.—J.A.T., B.C., 22/6/98.

[Enclosures.]

The Monaro Mercury, 10th June, 1898.

COOMA HOSPITAL COMMITTEE.

THE WITHHELD SUBSIDY.

THE monthly meeting of the Cooma Hospital Committee was held at the Council-chambers, on Wednesday afternoon, at which there were present:—The President (Mr. T. W. Faulkner), Messrs. W. Spicer, E. Dodds, H. W. Jackson, C. Solomon, D. Jeffrey, and the Rev. W. A. S. Anderson.

A letter was read from Mr. G. D. Cochrane, architect, to the effect that Mr. Titus Plackett had accepted and signed the contract for the erection of a female fever ward for the hospital, to be completed ten weeks from date, subject to the weather being favourable to building operations, for the sum of £225. The letter was received.

A letter was read from the Australian Natives Association, Melbourne, enclosing a cheque for £2, being a donation from the profits of the art union held on 26th January last. The letter stated that £1,471 had been disbursed amongst the hospitals.

Alderman Dodds moved, "That the letter be received, and the receipt of the cheque acknowledged."

The Rev. W. Anderson seconded, and it was carried.

A letter was read from Mr. J. St. Vincent Welch, of the Commercial Union Fire Insurance Company, stating that an increase had been made in the rates of charges, in terms of the tariff entered into by the insurance companies, and that the policy expired on the 25th May last.

The secretary (Mr. H. H. Macdonnell) stated that he had been notified that the policy would be right, in view of the meeting to be held that day.

The Chairman said that he would suggest that application be made for an extension of time to afford an opportunity to the Committee to consider whether they would increase or decrease the policy. Those who were supplying goods to the patients were entitled to the amounts due. It was owing to the penurious and parsimonious conduct of the Government that they were not able to pay their debts.

Mr. Solomon thought they should pay the premiums due at once, and give notice of the additions to the buildings.

Mr. Spicer seconded. It often happened that when a policy was allowed to lapse a fire occurred.

Mr. Jackson said the fact of their making building additions would have to be submitted.

The Chairman said they wanted a protecting order from the company. The risk was a great one, but he thought they could inform the company that additions were being made, but they would like to have a temporary protecting cover to their policy, and then they could represent the matter to the Government. If it did not jeopardise the matter he would advise them to do as he stated.

Mr. Spicer said the building could not be completed by the conclusion of the extension of time. He thought they should insure the present building and the additions also.

The motion was then put and carried.

The medical officer's report showed that six patients were treated during May; two had been discharged, and three remained in the hospital. The report was received.

Mr. W. M. Madgwick wrote as follows:—"St. Peter's, 27th May, 1898. The President and Committee of the Cooma Hospital. Dear Sirs,—In compliance with your desire, I waited on the Principal Under Secretary, in company with Mr. Dawson, this morning, and asked the reason of delay with regard to the subsidy. I at once learned that the reason was the refusal of the committee to employ a trained nurse. Mr. Critchett Walker, I may say, is not favourable to the action of stopping the subsidy, and I do not think he holds a more favourable opinion of Dr. Thompson than some of your committee. However, he said he could only act on the report of the Government Medical Officer, and he accordingly introduced me to Dr. Ashburton Thompson. However, before leaving Mr. Walker I put him (at his own request) in possession of the whole circumstances of the trouble between the matron and Dr. Harvison. In Dr. Thompson I did not meet a gentleman as amenable to reason as the gentleman I had just left. I went over the whole matter with him, and found that a complaint had been made by Dr. Harvison that the matron had refused a serious case recommended by him. He referred to the man who was found on the Hazeldean-road; I forget his name. I explained this matter had been before the committee and the matron was exonerated; and we also went over the complaints that had been heard by the committee at the hospital, and made by Dr. Harvison; I submitted to the doctor that the complaints and stoppage of the subsidy were the results of pique, and not of any medical necessity. Then Dr. Thompson made the, to me, astounding assertion

assertion that the hospital was dirty, and so badly managed that he had to assert his position as Chief Medical Officer, and stop the subsidy for so ill-conducted an establishment. Furthermore, he said that it was on account of the bad condition of the Cooma Hospital that caused him to have the regulation re trained nurses framed, and that though the regulation was not retrospective he intended it should apply in this particular case. I combated the "dirty" business, and instanced the recommendations of Dr. Blackwood, whom Dr. T. acknowledged was a good man—and to my mind a better man than Dr. T. But nothing would cause Dr. T. to alter his intention not to recommend the payment of the subsidy for the Cooma Hospital—not even the fact that accounts were waiting to be paid out of it. The only way out of the difficulty that I can see is: 1. To bring political influence to bear and force the hands of Dr. T.; or, 2. By informing the Colonial Secretary that the hospital will have to be closed, and laying before him all the circumstances leading up to the present trouble. Some old member of the committee, conversant with the details, ought to be able to make out a strong case. I am very sorry I am unable to report better success, but hope you will be able to steer through it all for the sake of suffering humanity. I remain, yours truly,—(Signed) W. M. MADGWICK."

The Chairman said the charge was groundless, and should not be admitted.

Mr. Spicer said it struck him that Dr. Thompson was taking exception to, or backing up, a report by Dr. Harvison. He did not know whether they would get a reply to that effect.

The chairman said it was a cowardly thing to stab them in the dark like that. If a charge was brought against the hospital it should be brought up, and they should have a chance of reply. It was not proper to write to Dr. Ashburton Thompson, who had, unfortunately, the power of stopping the subsidy. He was at Cooma about two years ago.

The Rev. Anderson asked whether the committee could not demand the report.

The Chairman said he thought they should call upon the Under Secretary for a report, and state in their claim that, in expectation of the subsidy, they had received into the institution paupers who would have been a charge on the Government, and who would have been obliged to go to Sydney or elsewhere. They had provided them with medical attendance and comforts, and the attendance of matrons and nurses, and were entitled to subsidy, as they had incurred certain debts and responsibilities. They wanted to know why the amounts were not paid, and they would wish the Government to give them some reason. They wanted Dr. Ashburton Thompson to produce the report he had against the institution, and if it were refused the committee would have it before the House, and then they would see who was making the charge.

Mr. Solomon suggested that they place the matter in the hands of the Member for the district. The writer had expressed a wish that it should not be done.

Mr. Jackson said they could not go behind their Member in the matter.

The Rev. Anderson said that the rule with regard to trained nurses was not retrospective, but in the case of Cooma Hospital Dr. Thompson wished it to be retrospective. It would be well to know why Cooma should be made the exception. Some discussion then ensued as to the terms of a motion expressive of the committee's contention in the matter.

Mr. Jeffrey said if Dr. Harvison had reported about the institution, he should be able to substantiate the statement.

The Rev. Anderson pointed out that Mr. Critchett Walker was favourable to the action of supporting the subsidy, and the speaker did not think Mr. Walker held a more favourable opinion of Dr. Thompson than had some of the committee. That gentleman said he could only "on the report of the Government Medical Officer." Did the "Government Medical Officer" refer to the local one?

Mr. Spicer said Mr. Madgwick referred to Dr. Harvison's letter.

Mr. Solomon said Dr. Harvison was the Government Medical Officer of the district.

Mr. Jeffrey said that if Dr. Harvison said in his report that the hospital was dirty and badly conducted, he (the speaker) wanted to bring him to book. He would move—"That the Principal Under Secretary be asked to cause Dr. Ashburton Thompson to furnish a copy of the report that justified his remarks to Mr. Madgwick on 27th May, 1898, as to the state and management of the Cooma Hospital."

Mr. Dodds seconded, and it was carried.

Mr. Solomon said he did not think the Government would comply with the request.

The Chairman said that it was not until they had acceded to the request of Dr. Hogg to engage two trained nurses that the finances got in a bad way. That ruined the hospital. They had had typhoid cases in the hospital during the past two months. Most dangerous cases had been treated there most successfully. He had visited the hospital every week for a considerable time, and he said that the hospital was never cleaner than at the present time.

Mr. Spicer said the hospital was never in a more sanitary state or cleaner. He had been there when they had been washing and ironing, and it was carried out as well as in a private house. No person could take exception to its condition.

The Chairman thought they should ask whether the subsidy was to be paid or not; the management had contracted certain debts.

Mr. Spicer said if they did not get the subsidy they must close the hospital.

Mr. Jeffrey said he had received a letter from the Principal Under Secretary, which ran as follows:—"Chief Secretary's Office, Sydney, 27th May, 1898.—With reference to your communication of the 11th instant, relative to the payment of subsidy due to the Cooma Hospital for the period 1st July to 31st December, 1897, I am directed by the Chief Secretary to inform you that the Chief Medical Officer, to whom the claim has been referred, reports that he cannot recommend payment of this subsidy until the matter in dispute regarding the nursing staff is satisfactorily settled.—(Sgd.) CRITCHETT WALKER."

Mr. Solomon proposed, "That Mr. G. T. C. Miller, Member for the district, be asked to see the Under Secretary, with reference to the efficient manner in which the hospital is conducted, and to inform him that if the subsidy be not paid forthwith the institution would have to be closed."

Mr. Spicer seconded, and it was carried.

The Chairman said that the Under Secretary should be informed of the full position of the hospital, and he would communicate with Mr. Miller, and give him the necessary information.

Mr. Jeffrey, hon. treasurer, reported that the sum of £24 4s. 6d. had been received since the last monthly meeting, and accounts to the extent of £13 9s. 8d. were outstanding for that period.

In reply to a question, the clerk said there were about £70 worth of other accounts outstanding. The doctor had not sent in his account yet.

The Chairman said there was, roughly speaking, £90 to be paid.

Mr. Jeffrey moved,—"That the accounts amounting to £13 9s. 8d. be passed for payment."

Mr. Dodd seconded, and it was agreed to.

With reference to the annual ball, it was decided to submit the matter to the ladies of Cooma, the Mayor undertaking to call a meeting about 20th June, on the motion of Mr. Jeffrey, seconded by Mr. Jackson.

The meeting then adjourned.

The Monaro Mercury, 13th June, 1898.

THE COOMA HOSPITAL.

(To the Editor of the *Monaro Mercury*.)

SIR,—It appears from your report of the last hospital committee meeting that the finances of the institution are again getting into a muddle. The committee will find themselves in an unenviable position ere long. Having contracted debts which the funds of the hospital appear unable to provide for, it will devolve upon the committee personally to discharge these obligations, having incurred them, I understand, after being notified the Government subsidy could not be forthcoming. The committee occupy, in a measure, a position similar to the directors of a company who are liable personally under certain circumstances. Some twelve or eighteen months ago the finances of the hospital were in a bad way, and the working of the institution generally was considered unsatisfactory. A committee was elected, who in a short time put the finances straight, through strict economy and close supervision. A number of the committee were in favour of certain reforms, which were not acceptable to the majority; hence the suggested reforms were not carried out. The public would like to know why the subsidy is withheld, and what Mr. Madgwick has to do with it, and for what reason he was deputed to interview the Government. The public, I fear, will cease contributions. What next? The present committee must walk out and take their debts with them; a new committee will then be nominated by the Government. It is ridiculous to talk of the hospital being closed.

Cooma, 13th June, 1898.

I am, &c.,
WELL-WISHER.

THE

THE "DIRTY" HOSPITAL.

(To the Editor of *The Monaro Mercury*.)

Sir,—Re the assertions in your last issue of "dirty" regarding the Cooma Hospital, the opinions of the following gentlemen, who have at different times during the last six years visited the hospital, may not at this time come amiss:—

Dr. David Collingwood, M.D.B.S., F.R.C.S., Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney.—"Very pleased with the perfect cleanliness of this hospital, which I have carefully inspected throughout."

Dr. J. N. E. MacLennan, "Rotunda," Dublin:—"Hospital beautifully clean; quite a pleasure to go over it."

Dr. James Donovan:—"I inspected this institution to-day. I find everything in perfect condition."

F. M. Blackwood, M.D., Summer Hill:—"The wards are kept scrupulously clean."

G. M. Smithers, S.M., Sydney:—"Everything in splendid order."

T. W. Faulkner:—"Found wards and grounds clean and tidy."

Richard Sellors, D.D., Sydney:—"Very much pleased with the hospital."

James Higgins, R.C. Bishop of Sydney:—"Have this day visited the Cooma Hospital, and have been much pleased with the cleanliness and good order observable, and as well with the kind attention of the worthy matron to her various patients."

These are some of the numerous entries in the Visitors' Book, which can be inspected at the hospital upon visiting days—Thursdays and Sundays, from 3 to 5 p.m.

13th June, 1898.

I am, &c.,

MATRON, COOMA HOSPITAL.

The Monaro Mercury, 17th June, 1898.

THE COOMA HOSPITAL.

(To the Editor of *The Monaro Mercury*.)

SIR,—A correspondent signing himself "Well-Wisher," refers to the hospital trouble. Sheltering himself behind a *nom de plume* suggested that he is only a well-wisher in word and not in action. He also shows what a great interest he has taken in the hospital by attributing the extrication of the hospital from financial trouble some twelve or eighteen months ago by certain "alleged reforms." Perhaps "Well-Wisher" will say how the reforms paid the back debts. If the hospital champion reflects a moment he will realise that it was the Jubilee Collections that removed the hospital from debt. The less said about the "reforms" the better for those who are doing the wire-pulling in the Government offices, in the hope of strangling a worthy institution so that the matron will have to retire, and an opening made for a pet "trained" nurse, of the extravagance of which the Cooma Hospital Committee had too much evidence.

As "Well-Wisher" states the "public" would like to know what I have to do with the matter, I will briefly reply—(1) the common feeling of humanity to assist the sick and suffering; (2) because I was asked to do so by the Committee; (3) because I am still a member of the hospital by reason of my subscription, a standing in the institution which I do not think "Well-Wisher" possesses. In every place—Cooma not excepted—there are people who criticise and injure, but who never assist by money or time.

The reason the subsidy is withheld is, that the committee refused to discharge without any cause a careful, competent matron, to make room for a "trained" nurse.

St. Peter's, Sydney, 15/6/98.

Yours truly,

W. M. MADGWICK.

(To the Editor of *The Monaro Mercury*.)

SIR,—With your kind permission I desire to reply to the letter which appeared in your issue of Monday last, regarding the Cooma Hospital difficulty, and signed "Well-Wisher," which is another of those stealthy and apparently vindictive attacks which has injured and is militating very much against the institution. The man who has written that letter is, I feel safe in saying, from the way he argues, one who has some knowledge of the affairs of the institution, and may have tried his prentice hand in its management, but who, perhaps, from a conscious knowledge of his own inability, or a disinclination to face the complications which lack of moral courage may have created, left the committee to work as best it could out of the difficulty. What arrant nonsense to say—"Having contracted debts which the funds of the hospital appear unable to provide for, it will devolve upon the committee personally to discharge these obligations." How very nice, and probably the very thing this "Well-Wisher" (?) would like. Do not the members of the committee regularly and generously contribute towards the necessities of the hospital? Would it not be a better task to have a more liberal garnishing of the truth in that letter, and frankly acknowledge that the committee, aided by the charitable public, have provided the funds for medical attendance, a first-class matron and nursing staff, the best of suitable food, good bedding, medicine, and all the comforts the patients stand in need of, and that towards the procuring of these things and the many other requisites to which I need not now allude, the committee has sacrificed both time and money, on the distinct understanding, inviolably observed and maintained by the Government, that the amounts raised by contributions would be subsidised pound for pound. This being so, can any reasonable man say that the Government have any justifiable excuse for withholding the subsidy provided by Act of Parliament.

The subsidy, nevertheless, has been withheld, and Mr. Madgwick, in his letter published in your columns of the 10th instant, supplies the reason why.

Speaking of his interview with Dr. Ashburton Thompson, he says, amongst other things, that "Dr. Thompson made to me the astounding assertion that the hospital was dirty and so badly managed that he had to assert his position, and stop the subsidy for so ill-conducted an establishment." Well might Mr. Madgwick declare his astonishment at the attempt by this man to get the Government to repudiate its liability and indebtedness.

There can be no doubt that such interference creates the impression that a secret motive is lurking somewhere, which, to say the least of it, is extremely unfair.

It is over three years since Dr. Thompson visited the hospital. He, therefore, can have no self-acquired knowledge of its condition or management during the past six months; so by this single fact he exposes himself (if correctly reported) to the suspicion of having acted from bias and under influences not creditable.

I would ask, should he not, as a doctor, have some compassion on the miseries and sufferings of those who, from necessity, are compelled to seek refuge within the walls of the hospital, instead of endeavouring to condemn the management and deprive the institution of its legalised allowance.

There can be no excuse for such conduct. "Well-Wisher," it would appear, innocently asks, "Why was the subsidy withheld?" He might as well ask why the cat jumps; but if he still wants to know as to why the subsidy was stopped, he can have the balance of the information later on. As to his inquiry "Why Mr. Madgwick interviewed the Government?"—it was for the reason that he was an old and respected member of the committee, thoroughly conversant with the hospital management and control, and because by a unanimous vote of the committee he was requested to call upon the Under Secretary and find out why the subsidy was held back. He kindly did as requested, and discovered reasons which I shrink from describing in any other words than his own against expressions that it is withheld "to satisfy a pique and not a medical necessity." I would recommend "Well-Wisher" to strive and find a better way of showing his disposition than by injuring the institution of the poor and unfortunate of Cooma and district.

ONE OF THE COMMITTEE.

(To the Editor of *The Monaro Mercury*.)

SIR,—Hospital quarrels seem the fashion all the world over, and as an old subscriber to the Cooma institution I am sorry to see we follow the general example. Your publication of the matron's testimonials in the visiting-book is hardly necessary in a "local" paper, as no "local" charge of dirtiness has yet been made against her. Dr. Ashburton Thompson having made the charge, it is to him that the matron should send the gilded volume. Mr. Madgwick, in his omniscience, ascribes our present deadlock to pique on Dr. Harvison's part. Without at all taking this gentleman's side, this statement of Mr. Madgwick's seems little else than an impertinent assumption. Moreover, it appears that our subsidy is withheld because

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the public medical officer found (or says he did) the hospital dirty. It is open knowledge that years ago the hospital was certainly mismanaged, and the nurses were nothing but old Mother Gamps. Mrs. Dent (then Mrs. Palmer) was appointed, and under her regime the institution was vastly improved. So far, so good. But if the hospital is not sufficiently clean even now to suit Dr. Ashburton Thompson, this must be rectified, if he is correct in his statement. If he is incorrect, an inquiry must be instituted, and Mrs. Dent justified. As to Dr. Harvison's misunderstanding (so-called), I believe he contends that Mrs. Dent and her husband, not being qualified nurses (which he asserts the law demands), must retire, however hard it may be on them. We all must abide by the law, and if this is so, though not necessarily for incompetence, Mrs. Dent and her husband must give way to duly qualified nurses, who will be amenable to existing medical laws and regulations. But what with the committee squabbling, what with Dr. Harvison's pique, the matron's just indignation, and Mr. Madgwick's enterprising interference, the patients are—where? and the subscribers are ditto, which, being interpreted, meaneth "in the soup."

Yours, &c.,
CHARITY.

The Monaro Mercury, 20th June, 1898.

THE COOMA HOSPITAL.

(To the Editor of *The Monaro Mercury*.)

SIR,—You published several letters in your last issue on the above subject. I only intend to say one or two words. "Charity" (a misnomer, surely), charges me with "enterprising interference" for doing something the committee unanimously asked me to do. Whether it is an "impertinent assumption" or not (if it was so assumed by me), Dr. Ashburton Thompson certainly told me he had received a letter from Dr. Harvison whilst referring to the stoppage of the subsidy. It is about four years since Dr. Thompson visited the Cooma Hospital and made a report on the state of the institution, which report was forwarded to our committee for reply. An exhaustive reply was written by the then president, Mr. J. L. King, and unanimously endorsed by the committee at a full meeting. That reply refuted Dr. Thompson's charges, and showed them to be groundless—and I state this in the full knowledge of the high position held by that gentleman. From that day till now nothing has been heard of the matter, and not until Dr. Harvison's (and "Charity's" or some wire-pullers') complaints have reached the Health Officer, has there been any insinuation against the cleanliness of the Cooma Hospital. If it was such a dirty and mismanaged place as Dr. Thompson makes out, why did he not do his duty and stop the subsidy years ago? And why does he now rely on refuted charges four years old to assert his authority? He has either neglected his duty in the past, or the present movement is the result of pique, as I have already stated. As an old working member of the Cooma Hospital—one with "enterprising interference" as dear "Charity" puts it—I emphatically assert that Dr. Thompson's charges of "dirtiness" are groundless, and coming from a gentleman holding the high position he does, the nature of the charges reflect great discredit on an important department of the State.

Yours truly,
W. M. MADGWICK.

St. Peter's, Sydney, 15th June, 1898.

The Cooma Express, 17th June, 1898.

THE COOMA HOSPITAL EMBROGLIO.

THE local hospital committee seem to be in troublous times, judging by the report of the last meeting held. It would appear that the subsidy due, amounting to nearly £100, has not been forthcoming; that the committee have been running up bills to the amount of the subsidy due; and that the treasury chest is empty. The refusal of the Colonial Secretary to grant the subsidy is evidently based upon the non-recommendation for such payment by the Chief Medical Officer of the Government, Dr. Ashburton Thompson. The public have the word of one Mr. Madgwick, who, up till recently, ran a newspaper in Cooma, that he has interviewed Mr. Critchett Walker, Principal Under Secretary, and subsequently Dr. Thompson, in company with Mr. Henry Dawson, and the pair of them "had a go" at the old war horse, but he could not be coaxed or bullied by prayers, solicitations, or that one man commodity, "influence," in sanctioning the grant. Mr. Madgwick reports that he combated Dr. Thompson's statements. Fancy Madgwick "combating" any one with a grain of intelligence! It is really too funny. Whatever he did, or attempted to do, with the doctor, it would appear from his letter of explanation to the hospital committee, that he and his influential friend have made a complete hash of the matter; for, according to his curiously phrased epistle, Dr. Thompson refuses, under any circumstances, to budge from the position he has taken up. Mr. Madgwick's screed then goes on with colossal ignorance and unparalleled impudence to suggest to the committee that "political influence should be brought to bear upon Dr. Thompson, to force the doctor's hands." Did ever anyone read such damnable arrogance and impertinence? Does Mr. Madgwick imagine that Dr. Thompson will be browbeaten by Madgwick's suggested political coercion and corruption? The letter is a disgraceful production, and the committee have capped it by allowing its publication. How a body of sensible men could bring themselves to allow such a letter being published passes our understanding. Why, it is strong enough to justify the Government in refusing to have anything further to do with such a body of men. What they should have done was to have read the "letter," and straightway confined it to the flames as a ruinously dangerous document, calculated to do more injury than good to the cause. The committee, if they possessed a grain of sense, might know that no other construction could be put upon such a letter than a shameless proposal to browbeat into submission and stultification of his conscience an estimable officer holding a very high and exalted position in this Colony. We are not possessed of all the *pros* and *cons* of the case; but from what we do know, as outside observers, we feel satisfied that a mistake has been made somewhere which can be fairly and easily rectified without any political dodging on the part of the committee or anyone else. If the grant cannot be had otherwise than by "political influence" and coercion, the committee must have a weak and rotten case indeed. We are not believers in the system of the "political influence" suggested, and we are pleased to see that so far the "influence" trick has not yet come off with Mr. Madgwick and his friend. With the merits and demerits of the case we shall not deal at present. We have but one side of the case before us, and must hear Dr. Thompson and the local Government Officer in defence before we can arrive at a fair judgment. We are anything but satisfied with that windy letter from the Sydney delegate, and do not feel inclined to swallow it as gospel, as evidently the committee of the hospital do. We are not satisfied with the conduct of the committee in appointing Messrs. Madgwick and Dawson as interpleaders when the proper channel was through the representative of the district, and no plausible statement will satisfy either Mr. Miller or any other disinterested person that no offence was intended to our Member over the matter. The committee thought that Madgwick and "influence" were the men, and that Mr. Miller had no possible "show" if they could not work the business. So much is satisfactory, at all events, to Mr. Miller that he can do no worse, should the hospital committee decide upon enlisting his services in accordance with a resolution passed, than the mighty Mogul of the city. The snub Dr. Thompson has dealt out to the committee and its audacious delegate will have a salutary effect upon bodies of a like character who so far display their ignorance and spleen as to attempt to walk over the people's legitimate representative.

The last of the typhoid fever patients was discharged from the Cooma Hospital this week. The patient was Miss B. Cook, sister-in-law of Mr. Mark Rollason, junior. This makes the fourth case of typhoid treated and cured in the local hospital during the present quarter. Altogether, we are informed, there were thirty cases of various sorts admitted during the last six months, as against nineteen cases received during a corresponding period last year. All made good recoveries, and most happily not a single death occurred since the beginning of the year. This is a most exceptional record, as anyone can see, and speaks volumes for the good management and perfect cleanliness of the institution, also the extreme care and attention paid to the inmates by the nursing and medical staff of our local hospital. No amount of praise or partisan approbation could equal the eloquence of such facts; and it may safely be asserted that no hospital in New South Wales can boast this record for perfect recoveries, and absolute absence of mortality, of our much-maligned but admirable institution.

THE HOSPITAL MATTER.

(To the Editor of the *Cooma Express*.)

DEAR SIR,—Re the assertion in your last issue of "dirty," regarding the Cooma Hospital, the opinions of the following gentlemen, who have at different times during the last six years visited the hospital, may not at this time come amiss:—

David Collingwood, M.D., B.S., F.R.C.S., Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney:—"Very pleased with the perfect cleanliness of this hospital, which I have carefully inspected throughout."

Dr. J. N. E. Maclellan, "Rotunda," Dublin:—"Hospital beautifully clean; quite a pleasure to go over it."

Dr. James Donovan:—"I inspected this institution to-day. I find everything in perfect order and condition."

F. M. Blackwood, M.D., Summer Hill:—"The wards are kept scrupulously clean."

G. H. Smithers, S.M., Sydney:—"Everything in splendid order."

T. W. Faulkner:—"Found wards and grounds clean and tidy."

Richard Sellar, D.D., Sydney:—"Very much pleased with the hospital."

James Higgins, R.C. Bishop of Sydney:—"Have this day visited the Cooma Hospital, and have been much pleased with the cleanliness and good order observable, and as well with the kind attention of the worthy matron to her various patients."

The above are some of the numerous entries in the Visitors' Book, which can be inspected at the hospital upon visiting days—Thursdays and Sundays, from 3 o'clock to 5 p.m.

MATRON, COOMA HOSPITAL.

(To the Editor of the *Cooma Express*.)

SIR,—Mr. W. M. Madgwick does not stand alone in the consternation he evinced on hearing the charges of being "dirty and badly managed" hurled at the staff of Cooma Hospital by Dr. Thompson, Chief Medical Officer, as reasons for withholding the Government subsidy from that institution. The writer has been treated at Cooma Hospital on two occasions, and when sorely pressed financially, on each occasion he being treated with eminent success (thanks to Dr. Joseph Ryan), for bad accidents, at this sanitarium—for, under the watchful eyes of the matron and her husband (the wardsman), such it literally is. On the occasion of my last visit the same strict rules as to cleanliness of person and surroundings existed—intensified, if possible—as obtained during my former residence as an inmate. Indeed, a patient's qualifications in this respect, as it appeared to me, seemed to be a test of his desirability as an inmate. Mr. Madgwick tells the president and committee that he "combated the dirty business," and to this writer's positive knowledge a number of ex-patients can be brought forward to corroborate him. At this point we arrive at the charge made by Mr. Madgwick of "pique" being at the bottom of the miserable affair, and which charge has not been refuted. This being so, don't you think, Mr. Editor, it looms up luridly in the light of the latter end of the nineteenth century advancement that relief of the sufferings of the sick poor should be jeopardised by, or put in antagonism with, the action of personal pique, or the working out of an unsatisfied vendetta. The odium and lasting distress of the community, especially the toilers, will have been well-earned by the party or parties who, for their own evil ends, will be instrumental in diverting the Government subsidy from the much maligned, but wholly beneficial, Cooma Hospital. With apologies for trespassing on your space, I beg to subscribe myself,

Yours, &c.,

ALEXANDER DEVEREUX,

Miner, Kiandra

(at present in Cooma).

[Consequent on the remarks of Dr. Thompson, Chief Medical Officer, in connection with the Government staff, as given for not recommending the payment of Government subsidy to the Cooma Hospital, by the above letters, the report on which Dr. Thompson bases his refusal to recommend the payment cannot have any grounds to stand on. The climax has now been reached, and the services of Mr. Miller, M.L.A., are to be utilised in urging the payment of the subsidy, and who, no doubt, will urge the sending up of an independent medical man to report on the charges made, which is an absolute necessity in the interests of the management of the institution, the officers, and for the good of the community, for no community can afford to have so beneficial an institution as a hospital closed as ours is threatened to be in this summary way through want of funds; and, besides, the stigma now cast upon the management and officers must be cleared away once and forever; and in view of the stand of Dr. Thompson in stating that nothing will shift or alter his decision, an independent report must be demanded to enable the granting of the subsidy, notwithstanding Dr. Thompson's opinions as to the management, &c., to the contrary.—ED. C.B.]

The Secretary, Cooma Hospital, to The Principal Under Secretary.

Sir,

Cooma Hospital, Cooma, 21 June, 1898.

I have the honor, by direction of the President of the Cooma Hospital, Major Faulkner, to convey to you the following resolution, unanimously passed at a special meeting of the committee of the hospital held last night, viz.:—"That the Honorable the Colonial Secretary be approached with regard to the withheld subsidy due to the Cooma Hospital, as we are informed that the Chief Medical Adviser had advised the Government adversely to its payment on an unjustifiable report, stating that the hospital is dirty and insanitary, and containing some other more trivial complaints. We now respectfully demand, in justice to the committee, that a copy of that report be forthwith supplied to us, so that we may know exactly of what remissions we are accused. Further, as the committee unanimously declare that report to be utterly untrue and unfounded, and as Dr. Thompson acted on it without any proper inquiry or examination, and as the aforesaid report is entirely unsupported by corroborative evidence, we humbly beg that in fair play and common justice to this committee a sworn inquiry be had on the whole matter, and that a magistrate be sent from Sydney to conduct it in due form."

I have, &c.,

HUGH H. MACDONNELL,

Secretary.

G. T. C. Miller, Esq., M.P., to The Chief Secretary.

Dear Mr. Brunker,

Parliament House, Sydney, 24 June, 1898.

I am enclosing letters from the Cooma Hospital Committee *re* subsidy. I shall take the opportunity of interviewing you personally during the coming week, with your consent, on the matter, after the debate on the Address-in-Reply has been concluded.

Yours, &c.,

GUS. C. MILLER.

Refer to Chief Medical Officer.—J.N.B., 24/6/98.
Treasury for payment on 6th July, 1898.

Claim detached and forwarded to the

[Enclosure.]

[Enclosures.]

G. T. C. Miller, Esq., M.P., Cooma,—

Dear Sir,

Cooma Hospital, 21 June, 1898.

Referring to your interview with the President of the Cooma Hospital, Major Faulkner, respecting the subsidy due thereto by the Government, and his desire, and that of the committee, that you should interview the Hon. the Chief Secretary thereon, I am desired to lay before you the following facts:—

That under the Act to further amend the law relating to the management of hospitals, assented to on the 31st October, 1894, the committee of any hospital, notwithstanding anything contained in the Principal Act, has the power alone, and states shall, *inter alia*, appoint the matron.

Further, the present matron, Mrs. Dent, then Mrs. Palmer, was appointed matron of the Cooma Hospital on the 14th July, 1892, and that as the regulation respecting certificated nurses as matron was not retrospective, and the matron has not been guilty of any misconduct or breach of discipline, the committee, who hold her in the highest of esteem, cannot, in view of her long and meritorious service, dispense with her in order that private pique and spleen may be satisfied.

The Medical Officer to the Government, in his report to the Chief Medical Adviser of the inspection he made of the Cooma Hospital, dated 6th June, 1895, although aware the matron was not a trained nurse, said, "I am not aware that she (the matron) is an unsatisfactory officer in any other respect."

As a proof of her excellent nursing, I am to add that during the past four months there were treated, amongst other patients, four with very severe attacks of typhoid, who, thanks to her assiduous care and watching, are now about, and loud in her praise of treatment.

Whilst intimating to you by the request of the committee the thorough satisfaction which the matron has given them, as well as the general public who have been admitted to the institution, of which you are doubtless aware, I am to draw your particular attention to the subjoined extracts from the Visitors' Book:—

Dr. Collingwood, M.D., B.S., F.R.C.S., Prince Alfred Hospital, on the 13th July, 1893, wrote:—"Very pleased with the perfect cleanliness of this hospital, which I have carefully inspected throughout."

G. M. Smithers, Stipendiary Magistrate, Sydney, wrote on 8th November, 1894:—"Everything in splendid order." Major Faulkner, Mayor of Cooma, wrote on 8th November, 1894:—"Found wards and grounds clean and tidy."

Rev. R. Sellors, D.D., Sydney, on 13th May, 1895, wrote:—"Very much pleased with the hospital."

Dr. Higgins, R.C. Bishop of Sydney, wrote on the 13th September, 1895:—"Have this day visited the Cooma Hospital, and have been much pleased with the cleanliness and good order observable, and, as well, with the kind attention of the worthy matron to her various patients."

Dr. J. N. E. Maclellan, "Rotunda," Dublin, wrote on the 21st September, 1895:—"Hospital beautifully clean; quite a pleasure to go over it."

Dr. James Donovan, of Cooma, on the 15th June, 1894, wrote:—"Inspected this institution to-day; I find everything in perfect condition."

Dr. Blackwood, M.D., Summer Hill, Sydney, on 18th May, 1895, wrote:—"The wards are kept scrupulously clean."

As you are now to some extent seized with the whole matter, I, with every confidence, leave the matter in your hands,

I have, &c.,

HUGH H. MACDONNELL,

Secretary.

Dear Mr. Miller,

By direction of the President I am forwarding you a copy of the resolution which the committee unanimously passed last evening, which is as follows:—"That the Honorable the Chief Secretary be approached with regard to the withheld subsidy due to the Cooma Hospital, as we are informed that the Chief Medical Adviser has advised the Government adversely to the payment on an unjustifiable report, stating that the hospital is dirty and insanitary and containing some other more trivial complaints. We now respectfully demand, in justice to the committee, that a copy of that report be forthwith supplied to us, so that we may know exactly of what remission we are accused. Further, as the committee unanimously declare that report to be utterly untrue and unfounded, and as Dr. Thompson acted on it without any inquiry or examination, and as the aforesaid report is entirely unsupported by corroborative evidence, we humbly beg that, in fair play and common justice to this committee, a sworn inquiry be held into the whole matter, and that a magistrate be sent from Sydney to conduct it in due form."

The foregoing was sent by this day's mail to the Principal Under Secretary.

H. H. MACDONNELL.

The Principal Under Secretary to The Committee of Management of the Cooma Hospital.

Gentlemen,

Chief Secretary's Office, Sydney, 6 July, 1898.

With reference to the claim made for subsidy in aid of the Cooma Hospital for the period 1st July to 31st December, 1897, I am directed by the Chief Secretary to inform you that, upon the personal representations of Mr. G. T. C. Miller, M.P., the Chief Medical Officer, to whom the matter was again referred, has withdrawn his objections to the payment of the above claim, on the distinct understanding that before payment of the next claim a qualified trained nurse will be appointed at that institution.

2. I am to request, therefore, that you will kindly take the necessary action, and also to state that the Chief Medical Officer has made no report as to the mismanagement at the above institution.

I have, &c.,

CRITCHETT WALKER,

Principal Under Secretary.

The Secretary, Cooma Hospital, to The Principal Under Secretary.

Sir,

Cooma Hospital, Cooma, 22 July, 1898.

With respect to your letter of the 6th instant, wherein you state "the Chief Medical Officer, to whom the matter was again referred, has withdrawn his objections to the payment of the above claim (subsidy), on the distinct understanding that before payment of the next claim a qualified trained nurse will be appointed at that institution,"—I am desired by the committee of the Cooma Hospital to convey to you the underwritten resolution, which was unanimously passed at the monthly meeting held on the 13th instant:—"That as the present matron has held the position for six years, and has given the various committees during that time full satisfaction, we, the members of this committee, recognising the care, skill, kind-heartedness, and ability which she discharges her onerous duties, fail to recognise how we would be justified in dismissing her, and therefore decline to do so."

I have, &c.,

H. H. MACDONNELL,

Secretary.

Refer to the Chief Medical Officer.—C.W., B.C., 26/7/98.

The

The Chief Medical Officer to The Principal Under Secretary.

Memorandum.

Office of the Chief Medical Officer, Sydney, 29 July, 1898.

It appears to me that it now rests entirely with the Minister to insist, or not to insist, on the condition being fulfilled upon which the last half-year's subsidy has just been paid, and from which the committee now appear anxious to recede. I do not think, therefore, that I can make any further useful remarks except this: that the country hospital referred to in the circular No. 94-15,612, dated December, 1894, which begins, "An official inquiry recently held at the instance of the Government in relation to a country hospital having disclosed the fact that there was a serious lack of supervision and management," was the Cooma Hospital, and that I was led to recommend the rule approved by the Minister in section 1 of that circular by the circumstances of that case and by my examination of the matron (Mrs. Dent). The circular in question—which was framed for the advice of hospitals in general—spoke of the future as regarded them, but was entirely without prejudice to the special case of the Cooma Hospital, which was the subject of a special report. I would, therefore, repeat the opinion I have expressed in the third paragraph of my letter, dated 25th November, 1897, namely, that it is highly desirable that the recommendation made in my report of 1894 with reference to the matron should be carried out.

J. ASHBURTON THOMPSON.

[1s.]

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

BOARD OF HEALTH.

(REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT ON THE MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF MARGARINE.)

Printed under No. 9 Report from Printing Committee, 27 October, 1898.

Department of Public Health, New South Wales, 11 October, 1898.

REPORT ON THE MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF MARGARINE.

DURING the year 1888 margarine was manufactured and sold under the name of butterine by a company styled "The Butterine Company of Sydney." It had a depôt at 163, King-street. Its manufacturing premises were at Alexandria, and were visited by the Chief Medical Inspector to the Board of Health. The product, though coloured and flavoured to resemble butter, was fully described in the company's advertisements, together with the materials from which it was prepared, and the method of making it. There was no attempt at deception; it was offered to the public for what it was. After a short time this company ceased to trade in Sydney.

Oleo-margarine, margarine, or butterine, is a perfectly wholesome article of food. It is made from the kidney and caul fat of beeves, which is minced while quite fresh, washed and heated. The liquid fat thus produced is then deprived of the greater part of one of its constituents (tristearine) either by cooling, or, after cooling, by hydraulic pressure. The separated fat is known as oleo-margarine; it is churned up with water, skim-milk, and butter-colour; it is then salted and worked in an ordinary butter worker. There is thus nothing objectionable about it; it is an animal fat, perfectly adapted to food purposes. The worst that can be said of it is that it may be somewhat less digestible than butter-fat; but this difference, if it exist, is so slight as to be of no importance.

The flavouring and colouring of margarine to resemble genuine butter do not necessarily betoken fraud; but they open an easy way to it. Margarine is said to be producible at a cost of about 3d. a pound. This price is so greatly below that of butter that margarine could be loaded with a heavy profit, and still be sold by a retailer at a price to which genuine butter never falls. Consequently, the temptation to do this when the means are available must sometimes be strongly felt. However, the fraud, if committed, is a fraud upon the pocket, and entails no more serious result. But if margarine, disguised to resemble butter should be exported from this country, and be sold as New South Wales butter—still more, if this should be done with assistance of the further and distinct fraud which consists in packing margarine in packages identical with those used by reputable butter factories, and bearing their brands—then it would be necessary to take prompt steps to regulate its manufacture and sale, so that it could not by any possibility be mistaken for butter. It is easy to see that unless this were done the reputation of New South Wales in the butter market might easily be destroyed; and if the remedy were not promptly applied, that that reputation might in the meantime sustain an injury from which it would scarcely recover in many years.

During July last it came to the Board's knowledge that margarine was being again manufactured in Sydney in rather large quantity. The Sanitary Inspector to the Board was directed to make full inquiry, and he subsequently presented the reports which are attached hereto. The result of the inquiry was as follows:—In the first place, three margarine factories were discovered, which, between them, could put out probably not less—possibly more—than 12 tons weekly of the finished article between them. Secondly, the finished product was so coloured and flavoured as to resemble butter closely. Thirdly, at each of the three factories, many butter-boxes were found which bore the brands of no less than twenty-four different butter-factories of high repute. Further inquiry revealed the destination of the comparatively small quantity of margarine mentioned above, which alone is produced for the present. It appears that a considerable proportion is used up by pastry-cooks, who are said to prefer it to butter, both on account of its higher melting-point, and its better keeping qualities. Another considerable proportion is supplied to shipping, and in that case is invoiced as "butterine"; a considerable quantity is consumed at cheap restaurants, whose customers are said to know what it is, and to prefer it to the stale butter which proprietors can afford to supply at the low price they charge for meals. Lastly, two retail shops were discovered at which margarine was sold as cheap butter—one situated at Newcastle, the other at Sydney.

On receiving this information, the Board directed the only steps to be taken which, for the present, lie open to it. It directed that the two retail traders last mentioned above should be prosecuted under the adulteration part of the Public Health Act, and this was successfully done, a conviction being obtained in each case. [See Appendix B.] It further directed that all existing makers of margarine should be licensed, after inspection of their premises, under Part I of the Noxious Trades and Cattle Slaughtering Act, 1894, since they clearly fell within the proclaimed class of fat-extractors; and that any who might commence business in the future without first obtaining a license should be prosecuted.

Such proceedings under the Public Health Act, if watchfully and steadily taken by local Authorities in their several districts, would amply suffice to protect the public against any fraudulent substitution of margarine for genuine butter, and the Board's requirement that all factories shall be licensed will enable supervision to be kept up, which in its turn will afford some information as to development of this trade, and the destination of its products; but, for obvious reasons, these measures cannot protect the dairying industry from the serious dangers by which, as has already been pointed out, it is threatened from this source.

While the proceedings which have just been briefly described were in progress, an important deputation which well represented the butter trade, was introduced to the President of the Board by Messrs. Kidd and Perry, M's.L.A. The speakers pointed out the immediate damage they suffered from the substitution of margarine for butter, though they admitted that for the present this was not a very important matter; but they earnestly urged the Board to assist them in taking steps to prevent the injury to the butter export trade, which they apprehended would be done to it. They mentioned the damage which had actually had been done to that trade both in Great Britain and the United States, and the legislation which had been deemed necessary in both of those, as well as in other countries, to protect it; and they made the important remark that it would be difficult to regulate the manufacture of margarine if the attempt to do so were deferred until that business should have attained much larger proportions than it has at present. They mentioned the value of the reputation of New South Wales for high-class butter, which had been gradually built up with great labour by improving the conditions under which dairy-farming was carried on (in which the Board itself had taken its important share), and at great expense, and pressed that steps should be speedily taken to prevent margarine from being sent out in a form in which it could be represented as, and might be mistaken for, genuine butter.

With these views and wishes the Board finds itself, on the whole, in sympathy. The manufacture of margarine is a legitimate industry; margarine itself is a wholesome food. That it should be flavoured like butter, or in any other way, is unobjectionable, and perhaps might be fairly said to be necessary; but that it should also be coloured so as to resemble butter is not necessary, and should be forbidden.

J. ASHBURTON THOMPSON,
Chief Medical Officer of the Government,
President of the Board of Health.

APPENDIX A.

REPORTS from Sanitary Inspector to The Secretary to the Board of Health.

Subject :—Manufacture and Sale of Margarine.

6th August, 1898.

I VISITED Daniel and Thomas Hannan's Margarine Factory, situated at 415, Parramatta-road, Leichhardt, on 4th instant.

The premises consist of a fair-sized timber and iron building, which is in very good repair. The floors are partly bricked, partly timbered. The interior is well lime-washed and clean.

Thomas Hannan, one of the proprietors, showed me through the place and explained their method of manufacturing margarine.

The raw material consists of "caul-fat" from bullocks. It is procured at the Glebe Island Abattoirs, Mackay's Slaughter-yards, at Canterbury, and the Riverstone Meat Works. This fat is received daily, and is treated directly after arrival.

On the upper floor this fat is cut up in a chaff-cutter; then it is passed into a pulper with hot water. From here it goes into a large wooden vat, where it is melted by means of a steam coil. In another vat, supplied with a steam coil, the margarine is separated from the stearine, which process is easily accomplished, as the melting point of the former is much lower than that of the latter.

This product is then churned, and during this process $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of Wells and Richardson's butter-colour, 3 lb. of salt, and 10 gallons of separated milk are added to every 35 gallons of fat. From the churn the margarine passes into a trough, where it is solidified by ice-water. It is then worked up in an ordinary butter-worker, and packed in boxes similar to those used for butter.

Mr. Hannan states that their output amounts to about 4 cwt. a day. In the main building, and close to the front door, I found two kegs containing margarine ready to be sent out. These kegs were branded "Wollar Dairy Company."

I also saw sixteen boxes of margarine, and of these four were branded as follows :—

- (i) Choice Creamery Butter.
Lyre-bird Brand.
- (ii) Richmond River
Creamery Butter.
- (iii) Finest Creamery Butter.
Rose Brand.
- (iv) North Coast Co-operative Company (Ltd.)
56 lb. net Creamery Butter.

The remainder of the boxes had only a few private marks in blue colour.

When questioned as to why they used these butter-boxes, Mr. Hannan replied: "These boxes are returned to us empty when we deliver full ones."

I said that this was very misleading, as people might think that they were buying butter when they were actually supplied with margarine. Mr. Hannan said that the only people whom they supplied were pastry-cooks and confectioners, and these people bought it as "margarine," and not as "butter."

This firm has been established for about seven years. They have lately altered their mode of manufacture. Formerly the fat was pressed in an hydraulic press, but this has been abandoned for the method described above.

Mr. Hannan positively assured me that they never supplied any of this margarine to retail dealers in or about Sydney, but in the afternoon of the same day I succeeded in finding a shop where margarine is sold in retail. This shop is kept by a man named Edward Moore, and is situated at 708, George-street, Sydney.

I entered the shop about 2:30 p.m. There were several customers inside, and after they had been served I asked the shopman, named Andrew Watson, "How much is this butter a pound?" at the same time pointing to a box containing what to any ordinary customer would appear to be butter. The shopman replied, "Six-pence." I said, "Give me a pound." He then commenced supplying me with this article, when I said, "Let me have a look at the outside of the box." He replied, "I don't know so much about that." I then informed him that I was an officer of the Board of Health, and that I was entitled to my demand. I turned the box over, and then found the box branded:—

"North Coast Co-operative Company, Ltd.,
56 lb. net Creamery Butter."

this being exactly the same brand as I found on one of the boxes I saw at Hannan's factory at Leichhardt in the morning. The shopman then informed me that it was not butter but "butterine." I then demanded 1 lb. of this material labelled butter. He supplied me with it. I paid 6d. I then informed him that I would have it analysed by the Government Analyst, and offered to divide it according to the Act, but my offer was not accepted. I thereupon sealed up the sample, and marked it "XXX P.E.G., 4/8/98." I also notified the shopman that I would hand it over to Mr. Hamlet at 2 p.m. the next day, and that if he liked he could be present to see that it was handed over in the same condition as when purchased at the shop. He replied that he would not come.

While I was fastening up the sample, the shopman volunteered the statement, "If anyone asks what this is, I tell them that it is pastry-butter."

The box containing this margarine, or "butterine," as the shopman called it, was standing on a shelf alongside some boxes containing genuine butter, and over this shelf was a calico sign showing the different prices of butter in figures 1 foot high.

The sample of margarine bought by me, and which was labelled "Creamery Butter," was handed over to Mr. Hamlet at 2 p.m. on 5th instant, but no one put in an appearance.

From inquiries, I find that this margarine, or butterine, is used by a great number of pastry-cooks, who claim that it is much better than cheap butter, which, especially in summer, turns rancid much sooner than margarine. These people know when purchasing it that it is not butter, so there is no deception in their case.

I also find that a number of cheap restaurants, where meals are supplied for 3d. and 4d., use nothing else on their table. The proprietors tell me that their customers know full well that it is butterine; in fact, since this material is used very few complaints are received in comparison to the time when cheap inferior butter was supplied at these restaurants.

I am given to understand that this provision dealer, Edward Moore, supplies a large number of the lower class restaurants with margarine. He sells about seven to eight boxes a week.

On the 6th instant I visited the margarine factory, carried on by the Sydney Soap and Candle Company, in Bourke Road, Alexandria.

Mr. Sealey, the manager, showed me through the place, and gave me all particulars I asked for.

These premises were some years ago used as a butterine factory, but have been unoccupied until three weeks ago, when the manufacture of margarine or butterine (as the company calls it) was commenced.

The building, constructed of timber and iron, has brick flooring, and as far as cleanliness is concerned, it does not leave anything to be desired.

The caul-fat used is sent from Glebe Island and from the Aberdeen Meat Works in bags.

The process of manufacturing the product is similar to that in use at Hannan's, but here the stearine is separated from the margarine by means of hydraulic presses.

The finished article is put into butter-boxes. I found nineteen full, and the following brands were on them:—

"Chowbaleo Factory, Bega."
"Balance Creamery, N.Z."
"N.S.W. Creamery Butter Company (Ltd.)"
"Finest Grass Butter, Duckenfield Park Estate."
"Choicest Creamery Butter."
"Grabben Gullen Co., Com."
"Monaro Creamery Butter."
"Finest Creamery Butter, Cowslip Brand."
"Central Creamery, Mogilla."
"L. C. Creamery Butter."

In another part of the building I found about 200 empty butter-boxes, and amongst them there were some with the same brands as those mentioned above, and the others with the brands given below:—

"Taralga Co-operative Com."
"Northern Central Creamery Butter Factory, Lismore."
"Crookwell Creamery Butter."
"Island Creamery, Kameruka."
"Lyndhurst Creamery Butter, Burrigale."
"Berry, Shoalhaven Creamery."
"Barrengarry Dairy Company, Creamery Butter."
"Bonnie Doon Butter Factory, Victoria."
"Finest Grass Butter, Camden Park Estate."

There were not more than ten unbranded boxes amongst the 200. The output, so far, has been about 7 tons for three weeks; the full capacity of the work is 1 ton a day.

Mr. Sealey informs me that a large amount of their product has been taken by the Union S.S. Company, on whose vessels it is used. The greater part, however, is put up in 10-lb. canisters, and is sent to Newcastle for ships' use. Mr. Sealey says that they invoice it as butterine, but I doubt very much if shipmasters buy it as such.

I would suggest that I be allowed to make further inquiries at Newcastle to ascertain if this material is sold as butter, and if so to take proceedings against such people.

The article manufactured by the Sydney Soap and Candle Company is superior in grain and "butter" taste, but inferior as to freshness, as it is slightly rancid. This latter fact, however, is likely to deceive people. The "flat" taste of perfectly sweet margarine makes it easy to detect it.

I think that the butter companies could do much to protect their interests against deception, by taking proceedings to restrain manufacturers of margarine from using their empty boxes. A reference in the Press to this fact just mentioned, and to the great number of branded boxes being found in those two factories, would put people on their guard, and prevent imposition on a trusting public.

Sanitary Inspector to pursue his inquiry at Newcastle, and report.—J.A.T., 9/8/98.

13 August, 1898.

I visited the licensed premises of a poultry-farmer named Thos. Doody in Bennett's Road, Alexandria, this day, and found that he had lately commenced to manufacture margarine.

The mode of producing the article at this place is similar to Hannan's, but the quality and appearance are very much below that obtained by Hannan's and the Sydney Soap and Candle Company. Doody makes about 200 lb. a week, and this is packed in square boxes, one of which was branded—

"Finest Grass Butter, Duckenfield Park Estate."

Doody showed me his delivery book, and in this I found that the article was sold as "butterine," and his price is 5d. a lb. The premises, although primitive, are clean and well-kept.

This is the third factory where margarine is made, and I think that they are all liable to be prosecuted for carrying on a noxious trade, namely, that of "fat-melter," without a license. If they were licensed it would facilitate any inquiries as to the manufacture and sale of margarine in the future, and would compel these people to keep their premises in clean order and condition.

PAUL E. GETTING,
Sanitary Inspector.

Department

Department of Public Health, Analytical Branch, Sydney, 10 August, 1898.

Certificate of Analysis.

The sample of margarine, properly sealed and marked or labelled "XXX P.E.G., 4/8/98," received 5/8/98 from Mr. Sanitary Inspector Getting, has been examined with the following results:—

Section 62 (11) (a). I hereby certify that I have analysed the sample of margarine marked "XXX P.E.G., 4/8/98," handed to me on the 5th instant by P. E. Getting, and I am of opinion that the same is not butter. The substance was found to consist of a preparation of animal fat known by the names of margarine or butterine.

WILLIAM M. HAMLET,
Government Analyst.

In this case, I think a prosecution should be undertaken, and shall be glad if the Crown Solicitor will be good enough to cause the requisite legal assistance to be given.—J.A.T., B.C., 11/8/98. The Crown Solicitor.

REPORT from Sanitary Inspector to the Secretary to the Board of Health.

17 August, 1898.

I VISITED Newcastle on 15th and 16th instant, with the view of making inquiries as to the sale of margarine at that place.

I find that the firm of E. Ball and Son is the local agent for the Sydney Soap and Candle Company for that commodity, and this firm has, within the last few weeks imported a fair quantity thereof. The main part of this margarine or butterine has been sold to ship-chandlers, who supply it to the masters of vessels provisioning at Newcastle. It is sold in tin cans, as I saw at this company's works at Alexandria, and on the invoices it is termed butterine. I saw several ship's accounts and thus verified the statements made by the firm. The remainder of the butterine sent from Sydney has been sold to a grocer named Geo. Ball as butterine. On the 15th instant I saw some of this butterine in his shop window, and labelled 9d. I went in and asked for 1 lb. of 9d. butter, and I was served by one of the assistants named W. Coulter. I then complied with the requirements of the Act. My offer to divide my purchase was, however, not accepted, so I sealed up the parcel in Coulter's presence, and this morning I handed it over to Mr. Hamlet for analysis. After I told the shopman who I was, he informed me that his employer sent it from his other shop as butter, and that he only obeyed his instructions. I also visited a number of grocers' shops in Newcastle, Lambton, and Wallsend, where this butterine had been sold as butter from some time previous to my visit. I was, however, unable to obtain another sample.

After I had bought this butterine at Ball's shop, two different people purchased some of it as butter, thus clearly showing that the public have been deceived, and would continue to be deceived. I made inquiries from all the principal pastry-cooks in Newcastle, and find that these people have been in the habit of using butterine for some considerable time. These, however, obtain their supplies from Hannan's factory at Leichhardt, which they consider far superior for their trade than the article produced by the Sydney Soap and Candle Company. I would recommend a prosecution in this case to show the public how they have been duped.

PAUL E. GETTING,
Sanitary Inspector.

Department of Public Health, Analytical Branch, Sydney, 18 August, 1898.

Certificate of Analysis.

The sample of margarine or butterine, sealed and secured, and marked or labelled "Geo. Ball, Hunter-street, 15/8/98, P.E.G.," received 17/8/98 from Mr. Sanitary-Inspector Getting, has been examined, with the following results:—

Section 62 (11) (a).—I hereby certify that I have analysed the sample of margarine marked "George Ball, Hunter-street, Newcastle, 15/8/98, P.E.G.," handed to me on the 17th instant by P. E. Getting, and I am of opinion that the same is not butter.

The substance was found to consist of a preparation of animal fat, known by the name of margarine or butterine.

WILLIAM M. HAMLET,
Government Analyst.

The Sanitary Inspector to prosecute.—J.A.T., 20/8/98.

APPENDIX B.

PROSECUTIONS for selling "Margarine" as Butter, contrary to the provisions of section 62, Public Health Act.

Date of Prosecution.	Article.	Vendor.	Price per lb.	Manufacturer.	Result of Analysis.	Proceedings.	
						Magistrate and Court.	Result.
1898. 23 Aug. ...	Margarine (labelled creamery butter)	Andrew Watson, employce of Edward Moore, 708, George-street, Sydney.	d. 6	Hannan Bros., Leichhardt.	Not butter, but margarine or butterine.	Mr. Edwards, S.M., Central	£2 fine, and 5s. 6d. costs. (Paid.)
26 Aug. ...	Margarine (sold as butter).	W. Coulter, employce of Ball Brothers, Hunter-st., Newcastle.	9	Sydney Soap and Candle Co., Alexandria.	do ...	Mr. Mair, S.M., Newcastle.	do

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

DISEASED ANIMALS AND MEAT BILL.

(PETITION FROM CERTAIN BUTCHERS AND STOCK-BUYERS OF THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW SOUTH WALES, IN FAVOUR OF.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 4 October, 1898.

To the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the undersigned Inhabitants of New South Wales—butchers and stock-buyers of the Northern District,—

HUMBLY SHOWETH :—

That a Bill, entitled “To provide for the refund of the purchase money of any animal or carcass sold by auction, and condemned under the Diseased Animals and Meat Act of 1892, and the return of the animal or carcass to the auctioneer,” has passed its first reading in your Honorable House, having for its object—

1. That it is unjust that the butcher or purchaser should have to bear the loss of a diseased animal or animals, which he purchased as sound and healthy.
2. That the producers, knowing that they would have to bear the loss of all diseased animals sold on their behalf, would take steps to purify their herds, and send only healthy cattle to market.

Your Petitioners, therefore, humbly pray your Honorable House to pass into law the Bill hereinbefore mentioned.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[Here follow 75 signatures.]

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

STOCK.

(RETURN SHOWING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE RESULTS OF THE RECENT BAD SEASONS, AND THE PROBABLE RESULT IF THOSE SEASONS HAD BEEN AVERAGE FAIR SEASONS.)

Printed under No. 11 Report from Printing Committee, 10 November, 1898.

RETURN showing the difference between the results of the recent bad seasons, in regard to Live Stock, and the probable result if those seasons had been average fair seasons.

Years.	Horses.				Cattle.				Sheep.			
	Number of Horses.	Decrease.	Estimated Loss on Annual Increase.	Estimated Total Loss for Year.	Number of Cattle.	Decrease.	Estimated Loss on Annual Increase.	Estimated Total Loss for Year.	Number of Sheep.	Decrease.	Estimated Loss on Annual Increase.	Estimated Total Loss for Year.
31 December, 1893 ...	481,399	.....	.....	.....	2,155,500	.....	.....	.....	56,980,688	.....	.....	.....
31 ,, 1894 ...	500,068	.....	75,000	75,000	2,290,112	.....	343,500	343,500	56,977,270	3,418	8,869,481	8,872,899
31 ,, 1895 ...	482,459	17,609	42,360	59,969	2,023,768	266,344	303,600	569,944	47,617,687	9,359,583	9,600,000	18,959,583
31 ,, 1896 ...	484,028	.....	71,000	71,000	2,043,707	.....	286,301	286,301	48,318,790	.....	9,295,374	9,295,374
31 ,, 1897 ..	466,813	17,215	70,020	87,235	1,966,729	76,978	295,020	371,998	43,952,897	4,365,893	8,869,481	13,235,374
	.....	34,824	258,380	293,204	.....	343,322	1,228,421	1,571,743	.....	13,728,894	36,634,336	50,363,230

293,000 horses; 1,571,000 cattle; 50,363,000 sheep.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

PURCHASE AND IMPORTATION OF STOCK BY THE
GOVERNMENT.

(RETURN RESPECTING.)

Printed under No. 13 Report from Printing Committee, 24 November, 1898.

RETURN to an *Order* made by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 21st September, 1898, That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

“ All letters, papers, minutes, correspondence, &c., respecting the purchase and importation of the cattle and pigs landed or expected to arrive from England or Europe.”

(Mr. Suttor.)

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade.

Sir, Department of Mines and Agriculture, Sydney, 24 December, 1897.

I am directed by the Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to request that you will be good enough to have the enclosed letter concerning the purchase of certain breeds of dairy cattle and pigs forwarded to the Agent-General.

I have, &c.,

D. C. McLACHLAN,

Under Secretary.

Letter forwarded, 24/12/97. A.F., Records. The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture,—The communication herein referred to has been forwarded as desired.—F.K., the Treasury, B.C., 24/12/97. Approved.—J.H.R., 28/12/97.

The Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to The Acting Agent-General.

Sir, Department of Mines and Agriculture, Sydney, December, 1897.

I have the honor to inform you that the Government are desirous of improving the breed of the dairy stock in this Colony, with a view to promoting an increase of exports in dairy produce, and it has been decided to import through you, if suitable prices and other matters can be arranged, a number of selected cattle from the best herds in Great Britain. The following is a list of the special cattle it is desired that you will obtain quotations for, and, if eventually purchased, to arrange for their shipment to the Colony:—

Shorthorn ...	{ Bulls, 4. Cows, 6.	Kerry ...	{ Bulls, 3. Cows, 4.
*Shorthorn, Irish	{ Bull, 1. Cow, 1.	Holstein ...	{ Bulls, 3. Cows, 6.
Ayrshire ...	{ Bulls, 2. Cows, 5.	Dexter Kerry ...	{ Bulls, 2. Cows, 2.
Jerseys ...	{ Bulls, 4. Cows, 6.	Red Polls ...	{ Bulls, 3. Cows, 3.
Guernseys ...	{ Bulls, 3. Cows, 6.	(milking strain)	{ Cows, 3.

It

* These to be obtained from the South of Ireland.

197—A

[580 copies—Approximate Cost of Printing (labour and material) £28 11s. 4d.]

It is to be one of the essentials that as the cattle are being imported to improve our stock they shall be only of the best breed. The main feature in any that are selected is that they should be of a good milking strain—that is, large producers. Special care in this respect should be taken in the selection of the bulls, and it should be ascertained that their mothers are of a good milking strain. A guarantee of the quantities and quality of milk the dams produced should be given where possible.

In this matter it is recognised that you will require the assistance of some well known expert to enable you to have the selection made, and you are hereby authorised to incur any reasonable expense on behalf of the Government in this direction.

It is left to your discretion to select the breeders from whom you purchase the cattle, but probably you will find it of advantage to communicate with the following persons in regard to some of the animals.

All breeds:—

Mr. Robt. Bruce, Superintendent of the Royal Dublin Society, who will furnish valuable information as to where the best breeds can be obtained.

Jerseys:—

Baron Rothschild of Tring Park.
Lord Roseberry.

Kerry's and Dexter's:—

R. Barter, St. Ann's Hill, County Cork.

In the case of the bulls, their ages are not to be less than 2 or over 4 years, and the cows are not to be over 6.

It is to be a condition that any animal to be shipped must be subjected to the tuberculin test, and that the ship in which they are conveyed shall not take in fodder or anything else at the Cape that would be likely to communicate Rinderpest or any other contagious disease of that character.

I wish to specially direct your attention to the question of freight charges. Hitherto, these have been so high as to be quite prohibitive, so far as the ordinary farmer is concerned, in importing for himself; but in view of the large number in this shipment, it is thought that, by inviting offers from the steamship companies trading to this port, you will be able to secure a considerable reduction in the freight. I have myself spoken to some of the Agents here, and have also communicated with the Manager of the Houlder Brother's line on the matter. Special arrangements will, of course, have to be made for the transit of the cattle; but in any conditions made, the freight should include all fodder and attention on the voyage. In case, however, that a large number of the cows are milking, and will require to be milked daily, it would perhaps be advisable to arrange for a caretaker to be sent with them to carry out this work.

As the stock will be valuable they should be insured before they leave England.

When you have completed negotiations, I would be glad if you will kindly cable me the list of prices for the different breeds of stock required, and also the lowest rate per head at which you have been able to get the freight quoted.

Advantage might also be taken of the opportunity to ship a few pure-bred pigs, and I would be glad if you could obtain quotations for the following breeds:—

Berkshire	...	...	...	...	...	Two boars and sows.
Large White Yorkshire	...	...	...	...	...	" "
Middle "	...	...	...	...	...	" "
Improved Tamworth	...	...	...	...	...	" "

Before making arrangements for the purchase of the pigs, I would suggest that you communicate with Mr. Barnes, Baslucks Green Farm, Shirley, Birmingham, who has I understand some experience in purchasing pigs for this market.

I have, &c.,

S. SMITH.

Minute by The Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Importation of Dairy Stock to Improve the Breed of Cattle in the Colony.

3 December, 1897.

THIS is a question of very great importance to the Colony, and I desire to bring it under attention with a view of some steps being taken to bring about an improvement in the breeding and milk-producing qualities of our stock.

It is now being recognised in all the large dairying countries that this is a matter in which the State should assist its people. It is being done elsewhere, and I think the Government here should make every effort to advance the industry in this Colony. Its most pressing want at the present time is a radical improvement in the dairy herds, and if we are to take our part in supplying the wants of Great Britain, or, indeed, of even maintaining our present successful export trade, it is absolutely necessary that the best quality only be produced with the least possible expense for labour and feed.

The most effective method of increasing the output of our dairy produce is by improving the quality of the cattle, and I can suggest no surer way of securing this than by importing specially selected stock from England, putting them on our experimental farms, and at other suitable places, where the new strains of blood will effect a rapid improvement in the cattle of the district; in fact, by a careful selection of milking strains, in a short time there is no reason why, even with the same number of cows as are at present depasturing, the yield of milk should not be doubled, with immense gain to the whole Colony.

My proposal is to import a number of bulls and a few good milking cows. This is a question which affects not only the dairy farmer, but the Colony as a whole; and it is absolutely necessary that our producers should have equal facilities with their rival competitors in producing the best article at the cheapest rate. At present other countries, through improving their stock, produce over 500 gallons of milk per cow per annum, while our yield is estimated at considerably under 300 gallons; so it will be seen that they start with an immense advantage over us.

The

The improvement in the cattle of Denmark and other countries has been mainly brought about by the assistance rendered by the respective Governments to Dairy Associations to purchase first-class bulls, and there is no good reason why this Colony should not assist its people in the same way. The essentials required to secure success in dairying are first-class stock, absence of disease, and the yield of a high percentage of milk and butter fat.

The necessity for improving our stock being admitted, the question of paying for these stock next presents itself, and I consider it a fair charge upon the Loan Vote. The cattle will be continually reproducing themselves and multiplying, so that we shall always have an available asset much in excess of the original cost to show for the expenditure, while the proceeds from the sale of the young stock, if paid into Consolidated Revenue, will more than meet the interest charges on the original expenditure. It has been held that anything that forms a permanent asset is a proper charge to Loan Account; and as the stock will always be a realisable asset, as well as the progeny, there is every warrant for the initial expense to be incurred in the purchase of this herd being charged against the Loan Account. It is to be understood, however, that should any of the original stock die, or its value be reduced from any cause, the capital account should be made up to its original amount by replacements from the Consolidated Revenue.

S. SMITH.

I have conferred with Mr. O'Callaghan, our Dairy Expert, and after thoroughly discussing the merits of the different breeds of cattle, he agreed with me that the following should be imported:—

		No.			No.
Shorthorn	...	{ Bulls ... 4	Kerry	...	{ Bulls ... 3
		{ Cows ... 6			{ Cows ... 4
" (Irish)	...	{ Bull* ... 1	Holstein	...	{ Bulls ... 3
		{ Cow* ... 1			{ Cows ... 6
Ayrshire	...	{ Bulls ... 2	Dexter Kerry	...	{ Bulls ... 2
		{ Cows ... 5			{ Cows ... 2
Jersey	...	{ Bulls ... 4	Red Polls (milking strain)	...	{ Bulls ... 3
		{ Cows ... 6			{ Cows ... 3
Guernseys	...	{ Bulls ... 3			
		{ Cows ... 6			

To await cable from Agent-General.—M.C., 11/1/98. Perhaps the Minister will be good enough to say if the cablegram was despatched. It was sent to him at the Cabinet meeting on 29th.—W. FREEDY, 31/3/98. The Under Secretary.—M.C., 30/3/98. Inquire at Treasury whether it was sent away.—D.C.McL., 1/4/98.

The Treasury state that the cablegram respecting the cattle to be ordered from England has not been sent. It was sent to the Minister at the Cabinet on 29th April, 1898. Submitted as to what action he wishes taken.—W. FREEDY, 5/4/98. The Under Secretary.

It was sent direct from Colonial Secretary's Office. Wire has been sent direct from Colonial Secretary's Office; copy attached.—W.P., 5/4/98. The Accountant to note expenditure.—W.P., 5/4/98. Mr. Butler to note.—6/4/98. Noted.—E.D.B., 12/4/98. The Examiner to note.—A.S., 15/4/98. Noted.—, Examiner, Department of Mines and Agriculture, 16/4/98.

Cablegram to The Acting Agent-General.

29 March, 1898.

APPROVE of what you have done *re* cattle and pigs. Purchase soon as possible and ship. Cannot forego tuberculin test. Local veterinary certificate will suffice in some cases.

No test should be accepted unless an interval of two months has elapsed since the animal was previously tested.

Rewritten, 29/3/98. File.

Mr. Fry,—I suppose this cablegram has been sent.—W.P., 31/3/98. I do not know. It was copied for the Minister and sent to him at a Cabinet Meeting.—A.F., 31/3/98.

Cablegram to The Acting Agent-General.

29 March, 1898.

APPROVE of what you have done *re* cattle and pigs. Purchase as soon as possible and ship. Cannot forego tuberculin test. No test should be accepted unless an interval of two months has elapsed since the animal was previously tested. Local veterinary certificate will suffice in some cases.

S. SMITH.

Cablegram from The Acting Agent-General to The Colonial Treasurer.

16 March, 1898.

SECRETARY, Mines and Agriculture. Inform him that I have consulted John Thornton and Company respecting cattle. Following is quotation obtained:—Average cost twelve Shorthorns, seventy-five guineas; fifty-one other breeds, forty-five guineas; total, say, £3,354 15s. Lowest freight, twenty guineas per head, water only; cost of travelling expenses, selecting, commission, transit to docks, freight, boxes, fodder, passage of (say) three men in charge and gratuity on landing, insurance against mortality and all risks, (say) £3,150. Thorntons think there are legal difficulties (?) in connection with tuberculin tests. It is feared that some of best breeders will not accept conditions. Government inspector expenses will be heavy. Would local veterinary inspector approved of by Board Agriculture do in some cases? Estimated cost of so good specimen pigs, inclusive other expenses, £380. Please telegraph reply.

The

* These to be obtained from south of Ireland.

The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade, 17th March, 1898. The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.—F.K., B.C., 27/3/98. Submitted.—M.C., 23/3/98.

I think the following reply should be sent to the Agent-General, viz.:—"Approve of what you have done *re* cattle and pigs. Purchase soon as possible and ship. Cannot forego tuberculin test. Local veterinary certificate will be sufficient in some cases.—S. SMITH, 29/3/98." *Add*—"No test should be accepted unless an interval of two months has elapsed since the animal was previously tested."

The Chief Inspector of Stock to The Under-Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Department of Mines and Agriculture,
Stock and Brands Branch, Sydney, 18 January, 1898.

Minute Paper.

Subject:—Purchase of Poland-China, and Small White Yorkshire Pigs.

I THINK the Poland-China pigs could be obtained through Messrs. Morrison and Clark, who have, for the last six or eight years, been introducing Vermont sheep into this Colony from the United States.

Mr. Clark left this Colony by the last Vancouver steamer for Vermont to bring out another consignment of merinos, and he offered, if the order were sent him, to purchase and ship, either from San Francisco or Vancouver, any pigs which might be required; and I believe he would do so honestly and with sound judgment.

From the inquiry I have made, I believe an excellent three to four months old pure bred Poland-China pig could be purchased for from £8 to £10, and that the carriage from (say) Chicago to Vancouver or San Francisco, and the freight charges and insurances would not exceed (say) £8 to £10; making in all £16 to £20 per pig; or (say) £64 to £80 for the two boars and two sows landed in Sydney.

The Small Yorkshire is a very easily kept, early maturing, handsome little pig, and one of the best for the purpose mentioned by Mr. Principal Valder. In the selection I previously suggested, I had only in view bacon pigs, as I was not aware that there was a demand for fresh pork beyond what could be met by our ordinary breeds. The Small White Yorkshire can be best obtained in England, and I believe from Saunders Spenser, who is the leading breeder of all types of the White Yorkshire pig.

ALEX. BRUCE,

Chief Inspector of Stock.

Shall we communicate with the Agent-General to obtain quotations for two boars and two sows, Small Yorkshire, in addition to those kinds already referred to in our letter of December? Mr. Valder urges that these be bought. He also wants the Poland-China breed, which Mr. Bruce suggests could be obtained from America through Messrs. Morrison and Clark. Two boars and sows could be landed here for about £60 or £80.—ALFRED SALWEY, 25/1/98.

For approval to order the additional pigs recommended.—D.C.McL., 28/1/93. Approved.—S. SMITH, 29/1/98. Corres. for necessary letters.—W.P., 1/2/98. Acting Agent-General (through Treasury), 2/2/98. Morrison and Clark, 7/2/98, 8, Norwich Chambers, Hunter-street, Sydney. The Examiner.—W.P., 8/2/98. Noted.—Examiner, 9/2/98, Department of Mines and Agriculture.

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade.

Sir, Department of Mines and Agriculture, Sydney, 2 February, 1898.

I am directed to enclose letter addressed to the Acting Agent-General, requesting him to obtain quotations for Small White Yorkshire pigs, and to ask that you will be so good as to cause the communication to be forwarded to London per first mail.

I have, &c.,

D. C. McLACHLAN,

Under Secretary.

Mr. Robberds.—F.K., 3/2/98. Letter forwarded.—G.H., 8/2/98. The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.—The communication herein referred to has been forwarded to the Acting Agent-General as desired.—F.K., the Treasury, B.C., 8/2/98.

Q.B.—Expenditure.

Department of Audit, Sydney, 31 January, 1898.

Reference to the Account.	Observation or Query.
Gen. Loan Vt. 4518 of 1897-S... (Attached to be returned.)	Explanation is requested why the attached voucher has been charged against the Loan Vote, "Agricultural Colleges and Experimental Farms," 59 Vic. No. 6. Certificate of the Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture required.
	E. A. RENNIE.

Submitted.—D.C.McL., 9/2/98.

A copy of my minute of 3/12/97 may be forwarded to the Auditor-General. It should also be mentioned that some of our present stock were paid for out of Loan Vote. If any further information is required I shall be pleased to furnish it.—S. SMITH, 10/2/98. Please see 98/227 herewith.—D.C.McL., B.C., 11/2/98. The Auditor-General, Appropriation Br.—G.E.B. 14/2/98. The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

It is requested that the estimated cost of the whole proposed importations be stated. It is pointed out that this expense would appear to be more correctly chargeable to the Revenue than the Loan Vote. Any previous charges to Loans should, if possible, be transferred to the Revenue Fund.—E.A.R., A.-O., B.C., 22nd February, 1898. The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture. Submitted.—D.C.McL., 24/2/98. Please see Minister's minute on separate paper herewith.—D.C.McL., 25/2/98. The Auditor-General.

Papers

Papers returned herewith. Please acknowledge receipt hereon. Under explanation given, and after personal discussion with the Minister for Mines, the Auditor-General is satisfied to allow the charge as against Loan Funds. Certificate of Under Secretary to Vt. 4518 required.—E.A.R., A.O., B.C., 7th March, 1898. The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Records to detach papers.—E.C.P., 12/3/98. 98/1632 received.—E.W., 15/3/98. Voucher submitted for signature of Under Secretary.—E.C.P., 15/3/98.

Minute by The Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Department of Mines and Agriculture, Sydney, 24 February, 1898.

THE cost of the cattle proposed to be imported will amount to between £5,000 and £6,000. With regard to charging this sum to the Loan Vote, I desire to point out that the broad lines upon which capital expenditure is made are that it is allowable when the purchase provides an additional permanent asset to the Government. In the purchase of these animals the Department will always have this asset, because should any of the stock die or be reduced in value the capital account is to be made up to its original amount by replacements from Consolidated Revenue. In addition to this, the Department will not only have as an asset the initial cost of the stock, but the amount of the original cost will be returned to the Consolidated Revenue over and over again from the progeny. I know no form of capital expenditure where a better return can be obtained; and in justification of the position I take up, I have only to instance the case of a squatter taking up a run and stocking it. He must in purchasing the stock charge the initial cost to his capital account, and this is precisely what I propose to do in connection with our Experimental Farms.

I think, for the reasons stated in this and my previous minute, that the purchase of the stock under the conditions named is properly chargeable to the capital account of our farms and colleges.

S. SMITH.

The Auditor-General,—D.C.McL., B.C., 25/2/98. Returned by Auditor-General to-day.—E.W., 15/3/98. See copy of Auditor-General's minute attached, stating that the charge can be made against loans.—D.C.McL., 18/3/98.

The Acting Agent-General to The Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Quotations for Cattle.

Sir. Westminster Chambers, 9, Victoria-street, Westminster, S.W., 18 March, 1898.

Referring to your letters (2) of 23rd December last and 2nd ultimo (No. 98/776 A), requesting me to obtain quotations for a number of dairy cattle to be selected from the best herds in Great Britain, I have the honor to inform you that I duly communicated with Mr. Robert Bruce, as desired, and with Mr. Sydney Villar, who succeeded the late Mr. Ingersoll as Veterinary Inspector, on behalf of your Government, at the port of London. As an outcome of these and other inquiries, I decided to consult Messrs. John Thornton and Company, of 7 Princes-street, Hanover Square, London, an old established and very experienced firm of Live Stock Agents, with a view to obtaining quotations for the breeds of cattle named by you.

I furnished to Messrs. Thornton and Company the particulars contained in your letters under reference, and explained that only specimens of the best herds were required, that they must be of good milking strain, and be subjected to the tuberculin test.

Messrs. Thornton in due course supplied quotations, which, in compliance with your request, I cabled to you on the 16th instant. (Copy enclosed.)

In the event of your deciding to purchase, the selection of the desired cattle could not, I think, be in better hands, as Mr. Thornton is considered one of the best judges of cattle in the Kingdom, and has undertaken to give the matter his personal attention. He anticipates a little difficulty over the tuberculin question, and fears that some of the best breeders, from whom he would like to purchase, will not sell their animals under the condition of being tested. It appears that the efficacy of the tuberculin test is not by any means universally recognised in this country, and as Messrs. Thornton raised the question, I thought it desirable to mention it in my telegram for your consideration.

The Stock Regulations of your Government require that such test shall be carried out by the veterinary surgeon appointed to examine and grant certificates of health at time of shipment. This would involve (1) the assembling of the cattle at some good healthy place (no accommodation for cattle at the docks), and in the event of any animal reacting to the test the expense of returning such animal (or perhaps animals) to its original starting point; or (2) your inspector would have to travel from place to place, involving a stay at each of from twenty-four to thirty-six hours, possibly longer, with heavy travelling and hotel expenses, as the cattle would be selected from all parts of the Kingdom.

One way out of the difficulty would be for your Government to allow local veterinary inspectors to conduct the tests. There are many veterinary surgeons in this country who have been approved by the Board of Agriculture for carrying out cattle orders, &c. Those gentlemen might be arranged with to conduct the tests, and so save our inspector's travelling and other expenses, as well as the possible expense of returning stock if it were decided to assemble them for testing.

In this connection I may mention that Mr. Robert Bruce, whom I asked to select the Irish cattle, desired to know whether, in their case, the tuberculin test might be carried out by Mr. Matt. Hedley, F.R.C.V.S., Chief Inspector for Ireland.

I may add that the testing for tuberculosis enhances the prices of the animals.

Copy correspondence.—From the accompanying copy of correspondence it will be noted that the sixty-three cattle are expected to cost an average of £53 each—Shorthorns, 75 guineas; other breeds, 45 guineas; while travelling expenses, making selections, commission, transit of animals to docks, freight, boxes, and fodder, men in charge, passage and gratuity, and insurance, are estimated to cost £3,150, or an average expense of £50 for each animal, the expenses thus nearly reaching the cost of the animals themselves.

It is expected that the Holsteins may have to be purchased in Holland, and shipped from Antwerp.

I have made inquiries as to freight, but I am unable to obtain a lower quotation than 20 guineas per head, the ship supplying water only. I raised the question with Messrs. Houlder Brothers and Company as to whether sufficient and ample room had been calculated for each beast, as, owing to the value of the cattle proposed to be purchased, it was desirable they should be made as comfortable as possible for so lengthy a voyage, to ensure, to the fullest extent, their reaching Sydney in a healthy condition. I am informed that the usual space has been allowed for.

Insurance is quoted at the rate of 7 per cent. against mortality and all other risks until three days after landing.

Mr. Bruce, at my request, has submitted his quotations for Irish cattle through Messrs. Thornton and Company.

Messrs. Thornton consider that one man would not be enough to entrust with the charge of so many valuable beasts, especially as there is a probability of a good number of the cows requiring frequent milking. They have therefore calculated for the passages of three attendants and a gratuity to each on landing the cattle in sound condition.

With regard to the pigs (five kinds), I consulted Mr. Barnes, of Shirley, Birmingham, as suggested by you; but I subsequently came to the conclusion that the interests of your Government would be best served by placing the swine quotations also in the hands of Messrs. Thornton and Company. They estimate that to obtain twenty good specimens of the breeds named by you, will cost an average of £19 each, inclusive of all expenses, or a total of £380.

I have, &c.,

DANIEL COOPER.

Submitted for the Minister's information. One cable of 29/3/98 has dealt with all matters referred to. Mr. O'Callaghan might see the reports.—W. PREEDEY, 22/4/98. For the Minister's information.—D.C.McL.; 23/4/98. Seen.—S. SMITH, 24/4/98. Mr. O'Callaghan.—A.S., 26/4/98.

Cablegram from Acting Agent-General, to The Hon. the Premier and Colonial Treasurer.

16 March, 1898.

SECRETARY for Mines and Agriculture. Inform him that I have consulted John Thornton and Company respecting cattle. Following are quotations obtained:—

Average cost—12 Shorthorns, 75 guineas; 51 other breeds, 45 guineas; total, say, £3,354 15s.

Lowest freight—20 guineas per head, water only.

Cost of travelling expenses, selecting, commission, transit to docks, freight, boxes, fodder, passage of, say, three men in charge and gratuity on landing, insurance against mortality and all risks, say, £3,150.

Thorntons anticipate considerable difficulty in connection with tuberculin tests. It is feared that some of best breeders will not accept conditions. Government inspector expenses will be heavy. Would local veterinary surgeon, approved of by Board Agriculture, do in some cases?

Estimated cost of 20 good specimen pigs, inclusive other expenses, £380.

Please telegraph reply.

John Thornton & Co. to The Acting Agent-General.

Dear Sir Daniel,

7, Princes-street, Hanover Square, London, W., 17 March, 1898.

In reply to your letter of the 4th instant, requesting quotation of prices of live stock for New South Wales, I beg to hand you statement with an estimate for the purchase and cost of the shipments of the animals to Sydney.

The prices quoted are for first class specimens of each breed required.

During the last three or four years there has been an increased demand for pure-bred Shorthorns of a good milking type, which is likely to continue, and the large demand for bulls to go to South America has increased the prices for them. Many Estancia holders have readily given 150 guineas to 200 guineas for first class animals, though more of the beef type.

I observe that one variety now rising in estimation for dairying purposes is not mentioned. It is the South Devon, or South Hammar, a somewhat new race evolved from crosses of the Devon, Guernsey, and Shortborn, and which were shown in great perfection at the Royal Show at Plymouth. Their value is about the same, 45 guineas, as the other dairy breeds.

In connection with Shorthorns, the one Irish bull and one cow are, I presume, intended to be pure-bred Shorthorns—for there are several very fine herds throughout Ireland—and not the ordinary dairy cow of the Limerick, Cork, and Tipperary districts, which are of a Shorthorn type.

There are, I believe, only one or two herds of Holstein cattle in England, and I doubt if they are pure; for many years ago, owing to pleuro and foot and mouth diseases, cattle from the Continent were, and are still, prohibited from being imported alive into England. If they are required it would, I think, be better to import them direct from Holland.

There are few breeders of shorthorns who keep accurate returns of the milk yields of each cow, for they consider that a well bred cow, having a good shaped udder and showing dairy points, is sufficient for their purpose. In selecting these animals we should get them as cheaply as we could, consistent with quality and excellence.

Tuberculosis.—It is mentioned that it is a condition that any animal to be shipped should be subjected to a tuberculin test. In this country many breeders strongly object to having their animals tested for tuberculosis, for they consider that science has not yet sufficiently advanced to allow the injection of a powerful poison into the system of their animals, which they have every reason to believe are sound and healthy. If, however, the test is permitted they consider the value of their animals is enhanced in consequence of the risk and possible ill results that may eventually ensue. Moreover, the time and expense will necessarily be increased, for every test will take at least from thirty-six to forty-eight hours; besides a much larger selection of animals will have to be made, as reaction may take place in animals which, to every appearance, as well as from their ancestry, are possibly sound and healthy. The quotations are consequently higher, as there may be much difficulty in obtaining tested animals that have not reacted.

Freight.—

Freight.—There has been a tendency on the part of shipowners to combine with the view of keeping up freight charges; moreover, so many ships now call at the Cape. We have, however, succeeded in obtaining a much lower quotation of freight than was at first quoted, with a plentiful supply of water for the voyage. We also purpose sending three men in charge, as it is our intention of obtaining if possible cows both in milk and in calf, which will require special attention on board ship.

Insurance.—This we hope to effect at 7 guineas per cent., which includes all risk of sea and mortality from the farm to Sydney and three days after landing.

Pigs.—It is presumed that two boars and two sows are required of the breeds mentioned. We have estimated for this, and will endeavour to send first-class healthy young animals.

In executing this commission, we will do our best to render the shipment one of such excellence as may be both a credit to the Colonial Government as well as to ourselves.

Yours, &c.,

JOHN THORNTON & CO.

QUOTATION OF PRICES FOR LIVE STOCK TO NEW SOUTH WALES.

Pure bred Shorthorns	4 bulls, average	75 guineas each.	
" "	6 cows, "	75 "	
" Irish	1 bull, "	75 "	
" "	1 cow, "	75 "	
" Ayrshire	2 bulls, "	45 "	
" "	5 cows, "	45 "	
" Jersey	4 bulls, "	45 "	
" "	6 cows, "	45 "	
" Guernseys	3 bulls, "	45 "	
" "	6 cows, "	45 "	
" Kerry	3 bulls, "	45 "	
" "	4 cows, "	45 "	
" Dexter Kerry	2 bulls, "	45 "	
" "	2 cows, "	45 "	
" Red Polls	3 bulls, "	45 "	
" "	2 cows, "	45 "	
" Holstein	3 bulls, "	45 "	
" "	6 cows, "	45 "	
" Pigs—Berkshire	4 { 2 boars, } 2 sows, }	10 "	
" " Large White Yorkshire	4 "	10 "	
" " Middle Yorkshire	4 "	10 "	
" " Small Yorkshire	4 "	10 "	
" " Improved Tamworth	4 "	10 "	
Travelling and commission, transit of animals and shipping expenses, freight and boxes, to Sydney; fodder on voyage; three men in attendance		£2,700	
Insurance, at 7 per cent.		450	
			£3,150
Expenses in pigs similar to above, and insurance			£180

JOHN THORNTON & CO.

Mr. Sidney Villar, Veterinary Surgeon, to The Secretary to the Agent-General.

Dear Sir,

16 February, 1898.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of, and to thank you for, your communications of 14th instant.

I understood from our conversation that you would like me to suggest the names of some well-known experts in cattle. A gentleman who occurs to me as probably suitable is Mr. A. Dunlop, of Church Farm, Hendon. He is a dairy farmer, has officiated as judge of cattle at the Royal Agricultural, the British Dairy Farmers', the Bath and West of England, and many other Shows; also, I believe, at the Royal Society's Show in Ireland; and also is a Justice of the Peace of this county. I hope to furnish you with the names of other gentlemen, and also the names of the proprietors of well-known herds of the breeds specified.

Yours obediently,

SIDNEY VILLAR.

Mr. Sidney Villar, Veterinary Surgeon, to The Secretary to the Agent-General.

Dear Sir,

20 February, 1898.

Importation of Stock.—In continuation of my letter of 16th instant as to experts in cattle, I beg to inform you that I have it on most reliable authority that it would be almost impossible to get a better judge of Kerry, Dexter Kerry, and Irish Shorthorn cattle than Mr. Robert Bruce of Dublin.

Mr. Fred. Hordern of Buxted, Sussex, is an authority on Jerseys and Kerrys and Dexter Kerrys, and would probably be available.

There are also firms which make a speciality of this kind of trade, such as John Thornton & Co., 7, Princes-street, Hanover-square and W. and A. Mansell & Co., Live Stock Agents, Shrewsbury.

Holstein cattle now in this country would not be of good enough quality and would have to be purchased in Holland. If you would like to see me on any point I should be glad to call, and am, dear sir,

Yours obediently,

SIDNEY VILLAR.

Robert

Robert Bruce, Esq., to The Acting Agent-General.

Sir,

Royal Dublin Society, Leinster House, 19 February, 1898.

I received your letter of the 16th, and at once say I shall have much pleasure in being of service to you, in any way, in the matter referred to.

I understand the New South Wales Government do not intend to import anything but the best representatives of the various breeds. This being the case, you doubtless understand that the cattle will cost comparatively higher prices and must be selected with much care.

Shorthorns.—You are perhaps aware that several families of Shorthorns are termed fashionable and each have keen partisans. This being so I would venture to say, in the selection of stock it is all important for the Colony that practical utility should, in the purchase of the cattle, be kept steadily in view, instead of fashion or fancy. Although in many herds of Shorthorns milk has been neglected, yet representatives of the breed are to be obtained alike superior as milk and beef cattle.

Ayrshires.—Fancy, in the matter of colour and the direction of the horns (often artificially screwed into showyard form), has to some extent interfered with the practical value of many of the herds of Ayrshire cattle; yet there are many herds where, in the breeding of cattle, the quantity and quality of milk have been carefully kept in view.

Jerseys and Guernseys.—I am of opinion that Jersey and Guernsey cattle bred in England are more robust, and quite as good milkers as those bred in the Islands, although the Island cattle may, for showing purposes, be considered better.

Kerry.—While many owners of Kerry cattle consider it imperative that this breed should be all black, many practical breeders do not object to white marking on the udder and underline of the cow, and they justly hold that the formation and size of the udder ought to receive more attention than its colour.

Holsteins.—I take it that the Holsteins would have to be bought from English breeders of these cattle; and if this is so the selection must necessarily be restricted.

Dexters.—The improvement of this breed has not been hindered by colour fancy, and as a breed Dexter cattle are steadily growing in favour. For the quantity and quality of food consumed, it may be questioned if any cow can make a better milk record than a Dexter. The shape and size of the udder should receive attention.

Red Polled Cattle.—Breeders of these cattle have of late years been giving much attention to milk, and cows can be bought whose milk records have been carefully kept.

Shorthorns.—Names and addresses of owners of herds of high-class Shorthorns where milk has been carefully kept in view, while the "general purpose" qualifications have been conserved:—

The Queen	The herd in charge of W. Tait, Shaw Farm, Windsor.
The Prince of Wales... ..	The herd in charge of F. Beck, Sandringham, Norfolk.
Lord Brougham and Vaux. Brougham	Penrith.
J. Deane Willis	Bapton Manor, Codford, Wilts.
R. Stratton	The Duffryn, Newport, Monmouth.
W. Graham	Edengrove, Kirkleyshore, Penrith.
E. Potter	Low-Fields, Kirkby-Lonsdale, Westmoreland.

Irish Shorthorns.

Major Barton... ..	Straffan House, Straffan Station, Co. Kildare.
Dr. Norman Thompson	Kindlestown, Delgany, Co. Wicklow.
Major Cradock	Derrycalaghan, Roscrea, Tipperary.
C. M. Doyne	Wells Gorey, Co. Wexford.

Ayrshire.

A. Cross	Knockdon, Maybole.
A. Mitchell	Barcheskie, Kirkcudbright.
Dowager Duchess of Athole... ..	Dunkeld.
Sir Mark J. Stewart, Bart., M.P.	Ardwell, Strauraer, Wigtownshire.
Robt. Wilson	Manswrae, Bridge of Wier, N.B.

Jersey.

The Queen.	
J. J. Coleman... ..	Herd in charge of Garrett Taylor, Trowse House, Norwich.
Sir James Blyth, Bart.	Blythwood, Stansted, Essex.
Lord Rothschild	Tring Park, Hertfordshire (Agent, Richardson Carr, Home Farm).
Ernest Matthews	Chequers' Mead, Potters' Bar, Middlesex.
J. S. Budgett	Stoke Park, Guildford, Surrey.
Lord Roseberry	Montmore, Leighton Buzzard.

Guernsey.

Sir F. A. Montefiore, Bart.	Worth Park, Crawley, Sussex.
W. Herbert Fowler, J.P.	Claremount, Taunton.
The Hon. Mrs. A. Ballie	Hamilton, Sheldon's Hook, Winchfield.

Kerry.

Lord de Vesci... ..	Abbeyliex House, Abbeyliex, Queen's Co.
J. Robertson	La Mancha, Malahide, Co. Dublin.
Denis Courtney	College-street, Killarney.
J. E. Butler	Waterville, Co. Kerry.
Richard Barter	St. Ann's Hill, Cork.

Holsteins.

Prof. James Long	Burleigh, Cheshunt, Herts.
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Red

Red Polled.

The Duke of York Herd in charge of F. Beck, Sandringham.
 Garrett Taylor Trowse House, Norwich.
 Alfred J. Smith Rendlesham, Woodbridge, Suffolk.

Dexter.

The Prince of Wales... .. Herd in charge of F. Beck.
 Norman Cookson Oakwood, Wylam-on-Tyne.
 J. Robertson La Mancha, Malahide, Co. Dublin.
 D. Courtney College-street, Killarney.
 J. Butler Waterville, Co. Kerry.

Pigs.

The different White breeds—Large, Middle, and Small.
 Sanders Spencer Holywell Manor, St. Ives.
 Berkshire and Tamworth.
 Garrett Taylor Trowse House, Norwich.

I have, &c.,
 ROB. BRUCE.

Robert Bruce, Esq., to The Acting Agent-General.

Dear Sir, Royal Dublin Society, Leinster House, Dublin, 25 February, 1898.

I have received your letter of yesterday.

I regret I am unable to give an opinion regarding the other gentlemen named as purchasers of cattle, but would, without hesitation, say that J. Thornton & Co., 7, Princes-street, Hanover Square, W.C., are thoroughly reliable and well up on all subjects connected with the several breeds.

I shall be very pleased to select the Irish breeds, and shall be glad to hear from you regarding prices and the date you propose to fix for shipping the stock.

I presume the cattle bought in Ireland could be tested for tuberculosis by Mr. Matt. Hedley, F.R.C.V.S., Chief Inspector for Ireland.

Yours, &c.,
 ROB. BRUCE.

The Acting Agent-General to The Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Sir, Westminster Chambers, 9, Victoria-street, Westminster, S.W., 1 April, 1898.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt from you of the telegram shown in the accompanying Schedule.

I have, &c.,
 DANIEL COOPER.

SCHEDULE of telegrams received from the Honorable the Secretary for Mines and Agriculture, Sydney, by the Agent-General, London, between the 25th March, and the 1st April, 1898.

Date.	Subject.
1898. 29th March ...	Approve of what you have done re cattle and pigs. Purchase soon as possible and ship. Cannot forego tuberculin test. No test should be accepted unless an interval of two months has elapsed since the animal was previously tested. Local veterinary certificate will suffice in some cases. S. SMITH.

Cablegram from the Acting Agent-General to The Colonial Treasurer.

11 June, 1898.

SECRETARY for Mines and Agriculture. Inform him that fifty-four cattle, twenty pigs, will be shipped by "Hawkesbury." Will probably leave on eighteenth instant. Holsteins in the course of selection.

13th June, 1898. The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.—F.K., B.C., 13/6/98.

For the Minister's information. Mr. Bruce should see this, and prompt arrangements also made for land to accommodate stock.—W.P., 15/6/98. For the Minister's information. Mr. Bruce has already been instructed to prepare for the cattle. His attention may now be drawn to the fact that twenty pigs will also be sent.—A.S., 16/6/98. Submitted.—D.C.McL., 16/6/98. Seen by Minister.—D.C.McL., 16/6/98. Memo. sent to Mr. Bruce, giving copy of cablegram.—A.S., 16/6/98. As to place for the cattle.—A.S., 17/6/98. Mr. Campbell. To see Mr. O'Callaghan and Mr. Valentine.—M.C., 20.

The Acting Agent-General to The Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Purchase of Live Stock.

Sir, Westminster Chambers, 9, Victoria-street, Westminster, S.W., 5 May, 1898.

In continuation of my letter of the 18th March last, M. and A. 40-98, respecting the cattle and swine required by your Department, I have the honour to inform you that immediately on receipt of your telegram of the 29th idem, approving of the action taken by me on the subject, I instructed Messrs. John Thornton and Company to proceed with the selection of the cattle, and they now inform me that, so far, they have selected the Red Polls and five of the Guernseys required, and these are about to undergo the tuberculin test. The Ayrshires are at present in course of selection.

197—B

Mr.

Mr. Robert Bruce, who is acting with Messrs. Thornton and Company, has purchased eight cattle (Irish), which have been tested and have not reacted.

It is expected that, with the exception of the Holsteins, the whole of the cattle will be shipped about the end of this month. The only herd of Holsteins in this country is that belonging to Professor J. Long, of Cheshunt, Herts., and as that herd has been here a good many years, it is considered advisable to purchase on the Continent the Holsteins you require.

As they would consequently have to be shipped direct from either Antwerp, Bremen, or Hamburg to Sydney, it is proposed to proceed with their selection and purchase when the other breeds are cleared.

I regret to have to state that, owing to a misunderstanding, an augmentation has had to be made in the rate of freight for the fifty-four head of cattle to be shipped from this country, viz., to 22½ guineas per head; but it is not anticipated that this will cause any important increase in the gross amount of cost originally estimated, an ample margin having been allowed for incidental expenses.

I may mention that certain shippers of stock to Sydney are desirous of sending cattle by the same vessel that takes our animals, in order, if possible, to obtain the benefit of the special rate of freight, the ordinary rate for small numbers of cattle being 35 guineas per head at present. Having been approached as to whether your Government would have any objection to the special rate being conceded, I communicated with Messrs. Houlder Brothers and Company (Limited), and informed them that, provided the concession has no influence towards dividing our consignment into two shipments, your Government, I was of opinion, would have no objection, but would rather appreciate the special rate being accorded to the shippers in question. Messrs. Houlder Brothers inform me that they are agreeable to granting the special rate, and will see that the extra animals shall in no way prejudice your Government's stock being conveyed in one vessel.

I have, &c.,

DANIEL COOPER.

Mr. Campbell wants these papers returned to him *re* 98-3,690. Submitted for the Minister's information. The cattle should reach here about 20th July, after which they will remain sixty days in quarantine. Prompt steps should be taken to secure land to put them on.—W. PREEDY, 10/6/98.

With regard to securing land near the H. A. College, Mr. Campbell reported on the papers a few days ago that none had yet been obtained, but he was still making inquiries.—A.S., 10/6/98.

Minister to see. No time should now be lost in deciding where the cattle are to be placed after they pass through quarantine. As other cattle are coming in the same ship, special quarantine arrangements will have to be made—I mean in the way of accommodation—and Mr. Bruce should be asked to look into this matter at once.—D.C.McL., 10/6/98.

Approved.—S. SMITH, 14. Copy of this sent to Mr. Bruce.—A.S., 15/6/98. As to place for the cattle.—A.S., 15/6/98. Mr. Campbell. Minister wishes me to consult with Mr. O'Callaghan.—M.C., 15/6/98.

The Acting Agent-General to The Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Sir, Westminster Chambers, 9, Victoria-street, Westminster, S.W., 15 July, 1898.

Referring to my letter of the 1st instant (M. & A., 95-98), on the subject of the cattle and swine for your Department, I have the honor to inform you that Messrs. Thornton & Co. are unable yet to furnish their account, owing to the difficulty of obtaining the railway companies' invoices for conveyance of animals to the docks.

Messrs. Thornton have received a letter from Las Palmas, stating the cattle and pigs per s.s. "Hawkes Bay" had arrived there on June 30th, all well.

I have, &c.,

DANIEL COOPER

(Per S.Y.)

Papers with Under Secretary.

The Acting Agent-General to The Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Sir, Westminster Chambers, 9, Victoria-street, Westminster, S.W., 1 July, 1898.

In continuation of my letter of the 24th ultimo (M. & A., 91-98), I have now the honour to enclose a bill of lading for the cattle (fifty-three) and swine (nineteen) shipped to Sydney per s.s. "Hawkes Bay" on behalf of your Government.

It will be noted that there is one Shorthorn bull and one pig less than the number ordered by you, exclusive of the Holsteins. This is due to the death of one of the Tamworth boars owing to the heat of the weather during the journey to London, while one of the Shorthorn bulls reacted at the last moment, leaving insufficient time to replace the animal. The boar was insured for £20.

I enclose certificates from Mr. Inspecting Veterinary Surgeon Villar in regard to his final inspection of the whole of the consignment in question, as well as seven cattle and one pig exported by others by the same opportunity.

I also forward a copy of a long letter from Messrs. J. Thornton & Co., reporting on the selection of the animals, and giving a full list thereof, with their distinguishing marks. Messrs. Thornton & Co., with my concurrence, have made an agreement (copy herewith) with the attendants on the stock, and have arranged for the payment by your Government of the balance of wages on the third day after the cattle and pigs are landed in quarantine at Sydney. As an encouragement to the attendants to give every attention to the comfort of the animals, it has also been arranged to pay them the following "head money" for all those belonging to your Government landed in good condition, viz., 10s. per head for cattle, 5s. per head for pigs.

Thornton & Co.
to A.-A.-G.,
5,709.—29 June.
Included with
Thornton's
letter.

Four

Four attendants have been engaged, but portion of the "fourth" attendant's wages will be paid by the other shippers and credited to your Government in Messrs. Thornton's account, a copy of which I hope to send you by next Friday's mail, together with the pedigrees of the stock.

Great credit is due to Messrs. Thornton & Co. for the careful and judicious manner in which they have executed this order. The work has involved a great strain on all concerned, and I sincerely trust that the animals will reach Sydney in a sound and healthy condition.

I have, &c.,
DANIEL COOPER.

Submitted for the Minister's information. I would suggest that the papers be forwarded to Mr. O'Callaghan, who should be responsible for the whole business connected with the landing, &c., of the stock.—W. FREEDY, 5/8/98.

For Minister's information, and to pay the several amounts mentioned to the attendants. The business of landing the stock should be placed in Mr. Bruce's hands.—D.C.McL., 5/8/98. Approved.—S. SMITH. Mr. Bruce.—A.S., 8/8/98.

John Thornton & Co. to The Acting Agent-General for New South Wales.

Dear Sir,

7, Princes-street, Hanover Square, London, W., 29 June, 1898.

After our communications to you of the 10th and 17th of March and subsequent correspondence, we proceeded to visit various breeders to inspect and purchase the stock ordered for the Colony. The order has been difficult to execute, for the reason that several eminent breeders objected to having their valuable animals injected with tuberculin; for they said, even if the animals did not react, the fluid had been injected into their system and science could not yet tell them when it would be eliminated. Another difficulty was in finding pure-bred Shorthorn cows with good udders and with the form and symmetry of the recognised type of the breed; for many breeders consider that the flesh-forming qualities of the Shorthorn more than equal their value for the dairy, especially for crossing and producing good feeding steers throughout the country. Again, many very fine specimens of the dairy Shorthorn are ineligible for the Herd Book. We saw several remarkably good cows in the north of England, but they were six years old and upwards. There has not been the same difficulty in obtaining those breeds that are essentially kept for dairy purposes, particularly the Ayrshires, Jerseys, and Guernseys. The Holstein, or Dutch cattle, are not kept pure in England except in one small herd in Hertfordshire, and which has been bred closely owing to Continental cattle being prohibited from landing alive in England.

If they are to be purchased and shipped to the Colony, it will be necessary to obtain them in Holland and ship them direct from there, the country being free from foot and mouth disease since the end of May, and pleuro-pneumonia has been stamped out for twelve years.

We have prepared the pedigree and certificates of the various animals, with their numbers and marks. Owing to one animal reacting at the last moment there is one Shorthorn bull short, and one pig, which died in transit to London owing to the heat of the weather. This boar was insured for £20, and we have applied for recovery.

The Shorthorns we first endeavoured select in the great district of Cumberland and Westmoreland; it was somewhat difficult to find animals with good udders, and of an age and in suitable state of breeding. In two large herds the breeders declined to submit their animals to the test; in other cases breeders refused to sell their best cattle. We, therefore, went to the large dairy districts of the west of England. It was not an easy matter to find really good bulls of 2 to 4 years of age, owing to the large number of young bulls that are purchased by the South Americans.

One particularly good bull, unfortunately one of the last that Mr. Villar, the Government Veterinary, was able to test, reacted, and the time before shipment was insufficient to replace him.

The Ayrshire we specially selected for their constitution and milking quality in their own district. Some of them are of the light colour that is now seen so frequently at the principal shows.

The Red Polls are from good breeders in Norfolk, and, like the Ayrshire, were selected for their heavy milking properties and constitution, avoiding the beef type of the present show-yard animals.

The Jerseys and Guernseys.—We did our best to obtain these all bred in England, for it is found that many of the island-bred animals are often too delicate to withstand the climate. We are of opinion they will be found fine specimens. Several of them have been successfully exhibited, and they are descended from parents of known great dairy properties.

The Kerrys and Dexters, and two pure-bred Shorthorns from Ireland, were selected and purchased by Mr. Robert Bruce, of Dublin, from some of the best breeders in that country.

The pigs we chose from large breeders who owned good, healthy stock, and had great reputation as exhibitors and breeders. As no particular age was mentioned, we selected young animals that were not far gone in a breeding state, as they might be able to better stand the voyage.

This large shipment of animals would require considerable attendance on the voyage, for most of the cows were in milk, as we considered it better to send them in that state. Four men went with them, one of them having made several journeys to the Colony before. The two young men from Cornwall have good characters and practical knowledge of stock. They purpose stopping in the Colony if they can find employment.

Especial care was taken in having the boxes strongly made and padded. The fodder was of various kinds, of the best quality, and an abundant supply, with all the necessary medicines and implements, &c., that might be required on the voyage.

A full list of the animals, with their distinguishing marks, were supplied to the attendants.

The ship also took out some young bulls for Mr. A. A. Dangar, Mr. A. Dugdale, Mr. C. G. Tindal, and the Australian Agricultural Co., as well as one pig for Mr. Bloore. The expenses of these animals have been proportioned with the Government charges, and the amount received from each shipper has been credited by us to your account, which will be forwarded next week, as well as the pedigree of the animals.

The men in charge are to receive the balance of their wages on the third day after they have landed the cattle and pigs in quarantine at Sydney, in accordance with the annexed agreement.

In

In executing this order we have taken every pains, and spent much time in travelling, often long distances, to purchase really good animals; and when obtained, we have done our best to secure good transit accommodation and attendance. It will doubtless take the animals some time to get rested and refreshed after their long journey, and acclimatised to their new home. It would be well, therefore, that they be not judged until they have had time to recover the effect of the voyage. We shall hope in due course that our efforts, in executing this order with which you have been good enough to entrust us, has met with the appreciation of the Government in Sydney.

Yours, &c.,

JOHN THORNTON & CO.

AGREEMENT for the payment of the four men in attendance on the cattle and pigs on board the "Hawkes Bay."

The men in charge are to receive the balance of their wages on the third day after they have landed the cattle and pigs in Quarantine, at Sydney, viz. :-

William Henry Collins, is to receive £20, balance of wages.
Stephen Henry Hosking, " £20, "
Henry Day, " £7, "
Charles Trussler, " £10, "

In addition to this, Collins, Hosking, and Day are to receive the following head money, and divide it equally among themselves, viz. :-10s. per head for cattle, 5s. per head for pigs, for all the New South Wales Government animals that are landed in good condition. A return passage has been arranged for Day, who receives in consequence less money than Collins and Hosking, the other two experienced men.

A proportion of the attendants' wages will be charged to the other shippers of stock and credited to the Government account.

JOHN THORNTON & CO.

New South Wales Government Order, 1898.

No.	Description.	Name.	Marks.	Price.
SHORTHORNS.				
1	Bull	Favourite	XV on horn	50
2	Bull	Cornish Boy	XVI	140
3	Cow	Alexandria 14th	XVII	
4	Cow	March Daisy	XVIII	
5	Cow	Fanny 78th	XIX	50
6	Cow	Honey 110th	XX	150
7	Bull	Lord Sandgrove 29th	XXI	
8	Cow	Pansy 4th	XXII	
9	Cow	Lady Dora	L	40
JERSEYS.				
1	Cow	Calceolaria	XXIV on horn	43
2	Bull	Melbourne	XXV	51
3	Bull	Thessalian	XXVI	35
4	Cow	Rum Omelette	XXVII	40
5	Cow	Miss Lucy 3rd	XXVIII	40
6	Bull	Leader	XXIX	50
7	Bull	Golden King	XXX	90
8	Cow	Egyptian Princess	XXXI	
9	Cow	Colleen	XXXII	
10	Cow	Lady Tidy 3rd	XXXIII	50
GUERNSEYS.				
1	Bull	Nut Cracker	VI on horn	45
2	Cow	Souvenir	VII	25
3	Cow	Saucy Sal	VIII	25
4	Bull	Peter		40
5	Cow	Vivid	X on horn	30
6	Cow	Calm	XI	25
7	Cow	Flaxey	XII	20
8	Cow	Lady Blanche	XIII	35
9	Bull	Rose Prince	XIV	40
AYRSHIRES.				
1	Cow	Roseleaf, of Barcheskie	II on horn	35
2	Cow	Dandy, of Rattenraw	I	35
3	Cow	Primrose, of Barcheskie	III	35
4	Cow	Judy 9th, of Barcheskie	IV	30
5	Bull	Mischief Maker, of Barcheskie	I	60
6	Cow	Lizzie 4th, of Auchenbrain	V	30
7	Bull	Daniel, of Auchenbrain	II	50
RED POLLS.				
1	Bull	Barrister	1 tattooed in left ear	40
2	Cow	Lovely 8th	710 tattooed in left ear	40
3	Bull	Lawrence	One notch top of left ear	80
4	Cow	Rumour	Three nicks in right ear	
5	Bull	The Dairyman	One notch each ear, top of right and bottom of left	35
Carried forward				1,734

The following were purchased by Mr. Robert Bruce in Ireland:—

No.	Description.	Name.	Marks.	Price.
				Guineas.
Brought forward				1,734
SHORTHORNS.				
1	Bull	Clipper	0 ⁰⁰ on horn	70
2	Cow	Royal Duchess	71 " "	50
KERRIES.				
1	Bull	Kildare	0 on horn	40
2	Bull	Belvedere Gay Knight	2 " "	£35
3	Bull	Aicme Chin	R.B. " "	£25
4	Cow	Aicme Cromer	13 " "	£75
5	Cow	Aicme Comet	2 " "	
6	Cow	Aicme Carlow	R.B. " "	£35
7	Cow	Belvedere Bratha 3rd	1 " "	£30
DEXTER KERRIES.				
1	Cow	Aicme Civil	6	£70
2	Cow	Aicme Close	5 on horn	
3	Bull	Ham	1 " "	£35
4	Bull	Waterville Punch	R.B.	£25
				2,224
BERKSHIRE PIGS.				
				Guineas.
1	Boar		One snip in left ear	17
2	Boar		Two snips in left ear	
3	Sow		Hole in left ear	25
4	Sow		" "	
				42
LARGE WHITE PIGS.				
1	Boar		o back right ear	60
2	Boar		o back of left ear	
3	Sow		o right ear	
4	Sow		o left ear	
MIDDLE WHITE PIGS.				
1	Boar		V middle of left ear	5
2	Boar		V middle of right ear	
3	Sow		Hole in left ear	5
4	Sow		" "	
SMALL WHITE PIGS.				
1	Boar		One notch on tip and one on side of	30
2	Boar		near ear	
3	Sow		Two notches in left ear	
4	Sow		Two holes left ear, one in right	
				One notch tip of each ear
TAMWORTH PIGS.				
1	Boar		o top of right ear	40
*	Boar		" "	
3	Sow		Notch top of right ear	
4	Sow		" "	
				182

T.G.W.

* Died on transit to London, insurance to be recovered.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT.

(Form K.—Regulation 36.)

Imported Stock Act of 1871, and the Imported Stock Act Amendment Act of 1884.

Certificate and Declaration by Veterinary Surgeon at Port of Shipment.

I, SIDNEY VILLAR, of Harrow-on-the-Hill, a duly qualified veterinary surgeon, appointed in that behalf for the Colony of New South Wales, having made a thorough inquiry respecting, and a careful examination of, the stud stock about to be shipped from the port of London by the s.s. "Hawkes Bay," of which Mr. J. C. Felgate is the master, for the port of Sydney, N.S.W., which are more particularly described in the schedule below, and having made the like inquiry respecting, and examination of, all ship's stock on board, or about to be put on board, such vessel for the use of the passengers or crew (particulars of which are also given below), and having also obtained the declaration called for by No. 38 of the Regulations issued for the said Colony in that behalf by the owner or breeder of such stock, together with the relative certificates by the proper inspector in regard thereto, and being satisfied that such stock have been not less than fourteen days in Great Britain or Ireland, do hereby solemnly and sincerely declare that none of the said stock are infected with any infectious or contagious disease, and that all the requirements of these Regulations up to the present time with respect to such stock have been duly complied with, including the application of the tuberculin test.

SIDNEY VILLAR, F.R.C.V.S.

Declared before me at Harrow, this }
27th day of June, 1898,— }

G. E. WORTHINGTON, J.P.

SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE referred to.

No. of Stock.	Sex.	Description.	Brands and Marks.	Date of Shipment.	Name and Address of Owner and of Attendant.	Consignee.	Destination.
1	Bull ...	Shorthorn ...	ii back of right horn ...	22 June	Stud Stock. Owner, A. A. Dangar, Esq.	Dangar, Gedye, & Co., Sydney.	Sydney.
1	" ...	" ...	i back right horn.....	22 "	" "	" "	"
1	" ...	" ...	iv back of right horn ...	22 "	H. Day, attendant. Owner, Laurence Dugdale, Esq., Springfield Farm, Myrmong, Victoria.	Ed. Tronchard & Co., agents, Melbourne.	Sydney, thence Melbourne.
1	" ...	" ...	Not marked (should be xx right horn).	22 "	H. Day, attendant.	" "	"

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Declared before me at Harrow, this }
27th day of June, 1898,—

SIDNEY VILLAR, F.R.C.V.S.

G. E. WORTHINGTON, J.P.

SCHEDULE referred to.

No. of Stock.	Sex.	Description.	Brands and Marks.	Date of Shipment.	Name and Address of Owner and of Attendant.	Consignee.	Destination.
1	Bull ...	Shorthorn ...	v back right horn	1898. 22 June	Stud Stock. Australian Agricul- tural Association.	Australian Agricul- tural Association.	Sydney.
1	" ...	" ...	vi back right horn	" "	" "	" "	"
1	" ...	Hereford	iii. back of right horn.	22 June	Mr. C. G. Tindal, 7, Mark-lane, E.C.	Mr. C. G. Tindal, "Ramornie."	"

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Declared before me at Harrow, this }
27th day of June, 1898,—

SIDNEY VILLAR, F.R.C.V.S.

G. E. WORTHINGTON, J.P.

SCHEDULE referred to.

No. of Stock.	Sex.	Description.	Brands and Marks.	Date of Shipment.	Name and Address of Owner and of Attendant.	Consignee.	Destination.
1	Male ...	Berkshire pig..	o left ear	21 June	{ Stud Stock. A. Bloore, owner ... Ship's Stock. H. Day, attendant.. }	{ A. Bloore, Sydney.. }	Sydney.

(Agent-General, received 1st July, 1898, New South Wales.)

[Stamp, Sixpence.]

Australian and New Zealand Steam Trade Bill of Lading, 1893.

Freight payable at Port of Shipment.

SHIPPED in good order and condition by the Agent-General for New South Wales, on board the steamship "Hawkes Bay," whereof is master for this present voyage, now lying in the port of London, and bound for Sydney, N.S.W., with liberty to call at any port or ports, to receive and [or] discharge goods and passengers, and to take in coal and [or] other supplies, or for any other purpose, and to sail with or without pilots, and to tow and assist vessels in all situations, the following goods, viz. :—

Fifty-three cattle, and boxes for same..... } On deck, at shipper's risk, ship not responsible for jettison,
Nineteen pigs, and pens for same..... } disease, mortality, or accident.

Being marked and numbered as in the margin, and to be delivered (subject to the exceptions and conditions hereinafter 53 cattle 19 pigs. mentioned) in the like good order and condition from the ship's deck, at her anchorage (where the ship's responsibility shall cease), at the aforesaid port of Sydney, N.S.W. (or so near thereto as she may safely get), unto the Honorable the Minister for Mines and Agriculture, or to his or their assigns. Freight for the said goods, with primage, to become due on shipment, and to be paid in London, in cash, without deduction, ship lost or not lost. Average according to York-Antwerp Rules, 1890.

The act of God, the Queen's enemies, pirates, robbers or thieves by land or sea, but not pilferage, arrests, or restraints of princes, rulers, or people, riots, strikes or lock-outs, or other labour disturbances, or delay caused, directly or indirectly, thereby, and loss or damage resulting from any of the following causes or perils are expected, viz. :—Insufficiency in packing or in strength of packages, loss or damage from rust, vermin, breakage, leakage, sweating, evaporation, or decay; injurious effects of other goods, effects of climate or heat of holds; risk of craft, of transshipment, and of storage afloat or on shore; fire on board, in hull, in craft, or on shore; explosion, accidents to, or defects in hull, tackle, boilers or machinery or their appurtenances; barratry, jettison, neglect, default or error in judgment of the master, mariners, engineers, and others in the soever caused, and accidents, loss, damage, delay, or detention from any act or default of the Egyptian Government or the service of the owners; collision, stranding, perils of the seas, rivers or navigation of whatsoever nature or kind and how-administration of the Suez Canal, or arising out of, or consequent upon, the employment of vessel of the line in Her Majesty's Mail Service.

The ship will not be responsible for correct delivery unless each package is distinctly, correctly, and permanently marked by the merchant before shipment, with a mark and number or address, and also with the name of the port of delivery, which last must be in letters not less than 2 inches long.

The owners are to be at liberty to carry the said goods to their port of destination, by the above or other steamer or steamers, ship or ships, either belonging to themselves or to other persons, proceeding by any route, and whether directly or indirectly to such port, and in so doing to carry the goods beyond their port of destination, and to tranship or land and store the goods either on shore or afloat and reship and forward the same at the owner's expense, but at merchant's risk, but subject to any proved claim for loss of market on any goods so overcarried, such claim not to exceed 10 per cent. of the net invoice cost of such goods.

The ship will not be accountable for gold, silver, bullion, specie, jewellery, watches, clocks, precious stones, precious metals, bank notes or securities for money, paintings, sculptures, or other works of art, nor beyond the value of £5 per cubic foot, nor exceeding £100 for any one package unless the value thereof shall have been declared at time of shipment, and the bills of lading signed with a declaration of the nature and value of the goods appearing thereon, and extra freight in respect of same agreed upon and paid; nor for loss, injury, or detention to packages, intended for different consignees, but made up into one package, unless the contents and value of each separate package be given before shipment, and freight paid accordingly; nor for damage to castings, or show-cases, nor for breakage of glass, glassware, chinaware, or earthenware, or other goods of a brittle or fragile nature, of any description, from whatsoever cause arising, excepting improper stowage and handling.

Specie deliverable in Melbourne or Sydney will be conveyed from the steamer to the Mint at owner's expense, but at the merchant's risk. All liability of the owners is to cease as soon as the specie is free from the steamer's tackle.

If chemicals, liquids, or other goods of a dangerous or damaging nature are shipped without being previously declared and arranged for, they are liable upon discovery to be thrown overboard, and their loss, as well as any loss or damage to the ship or cargo, or to any person or interest whatsoever, will fall upon the merchants or owners of such goods. Double freight will be charged on all goods not correctly described.

All fines and expenses or losses by detention of vessel or cargo, caused by incorrect or insufficient marking of the package, or by incomplete or incorrect description or weight (or any other particulars required by the authorities at the port of delivery), either upon the packages or the bill of lading, shall be paid by the shipper or consignees of the goods.

The master or agent is to deliver the goods with all reasonable despatch, and the consignees or their assigns must be ready to take delivery as soon as the ship is ready to discharge them, otherwise the master or agent shall be at liberty to land and warehouse the goods, or discharge them into a store-ship, or hulk, or into lighters, or on a wharf, as customary, at the merchant's risk and expense.

In case of quarantine, the goods may be discharged into quarantine dépôt, hulk, or other vessel, as required for the ship's despatch. Quarantine expenses upon the goods, of whatsoever nature or kind, shall be borne by the owners of the goods.

In case of the blockade or interdict of the port of discharge, or if the entering of or discharging in such port shall be considered by the master unsafe by reason of war or disturbances, the master may land the goods at the nearest safe and convenient port or place at the expense and risk of the owners of the goods; and the ship's responsibility shall cease when the goods are so discharged into proper and safe keeping, the master giving immediate notice of the same to the consignees of the goods, so far as they can be ascertained.

The ship shall have a lien upon the goods for all freight and charges, for which the goods are liable under the bill of lading.

No claim that may arise in respect of goods shipped by this steamer will be recoverable unless made at the port of delivery within seven days after the discharge of said goods.

The shipowners' liability in case of loss or detention, or injury to goods, for which they may be responsible, to be calculated on and in no case to exceed the net invoice cost and disbursements.

Weight, measurement, contents, quality, and value unknown.

In witness whereof the master, purser, or duly authorised agent of the said ship hath affirmed to four bills of lading, all of this tenor and date, one of which being accomplished the others to stand void. If required by the owners or their agents, one of the bills of lading must be given up, duly endorsed, in exchange for the goods.

Dated in London, 23rd June, 1898.

For the Master,

TYSER & CO., Per ALFRED J. BIRD (as Agents).

Merchants are cautioned against shipping goods of a dangerous or damaging nature, as by so doing they become responsible for all consequential damage, and also render themselves liable to penalties imposed by statute.

[Copy.]

(Agent-General received 1st July, 1898, New South Wales.)

Houlder Brothers & Co. (Limited), London, to Messrs. Tyser & Co., Fenchurch Avenue, E.C.

Dear Sirs,

146, Leadenhall-street, London, E.C., 30th June, 1898, and at Lloyds.

In consideration of your handing us clean bills of lading for the cattle and pigs per s.s. "Hawkes Bay," it is understood that you have the right to land or put into lighter such boxes and cattle as may be in the way of discharge at Melbourne, at steamer's risk and expense; all reasonable care to be used in so doing.

You are also at liberty to take to pieces any of the boxes that are not wanted through the death of any of the animals, but pieces of same to be delivered.

Yours, &c.,

HOULDER BROTHERS & CO. (LIMITED.)

(ALFRED H. HOULDER, Managing Director.)

New

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT.

(Form K.—Regulation 36.)

Imported Stock Act of 1871, and the Imported Stock Act Amendment Act of 1884.

Certificate and Declaration by Veterinary Surgeon at Port of Shipment.

I, SIDNEY VILLAR, of Harrow-on-the-Hill, a duly qualified veterinary surgeon, appointed in that behalf for the Colony of New South Wales, having made a thorough inquiry respecting, and a careful examination of, the stud stock about to be shipped from the port of London by the s.s. "Hawkes Bay," of which Mr. J. C. Felgate is the master, for the port of Sydney, New South Wales, which are more particularly described in the schedule below, and having made the like inquiry respecting, and examination of, all ship's stock on board, or about to be put on board, such vessel for the use of the passengers or crew (particulars of which are also given below), and having also obtained the declaration called for by No. 38 of the Regulations issued for the said Colony in that behalf by the owner or breeder of such stock, together with the relative certificates by the proper inspector in regard thereto, and being satisfied that such stock have been not less than fourteen days in Great Britain or Ireland, do hereby solemnly and sincerely declare that none of the said stock are infected with any infectious or contagious disease, and that all the requirements of these Regulations up to the present time with respect to such stock have been duly complied with, including the application of the tuberculin test.

SIDNEY VILLAR, F.R.C.V.S.

Declared before me at Harrow, this }
27th day of June, 1888,— }

G. E. WORTHINGTON, J.P.

SCHEDULE referred to.

No. of Stock.	Sex.	Description.	Brands and Marks.	Date of Shipment.	Name and Address of Owner and of Attendant.	Consignee.	Destination.
			On Horn.		Stud Stock.		
1	Bull ...	Shorthorn...	XV	22 June	Government of New South Wales. H. Day, Attendant, 1, Downs' Cottages, Sutton, Surrey, England.	N.S.W. Government	Sydney.
1	" ...	" ...	xvi	22 "		"	"
1	" ...	" ...	xxi	22 "		"	"
1	" ...	" ...	" ...	22 "		"	"
1	Cow ...	" ...	xvii	22 "		"	"
1	" ...	" ...	XIII—58	22 "		"	"
1	" ...	" ...	XIX	22 "		"	"
1	" ...	" ...	XX	22 "		"	"
1	" ...	" ...	XII (tear in left ear) ...	22 "		"	"
1	" ...	" ...	L	22 "		"	"
1	" ...	" ...	71	22 "		"	"
1	Bull ...	Ayrshire	1 (left horn)	22 "		"	"
1	" ...	" ...	No brand	22 "		"	"

* This Ayrshire bull has a few warbles.
N.B.—Shorthorn cow XIX has a few "warble bumps."

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SCHEDULE referred to.

No. of Stock.	Sex.	Description.	Brands and Marks.	Date of Shipment.	Name and Address of Owner and of Attendant.	Consignee.	Destination.
			On Horn.		Stud Stock.		
1	Cow ...	Ayrshire	i	22 June	Government of New South Wales. H. Day, Attendant.	N.S.W. Government	Sydney.
1	" ...	" ...	ii	22 "		"	"
1	" ...	" ...	iii	22 "		"	"
1	" ...	" ...	iv	22 "		"	"
1	" ...	" ...	v	22 "		"	"
1	Bull ...	Guernsey	vi	22 "		"	"
1	" ...	" ...	xi	22 "		"	"
1	" ...	" ...	xiv	22 "		"	"
1	Cow ...	" ...	vii	22 "		"	"
1	" ...	" ...	viii	22 "		"	"
1	" ...	" ...	ix	22 "	"	"	
1	" ...	" ...	x	22 "	"	"	

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT.

(Form K.—Regulation 36.)

Imported Stock Act of 1871, and the Imported Stock Act Amendment Act of 1884.

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No. of Stock.	Sex.	Description.	Brands and Marks.	Date of Shipment.	Name and Address of Owner and of Attendant.	Consignee.	Destination.
1	Cow	Guernsey	xii	22 June	Stud Stock. Government of New South Wales. H. Day, attendant.	N.S.W. Government	Sydney.
1	"	"	xiii	22 "			
1	Bull	Kerry	v.	22 "			
1	"	"	2.	22 "			
1	"	"	R.B. (and 2 marks right ear.)	22 "			
1	"	Dexter	I.	22 "			
1	"	"	No mark	22 "			
1	Cow	Kerry	2.	22 "			
1	"	"	13.	22 "			
1	"	"	I.	22 "			
1	"	"	R.B. 30	22 "			

Kerry Bull v. has "warbles."

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT.

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1	Cow	Dexter	6	22 June	Stud Stock. New South Wales Government. H. Day, attendant.	N.S.W. Government	Sydney.
1	"	"	5	22 "			
1	Bull	Jersey	XXV	22 "			
1	"	"	XXVI	22 "			
1	"	"	XXIX	22 "			
1	"	"	XXX	22 "			
1	Cow	"	XXIV	22 "			
1	"	"	XXVII	22 "			
1	"	"	XXVIII	22 "			
1	"	"	XXXI	22 "			
1	"	"	XXXII	22 "			
1	"	"	XXXIII	22 "			

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No. of Stock.	Sex.	Description.	Brands and Marks.	Date of Shipment.	Name and Address of Owner and of Attendant.	Consignee.	Destination.
1	Bull ...	Red Poll	1 notch top of left ear...	22 June	Stud Stock. New South Wales Government. H. Day, attendant.	N.S.W. Government	Sydney.
1	" ...	"	1 notch top of right ear and below left ear.	22 "			
1	" ...	"	Tattooed I left ear	22 "			
1	Cow ...	"	3 notches in right ear...	22 "			
1	" ...	"	Tattooed 710 in left ear	22 "			

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Declared before me at Harrow, this }
27th day of June, 1898.

G. E. WORTHINGTON, J.P.

SCHEDULE referred to

No. of Stock.	Sex.	Description.	Brands and Marks.	Date of Shipment.	Name and Address of Owner and of Attendant.	Consignee.	Destination.
2	Male ...	Large white boars.	O back rt. ear	21 June	Stud Stock. New South Wales Government. H. Day, attendant.	N.S.W. Government	Sydney.
2	Female	Large white pigs.	O left ear	21 "			
2	Male ...	Middle white pigs.	O rt. ear	21 "			
2	Female	Berkshire pigs.	O left ear	21 "			
2	" ...	Middle white pigs.	V middle of left ear ...	21 "			
2	" ...	Middle white pigs.	V middle of right ear...	21 "			
2	" ...	Middle white pigs.	Each with O hole in left ear.	21 "			
2	" ...	Middle white pigs.	Each with O left ear ...	21 "			

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No. 38 of the Regulations issued for the said Colony in that behalf by the owner or breeder of such stock, together with the relative certificates by the proper inspector in regard thereto, and being satisfied that such stock have been not less than fourteen days in Great Britain or Ireland, do hereby solemnly and sincerely declare that none of the said stock are infected with any infectious or contagious disease, and that all the requirements of these Regulations up to the present time with respect to such stock have been duly complied with.

SIDNEY VILLAR, F.R.C.V.S.

Declared before me at Harrow, this)
27th day of June, 1898,— {

G. E. WORTHINGTON, J.P.

SCHEDULE referred to.

No. of Stock.	Sex.	Description.	Brands and Marks.	Date of Shipment.	Name and Address of Owner and of Attendant.	Consignee.	Destination.
2	Male ..	Berkshire pigs	3 snips out of left ear...	21 June	Stud Stock. New South Wales Government. H. Day, attendant.	N.S.W. Government	Sydney.
2	„ ..	Small white pigs.	2 notches left ear, 1 notch on tip, 1 notch on back left ear.	21 „			
2	Female	„ ..	2 holes left ear, notch tip each ear.	21 „			
1	Male ..	Sandy Tamworth pig.	0 top of right ear	21 „			
2	Female	Tamworth pigs.	Notch top right ear, ditto.	21 „			

The Acting Agent-General to The Secretary for Mines and Agriculture, Sydney.

Purchase of Cattle.

Sir, Westminster Chambers, 9, Victoria-street, Westminster, S.W., 22 July, 1898.

I have the honor to forward herein the undermentioned documents, which I have to-day received from Messrs. John Thornton, in connection with the cattle and pigs recently purchased for your Department, and shipped to Sydney per s.s. "Hawkes Bay," viz. :— In original certificates.

- (1.) Certificates of the pedigrees of fifty-three cattle, showing distinctive markings, and breeding state of the cows, prize, notes, milking, and other details.
- (2.) Certificates for nineteen pigs (claim for insurance being made owing to death of twentieth pig; certificate, therefore, not enclosed).

The accounts in connection with this matter will be forwarded to you by next mail.

I have, &c.,

DANIEL COOPER
(Per T.Y.).

Pedigrees with Mr. O'Callaghan.—Mr. Bruce, 24/8/98.

The Acting Agent-General to The Secretary for Mines and Agriculture, Sydney.

Sir, Westminster Chambers, 9, Victoria-street, Westminster, S.W., 29 July, 1898.

Referring to the consignment of cattle and pigs per s.s. "Hawkes Bay," I have now the honor to enclose, for your information, copies of Messrs. J. Thornton and Company's account, together with the subsidiary vouchers forwarded therewith. Copy accounts, Messrs. Thornton & Co., Mr. Inspecting Vet. Surg. Villar, Mr. J. Miller (fodder), Blyth and Pascoe (boxes).

Messrs. Thornton have deducted the proportionate amounts payable for fittings, fodder, attendance, &c., by the parties to whom the benefit of shipping stock by this opportunity was afforded.

I also enclose a copy of Messrs. Houlder Brothers and Company's account for freight, as well as a copy of the insurance policy. Copy, Houlder's account. Copy, insurance policy.

It will be noted that after, making all payments in connection with the animals shipped per s.s. "Hawkes Bay," a balance of about £900 remains within the estimated cost submitted to you in March last. We have, therefore, I think, an ample margin left to cover the purchase of the Holsteins.

I have, &c.,

DANIEL COOPER.

The New South Wales Government in account with John Thornton and Company.

7, Princes-street, Hanover Square, London, W., June, 1898.

Purchase of 11 Shorthorns, 5 Red Polls, 9 Guernseys, 7 Ayrshires, 10 Jerseys, 7 Kerries, 4 Dexters, 20 Pigs; shipped per s.s. "Hawkes Bay," 22 June, 1898.

Prices of individual animals were rendered on a separate statement.

9 Shorthorns—3 Bulls 6 Cows, 540 guineas	£ s. d.
5 Red Polls—3 „ 2 „ 195 „	204 15 0
9 Guernseys—3 „ 6 „ 285 „	299 5 0
7 Ayrshires—2 „ 5 „ 275 „	288 15 0
10 Jerseys—4 „ 6 „ 439 „	460 19 0
2 Shorthorns—1 bull and 1 cow; 7 Kerries—3 bulls and 4 cows; 4 Dexters—2 bulls and 2 cows. These eleven animals were purchased by Mr. Robert Bruce, in Ireland, the price including the tuberculin test, and other expenses	498 0 0
20 Pigs—4 Large Whites—2 sows, 2 boars; 4 Middle Whites—2 sows, 2 boars; 4 Small Whites—2 sows, 2 boars; 4 Berkshires—2 sows, 2 boars; 4 Tamworths—2 sows, 2 boars; total, 10 sows, 10 boars.....	191 2 0
	Blyth

Blyth Pascoe account—Boxes :—				
60 boxes for cattle.....		£	s. d.	£ s. d.
21 pens for pigs		377	3 11	
			33 17 9	
				411 1 8
Charged proportions as follows :—				
A. A. Dangar—2 at 6 guineas each		£	s. d.	
Aus. Ag. Co.—2 " "		12	12 0	
T. Brunton —2 " "		12	12 0	
C. G. Tindal —1 " "		12	12 0	
A. Bloore —Pig		6	6 0	
		1	10 0	
				45 12 0
Veterinary Surgeon Accounts :—				365 9 8
Sidney Villar testing account		101	7 4	
" examination at Docks		18	8 0	
" for bull punch and rings		1	0 6	
				120 15 10
J. E. Wallis.....		12	12 0	
W. Wordley		1	10 0	
T. Olver		5	5 0	
W. Westgate		2	2 0	
T. A. Douglas.....		1	2 6	
				143 7 4
John Miller Account—Fodder, &c :—				
Fodder, &c., for cattle and pigs		352	6 10	
Charged proportions as follows :—				
A. A. Dangar—2		11	4 0	
Aus. Ag. Co.—2		11	4 0	
T. S. Brunton—2		11	4 0	
C. G. Tindal —1		5	12 0	
A Bloore —Pig.....		1	0 0	
				40 4 0
Insurance account 7 guineas per cent. on £5,637 =		414	6 5	312 2 10
Policy duty		0	19 0	
				415 5 5
Messrs. Houlder Bros. Account.				
Railway carriages		166	6 2	
Less charged as follows :—				
A. A. Dangar—2		4	13 7	
Aus. Ag. Co.—2.....		6	11 0	
T. S. Brunton—2		5	11 3	
C. G. Tindall—1		1	7 11	
A Bloore—Pig.....		0	10 0	
				18 13 9
				147 12 5
Bills of lading, 3s.		0	3 0	
Four mens' passages, £57 ; kits, £3 7s.....		60	7 0	
Lashing boxes		36	1 10	
Dock charges		23	14 7	
Sundry expenses at docks.....		1	9 0	
				269 7 10
Less proportion of £121 15s. 5d. for last four items charged to—				
A. A. Dangar		4	0 0	
Aus. Ag. Co.		4	0 0	
T. S. Brunton		4	0 0	
C. G. Tindal		2	0 0	
				14 0 0
				255 7 10
Paid G. Drewry, Holker—Railway on one bull				3 2 6
Paid four men in charge :—				
Day—Wages, £15, and return passage		15	0 0	
Collins—Wages, £25		5	0 0	
Hosking—Wages, £25		5	0 0	
Trussle—Wages, £16.....		6	0 0	
				31 0 0
Less proportion as follows :—				
A. A. Dangar		3	0 0	
Aus. Ag. Co.		3	0 0	
T. S. Brunton		3	0 0	
C. G. Tindal		1	10 0	
				10 10 0
				20 10 0
Paid S. Spencer—Crate, 8s. 6d. ; vet., 7s. 6d. ; and two weeks' keep, £2				2 16 0
Paid J. A. Fricker—Crate, 15s. ; vet., 10s.				1 5 0
Paid A. Hiscock for veterinary				0 10 6
Paid A. Mitchell for keep and expenses on Ayrshires				5 0 0
Travelling expenses, purchasing stock, and attending shipment.....				133 0 0
Commission—Purchasing 53 cattle at 1 guinea		55	13 0	
Commission—Purchasing 19 pigs at ½ guinea		9	19 6	
				65 12 6
				4,233 5 7
Cr.				
June 11—By cheque		2,509	16 0	
June 21—By cheque		1,505	12 0	
				4,015 8 0
				£217 17 7
F & O, E.—T.G.W.				
				Sub-voucher

Sub-voucher to Thornton's Account.

Greenhill, Harrow.

RECEIVED of Messrs. John Thornton and Company, for testing cattle with tuberculin on behalf of the Government of New South Wales, together with travelling and other expenses, £101 7s. 4d.

SIDNEY VILLAR, 13th July, 1898 (with thanks).

Messrs. John Thornton & Co., Hanover Square, W., Dr. to Sidney Villar, F.R.C.V.S.

Harrow-on-the-Hill, 30 June, 1898.

1898.—June 20th, 21st, 22nd, and 23rd.

To veterinary attendance at London Docks, inspecting for Government of New South Wales 73 head of stock, at the rate of £3 3s. for first twelve, and 5s. per head for the remainder.

Paid,—SIDNEY VILLAR, £18 8s.; 13th July, 1898, with thanks.

Messrs. John Thornton & Co., London, in account with Sidney Villar, F.R.C.V.S., to Testing Cattle with Tuberculin.

Harrow, 30 June, 1898.

		£	s.	d.
May 5th	Visit to Necton Hall (Mr. Mason's), and to T. Matthew's, Sporle, near Swaffham—testing 2 bulls and 1 cow;—returned on May 7th. Two days, at £3 3s. per diem	6	6	0
	Railway fares, £1 2s. 11d.; telegrams, 1s. 5d.; hotel, 8s. 6d.; posting, 14s.; men, 3s.—£2 9s. 10d.	2	9	10
„ 9th	Visit to Mr. Garrett Taylor's, Trowse House, Norwich—testing bull and cow. Returned on May 12th (three days). Also to Mr. Smith's, Woodbridge, Suffolk, and testing one bull	9	9	0
	Railway fares, £1 5s. 11d.; telegram, 1s.; hotels, £1 4s.; cabs, 3s.; men, 2s. 6d.; posting, 16s. 6d.—£3 12s. 11d.	3	12	11
„ 13th	Went to Mr. Caleb Barfoot's, Bishopstoke, and tested three cattle; and to Mr. Gibbs', Milford, near Salisbury, and tested five cattle. Returned on May 17th (four days)	12	12	0
	Railway fares, £1 1s. 3d.; cabs, 11s. 9d.; hotels, £1 3s. 3d.; men, 3s.; telegram, 6d.—£2 19s. 9d.	2	19	9
„ 19th	Visit to Mr. Scott Murray's and to Col. Makin's, near Henley-on-Thames; testing one cow and a bull—2 days	6	6	0
	Railway fares, 9s.; posting, 29s.; hotel, 8s.—£2 6s.	2	6	0
„ 23rd	Went to Carnforth to Mr. Cook's, Mr. Atkinson's, Mr. Victor Cavendish's, Mr. George Ashburner's, and Lord Lathom's; tested 7 bulls. Returned home on May 29th—7 days	22	1	0
	Railway fares, £2 14s. 4d.; posting, £2 10s.; hotels, £1 17s. 5d.; men, 4s.—£7 5s. 9d.	7	5	9
June 1st	Went to Fairford, to Mr. Hobb's, Maiseyhampton, and Mr. Arkell's; tested 2 cows; then to Colonel Kingscote's, Tetbury; tested 1 bull and 1 cow. Returned on June 4th—4 days	12	12	0
	Railway fares, £1 7s. 1d.; cab, 6s. 6d.; posting, £1 15s.; hotels, 13s.; men, 2s.; telegrams, 1s. 6d.—£4 5s. 1d.	4	5	1
„ 6th	Went to Windsor, tested 1 bull at H.M. Queen's farm, and 1 cow at Mrs. Barron's. Returned on 9th June—2½ days	7	17	6
	Railway fares, 5s. 3d.; telegram, 2s. 2d.; cabs, £1 8s. 6d.; hotel, 17s. 6d.; men, 2s. 6d.—£2 15s. 11d.	2	15	11
„ 10th	Visit to Nottingham, went to Mr. Mill's; tested 2 bulls. Returned 12th June—2 days	6	6	0
	Railway fares, £1 4s.; telegrams, 4s.; posting, £1 3s.; men, 2s. 6d.; hotel and board, 19s.—£3 12s. 6d.	3	12	6
„ 13th	Visit to Sir Mark Collett's; testing 1 bull. Returned on 14th—1½ day at £3 3s.	4	14	6
	Railway fares and cab, 10s. 4d.; hotel, 5s.; attendant, 1s.—16s. 4d.	0	16	4
„ 15th	Visit to Mr. Hobb's, Maiseyhampton, testing bull; and to Mr. de Vitrés, Wantage, testing 1 bull. Returned June 18th—3 days	9	9	0
	Railway fares, £1 3s. 6d.; cab, 3s.; telegrams, 2s. 3d.; men, 2s.; hotels, £1 0s. 6d.—£2 11s. 3d.	2	11	3
		£130	8	4
	Other accounts charged proportionately	29	1	0
		£101	7	4

T.G.W.

Sub-vouchers to Thornton's Account.

Messrs. John Thornton & Co. to John Miller, Shipping Agent for horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, and dogs, Black Horse Yard, Leman-street, Whitechapel.

London E., June, 1898.

S.S. "Hawkes Bay," Royal Albert Docks.

Fodder for 60 cattle } Sydney, for 60 days.
 „ 20 pigs }

		tons.	cwt.	£	s.	d.
June 18th	281 bales best English compressed hay, at £3 10s.	25	0	162	10	0
	100 bags bran, at 9s.	5	0	23	15	0
For cattle	100 „ cotton cake, nutted, at £6	5	0	30	0	0
	56 „ Linseed cake, nutted, at £9 2s. 6d.	3	10	31	18	9
	Bale straw, at 70s.	6	5	21	17	6
	25 bags sawdust (including all bags and cartage to docks)	1	0	2	7	6
	13 „ mangolds	1	0	1	19	0
For pigs	40 „ barley meal, at £7 7s. 6d.	3	0	22	2	6
	15 „ pollard, at £5 15s.	0	15	4	6	3
Sandries	1 doz. zinc pails (extra strong)			0	18	0
	3 only, rakes, 6s. 6d.; 4 files, 4s. 6d.; 4 shovels, 7s. 6d.			0	18	6
	3 forks, 6s. 9d.; 6 brooms, 19s. 6d.; 6 brushes, 6s.			1	12	3
	3 pans, 5s. 6d.; 2 measures, 4s. 6d.; 2 bowls, 2s. 8d.			0	12	8
	6 large leather headstalls for bulls, with 2 long ropes each			2	12	0
	4 leading sticks for bulls			0	16	0
	3 milking stools			0	9	0
	2 large sanitary pails			0	8	6
Medicines	2 cwt. rock salt, 7 lb. salts, 3 lb. sulphur, 1 qt. castor oil, and can and box			0	18	0

June

		£	s.	d.
June 18th	1 doz. Day, Son, and Hewitt's red drenches	0	15	0
	1 gal. embrocation, 12s.; 1 qt. tinct. myrrh, 10s. 6d.	1	2	6
	Lime for boxes and bags	0	6	6
	Telegrams	0	3	6
	Paid to Shepherd Slater, return fare to Kirkcudbright and expenses	1	9	6
June 20th	Paid to 7 shepherds, fares and expenses	3	7	6
	Attendants' board and lodging, Upson account	1	11	6
Feeding at	32 trusses hay, delivered to docks	4	2	8
Dks. cattle	6 " straw	0	9	0
For pigs	1½ sack barley meal, " and sacks	1	6	6
Labour from June 18th to 23rd.	Men attending and feeding cattle at docks, night and day, also Sunday, paid for labour; attendants for unloading trucks, loading, and including foreman's time	5	5	0
Conveyance	Conveyance 1 bull by London Bridge to yard and to docks by Groombridge	0	12	6
June 20th	3 nights feeding	0	7	6
	Railway charges paid	0	10	9
" 18th	Carting 11 crates pigs by docks to yard and thence to docks on 21st, feeding included in above	1	0	0
" 20th	Carting 3 crates pigs by Custom House	0	5	0
" 21st	2-horse van in docks, carting pigs (rail to ship) all day	1	0	0
" 22nd	Single conveyance	0	10	6
	Double " working at docks, conveying cattle (rail to ship)	1	1	0
" 23rd	Single conveyance working at dock, conveying cattle (rail to ship)	0	10	6
" 22nd	Paid to Atlantic Transport Company, for stabling	2	12	6
Gratuities	Gratuities to stevedores	1	0	0
	" shunters, dockmen, and shedmen	1	0	0
	" to railway men	0	15	0
	Train fares	0	17	2
	Dock dues paid on fodder and utensils	6	8	1
Empties	Carriage on returned pig-crates and carting to railways (18 returned)	0	19	6
June 27th	Conveyance 1 bull, returned from docks to my yard, thence to Euston	0	15	0
	Feeding, &c., from 23rd, and food for journey	0	10	6
	Telegram	0	0	6
	Railway charges paid by me on 6 crates pigs	1	10	3
		£352	6	10
	By cheque, on account	150	0	0
	Balance	£202	6	10

T.G.W. Balance paid, 30/6/98.

Sub-voucher to Thornton's Account.

Messrs. Jno. Thornton & Co., to Blyth and Pascoe, Shipwrights, Joiners, and Contractors.

Phoenix Saw-mills, St. Leonard's Road, Poplar, London E., 23 June, 1898.

Per s.s. "Hawkes Bay."

	£	s.	d.
To building 32 strong boxes for cattle, in blocks of three and four, with padded sides and end, fitted with portable feeding-troughs and canvas screens, and covered with tarpaulins, complete; per estimate, at £5 7s. 6d.	172	0	0
Building 31 strong single cattle-boxes as above at £6 7s. 6d.	197	12	6
Cutting 7 blocks of cattle-boxes, and making 7 new sides and frames, to make boxes lighter for lifting—labour and material	7	0	0
To joiner's time, trimming off all cattle-boxes on main deck, and shoring up under hatches, to carry weight of boxes; waiting during embarkation of cattle and refixing ends and bulkheads of boxes, laying boards on tarpaulins to stand boxes on. Joiner's time—21½ days, 7s. 6d.	7	19	5
Materials used:—			
10 13 feet 3 x 9 white deals, 3¼d.	1	15	3
160 feet 1½ x 9 " 1¾d.	1	3	4
160 1 x 9 " 1¼d.	0	16	8
8 28-feet spars (=224 feet), 4s. 6d. each	1	16	0
300 feet 2 x 6 white, 1¾d.	2	3	9
Assorted nails	0	3	0
Supplied for staving for feeding cattle on the hatchways, 12 18-feet 2 x 11 white, 3d.	2	14	0
To building pens for 21 boars and sows, fitted with iron bars in front, feeding-troughs lined with sheet iron—21 at 29s.	30	9	0
To joiner's time, securing above pens, with hardwood cleats, with 2½-inch brass screws, and putting in 14 eye-bolts for lashing and trimming off back legs from side. Joiner's time—6¾ days, at 7s. 6d.	2	10	8
Materials used:—			
60 feet 3 x 3 white, 1¼d.	0	6	3
16 feet 2 x 3 " 1d.	0	1	4
Nails	0	1	2
14 hardwood cleats, 3d.	0	3	6
14 eye-bolts, 5d.	0	5	10
	£429	1	8
Deduct 3 cattle-boxes, not used and to be retained for next shipment, at £6 each, and charged in due course.	18	0	0
	£411	1	8

T.G.W. Paid, 13/7/98.

The Agent-General for New South Wales, Dr. to Houlder Brothers & Co. (Ltd.), for charges on shipment per s.s. "Hawkes Bay," from London to Sydney, New South Wales.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
53 cattle, at £23 12s. 6d. per head	1,252	2	6			
19 pigs, at £3 3s. per head	59	17	0			
				1,311	19	6

London, 30th June, 1898.

T.G.W. Paid by Agent-General, 6/7/98.

Insurance

£5,637.

Insurance Policy.

- 189 Budd.
 - 189 Strong.
 - 189 Hands.
 - 189 Atkins.
 - 83 Tyser.
 - 83 Tyser.
 - 83 Morrison.
 - 83 Haskins.
 - 83 Boulton.
 - 82 Muchuno.
 - 164 Tyser.
 - 164 Tyser.
 - 100 Stearns.
 - 100 Sicklemore.
 - 100 Crawford.
 - 65 Privile.
 - 65 Privote.
 - 185 Hench.
 - 185 Tolleth.
 - 185 Head.
 - 185 Heath.
 - 185 Whatman.
 - 185 Weatherley.
 - 460 Heath.
 - 460 Heath.
 - 40 Fox.
 - 40 Alexander.
 - 135 Parker.
 - 135 Parker.
 - 90 Howett.
 - 90 Bryant.
 - 90 Wright.
 - 90 Archer.
 - 36 Fleming.
 - 36 Swell.
 - 36 Vallance.
 - 36 Hall.
 - 36 Coates.
 - 90 Fleming.
 - 80 Sturge.
 - 80 Holmes.
 - 188 McBride.
 - 94 Fraser.
 - 94 Fraser.
- £5,637

Be it known that James Fraser & Co., as our agents as well in their own name as for and in the name and names of all and every other person or persons to whom the same doth, may, or shall appertain, in part or in all, doth make assurance, and cause themselves and them, and every of them, to be insured, lost or not lost, at and from, farms to London, while there, and thence to Sydney, New South Wales, including all risk of craft to and from the vessel, with leave to call at any ports and [or] places to coal, and for all purposes to sail with or without pilots, to be towed and to tow and assist vessels in all situations, including all risk of any act of neglect or default or error of judgment of the pilot, master, or crew, or as per bill of lading or charter party.

Upon any kind of goods and merchandises, and also upon the body, tackle, apparel, ordnance, munition, artillery, boat, and other furniture, of and in the good ship or vessel called the "Hawkes Bay," s.s., whereof is master under God for this present voyage or whosoever else shall go for master in the said ship, or by whatsoever other name or names the same ship, or the master thereof, is, or shall be named or called; beginning the adventure upon the said goods and merchandises from the loading thereof on board the said ship, upon the said ship, &c. and shall so continue and endure, during her abode thereupon the said ship, &c. And further, until the said ship, with all her ordnance, tackle, apparel, &c., and goods and merchandise whatsoever shall be arrived at upon the said ship, &c., until she hath moored at anchor twenty-four hours in good safety; and upon the goods and merchandise until the same shall be there discharged and safely landed. And it shall be lawful for the said ship, &c., in this voyage to proceed, and sail to, and touch, and stay at any ports or places whatsoever without prejudice to this insurance. The said ship, &c., goods, and merchandise, &c., for so much as concerns the assured by agreement between the assured, and assurers in this policy are and shall be valued at £5,637 on cattle and a few pigs as per specification so valued. To cover all risks, including mortality, jettison, and washing overboard, but animals walking, or being capable of walking on arrival, to be deemed safely arrived, and no claim to attach thereto except for general average.

Touching the adventures and perils which we, the assurers, are contented to bear, and do take upon us in this voyage; they are of the seas, men-of-war, fire, enemies, pirates, rovers, thieves, jettisons, letter of mart and counter-mart, surprisals, takings at sea, arrests, restraints, and detentions of all kings, princes, and people of what nation, condition, or quality soever; barratry of the master and mariners, and of all other perils, losses, and misfortunes, that have or shall come to the hurt, detriment, or damage of the said goods and merchandises and ship, &c., or any part thereof. And in case of any loss or misfortune, it shall be lawful to the assured, their factors, servants, and assigns, to sue, labour, and travel for, in and about the defence, safeguard, and recovery of the said goods and merchandises, and ship, &c., or any part thereof, without prejudice to this insurance; to the charges whereof we, the assurers, will contribute each one according to the rate and quantity of his sum herein assured; and it is especially declared and agreed that no acts of the insurer or insured in recovering, saving, or preserving the property insured shall be considered as a waiver, or acceptance of abandonment. And it is agreed by us, the insurers, that this writing or policy of assurance shall be of as much force and effect as the surest writing or policy of assurance heretofore made in Lombard-street, or in the Royal Exchange, or elsewhere in London. And so we, the assurers, are contented, and do hereby promise and bind ourselves, each one for his own part, our heirs, executors, and goods, to the assured, their executors, administrators, and assigns, for the true performance of the premises, confessing ourselves paid the consideration due unto us for this assurance by the assured at and after the rate of seven guineas per cent.

In witness whereof we, the assurers, have subscribed our names and sums, assured in London.

N.B.—Corn, fish, salt, fruit, flower, and seed are warranted free from average, unless general, or the ship be stranded. Sugar, tobacco, hemp, flax, hides, and skins are warranted free from average under five pounds per cent.; and all other goods, also the ship and freight, are warranted free from average under three pounds per cent., unless general, or the ship be stranded.

London, 24 June, 1898

Messrs. J. Thornton & Co., Dr. to J. Fraser & Co.

	£ s. d.
For premium of insurance, as above, at 7 guineas per cent.	414 6 5
Policy duty	0 19 0
Errors excepted.	£415 5 5

(Indorsed on Policy.)

SPECIFICATION.

Red Polled Cattle.

Bull—Barrister	Mr. G. Taylor.....	£ 100	Cow—Rumour	Mr. R. H. Mason ...	£ 100
Cow—Lovely.....	"	100	Bull—The Dairyman	Mr. A. J. Smith ...	90
Bull—Lawrence	Mr. R. H. Mason ...	100			

Guernsey Cattle.

Bull—Nutcracker.....	Mr. C. Barfoot	£ 100	Cow—Calm	Mr. H. J. Gibbs.....	£ 80
Cow—Souvenir.....	"	80	Cow—Flaxey.....	"	70
Cow—Saucy Sal	"	80	Cow—Lady Blanche	"	90
Bull—Peter	Mr. H. J. Gibbs.....	100	Bull—Rose Prince	Mr. J. D. T. Parsons	100
Cow—Vivid	"	80			

Ayrshire Cattle.

Cow.....	Mr. A. Mitchell... ..	£ 90	Bull.....	Mr. A. Mitchell.....	£ 110
Cow.....	"	90	Cow.....	Mr. R. Wallis.....	80
Cow.....	"	90	Bull.....	"	110
Cow.....	"	80			

Shorthorn Cattle.

Bull—Favorite	Mr. H. Cock	£ 110	Bull—Lord Sandgrove 29th..	Col. Kingscote	£ 125
Cow—March Daisy	Mr. C. A. S. Murray	120	Cow—Honey.....	"	125
Bull—Cornish Boy	Mr. W. J. Hoskin... ..	120	Cow—Pansy	Mr. Yarkell	100
Cow—Alexander 14th.....	"	120	Cow	"	100
Cow—Fancy 78th	Mr. J. T. Hobbs.....	110			

Jersey Cattle.

Bull—Melbourne	Mr. F. F. Thomas... ..	£ 110	Bull—Leader	Adm. Brand	£ 110
Cow—Calceolaria.....	"	105	Cow—Lady Tidy 3rd	Mr. Berron	110
Bull—Thessalian	Col. Makins	90	Bull—Golden King	Miss Moral	100
Cow—Rum Omelette	Mr. D. Mutton	100	Cow—Egyptian Princess ..	"	100
Cow—Lucy 3rd	"	100	Cow—Colleen	"	100

Pigs

		Pigs.		£	
Mr. J. Spencer	6 at £22 each	132	Mr. J. A. Tricker	2 at £20 each	40
Mr. A. Hescocch	4 at £20 each	80	Tamworth Pigs..	4 at £20 each	80
Mr. T. Robertson	4 at £20 each	80			

Cattle purchased by Mr. R. Bruce.

		£				£	
Shorthorn bull	Marked 90	130	Kerry cow	Marked I.....			80
" cow	" 71	110	2 Dexter cows	" 6 and 5, at			
Kerry bull	" 0	100		£100 each			200
"	" 2	90	Dexter bull	" 4.....			90
"	" R.B.	80	"	" R.B.			80
2 cows..	" 2 and 13, at						
	£100 each	200					
1 cow	" R	90					<u>£5,637</u>
T.G.W.							

The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade to The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Sir,

The Treasury, New South Wales, Sydney, 5 October, 1898.

I have the honor to hand you, enclosed, bills of lading (2) and invoices (2) in connection with shipments from England.

These documents have been received in support of payments made by the London and Westminster Bank. They are not advices of shipments to arrive.

I have, &c.,

F. KIRKPATRICK,

Under Secretary for Finance and Trade.

The Accountant.—A.S. 7/10/98. These should be placed with papers.—10/10/98. Records, 98/8,019. Place with other papers.—A.S., 10/10/98. Records.

(No. of cheque and voucher, 12,516.)

(Agent-General, received 1st July, 1898, New South Wales.)

The Agent-General for New South Wales, Dr. to Houlder Brothers & Co. (Ltd.), for commission and charges on shipment per s.s. "Hawkes Bay," from London to Sydney, N.S.W.

	£	s.	d.
53 cattle, @ £23 12s. 6d. per head.....	1,252	2	6
19 pigs, @ £3 3s. per head.....	59	17	0
	<u>£1,311</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>6</u>

Rate per head correct.—J. G. WHITE, 1/7/98.

(E. & O. E.) London, 30 June, 1898.

Certified for £1,311 19s. 6d.—DANIEL COOPER, Acting Agent-General for New South Wales.

Examined.—J. A. WADK, Accountant.

London, 6 July, 1898.

3,163. Received by cheque, £1,311 19s. 6d. For Houlder Brothers & Co. (Ltd.)—A. MERITT.

(Stamp, 1d.)

(Stamp, Sixpence.)

(Agent-General, received 1st July, 1898, New South Wales.)

Australian and New Zealand Steam Trade Bill of Lading, 1893.

Freight payable at Port of Shipment.

SHIPPED in good order and condition, by the Agent-General for New South Wales, on board the steamship "Hawke's Bay," whereof is master for this present voyage, now lying in the port of London, and bound for Sydney, New South Wales, with liberty to call at any port or ports, to receive and [or] discharge goods and passengers, and to take in coal and [or] other supplies, or for any other purpose, and to sail with or without pilots, and to tow and assist vessels in all situations, the following goods, viz. :—

Fifty-three cattle, and boxes for same ... } On deck at shipper's risk, ship not responsible for jettison,
Nineteen pigs, and pens for same } disease, mortality, or accident.

53 cattle, 19 pigs. Being marked and numbered as in the margin, and to be delivered (subject to the exceptions and conditions hereinafter mentioned) in the like good order and condition from the ship's deck, at her anchorage (where the ship's responsibility shall cease), at the aforesaid port of Sydney, New South Wales (or so near thereto as she may safely get), unto the Honorable the Minister for Mines and Agriculture, or to his or their assigns. Freight for the said goods, with primage, to become due on shipment, and to be paid in London, in cash, without deduction, ship lost or not lost. Average according to York-Antwerp Rules, 1890.

The act of God, the Queen's enemies, pirates, robbers or thieves by land or sea, but not pilferage, arrests or restraints of princes, ruler, or people, riots, strikes or lock-outs, or other labour disturbances, or delay caused directly or indirectly thereby, and loss or damage resulting from any of the following causes or perils are excepted, viz. :—Insufficiency in packing or in strength of packages, loss or damage from rust, vermin, breakage, leakage, sweating, evaporation, or decay; injurious effects of other goods, effects of climate or heat of holds; risk of craft, of trans-shipment, and of storage afloat or on shore; fire on board, in hulk, in craft, or on shore; explosion, accidents to or defects in hull, tackle, boilers, or machinery, or their appurtenances; barratry, jettison, neglect, default, or error in judgment of the master, mariners, engineers, or others in the service of the owners; collision, stranding, perils of the seas, rivers, or navigation of whatsoever nature or kind and howsoever caused, and accidents, loss, damage, delay, or detention from any act or default of the Egyptian Government or the administration of the Suez Canal, or arising out of or consequent upon the employment of vessels of the line in Her Majesty's Mail Service.

The ship will not be responsible for correct delivery unless each package is distinctly, correctly, and permanently marked by the merchant before shipment, with a mark and number or address, and also with the name of the port of delivery, which last must be in letters not less than 2 inches long.

The owners are to be at liberty to carry the said goods to their port of destination by the above or other steamer or steamers, ship or ships, either belonging to themselves or to other persons, proceeding by any route, and whether directly or indirectly to such port, and in so doing to carry the goods beyond their port of destination, and to trans-ship or land and store the goods either on shore or afloat, and reship and forward the same at the owners' expense, but at merchant's risk, but subject to any proved claim for loss of market on any goods so overcarried, such claim not to exceed 10 per cent. of the net invoice cost of such goods.

The

The ship will not be accountable for gold, silver, bullion, specie, jewellery, watches, clocks, precious stones, precious metals, bank notes or securities for money, paintings, sculptures, or other works of art, nor beyond the value of £5 per cubic foot, nor exceeding £100, for any one package, unless the value thereof shall have been declared at time of shipment, and the bills of lading signed with a declaration of the nature and value of the goods appearing thereon, and extra freight in respect of same agreed upon and paid: nor for loss, injury, or detention to packages intended for different consignees, but made up into one package, unless the contents and value of each separate package be given before shipment, and freight paid accordingly: nor for damage to castings or show-cases, nor for breakage of glass, glassware, chinaware, or earthenware, or other goods of a brittle or fragile nature, of any description from whatsoever cause arising, excepting improper stowage and handling.

Specie deliverable in Melbourne or Sydney will be conveyed from the steamer to the Mint at owner's expense, but at the merchant's risk. All liability of the owners is to cease as soon as the specie is free from the steamer's tackle.

If chemicals, liquids, or other goods of a dangerous or damaging nature are shipped without being previously declared and arranged for, they are liable upon discovery to be thrown overboard, and their loss, as well as any loss or damage to the ship or cargo, or to any person or interest whatsoever, will fall upon the merchants or owners of such goods. Double freight will be charged on all goods not correctly described.

All fines and expenses or losses by detention of vessel or cargo, caused by incorrect or insufficient marking of the package, or by incomplete or incorrect description or weight (or any other particulars required by the authorities at the port of delivery), either upon the packages or the bill of lading, shall be paid by the shipper or consignees of the goods.

The master or agent is to deliver the goods with all reasonable despatch, and the consignees or their assigns must be ready to take delivery as soon as the ship is ready to discharge them, otherwise the master or agent shall be at liberty to land and warehouse the goods, or discharge them into a store-ship, or hulk, or into lighters, or on a wharf, as customary, at the merchant's risk and expense.

In case of quarantine, the goods may be discharged into quarantine depôt, hulk, or other vessel, as required for the ship's despatch. Quarantine expenses upon the goods, of whatsoever nature or kind, shall be borne by the owners of the goods.

In case of the blockade or interdict of the port of discharge, or if the entering of or discharging in such port shall be considered by the master unsafe by reason of war or disturbances, the master may land the goods at the nearest safe and convenient port or place at the expense and risk of the owners of the goods; and the ship's responsibility shall cease when the goods are so discharged into proper and safe keeping, the master giving immediate notice of the same to the consignees of the goods, so far as they can be ascertained.

The ship shall have a lien upon the goods for all freight and charges, for which the goods are liable under the bill of lading.

No claim that may arise in respect of goods shipped by this steamer will be recoverable unless made at the port of delivery within seven days after the discharge of said goods.

The shipowners' liability, in case of loss or detention, or injury to goods, for which they may be responsible, to be calculated on and in no case to exceed the net invoice cost and disbursements.

Weight, measurement, contents, quality, and value unknown.

In witness whereof the master, purser, or duly authorised agent of the said ship hath affirmed to four bills of lading, all of this tenor and date, one of which being accomplished the others to stand void. If required by the owners or their agents, one of the bills of lading must be given up, duly endorsed, in exchange for the goods.

Dated in London, 23rd June, 1898.

For the Master,
 TYSER & CO. (as Agents),
 Per ALFRED J. BIRD.

Merchants are cautioned against shipping goods of a dangerous or damaging nature, as by so doing they become responsible for all consequential damage, and also render themselves liable to penalties imposed by statute.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

DISEASES IN SHEEP ACT.

(RETURN SHOWING DETAILS OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEARS 1894 TO 1897
INCLUSIVE, UNDER.)

Printed under No. 9 Report from Printing Committee, 27 October, 1898.

[Laid upon the Table in answer to Question No. 5, Votes No. 15, 20 September, 1898.]

Question.

- (5.) Revenue and Expenditure under Diseases in Sheep Act:—Mr. Hurley asked The Secretary for Mines,—Will he cause full information to be made public as to the amount of money collected under the Diseases in Sheep Act, together with further details of expenditure than are given in the Annual Report for 1897, Appendix N?

Answer.

APPENDIX Q.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE in connection with the Trust Fund Account
"Prevention of Scab in Sheep," from the 1st January to 31st December, 1894.

DR.	<i>"As per Treasury Account."</i>			CR.				
1894.	£	s.	d.	1894.	£	s.	d.	
January 1—				January 1—				
To balance	547	5	9	By amount of accounts paid from Pre- vention of Scab in Sheep Account...	19,096	12	9	
January 1 to December 31—				December 1 to 31—				
To amount of assessment, &c., received*	18,912	17	11	By amount of accounts paid from Treasurer's Advance Account.....	2,228	10	2	
December 31—								
To balance	1,864	19	3					
	£	21,325	2	11	£	21,325	2	11

* This is exclusive of outstanding assessment on 1st January, 1895, which amounted to about £180.

DETAILED STATEMENT OF AMOUNTS VOTED and EXPENDED for 1894.

"As per Mines Department Account."

AMOUNTS VOTED.		£	s.	d.	AMOUNTS EXPENDED.		£	s.	d.		
<i>Salaries—</i>											
1 Chief Inspector, at	£650 0 0										
10 Inspectors, at	344 0 0										
5 " "	299 0 0										
1 " "	263 0 0										
2 " "	200 0 0										
26 " "	254 0 0										
5 " "	245 0 0										
2 " "	160 0 0										
1 " "	25 0 0										
1 Quarantine-keeper, at ...	110 0 0										
1 Messenger, at	120 0 0										
1 Clerk, at	281 0 0										
1 " "	250 0 0										
1 " "	236 0 0										
1 " "	150 0 0										
1 Draftsman, at	236 0 0										
		15,889	0	0	Salaries		15,156	14	9		
Travelling expenses of Inspectors		2,500	0	0	Travelling expenses to Inspectors		2,425	13	11		
" " Sheep Directors.....		300	0	0	" " Sheep Directors.....		368	14	0		
Allowances to Inspectors for stationery		225	0	0	Allowances to Inspectors for stationery.....		196	12	0		
Medicaments for dressing sheep		10	0	0	Medicaments for dressing sheep						
Rent of offices.....		500	0	0	Rent of offices		497	6	5		
Incidental expenses		1,000	0	0	Incidental expenses (Statement attached)...		2,759	16	1		
To meet abatement which should, in terms of Civil Service Act, be deducted from pension payable to Mr. A. McCollough, Inspector of Stock, Denilquin, on his retirement from the Public Service			152	10	8	To meet abatement which should, in terms of Civil Service Act, be deducted from pension payable to Mr. A. McCollough, Inspector of Stock, Denilquin, on his retirement from the Public Service			152	10	8
Amount expended in excess of amount voted			980	17	2						
		£	21,557	7	10		£	21,557	7	10	

N.B.—From the above Statements it will be seen that the Treasury and Mines Department accounts do not agree, for the reason that the Contingent Vote covers claims irrespective of date, and the account kept at the Treasury is balanced on 31st December in each year, while it is not so at this Department, as accounts which come in during 1895 for services rendered in 1894 are charged against the 1894 Vote.

EXPENDITURE,

EXPENDITURE, 1894.

	£	s.	d.
Allowances to Acting Chief Inspector of Stock	294	3	4
Amount to meet abatement and A. McCollough's pension ...	152	10	8
Salaries to Inspectors	1,412	11	7
Temporary clerical assistance	615	6	4
Fuel	33	3	4
Office-cleaning	44	3	0
Miscellaneous	227	17	11
Forage	46	0	3
Law costs	8	10	6
Railway freights	17	19	9
Office furniture	30	0	1
	<hr/>		
	£2,912	6	9
	<hr/>		

APPENDIX N.

STATEMENT of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE in connection with the Trust Fund Account "Prevention of Scab in Sheep," from the 1st January to 31st December, 1897.
 "As per Treasury Account."

To balance amount due Consolidated Revenue Fund on 1st January, 1897	£	s.	d.	By assessments, &c., received January to December, 1897	£	s.	d.
Payments, January to December, 1897	5,149	4	9	Balance amount due Consolidated Revenue Fund on 31st December, 1897	18,510	5	2
	21,797	18	1	Less—Balance at Credit Trust Fund	£9,019	15	0
					582	17	4
	£26,947	2	10		8,436	17	8
To balance due Consolidated Revenue Fund	8,436	17	8		£26,017	2	10

DETAILED STATEMENT of AMOUNTS VOTED and EXPENDED for YEAR JANUARY to DECEMBER, 1897.
 "As per Mines Department Account."

DR.								CR.				
No. of officers, 1896-7.	No. of officers, 1897-8.	Amounts voted.	Amounts as voted for 1896-7.	Amounts as voted for 1897-8.	Amount voted for year, July, 1896, to June, 1897, £21,701. Amount of above vote (£10,850 10s.) available for the half-year, January to June, 1897, as under.	Amount voted for year, July, 1897, to June, 1898, £26,072. Amount of above vote (£13,036) available for the half-year, July to December, 1897, as under.	Total amount available for year January to December, 1897.	Amounts expended.				
			£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.			
		<i>Salaries.</i>										
1	1	Chief Inspector, at	605	605								
1	1	Metropolitan Inspector, at	440	240								
1	1	Clerk, at	260	285								
1	1	" "	200	225								
1	1	" "	160	185								
2	2	" "	150	175								
1	1	Draftsman, at	236	260								
6	6	Inspectors, at	325	325								
12	14	" "	300	300								
14	15	" "	275	275								
18	15	" "	250	250								
1	1	" "	225	225								
1	1	" "	200									
1	1	Quarantine-keeper, at		110								
1	1	Messenger and caretaker		125								
1	1	Office-cleaner		52								
		<i>Contingencies.</i>										
		Travelling expenses to Inspectors	2,640	4,000								
		" " Sheep Directors	500	500								
		Allowance to Inspectors for stationery	225	225								
		Medicaments for dressing sheep	10	10								
		Rent of offices	800	800								
		Incidental expenses	1,000	1,000	2,587	10	0	3,267	10	0		
		To meet expenses of "The Stock Board's Council of Advice."		*250								
		To replace salaries of officers of the Stock Branch for the year 1896-7 as they were prior to grading by the Public Service Board.		*2,600								
							£22,461	10	0			
							*250	0	0			
							*2,600	0	0			
							£25,311	10	0			
					8,263	0	0	8,343	10	0		
							16,606	10	0			
									Salaries.....	15,900	17	6
									Travelling expenses to Inspectors	2,533	7	10
									" " Sheep Directors	787	15	10
									Allowance to Inspectors for stationery	228	13	7
									Medicaments for dressing sheep			
									Rent of offices	776	17	10
									Incidental expenses (See Statement attached)	1,605	15	9
									Amount voted to meet expenses "Stock Board's Council of Advice" for year 1897-8, but not operated upon at 31st December, 1897.	£21,893	8	4
									Amount voted to replace salaries of officers of the Stock Branch for the year 1896-7, but not operated on at 31st December, 1897.	250	0	0
									Balance, 31st December, 1897.....	2,600	0	0
										568	1	8
										£25,311	10	0

P.S.—From the above Statements it will be seen that the Treasury and Mines Department Accounts do not agree, for the reason that the Treasury Account shows the actual amount disbursed, while that of the Mines Department represents amount of vouchers charged to the Vote, all of which however were not paid until after the 31st December, 1897.
 * These amounts will be operated on during the half-year, January to June, 1898.

EXPENDITURE, 1897.

	£	s.	d.
Temporary clerical assistance	129	1	8
Salaries—Acting Inspectors doing duty pending permanent appointment, and expenses through transfers by Public Service Board	855	9	2
Office-cleaning and fuel	67	4	3
Railway freights and fares	160	8	11
Forage	86	9	8
Law costs	94	18	8
Petty cash	45	0	0
Wages for improvements at Quarantine	46	2	6
Office furniture	34	16	4
Miscellaneous, including repairs to buildings, tools and implements for Quarantine, repairs to offices, office requisites, journals, and Experiments <i>re</i> cross breeding	92	11	7
	<hr/>		
	£1,612	2	9
	<hr/>		
	£ s. d.		
<i>Less</i> —K. Walsh, transferred to Mines... ..	3	6	8
A. Davidson, transferred to Brands	6	5	0
	<hr/>		
	9	11	8
	<hr/>		
	£1,602	11	1
	<hr/>		

APPENDIX N.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE in connection with the Trust Fund Account "Prevention of Scab in Sheep," from the 1st January to 31st December, 1896.

"As per Treasury Account."

To Balance, 1st January, 1896	£	s.	d.	By amount of accounts paid.....	£	d.	d.
Amount assessment, &c., received	185	7	5		23,472	1	8
Dr. balance, 31st December, 1896	18,644	14	7				
	4,041	19	8				
	£23,472	1	8		£23,472	1	8

DETAILED STATEMENT OF AMOUNTS VOTED and EXPENDED for YEAR JANUARY to DECEMBER, 1896.

Dr.

"As per Mines Department Account."

Cr.

No. of officers, 1895-6.	No. of officers, 1896-7.	Amounts voted.	Amounts as voted for 1895-6	Amounts as voted for 1896-7.	Amount voted for year, July, 1895, to June, 1896, £21,432. Amount of above vote (£10,716) available for the half-year, January to June, 1896, as under.	Amount voted for year, July, 1896, to June, 1897, £21,701. Amount of above vote (£10,850 10s.) available for the half-year, July to December, 1896, as under.	Total amount available for year January to December, 1896.	Amounts expended.
			£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
		<i>Salaries.</i>						
1	1	Chief Inspector, at	605	605				
...	1	Metropolitan Inspector, at.....		440				
1	...	Clerk, at	281					
1	1	" "	259	260				
1	1	" "	200	200				
1	1	" "	160	160				
2	2	" "	150	150				
1	...	Draftsman, at	236					
...	1	Clerk, at.....		236				
10	6	Inspectors, at	344	325				
6	12	" "	299	300				
1	14	" "	263	275				
3	18	" "	260	250				
26	1	" "	254	225				
5	1	" "	245	200				
2	...	" "	160					
1	...	" "	25					
1	...	Quarantine-keeper, at.....	110					
1	...	Messenger, at	120					
		<i>Contingencies.</i>			8,361 0 0	8,263 0 0	16,624 0 0	
		Travelling expenses to Inspectors.....	2,500	2,640				
		" " Sheep Directors.....	300	500				
		Allowance to Inspectors for stationery ..	225	225				
		Medicaments for dressing sheep	10	10				
		Rent of offices	675	800				
		Incidental expenses.....	1,000	1,000	2,355 0 0	2,587 10 0	4,942 10 0	
		To Balance 31st December, 1896					462 5 1	
							£22,028 15 1	
								16,681 0 9
								2,367 6 0
								840 7 0
								279 4 3
								848 10 0
								1,012 7 1
								£22,028 15 1

P.S.—From the above Statements it will be seen that the Treasury and Mines Department Accounts do not agree, for the reason that the Treasury Account shows the actual amount disbursed, while that of the Mines Department represents amount of vouchers charged to the Vote, all of which however were not paid until after the 31st December, 1896.

EXPENDITURE, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
Temporary clerical assistance	109	0	0
Inspector Proctor—Allowance at Hay	84	19	11
Repairs to Warialda Inspector's office	50	0	0
Salaries	465	2	6
Office cleaning	64	14	3
Miscellaneous	118	7	3
Railway freights	137	6	8
Law costs	35	17	6
Cartage	0	10	0
Petty cash	15	0	0
Forage	82	17	2
Veterinary inspection	5	15	6
Office furniture	23	12	6
Wages	10	0	0
Fuel	27	14	10
	<hr/>		
	1,230 18 1		
<i>Less</i> —Salary to office-cleaner—August—transferred to Mines	3	6	8
Salary to clerks chargeable to salaries voted, July, 1895, to January, 1896... ..	268	6	8
	<hr/>		
	271 13 4		
	<hr/>		
	£959 4 9		
	<hr/>		

It will be seen on reference to the Statement that the amounts do not agree, owing to transfers, &c.

APPENDIX K.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE in connection with the Trust Fund Account
"Prevention of Scab in Sheep," from the 1st January to 31st December, 1895.

DR.	<i>"As per Treasury Account."</i>			CR.			
1895. January 1 to December 31— To amount of assessment, &c., received	£	s.	d.	1895. January 1— By balance	£	s.	d.
	21,676	17	0	By amount of accounts paid from Pre- vention of Scab in Sheep Account ...	19,626	10	4
	£	21,676	17 0	By amount to credit of Fund, 1st Janu- ary, 1896	185	7	5
					£	21,076	17 0'

DETAILED STATEMENT OF AMOUNTS VOTED and EXPENDED for 1895.

"As per Mines Department Account."

AMOUNTS VOTED.		AMOUNTS EXPENDED.	
Salaries—	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1 Chief Inspector, at	£605 0 0		
10 Inspectors, at	344 0 0		
6 " "	299 0 0		
1 " "	263 0 0		
3 " "	260 0 0		
26 " "	254 0 0		
5 " "	245 0 0		
2 " "	160 0 0		
1 " "	25 0 0		
1 Quarantine-keeper, at ...	110 0 0		
1 Messenger, at	120 0 0		
1 Clerk, at	281 0 0		
1 " "	259 0 0		
1 " "	200 0 0		
1 " "	160 0 0		
2 " "	150 0 0		
1 Draftsman, at	236 0 0		
	16,722 0 0	Salaries	15,693 3 11
Travelling expenses of Inspectors	2,500 0 0	Travelling expenses to Inspectors	2,244 17 6
" " Sheep Directors	300 0 0	" " Sheep Directors	450 15 0
Allowances to Inspectors for stationery	225 0 0	Allowances to Inspectors for stationery	203 4 1
Medicaments for dressing sheep	10 0 0	Medicaments for dressing sheep	607 9 3
Rent of offices	500 0 0	Rent of offices	1,843 8 10
Incidental expenses	1,000 0 0	Incidental expenses (Statement attached)...	123 0 0
Gratuity to E. A. Bailey, late clerk, whose services were dispensed with	123 0 0	Gratuity to E. A. Bailey, late clerk, whose services were dispensed with	214 1 5
	£ 21,380 0 0	By balance	£ 21,380 0 0

N.B. —From the above Statements it will be seen that the Treasury and Mines Department Accounts do not agree, for the reason that the Contingent Vote covers claims irrespective of date, and the account kept at the Treasury is balanced on 31st December in each year, while it is not so at this Department.

EXPENDITURE, 1895.

	£	s.	d.
Allowances for rent to Acting Chief Inspector of Stock	32	10	0
Petty cash	15	0	0
Temporary clerical assistance	582	10	0
Salaries to Acting Inspectors	789	15	3
Miscellaneous	252	17	3
Office cleaning	40	0	5
Fuel	26	17	6
Forage	79	11	3
Law costs	12	16	6
Office furniture	11	7	0
Washing	10	18	9
Veterinary Inspector	5	15	6
Rail freights	112	9	5
	<hr/>		
	£1,972	8	10

Detailed statement herewith, from which it will be seen that the amounts do not agree, owing to vouchers for service in 1895 not coming in until the beginning of 1896. The amount £1,843 8s. 10d. represents amounts charged up to 31st December, 1895, only.

1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

RINGBARKING AND DEFORESTATION.

(RETURN RESPECTING EFFECT OF, UPON THE CLIMATE OF THE COLONY.)

Printed under No. 18 Report from Printing Committee, 22 December, 1898.

[Laid upon the Table in answer to Question No. 1, Votes No. 50, 16 December, 1898.]

Question.

(1.) Dr. Ross asked the Minister of Public Instruction,—

(1.) In view of the answer given to Dr. Ross' Question on the 1st December, *re* the effect of ringbarking, and the succession of late years of disastrous droughts, will he ascertain from the Government Astronomer what effect (if any) ringbarking and wholesale deforestation has in increasing or diminishing the humidity of the atmosphere and evaporation from the soil during the months of summer, and at what rate humidity and evaporation takes place under the burning rays of an almost vertical and tropical sun on land that has been denuded of tree shade and every vestige of foliage?

(2.) Has ringbarking been found to have a tendency to increase or diminish the heat and humidity of the atmosphere during the summer; and to what extent does the change occur (if any) in districts that have been rung compared with unring country?

(3.) If ringbarking has no effect, as alleged, on rainfall or the production of heat waves or climatic disturbances, how is the effect explained of an increased evaporation arising from an overheated state of the land that is divested of trees, shade, and foliage; and what becomes of the moisture that is extracted from the overparched state of the soil and dried-up water-courses under the rays of a tropical sun?

(4.) Has deforestation been found to have had any effect in the production of heat-waves or sudden fall in temperature from which the Colony has suffered of late; or has any cause been assigned (physical, antarctic, meteorological, astronomical, or otherwise) to account for the remarkable occurrence of heat and cold disturbances that have of late been experienced in the Colony?

(5.) In the face of the present disastrous drought and dried-up river channels through which the Colony is now passing, what becomes of the alleged nineteen-year cycle theory of droughts; and does the year 1898 come under the category, or coincide in any way with the cycle theory, or is it merely a bald theory, put forth and founded on no other principle only that of mere guesswork?

(6.) Are there any records in existence to show the number of blizzards and cyclones that have occurred in the Colony, such as has been experienced in America; if so, when did they occur, and how and from what cause were they created?

Answer.

(1.) Owing to the fact that there were no instruments to measure evaporation in the forests prior to their destruction it is not possible to compare individual cases of destruction of forest areas; but some light is thrown on the question by comparing the evaporation in a dry year before destruction of forests with that in a recent one after the destruction of the forest, 1896 being a very bad year:—

Year.	Evaporation.	Rainfall.
1888	45·638 inches.	7·13 inches.
1896	34·690 „	13·14 „

From this it would appear that the recent destruction of forests in the Hay district has not caused so much evaporation as that registered in a dry year, before the wholesale destruction of forests.

(2.) It is impossible to say in reference to any particular forest area whether the denudation has increased or diminished the heat, because there were no thermometers in the forest before it was cut down, but if a decided change followed the clearing it would appear in the neighbouring meteorological stations, and no such effect has been shown by these changes.

(3.) The cause of increased evaporation is the hot dry winds which have prevailed, coming over in unusual force from the tropics; these have caused the extra evaporation, and at the same time carried it away. As to the effect of trees in dry weather, it may be mentioned that exhaustive experiments have been made in England and on the Continent, as to the amount of water which the leaves of trees evaporate. I will quote one of these experiments: A small chestnut tree, covering about 5 feet by 4 feet, was found to evaporate on a hot day 16 gallons of water, this is equivalent to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches of rain over the ground that the tree covered. It is fair to assume that a tree in the dry climate and heat of Australia would evaporate more, but for comparison I will take the English experiment, and I find that the evaporation from water surfaces in the hottest parts of New South Wales and in hot winds lasting day and night the evaporation in twenty-four hours has never since the records began, thirteen years, reached 1 inch.

(4.) I have never known it to be stated by meteorologists that deforestation had any effect in producing heat waves. The reason they assign for such effects is entirely in accordance with the experience in New South Wales, viz., unusual heat energy within the tropics, which first accelerates the trade winds, and then sends the return hot winds to us as strong, dry, and hot north-west winds—such as we have had for the past four years, off and on. These winds heat and dry up the surface-soil rapidly, and absorb any clouds, leaving a clear sky through which the sun's rays come down with great heating power. While these north-west winds prevail the southerly winds are forced back, and they gather up force to the south of Australia. In the event of any failure in the north-west winds, the cold southerly winds rush in, giving us arctic instead of equatorial heat. In the spring and summer so far of this year we have had an unusual force of north-west winds, hot and dry, and then the southerly took possession and brought down the temperatures from over 100° (100° to 110°) below 60° , in some cases under 50° .

(5.) With reference to the nineteen years theory I have no fear of its failure. Every year but adds proof to what has been said by me; the apparent failure is not so in fact. I first mentioned my belief in it in 1870. In 1876 I published a full and carefully prepared account of all I could find in reference to it, and said then "I have never put the nineteen years period forward as the solution of our difficulty, but the evidence has convinced me that the nineteen years period represents our climatic changes." In 1896 I returned to the subject more convinced than ever of its truth, and then said "In 1876 I pointed out that out of many cycles discussed one of nineteen years seemed to represent the seasons in New South Wales better than any other." I quote these as evidence that I have always made it clear that the nineteen years period was not an exact statement of the weather changes here; and those squatters who intelligently followed what I said found it very much to their advantage, and made out of it various sums from £250,000 downwards. In 1896 I stated that I thought 1897 and 1898 would be good years. If they are compared with average years that statement of mine will be found to be fairly correct, but the public have got into the way of thinking the six years, 1889 to 1894 inclusive, as average years, while as a matter of fact the rainfall in these years was 25 per cent. above the average, and this makes the current years look worse than they are.

(6.) I have never heard of a cyclone or blizzard in this colony. Cyclonic storms of small area, often less than a mile in diameter, are common, and often very destructive; many are on record, but the list is of recent ones only. Meteorologists understand a "blizzard" to be a cold polar wind, which freezes as it goes. I have never heard of one in this colony.

II. C. RUSSELL,
Government Astronomer.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

DROUGHTS.

(RETURN RESPECTING THE CAUSE AND EFFECT OF.)

*Printed under No. 17 Report from Printing Committee, 15 December, 1898.**[Laid upon the Table in answer to Question No. 3, Votes No. 45, 1 December, 1898.]***Question.**

(3.) The Drought:—Dr. Ross asked the Minister of Public Instruction:—

(1.) In view of the serious nature of the protracted drought from which the Colony (in many parts of the interior) is at present suffering, will he ascertain from the Government Astronomer some information as to the probable cause of the frequent and continuous recurrence of late years of these havoc-producing droughts which are so seriously affecting our pastoral and agricultural industry?

(2.) Will he also ascertain what effect (if any) wholesale deforestation and ringbarking have had of late years in increasing or diminishing the humidity of the atmosphere in country that has been ringbarked?

(3.) Is the severity of the drought confined to districts where the practice of ringbarking has most frequently prevailed, or does it occur in the rung and unring country alike?

(4.) In what districts in the Colony is the drought most prevalent and most continuous of late years?

(5.) Can he assign any reasons, climatically or otherwise, for the frequent recurrence of late years of these sad and destructive droughts throughout the Colonies.

Answer.

Mr. Hogue answered,—I will presently lay upon the Table such information as I have been able to obtain upon this subject.

Reply to Question No. 1.

Droughts are not confined to Australia. They are well known in South America, Africa, India, and in a less degree all over the world.

In England, I have seen vegetation burned up, dry river-beds, and Manchester on short supply of water (1887).

In India the Meteorological Department have traced some, if not all, of their droughts to the monsoon winds, and I have done the same for this Colony. The monsoons make or mar our climate. Given the monsoon full of moisture, and rain falls abundantly all over the Colony. If, on the other hand, the monsoon wind is dry, it is also very strong, and sends us frequently and persistently strong hot north-west winds, which bring no moisture, and dry up the country—veritable Australian "Siroccos," scorching plants and animals alike.

This it is which puts up the temperature and dries up the clouds which would otherwise bring us rain.

So far as can be ascertained, droughts affect more or less all parts of the world, but not with uniform severity.

These and many other facts prove that droughts are not an Australian production; but they are the result of special energy generated in Equatorial regions, and distributed the world over by the trade winds and monsoons.

The source of this energy is, I believe, outside the earth, but a full knowledge of it will not be obtained until all countries combine efforts to trace the whole history of these destructive forces. Looked at from our locality, we find it manifested in unusual velocity of the N.W. wind, which is by its abundance capable of bringing down upon us the heated atmosphere of the Equator with very little loss of heat.

Reply to Question No. 2.

For many years I have never lost an opportunity for studying the effect of the destruction of forests upon rainfall, and, so far as this Colony is concerned, it is quite certain that the destruction of trees has not decreased the rainfall. Indeed, it would seem to have increased and not decreased it; for instance, the average rainfall over the whole Colony, 1889 to 1894 inclusive, is 24·7 per cent. above the average of all years. In 1859 it was stated in the United Kingdom that the increase of populations in Europe, and consequent destruction of forests, had caused a falling off in the rain supply, and at the cost and suggestion of the Marquis of Twesdale, the Meteorological Society of Edinburgh offered a prize for the best essay on the subject, and, after reading the essays, the Committee of Meteorologists said, "There were no grounds for thinking that the rainfall of Western Europe was getting less."

An elaborate investigation into the rainfall records of France and England was made by Mr. Symons, the highest authority in these matters in England, and he also came to the conclusion that the rainfall was not decreasing.

A similar investigation was carried out in the United States by the Smithsonian Institution, and they also, in a country which, above all others, has destroyed forests wholesale, have found no evidence of decreasing rainfall.

Professor Marsh, in his book on "The Earth as Modified by the Action of Man," enters fully into the question, and discussed all the available evidence on the subject, and concluded that there was no evidence that the annual rainfall is diminished or increased by the action of man in the destruction of trees.

Reply to Question No. 3.

In the recent droughts those parts of the Colony which have had the most intense droughts, viz., Western Riverina and the Darling country, have practically done no ringbarking. [See attached diagram B for McIndie, Kilterra, Wentworth, and Murray Downs, for the severe drought of 1895-6-7, as compared with the greatest previous drought, 1883-4-5, it will be seen that the drought in the south-western part of the Colony was the worst on record.] But in the northern districts, taking Bourke as a sample (on same diagram, B), it had in 1883-4-5 a far worse drought than 1895-6-7.

Reply to Question No. 4.

The drought has been most severe in Southern Darling country and in Western Riverina.

At Wentworth the average rainfall in 1895-6-7 has been 8 inches, while the average of all years is 12·64 inches; at Deniliquin the average rainfall for 1895-6-7 is 12·43 inches, as compared with an average for all years of 16·97.

There can be no doubt that the present drought has been more severe in the south-western districts of the Colony than elsewhere, but I think it has been exaggerated by the contrast presented by the abundant years 1889 to 1894 inclusive, which, as to rainfall, were the most abundant years on record. In figures that abundance is expressed by saying that during this period the rainfall was 24·7 per cent. above the average for all years. In these years commercial conditions favoured agricultural development, and the expansion of all matters connected with the products of the soil was unprecedented. After such a period of prosperity, the less abundant past four years are made to appear worse than they really are.

Reply to Question No. 5.

Droughts in this Colony have not been so numerous or severe during the past ten years as they have been in other periods—for instance, in the ten years preceding 1889, when droughts were much more severe than they have been recently, and this is very evident when the seasons are dispassionately compared.

No doubt great losses have been sustained in isolated parts of the Colony, and in almost every year, good and bad, this is the case; but judged by the official reports of agricultural and other produce, it would appear that on the whole 1898 will be a fairly good year.

In answer to Question 1, the origin and extent of droughts were indicated.

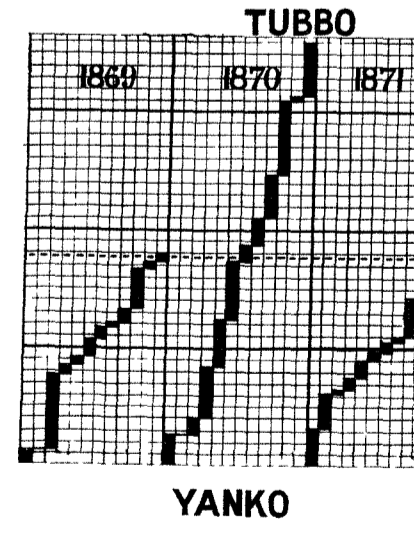
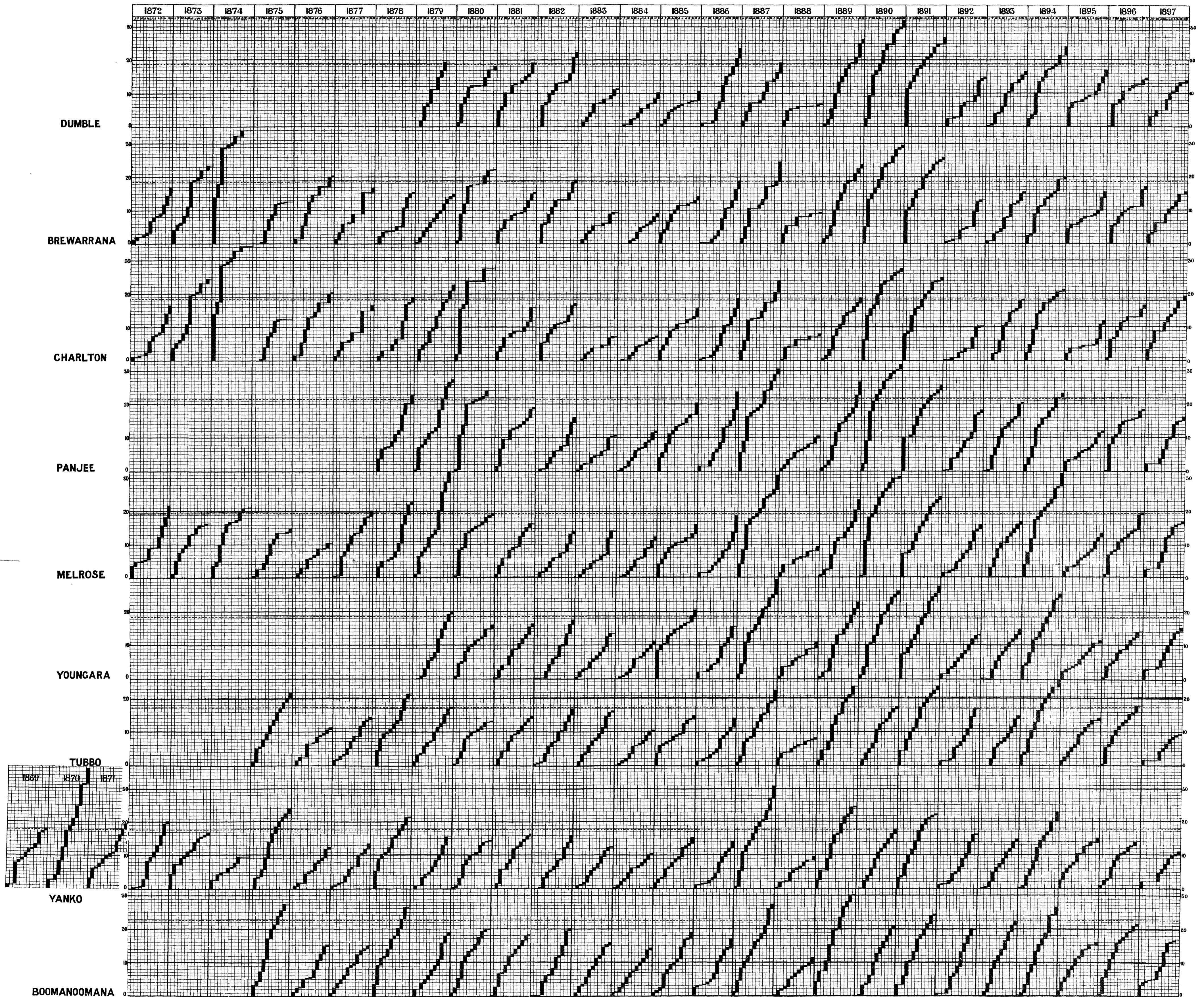
H. C. RUSSELL,
Government Astronomer.

Herewith two diagrams, A and B, showing the monthly rainfall for all years in the Central and Western Districts of the Colony; and another, marked C, showing the average rainfall of the whole Colony; the same for Deniliquin and Horsbarn (Victoria), as these towns show the average rainfall on the inland dry country.

H.C.R.

[Three Diagrams]

DIAGRAM SHEWING MONTHLY RAINFALL IN NEW SOUTH WALES



EACH VERTICAL SPACE IS ONE INCH
 THE RAINFALL FOR JANUARY BEING PLOTTED FEBRUARY BEGINS ON TOP OF JANUARY MARCH ON FEBRUARY AND SO ON
 MEAN ANNUAL RAINFALL SHEWN BY DOTTED LINE

BOOMANOOMANA	YEARS 1875 TO 1879 INCLUSIVE COMPLETED FROM	COLLINDINA
BREWARRANA	" 1888 & 1889	QUANTAMBONE
PANJEE	" 1886 & 1887	THE OVERFLOW
TUBBO	YEAR 1888	GOVABLE

In diagrams A & B the amount of rain for each month is shown. Each year is divided into 12 vertical spaces and the horizontal lines divide these into inches. The rain for January is plotted in the first space, and its length shows the quantity of rain. The rain for February begins on top of January, March on February and so on, the last space December gives the total rain for the year.

B

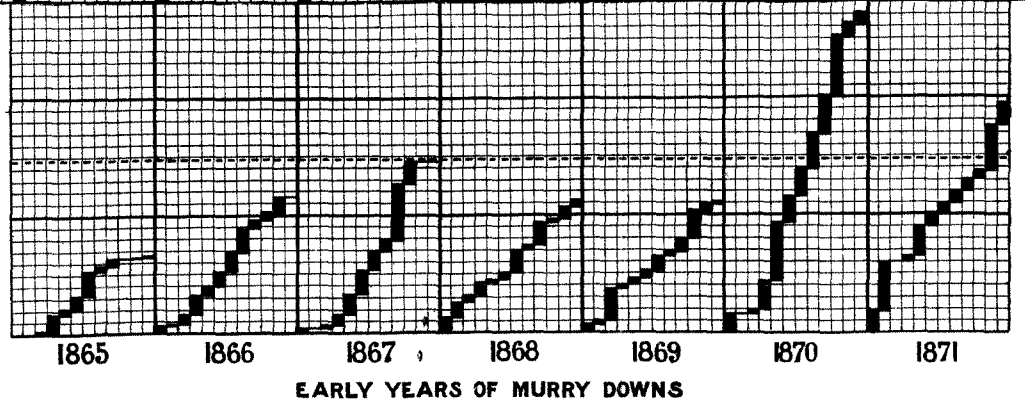
DIAGRAM SHEWING MONTHLY RAINFALL IN NEW SOUTH WALES



MURRAYDOWNS
 FOR EARLY YEARS
 SEE BELOW

EACH VERTICAL SPACE IS ONE INCH
 THE RAINFALL FOR JANUARY BEING PLOTTED FEBRUARY BEGINS ON TOP OF JANUARY MARCH ON FEBRUARY AND SO ON
 MEAN ANNUAL RAINFALL SHEWEN BY DOTTED LINE
 MENINDIE YEARS 1877 TO 1880 INCLUSIVE TAKEN FROM KINGHEGA

PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHED AT THE GOVT. PRINTING OFFICE,
 SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.



33962 Sig 247-

DIAGRAM SHEWING THE SIMILARITY OF THE ANNUAL RAINFALL AT HORSHAM VICTORIA TO THAT OF DENILQUIN AND ALL NEW SOUTH WALES

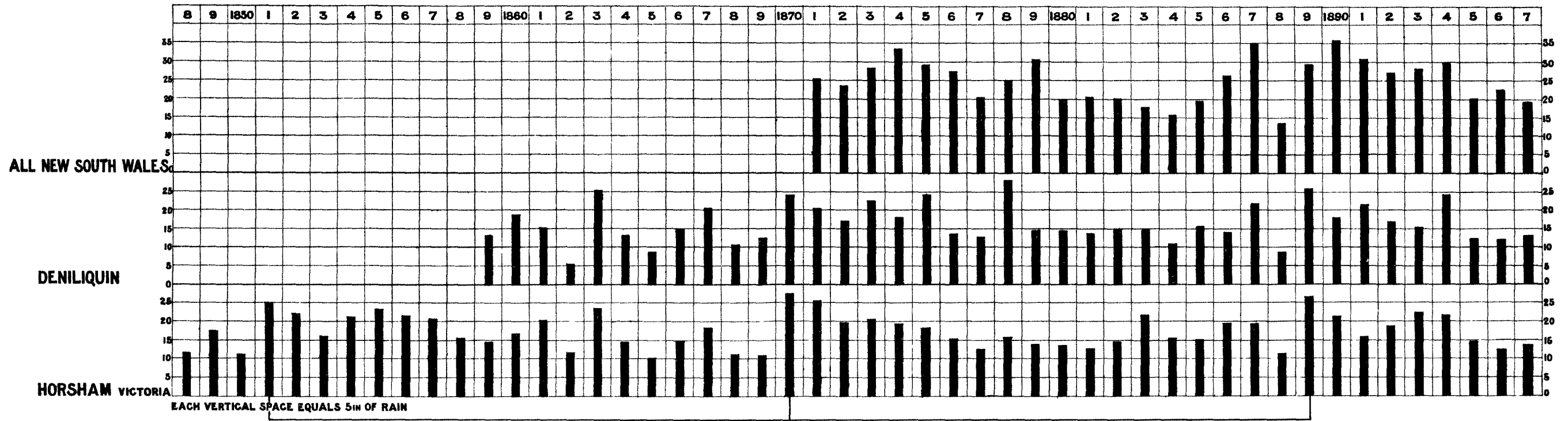


Fig. 247

19 YEARS

33962

19 YEARS

Photo-lithographed by
W A Gullick, Government Printer,
Sydney, N.S.W.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

COAL-LADEN SAILING VESSELS FROM NEWCASTLE LOST AT SEA.

(RETURN RESPECTING.)

Printed under No. 8 Report from Printing Committee, 20 October, 1898.

RETURN to an *Order* of the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 20th September, 1898, That there be laid upon the Table of this House, a Return showing,—

- “ (1.) The number and names of coal-laden sailing vessels which left the port of Newcastle during the past five years, and reported as being lost at sea.
 “ (2.) The alleged cause of such loss at sea.
 “ (3.) The number of lives lost in each vessel.
 “ (4.) The number and names of vessels, sail and steam, wrecked or lost upon the coast of New South Wales during the years 1896, 1897, and 1898.
 “ (5.) The alleged cause of such loss or wreck.
 “ (6.) The number of lives lost by such losses or wrecks.”

(*Mr. Smith.*)

- (1.) The number and names of coal-laden sailing vessels which left the port of Newcastle during the past five years, and reported as being lost at sea.
 (2.) The alleged cause of such loss at sea.
 (3.) The number of lives lost in each vessel.

Name and Port of Registry.	Tonnage.	Destination.	Lives Lost.	Date of Sailing.	Alleged Cause of Loss.
1894.					
“Hilo,” American	644	Honolulu	No record	January ..	Wrecked near destination.
“Jeannie Parker,” St. John’s, N.B.	998	Ilo Ilo	None	February ..	Struck on reef; condemned in Brisbane.
“Colintrave,” Ardrossan	1,747	San Francisco	31	March	Missing; cause unknown.
“Richard Parsons,” American ..	1,160	Manila	No record	July	Wrecked during typhoon.
1895.					
“Florence,” Glasgow	809	Panama	21	January ..	Missing; cause unknown.
“Sarah S. Ridgeway,” American ..	831	Singapore	No record	“	Wrecked on Queensland coast.
“Menai,” Liverpool	1,296	Tocopilla	22	February ..	Missing; cause unknown.
“Cumbrae,” Greenock	1,360	Valparaiso ..	23	“	“
“Noddleburn,” Glasgow	1,053	Tocopilla	25	June	“
“Flora P. Stafford,” Nova Scotia ..	1,352	Manila	None	“	Abandoned; on fire.
“Lady Lawrence,” Liverpool ..	1,384	Valparaiso ..	27	July	Missing; cause unknown.
“Zeno,” Auckland	390	Wellington ..	None	August	Foundered off Lord Howe Island.
“Gem” (hulk)	459	Sydney	2	September ..	Foundered off Broken Bay.
“Grasmere,” Melbourne	423	Wellington ..	None	December ..	Wrecked on Cape Terawhita, N.Z.
“Prince James”	499	Valparaiso ..	12	“	Missing; cause unknown.
1896.					
“Republic,” Liverpool	2,347	San Francisco ..	None	January ..	Abandoned; on fire.
“Seladon,” Newfoundland	1,066	Panama	1	July	Lost on Starbuck Island.
“Patrician,” New York	1,213	Lyttleton	None	August ..	Foundered; cargo shifted.
“Castlebank,” Glasgow	1,542	Tocopilla	28	September ..	Missing; cause unknown.
“Carrick,” Glasgow	898	Valparaiso ..	None	December ..	Abandoned; struck wreckage.
1897.					
“Buckhurst,” London	1,877	Panama	“	February ..	Abandoned; on fire.
“Pirate,” Auckland	190	Gisborne	1	April	Wrecked, Port Island, N.Z.; mistaken position.
“Oakburn,” Greenock	1,500	Autofogasta ..	None	August	Wrecked in fog, Blanca Equador Reef.
“Glenfinlas,” Liverpool	2,148	Manila	30	October	Missing; cause unknown.
1898.					
“Minora,” Newcastle	249	Sydney	7	January ..	Foundered; supposed sea burst hatches.
“Atacama,” Sydney	1,415	San Francisco ..	13	“	Foundered.
“Fido,” Tvedestond	494	Auckland	11	May	Missing; cause unknown.
“Adelaide,” Sydney	307	Gisborne	7	“	“

- (4.) The number and names of vessels, sail and steam, wrecked or lost upon the coast of New South Wales during the years 1896, 1897, and 1898.
 (5.) The alleged cause of such loss or wreck.
 (6.) The number of lives lost by such losses or wrecks.

Date.	Name and Port of Registry.	Sail or Steam.	Lives Lost.	Cause.
1896.				
January	"Aldinga," Sydney	Steamer	Nil	Wrecked on Bellambi Reef.
March	"Petrel," Melbourne	Ketch	"	Wrecked, Bellinger Bar.
"	"Harrington," Sydney	Steamer	"	"
May	"Condong," Sydney	Schooner	"	Beached at Port Stephens to save life.
"	"Byron," Sydney	Steamer	"	Sprung a leak, and foundered off Red Head.
"	"Karoola," Sydney	Barquentine	2	Wrecked at Port Stephens during a gale.
September	"Chundera," Sydney	Steamer	Nil	Wrecked on Tweed Bar.
November	"Tottie," Sydney	Schooner	"	Wrecked, Camden Haven Bar.
1897.				
February	"Alpha," Sydney	Schooner	"	Wrecked at Nambuccra River.
"	"Novelty," Sydney	Cutter	"	Sprung a leak and foundered.
April	"Adderley," Liverpool	Barque	"	Went ashore, Newcastle Bight, during a gale, and afterwards floated and repaired.
May	"Ability," Sydney	Ketch	"	Driven ashore at Cape Hawke during a gale.
"	"Favourite," Sydney	"	"	Wrecked, Cape Hawke.
"	"Bell Bird," Sydney	"	"	"
June	"Osprey," Adelaide	Smack	"	"
"	"Bonnie Dundee," Sydney	Schooner	"	Wrecked near Ulladulla.
July	"Heroine," Sydney	"	"	Beached during a heavy gale, to save life, in Danger Bay.
"	"Advance," Sydney	"	"	Stranded, Botany; got off, and repaired.
October	"Kameruka," Sydney	Steamer	"	Wrecked near Moruya.
December	"Fitzroy," Sydney	"	"	Wrecked near Morna Point.
1898.				
January	"Minora," Newcastle	Brig	7	Foundered.
"	"Koonya," Sydney	Steamer	Nil	Wrecked, Port Hacking.
"	"Active," Sydney	Ketch	"	Foundered after striking unknown object, entrance Newcastle Harbour.
February	"Marion Fenwick," Sydney	Steamer	"	Beached during gale, Port Hacking, to save life.
March	"Amy," Sydney	Brig	8	Wrecked near Bulli.
"	"Hereward," London	Ship	Nil	Stranded, Maroubra Bay.
May	"Isabel," Sydney	Schooner	"	Wrecked, Crowdy Bay.
"	"Philip Palfrey," Sydney	"	"	Wrecked in Trial Bay.
"	"Coral," Hobart	Ketch	"	Wrecked, Port Stephens.
"	"Maitland," Sydney	Steamer	22	Wrecked near Cape Three Points during a gale.
"	"Merksworth," Sydney	"	9	Foundered during a gale.
"	"Saxonia," Sydney	"	Nil	Wrecked on Bellambi Reef.
June	"Ethel," Newcastle	"	"	Wrecked, Port Stephens.
July	"Wendouree," Melbourne	"	"	Wrecked, Oyster Bank, Newcastle.
August	"Liffey," Sydney	Brigantine	"	Wrecked, Port Stephens.
"	"Jessie Sinclair," Sydney	Ketch	"	Wrecked, Port Macquarie Bar.

1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

NAME OF "ROOKWOOD."

(PETITION FROM CERTAIN PROPERTY-OWNERS OF THE BOROUGH OF ROOKWOOD
AGAINST ALTERING.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 19 October, 1898.

Petition to the Honorable Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, that the name of "Rookwood" may not be changed, as suggested, or about to be suggested, by the Borough Council of Rookwood, unless with and by consent of a majority of *bona fide* property-owners within the said Borough.

THE Petitioners state that the Cemetery being within and forming part of the Borough of Rookwood, that it will be impossible to disassociate the name of the Township from that of the Cemetery.

Formerly the place was named Haslem's Creek, and the Cemetery was known as Haslem's Creek Cemetery.

Upon the change of name to Rookwood, the Cemetery at once became known as Rookwood Cemetery.

Formerly there were few owners of land; now there are many owners to object to a change of name because of above, and the expenses likely to be entailed thereby, and the fact that the Aldermen have not been authorised in any way by property-owners to try and effect such change of name up to date, which is being attempted at the expense of such owners as ratepayers.

Your Petitioners, therefore, humbly pray that no change of name be permitted except upon request, and at the expense of a majority of property-owners.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[Here follow 89 signatures.]

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

(REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER-GENERAL OF PRISONS RESPECTING THE OPERATIONS OF THE
NEW SYSTEM OF RESTRICTED ASSOCIATION IN GAOLS.)*Printed under No. 13 Report from Printing Committee, 24 November, 1898.*

Minute Paper.

Department of Prisons,
Comptroller-General's Office, Sydney.*Subject:—New System of Restricted Association.*

THE new system of restricted association has now been sufficiently long in operation to allow of an estimate being arrived at as to its value, and the good it will be likely to effect from a moral as well as from an economic standpoint.

This day last year a report was furnished to the Minister upon the subject, of which the following is an extract:—

"The new system of restricted association was, with the approval of the Minister, personally initiated by me at Berrima Gaol on the 14th ultimo. At 5 p.m. on the day mentioned the prisoners were assembled as they left the works and were addressed by me. The objects and intention of the new departure were explained to them, and a condensed summary of my remarks was afterwards exhibited for general information, together with a copy of revised Regulation 35, section 15. I spent a few days at Berrima watching matters, and was pleased to find that no trouble of any kind occurred. The men seemed to appreciate the change, and I hope that this will be the feeling in the other prisons as the system is extended. The works prisoners at Berrima do not amount to a large number—there are usually thirty or so—but the experience gained by their reception of the new treatment may be of value when the system is being extended to the more populous gaols. As the Government Architect lights up the cells of the different prisons the extension will be gradually carried out."

The system which was superseded by the new departure will be understood from the following remarks which were addressed by me to the prisoners on the occasion in question, and which since then have been repeated to the prisoners in other gaols when inaugurating the new system:—

"It has been decided to alter the system of associating prisoners in yards. Such a system works badly in the interests of the prisoners generally; it associates well-meaning men with some of the worst characters, and so prevents reformation; it presents opportunities for quarrelling, bullying, and all sorts of tyranny; it forces men who have earned indulgences to share these rewards with undeserving prisoners, and, in various other ways, it contributes towards misconduct and discomfort. The prisoners, of course, know all these things quite well; and it is certain that only a very few, and those of the worst class, will regret the introduction of the new plan, which has for its object the reformation and protection of the well-disposed.

"Cells will be lighted up at night, so as to admit of men reading to a reasonable hour. Books will be provided of a more interesting character than has hitherto been the case; and it is hoped that these privileges will conduce to the comfort, instruction, and improvement of the prisoners. Misconduct will, of course, lead to their withdrawal. The men will take their meals in their cells, and will only associate at work, religious instruction, and at exercise.

"This is a modification of the system pursued in England, Victoria, and elsewhere; and it has been thought right to bring the New South Wales prisons under similar treatment, with not quite such rigorous restrictions. A man who honestly desires to reform will now have fewer obstacles placed in his way, as he need not fear contamination by association. He will have the companionship of his fellows while at work, but he will secure a wholesome privacy at meals and at all other times.

"I have thought it well to take the prisoners into my confidence, so that they may clearly understand the reasons for the new departure."

Before the system could be extended much preliminary work had to be done in lighting up the various cells, in manufacturing furniture, and in other necessary preparations, entailing not only considerable expense, but also considerable labour. But as the various gaols became ready the new method was gradually applied to them, until to-day there are sixteen under its operations, all working successfully and smoothly. Amongst them are the large gaols at Bathurst, Goulburn, and Maitland.

The system will be extended to the remaining gaols as opportunity offers.

The

The officers in charge of the sixteen prisons before referred to without exception report most favourably of the results accomplished by the new departure in our gaol system. Discipline and order have been improved, the mutual contamination of prisoners, which was bound to exist under the old plan, has been materially decreased, and the moral tone of the prisoners has immeasurably benefited. Appended will be found reports, dated the 1st instant, from the governors of the large gaols. The opinions of officers of such great experience must be of great value, more especially as they have controlled the operations of their respective gaols under both the old and the new methods, and are, therefore, in the best of all positions to pronounce upon their respective merits.

I think that the restricted association system may now fairly be adjudged successful, and that it has justified the expenditure in lights, books, and other accessories which its establishment has entailed. It is with great satisfaction that I am able to report that no friction of any kind attended its inauguration, and that no prisoners gave cause for punishment.

It was expected by old experienced officials that considerable trouble would be encountered with the "old hands" in initiating a plan which had necessarily to seriously interfere with long-established customs; but nothing happened, and there is every reason to believe that fully 95 per cent. of the prisoners welcome the change which relieves them from the tyranny of their fellows and the moral degradation attendant upon the yarding system. Another good likely to result will be a reduction in punishments, for as opportunities for misconduct will be less numerous, a consequent decrease in the number of punishments will naturally follow. The majority of prison offences occurred on the Saturday afternoons and Sundays when the prisoners were associated, out of working hours, for long periods. Under the new system, these days are the quietest of the week.

As the Minister knows, the bringing about of what is probably the largest measure of reform yet instituted in our prisons has entailed a great deal of anxiety and worry. It is a great satisfaction to know, however, that the reformatory and deterrent results are likely to be most beneficial to the country. Perhaps, when all our gaols are working under the new plan, the Minister might be favourably disposed to consider whether some alteration might not be brought about as regards the term of separate treatment now passed by all prisoners serving sentences of three years and upwards. In my report for 1896, a modification of the existing plan was suggested as follows:—

"But I do not think the period of seclusion should be so long as at present, and I do not think the same period should be indiscriminately applied to first-convicted men as to more hardened graduates in crime. And Mr. Michael Davitt's suggestions appear to have much in them that is commendable. He thinks a few months at the beginning of the sentences, with a month or two at the end, would be beneficial, so that 'at the end of the sentence the prisoner would be amenable to the attentions and services of the chaplain and the schoolmaster, and every such reformatory influence as could be brought to bear upon him just before he comes out into the world again.' This is the method followed in Norway and in the neighbouring colony of Victoria, where much success has attended its operations.

"It is therefore suggested that some similar plan might be followed here experimentally. For prisoners serving under three years' imprisonment of any kind, the Comptroller-General might be entrusted with discretionary powers to provide such periods of seclusion at the two ends of the sentence as might be considered fitting, the maximum duration being defined. Prisoners with sentences of three years and upwards might be the subjects of separate treatment for periods at both ends of the sentences, calculated on a sliding scale according to length of sentence and previous records, second offenders being dealt with more stringently than first, and third offenders more stringently than second. I attach great importance to a period of seclusion from ordinary gaol routine being passed immediately anterior to discharge. Visits from clergymen and others of the staff would probably exercise a beneficial influence for good at a critical time, while visits from relatives, excepting where such persons were known to be unsuitable people, should be liberally allowed. Home ties, relaxed unavoidably by the requirements of punishment, might thus be renewed and strengthened."

Since the foregoing was written, the system of restricted association has been brought into operation, which is a further reason for a revision of the rules respecting separate treatment.

There is one other matter to which the Minister's attention might be invited, and that is to the necessity which exists for decreasing the flow of criminals into this Colony from other parts. In Victoria and in South Australia there are Acts rigorously dealing with criminals making their way into those colonies from other places, and something of the sort is urgently needed here. It is a discouraging thing to the Prisons Administration to see its gaol population added to from foreign sources while it is expending much care and consideration to the reformatory treatment of New South Wales offenders.

The Under Secretary of Justice,
3rd November, 1898.

FREDK. W. NEITENSTEIN,
Comptroller-General.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

(RETURN SHOWING LIST OF APPROPRIATIONS FROM MARCH TO 27TH JULY, 1898.)

Printed under No. 5 Report from Printing Committee, 6 October, 1898.

LIST of Appropriations from March to 27th July, 1898.

No. of Papers.	Road or Bridge.	Electorate.	District.	Amount.
98/ 4010	Walla Walla Goods Shed	Albury	Albury	£ s. d. 45 0 0
98/ 4774	Monkey Hill to Yalbraith Factory	Argyle	Crookwell	42 0 0
98/ 1496	Goulburn to Roslyn	do	do	20 0 0
98/ 3271	Pejar to Middle Creek	do	do	7 0 0
98/ 5342	Long Reach to Callangue	do	Goulburn	5 0 0
98/ 2474	Black Mountain to Guyra	Armidale	Armidale	50 0 0
98/ 5708	Armidale to Eastern Plains Road to Dural Platform	do	do	36 0 0
98/166-12	Billabong Crossing, Kammandra to Cobang	Ashtburnham	Forbes	15 0 0
98/ 5870	Kelso Drainage	Bathurst	Bathurst	100 0 0
98/ 4359	North Side, Teven Creek	Ballina	Ballina	80 0 0
97/ 12616	Ballina to Tenterfield, near Brewer's Hotel	do	do	250 0 0
98/ 6013	Newrybar Factory to Cooper Shoot Road	do	do	55 0 0
98/ 5677	East Wardell Post Office to Beach	do	do	60 0 0
98/ 4279	Teven to Ferry, South Side	do	do	55 0 0
98/ 799	Mogilla to Sam's Corner	Bega	Bega	154 0 0
98/ 5972	Bega to Merungle	do	do	300 0 0
98/ 1484	Bourke to Barrington Swamp, near Engornia	Bourke	Bourke	314 0 0
98/ 1236	Foster's Gate to Buckley's Gate to Windello	Bowral	Moss Vale	80 0 0
98/ 3875	Cannonleigh Road to Tugalong	do	do	75 0 0
98/ 6174	Frogmore to Rye Park	Boorowa	Young	45 0 0
98/ 5970	Boorowa to Narrawa Road to Taylor's Flat	do	do	200 0 0
98/ 4237	Frogmore to Taylor's Arm	do	do	20 0 0
98/ 8985	Gardener's Road	Botany	Metropolitan	500 0 0
98/ 5305	Collarendabri to Walgett	Barwon	Walgett	10 0 0
98/ 5668	Oliver-street, Bundarra	Bingera	Inverell	10 0 0
98/ 5694	Bingera to Borah	do	Warialda	20 0 0
98/ 6274	Manilla, up Namoi River	do	Tamworth	40 0 0
98/1089-4	Prouitts Bridge	Canterbury	Metropolitan	100 0 0
98/ 1038	Koorawatha to Warrangong	Cowra	Cowra	52 0 0
98/1691-2	Mandurama to Canowindra	do	do	50 0 0
98/ 6147	Death's to Euroka	do	do	34 0 0
98/ 531	M'Naughton's and Law's, from Ryan's Bridge, near Harwood	Clarence	Maclean	20 0 0
98/ 3283	Upper to Lower Coldstream	do	do	110 0 0
98/ 5657	Shark's Creek to M'Naughton's	do	do	27 0 0
98/ 1717	Cobborah to Gilgandra	Coonamble	Dubbo	110 0 0
98/1426-3	Crooked Creek, Coonamble	do	do	350 0 0
98/ 3245	Menangle to Picton	Camden	Campbelltown	106 0 0
98/ 4045	Upper Burrogorang to Peak's	do	do	52 10 0
98/ 5879	Cobbity to Vermont	do	do	20 0 0
98/ 5662	Bogan Station to Gunninggap	Condobolin	Forbes	121 0 0
98/ 3619	Trundle to Bullock Creek	do	do	144 0 0
98/ 517	Condobolin to Palisthun	do	do	50 0 0
98/ 5916	Condobolin to Cugong	do	do	160 0 0
98/ 7346	Hinton to Clarencetown	Durham	Maitland	100 0 0
98/ 1333	Big Creek Road	do	do	40 0 0
98/ 3486	Dungog to Posterton	do	Stroud	300 0 0
98/ 3142	Gresford, up Eccleston Creek	do	Maitland	30 0 0
98/ 3668	Paterson to Vacy and Summer Hill	do	do	125 0 0

No. of Papers.	Road or Bridge.	Electorate.	District.	Amount.
98/ 3377	Narromine Bridge northwards	Dubbo	Dubbo	£ s. d. 200 0 0
98/ 3242	Dubbo Cemetery to Bunningong School	do	do	100 0 0
98/ 6002	M. W. Road to Minor Platform	do	do	100 0 0
98/ 5971	Eden-Pambula Road to Day's C.P.	Eden-Bombala	Bega	50 0 0
98/ 5632	Pambula to Merimbula	do	do	200 0 0
98/ 5380	Eden, via Kiah River, to Timbilica	do	do	220 0 0
98/ 990	Eaton Bridge to Copmanhurst Wharf	Grafton	Grafton	133 0 0
98/ 4349	Rushforth to Lower Geragarow	do	do	31 0 0
98/ 1392	Southampton Point approaches	do	do	126 0 0
98/ 5890	Broadwater Bridge to Aboriginal Home	do	Maclean	40 0 0
98/ 2947	Gunnedah to Burburgate	Gunnedah	Quirindi	30 0 0
98/ 3853	Cootamundra, via Cowongs, to Jugiong	Gundagai	Cootamundra	163 0 0
98/ 6262	Stockubungal to Dudamon	Grenfell	do	80 0 0
98/ 6279	West Wyalong to Kildory St.	do	do	252 0 0
98/ 2564	Khoribakh Creek past scho 1	Gloucester	Tarce	30 0 0
98/ 5153	Bullock Wharf to Wallamba	do	do	20 0 0
98/ 2328	Saltash to Nelson's Bay	do	Newcastle	115 0 0
98/ 5838	Bungwall to Foster Godwin's Hill	do	Stroud	100 0 0
98/ 5519	Southern Road, Rookwood	Granville	Parramatta	25 0 0
98/ 430	Woodville Road to Guildford Station	do	do	35 0 0
98/ 3323	Balnald to Swan Hill Bridge	Hay	Hay	270 0 0
98/ 4222	Blackheath to Shipley	Hartley	Lithgow	74 0 0
98/ 982	Sherwood to Willi Willi	Hastings and Macleay	Kempsey	150 0 0
98/ 6040	Frederickton to Deep Creek, on Jack's Crossing	do do	do	207 0 0
98/ 4406	East Kempsey to Spencer's Creek, on Pola Creek	do do	do	35 0 0
98/ 1298	Gundie Tin-mines, via Brit Brit Creek	do do	Port Macquarie	200 0 0
98/ 5594	Frederickton Swamp drainage	do do	Kempsey	80 0 0
97/ 8245	Congarinni Road at Belunbopuni	do do	do	35 0 0
98/ 1290	Kurrajong to Hermitage	Hawkesbury	Richmond	62 10 0
98/ 4834	Wilberforce to Howe's Creek	do	do	180 0 0
98/ 5954	Gorrick Road to Wilberforce	do	do	70 0 0
98/ 4828	Mangoosh to Rock	Hume	Wagga	9 0 0
98/ 4019	Road, parish of Galone	do	do	10 0 0
97/ 11994	Mundaroo to Ourne	do	Tumberumba	50 0 0
98/ 5338	Culcairn to Germainton	do	Albury	250 0 0
98/ 4269	Quartzville to Tumberumba	do	Tumberumba	21 0 0
98/ 4830	Urana to Yerong Creek	do	Wagga	14 0 0
98/ 5157	Bonshaw to Emmaville	Inverell	Inverell	65 0 0
98/ 4820	Moss Vale to Jamberoo	Kama	Moss Vale	64 0 0
98/1377-7	Bridge, Buggabah Creek	Lachlan	Hay	500 0 0
98/ 4020	Bexhill, Monticolum Road to Old Condong Road	Lismore	Lismore	20 0 0
98/ 5594	Lismore, Nightcap Road to Duraby Grass	do	do	52 0 0
98/ 376	Nunmo to Grey Mares	Monaro	Cooma	100 0 0
98/ 1080-1	Wambrook Creek Bridge	do	do	350 0 0
97/ 11004	Erskine Corner to Coolamon	Murrumbidgee	Wagga	23 0 0
97/ 10732	Coolamon to the English Church	do	do	50 0 0
98/ 4832	Grong Grong Post Office Approach	do	do	13 0 0
98/ 4721	Devlin's Siding, via Covabee, to Walli	do	do	146 0 0
98/ 6141	Croki Public School	do	Tarce	30 0 0
98/ 6154	Wingham to Kelvin's Grove	do	do	35 0 0
98/ 5221	Moorland to Upper Pipeclay Creek	Manning	do	50 0 0
98/ 1655	Killabakh Creek Bridge	do	do	185 0 0
98/ 3845	Brown's Farm to Upper Dingo Creek	do	do	50 0 0
98/ 5767	Road up Black Creek	do	do	40 0 0
98/ 4071	Cudgegong to Wollar Road, Stoney Creek Bridge	Mudgee	Mudgee	25 0 0
98/ 4801	Cudgegong-Wollar Road, at Taylor's, to the Drip	do	do	40 0 0
98/ 6146	Eurobodalla to Pankulla	Moruya	Moruya	10 0 0
98/ 4091	Narrabri to Terry Hie Hie to Woolabra Station	Moree	Moree	70 0 0
98/ 6252	Savernake to Berrigan	Murray	Albury	160 0 0
98/ 4827	Borce to Morundah Station	do	Wagga	84 0 0
98/ 5339	Deep Lead Mine, Corowa	do	Albury	20 0 0
98/ 3436	Honeysuckle Falls to Bowenfells Road	Macquarie	Lithgow	35 0 0
98/ 6038	Oberon-Jenolan Road to Fish River Caves Road	do	do	49 0 0
98/ 4334	Mt. Werrong to Shooter's Hill	do	do	61 0 0
98/ 4333	Jerong to Warborough Creek	do	do	85 0 0
98/ 5758	Payne's Bridge, up Stockyard Creek	Northumberland	Wollombi	18 0 0
98/ 5759	Sternbeck to Wiseman's	do	do	21 0 0
98/ 5755	McDonald's Road, Ourimbah	do	do	26 0 0
98/ 5760	McDonald's Road, Quarramalong	do	Gosford	20 0 0
98/ 5757	Peach Tree, Fountandale	do	do	30 0 0
98/ 1240	King's Road, Cooranbong	do	do	22 0 0
98/ 6216	Carrington Road	do	do	25 0 0
98/ 5753	St. Albans to Broad and Harrington's Arms	do	Wollombi	20 0 0
98/ 5752	Foot's Road, Ourimbah	do	Gosford	25 0 0
98/ 3940	Woy Woy to Blackwall	do	do	30 0 0
98/ 5372	Single's Ridge Road	Nepean	Parramatta	45 0 0
98/ 3549	Milthorpe to Goods Shed	Orange	Orange	70 0 0
98/ 1795	Man Western Road at Neurea	do	do	200 0 0
98/ 3612	Gowrie to Duri	Quirindi	Tamworth	242 0 0
98/ 1421	Michelago to Nasas Creek, via Colter's	Queanbeyan	Queanbeyan	120 0 0
98/ 3164	Neal's Creek Deviation, Bungendore to Captain's Flat	do	do	20 0 0
98/ 1511	Kyogle to Back Creek	Richmond	Casino	100 0 0
98/ 2980	Riley's Hill to Broadwater	do	do	45 0 0
98/ 5029	Road to Shipping Place, below Irvington	do	do	470 0 0
98/ 4886	Grace's Road to Bowra, Upper North Arm	Ralcigh	Bellingen	55 0 0
97/ 10818	Owen's Wharf, up Kinchela Creek	do	do	30 0 0
98/ 4330	Bowraville to Upper North Arm Road to Lynch's	do	do	150 0 0

No of Papers.	Road or Bridge.	Electorate.	District.	Amount.
98/ 3288	Upper South-Arm Road from Ryan's	Raleigh	Bellingen	£ s. d. 150 0 0
98/ 5231	McAlcer's to Regan's	do	do	30 0 0
98/ 3932	Muswellbrook to Wybong Bridge	Robertson	Muswellbrook ..	36 0 0
98/ 5411	Merriwa to Wolar	Rylstone	do	120 0 0
98/ 6202	Dunedoo to Stall's	do	Mudgee	40 0 0
98/ 6201	Byrne's Lane to Nulla Nulla	do	do	50 0 0
98/ 2815	Ryde Cemetery Approach	Ryde	N. Sydney	50 0 0
	Causeways, Terry's Creek	do	do	45 0 0
98/ 6113	Pembroke-street, Carlingford	do	do	15 0 0
	Footbridge, Terry's Creek	do	do	5 0 0
98/ 6110	Chester-street, Carlingford	do	do	15 0 0
98/ 6108	Pembroke Road, Carlingford	do	do	40 0 0
98/ 6102	Crandon Hill, Carlingford	do	do	20 0 0
98/ 1744	New Lane, Road Pennant Hills to Mould's Corner	Sherbrooke	do	518 0 0
98/ 4100	Camp Bay, Jarvis Bay, to Point Perpendicular	Shoalhaven	Krama	81 0 0
98/ 5638	Seven Hills Road to Vardy's Grant	Sherbrooke	Parramatta	80 0 0
98/ 5254	Goorangala Road to Drying Road	Singleton	Muswellbrook ..	48 0 0
98/ 4436	Belford to Lower Belford	do	do	50 0 0
98/ 458	T. S. Route, 193.30 to Ross and Wingfield's	Tenterfield	Tenterfield	20 0 0
98/ 5602	Five-mile Creek across Main Range	do	do	35 0 0
98/ 4435	Amosfield School to Acacia Creek Road	do	do	49 0 0
98/ 60	Sweetman's to Knight's	Tweed	Murwillumbah ..	85 0 0
97/ 12604	Kyle's to Quan's	do	do	80 0 0
98/ 4194	Key's to Farrelly's	do	do	100 0 0
98/ 1797	Stuart Town to Muckerewa	Wellington	Orange	20 0 0
98/ 1795	Main Western Road, Neurea	do	do	200 0 0
98/ 6001	Wellington to Coolwa to the Rocks	do	Dubbo	130 0 0
98/ 4018	Cemetery Gates, Tarcutta, Mitchell's Creek	Wagga	Wagga	94 0 0
98/ 4831	Wagga-Gillenbah Road to Buckenbong	do	do	16 0 0
98/ 4309	Milthorpe and Byng to Greghamstown School	W. Macquarie ..	Blayney	165 0 0
98/ 3373	Wallsend to Cemetery	Wallsend	Newcastle	50 0 0
96/ 5110	White Cliffs-street	Wilcannia	Wilcannia	40 0 0
98/ 3857	Broken Hill to Pinnacles	do	do	200 0 0
98.1759-3	Footbridge, Tighe's Creek	Wickham	Newcastle	78 10 0
98/ 6507	Mortland Road, Wickham	do	do	113 10 0
98/ 888	Victoria-street, Monteagle	Young	Young	20 0 0
98/ 1036	Jerrybong to Monteagle Platform	do	do	75 0 0
97/ 1519	Young to Brunbaldry	do	do	54 0 0
98/ 5720	Temora to Thanowring	do	Cootamundra ..	112 0 0
98/ 5774	Young Butler Factory to Stoney Creek	do	Young	90 0 0

1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

(SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS FROM MARCH TO 27TH JULY, 1898.)

Printed under No. 5 Report from Printing Committee, 6 October, 1898.

SUMMARY of Appropriations from March to 27th July, 1898 :—

Name of Electorate.	Amount.	Name of Electorate.	Amount.
	£		£
Albury	45	Kiama	64
Argyle	74	Lachlan, The	500
Armidale	86	Lismore... ..	72
Ashburnham	15	Monaro	450
Bathurst	100	Murrumbidgee, The	232
Ballina	500	Manning, The	390
Bega	454	Mudgee... ..	65
Bourke	314	Moruya	10
Bowral	155	Morice	70
Boorowa	265	Murray, The	264
Botany	500	Macquarie	230
Barwon, The	10	Northumberland	237
Bingara... ..	70	Parramatta	45
Canterbury	100	Orange	270
Cowra	136	Quirindi	242
Clarence, The	157	Queanbeyan	140
Coonamble	460	Richmond	615
Camden	178	Raleigh	415
Condobolin	475	Robertson	36
Durham... ..	595	Rylstone	210
Dubbo	400	Ryde	190
Eden-Bombala	470	Sherbrooke	518
Grafton	330	Shoalhaven, The	81
Gunnedah	30	Singleton	98
Gundagai	163	Tenterfield	104
Grenfell	332	Tweed, The	265
Gloucester	265	Wellington	350
Granville	60	Wagga Wagga... ..	110
Hay	270	West Macquarie	165
Hartley	74	Wallsend	50
Hastings and Macleay, The	707	Wilcannia	240
Hawkesbury, The	312	Wickham	192
Hume, The	354	Young	351
Inverell	65		

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

CLAIM OF JOHN BRENNAN AGAINST
ROADS DEPARTMENT;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

AND

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Printed under No. 18 Report from Printing Committee, 22 December, 1898.

SYDNEY: WILLIAM APPLGATE GULLICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1899.

1896.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDING OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VOTES No. 58. TUESDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER, 1896.

16. CLAIM OF JOHN BRENNAN AGAINST ROADS DEPARTMENT:—Mr. Pyers moved, pursuant to Notice,—
- (1.) That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into and report upon the claim of John Brennan with the Roads Department on contracts 21U and 57U, Casino district.
- (2.) That such Committee consist of Mr. Young, Mr. Lyne, Mr. Hassall, Mr. Harris, Mr. Davis, Mr. F. Clarke, Mr. Watson, Mr. Kelly, and the Mover.
- Debate ensued.
- Question put and passed.
-

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

EXTRACTS FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VOTES No. 24. TUESDAY, 11 OCTOBER, 1898.

7. CLAIM OF JOHN BRENNAN AGAINST ROADS DEPARTMENT:—Mr. Pyers moved, pursuant to *amended* Notice,—
- (1.) That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into and report upon the claim of John Brennan against the Roads Department on contracts 21U and 57U, Casino District.
- (2.) That such Committee consist of Mr. Young, Mr. Lyne, Mr. Hassall, Mr. Harris, Mr. Hurley, Mr. Watson, Mr. Carroll, Mr. J. C. J. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Anderson, and the Mover.
- (3.) That the Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence of the Select Committee of Session 1896 be referred to such Committee.
- Debate ensued.
- Question put and passed.
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VOTES No. 52. FRIDAY, 16 DECEMBER, 1898.

4. CLAIM OF JOHN BRENNAN AGAINST ROADS DEPARTMENT:—Mr. Pyers, as Chairman, brought up the Report from, and laid upon the Table the Minutes of Proceedings of, and Evidence taken before, the Select Committee for whose consideration and report this subject was referred on 11th October, 1898.
- Referred by Sessional Order to the Printing Committee.
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1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

CLAIM OF JOHN BRENNAN AGAINST ROADS DEPARTMENT.

REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed on 11th October, 1898, "to inquire into and report upon the claim of John Brennan against the Roads Department on Contracts 21U and 57U, Casino District," and to whom was referred on the same date, "the Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence of the Select Committee of Session 1896," have agreed to the following Report:—

Your Committee, having examined the witness named in the margin, and considered the evidence referred, find—

John
Brennan.

1. That, with reference to Contract 21U, in 1891, the Roads Department accepted the tender of John Brennan for the construction of a bridge over a creek on the road Casino to Lismore.
2. That shortly afterwards Brennan proceeded to construct the work, and had most of his material on the ground, the old bridge partly removed, and temporary bridge constructed. The Road Superintendent then informed Brennan that he was on the wrong site, and compelled him to reinstate the old bridge and remove all his material to a site which was subsequently pointed out, and which was about a mile and a half nearer Lismore.
3. That the specification set out that the bridge was to be erected over a creek, and the surrounding scrub to be cleared away; whereas the site pointed out by the Road Superintendent to Brennan was a black gully, perfectly free from scrub of any description.
4. That the quantities supplied in the specification were suitable for the site on which Brennan started, but inadequate in every way for the place at which the bridge was subsequently constructed; and, consequently, he was compelled to provide a quantity of fresh material.
5. That with reference to Contract 57U, on a subsequent date in the same year to the acceptance of the tender for Contract 21U, the Roads Department accepted the tender of John Brennan for the construction of approaches to a bridge at Beantree Crossing, Casino—Mount Lindsay Road.
6. That although the contract was nearly completed, the Road Superintendent declined to pay Brennan, or any of his orders for payment to the men working on the contracts, until they sued and obtained a verdict against him, after which the claims were paid by the Road Superintendent. The men then declined to do any further work on Brennan's contracts.
7. That in consequence of the non-payment of wages and certain other liabilities arising out of these contracts, Brennan was sued by one of his workmen and a storekeeper, who obtained a *ca. sa.* against him, and had him arrested.
8. That Brennan claimed £201 17s. 9d., balance due for work performed, but the Department refused to acknowledge the claim, and offered him £46 5s. 4d., which he declined to accept.
9. That Brennan has suffered imprisonment and loss in consequence of a mistake on the part of the Road Superintendent, as, had such mistake not occurred in connection with Contract 21U, he would have been able to complete Contract 57U, and thereby averted the cancelling of the contract and his subsequent arrest and imprisonment.

Your Committee consider that Brennan has a claim, and therefore recommend his case to the favourable consideration of the Government.

ROBERT PYERS,
Chairman.

No. 2 Committee Room,
Legislative Assembly,
16th December, 1898.

1896.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

WEDNESDAY, 28 OCTOBER, 1896.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Kelly,	|	Mr. Lyne,
	Mr. Pyers.	

Mr. Pyers called to the Chair.

Entry from Votes and Proceedings appointing the Committee read by the Clerk.

John Brennan called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

[Adjourned till Wednesday next, at *half-past Two* o'clock.]

WEDNESDAY, 4 NOVEMBER, 1896.

MEMBER PRESENT :—

Mr. Harris.

In the absence of a Quorum, the meeting called for this day lapsed.

THURSDAY, 5 NOVEMBER, 1896.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Pyers in the Chair.

Mr. Harris,		Mr. Lyne.
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Percy Scarr (*Principal Assistant Engineer for Roads*) called in; sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at *half-past Eleven* o'clock.]

TUESDAY, 10 NOVEMBER, 1896.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Pyers in the Chair.

Mr. Harris,		Mr. Kelly.
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Arthur Gracie (*Road Superintendent, Public Works Department*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

[Adjourned till To-morrow, at *half-past Eleven* o'clock.]

WEDNESDAY, 11 NOVEMBER, 1896.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Pyers in the Chair.

Mr. F. Clarke,	|	Mr. Harris,
	Mr. Kelly.	

Arthur Gracie recalled, and further examined.

John Brennan recalled, and further examined.

Arthur Gracie recalled, and further examined.

John Brennan recalled, and further examined.

[Adjourned till To-morrow, at *Eleven* o'clock.]

THURSDAY, 12 NOVEMBER, 1896.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Pyers in the Chair.

Mr. Kelly,		Mr. Lyne,
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Arthur Gracie recalled, and further examined.

John Brennan recalled, and further examined.

Re-assembling of the Committee to be arranged by the Chairman.

[Adjourned.]

1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

THURSDAY, 13 OCTOBER, 1898.

MEMBER PRESENT:—
Mr. Watson.

In the absence of a quorum the meeting called for this day lapsed.

THURSDAY, 20 OCTOBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—
Mr. Hurley, | Mr. Lyne,
Mr. Pyers.

Mr. Pyers called to the Chair.

Entry from Votes and Proceedings, appointing the Committee and referring the Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence of the Select Committee of Session 1896,—read by the Clerk.

Resolved (*on motion of Mr. Hurley*), That the Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence of the Select Committee of Session 1896 be adopted by this Committee.

Ordered,—That John Brennan be summoned to give evidence next meeting.
[Adjourned till Tuesday next at *half-past Eleven* o'clock.]

TUESDAY, 25 OCTOBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—
Mr. Pyers in the Chair.
Mr. Anderson, | Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Hassall, | Mr. Hurley.

John Brennan called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Re-assembling of the Committee to be arranged by Chairman.
[Adjourned.]

TUESDAY, 6 DECEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—
Mr. Pyers in the Chair.
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick, | Mr. Hurley.
Committee deliberated.
[Adjourned till To-morrow, at *Two* o'clock.]

WEDNESDAY, 7 DECEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—
Mr. Pyers in the Chair.
Mr. Anderson, | Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Lyne.
Committee deliberated.
[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at *Two* o'clock.]

TUESDAY, 13 DECEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—
Mr. Pyers in the Chair.
Mr. Hassall, | Mr. Hurley.
John Brennan recalled and further examined.
Witness withdrew.
Re-assembling of Committee to be arranged by the Chairman.
[Adjourned.]

FRIDAY, 16 DECEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—
Mr. Pyers in the Chair.
Mr. Carroll, | Mr. Hassall.
Chairman submitted Draft Report.
Same read and agreed to.
Chairman to report to the House.

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1896.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE

THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

CLAIM OF JOHN BRENNAN AGAINST ROADS DEPARTMENT.

WEDNESDAY, 28 OCTOBER, 1896.

Present:—

MR. KELLY, | MR. LYNE.

ROBERT PYERS, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

John Brennan sworn and examined:—

1. *Chairman.*] What is your occupation? I am a quarryman at the present time.
2. Are you residing in Sydney at the present time? Yes.
3. You were the contractor in the year 1891 for Contract 21v and Contract 57u, in the Casino district? J. Brennan.
28 Oct., 1896.
Yes.
4. You did not finish the work, I understand? Not exactly; the Government put the metal on Contract 21v, and they cancelled Contract 57u.
5. Will you tell the Committee, as concisely as you can, the particulars of your claim on Contract 21v? I will. This contract was advertised in the *Richmond River Express*, of Casino, on 3rd April, 1891. Tenders, to close on 15th April, were invited for the erection of bridge over creek on road Casino to Lismore, near Tunstall. The time for closing tenders was extended to 23rd April, 1891. When I got notice that my tender was accepted I went to the creek near Tunstall. I could find no pegs. I met William Harley, the maintenance-man there; he did not know anything about the pegs, nor did he say it was not the place. I waited on Mr. Gracie next morning, 8th June, 1891. I requested that he would meet me on the site, by appointment, as I could find no pegs, and might put the temporary crossing in the way of the bridge. He said the bridge was going on the site of the old one, and that I could not go wrong with the crossing, and he told me to get the material delivered and he would be out there in a few days. When he came the crossing was complete, the piles, girders, and headstocks delivered, and the old bridge stripped. When he came he said this is not the place. I asked him what he was going to give me for what I had done. He said he could not send in a voucher for that, but he would allow me for it in something else, and would not keep me to time. I had to redeck the bridge and shift all material and crossing $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles into Lismore municipality, and the bridge was erected over a black gully, which terminated in a paddock at a distance of from 5 to 10 chains above the bridge. There were no pegs to be found on this site. The tracings did not suit the place. From B.M. mark given on gum-tree only half of the bridge would cross the gully. The piles for piers and wings and sawn timber for wales and bracing were too short, also twice the quantity of sheathing necessary, while the embankment in approaches was nearly three times the quantity on the tracing. This contract was carried out contrary to plan, specification, and district. I have a letter from the Departments that the approaches would be increased from 82 to 110 lineal yards (it should be from 61 to 110 lineal yards), a memo. that I would be paid for 1,660 cubic yards of earth embankment, instructions to supply 122 cubic yards of $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch metal and 122 cubic yards of 4-inch ballast, and 96 cubic yards of rubble; backing partly destroyed. These letters were sent in a registered letter from Broadwater on 23rd June, 1893. My plan and final voucher were left in the Works Office in Sydney by me in January. January, 1893, the Under Secretary for Works writes to me that £59 3s. 9d. was the amount of the final voucher, but that sums were afterwards paid, in pursuance of orders of the Court, which reduced it to £42 6s. 7d. In addition to this amount, £3 18s. 9d. has been allowed,

J. Brennan.
28 Oct., 1896.

allowed, making it a total of £46 5s. 4d. There have not been any orders of the Court on this contract. I gave Gilbert Hilliard an order for £4 (four pounds), which Mr. Gracie refused to pay, telling him there was no money coming on the contract. He paid it afterwards. I signed a bill for Neil McCall, amounting to £28, on this contract. In May, 1892, I signed a final voucher on Bean-tree Bridge contract. The amount was £35. When I signed it Mr. Gracie told me that he had paid Neil McCall £25 of the money. That would leave £7 against the contract. By my orders, in a letter from Mr. Gracie, I find he credits McCall with £11 to this contract. I would like the Departments to explain whom this £35 on Bean-tree Bridge contract was paid to. I signed the voucher, but got no money. At the same time I was asked to sign a voucher on Contract 57v—approaches to Bean-tree Bridge. I asked what he was going to do with the money. Mr. Gracie replied he would give it to the sureties for the work. I objected, and refused to sign it on those conditions. Two inspectors have reported on Contract No. 21v—Casino to Lismore. Mr. Hanna reported that the specifications were carelessly got up. Mr. Allman reported that, as the work was so long incomplete, he considered it desirable to keep the fines on, as the extras did not exceed £40. Mr. Gracie sent me a final voucher on this contract in March, 1892, for the sum of £29. £26 were to be paid to complete the work, leaving a balance of £3. I refused to sign it. He sent for it. I sent him my bill, which he returned, saying the voucher would be paid to his credit without my signature, and I might take whatever course I pleased.

6. You tendered for the bridge, understanding that it was to be built at another place? Yes.

7. You have not got the *Gazette* showing where it was called for in the first instance—whether it was to be over a creek or over a gully? It was over a creek.

8. You stripped a bridge on another creek, and made a temporary bridge? Yes.

9. Mr. Gracie, the Road Superintendent, came along, and told you that it was not the right place? Yes.

10. You had to build a bridge in another place? Yes.

11. A mile and a half away from the first place? Yes.

12. *Mr. Lyne.*] Did you not go to examine the site before you tendered for the bridge? No; I had never been there but once before.

13. What did you tender on? On the specifications and plan.

14. How long were you over contract time? I could not exactly say. The contract time was very nearly up before I started in the right place. It was supposed to be done in three months.

15. *Mr. Kelly.*] Before you got on to the right place the contract time was nearly up? Pretty well two months of the contract time had expired.

16. *Mr. Lyne.*] How much do you consider that the Department owes you on the contract now? £132 6s.

17. How much have they offered to pay you? £46 on that contract.

18. *Mr. Kelly.*] Does the sum of £132 6s. refer to two contracts? No; to one.

19. *Mr. Lyne.*] How long is it since the bridge was finished? Close on five years. There were three contracts.

20. Does the statement you read refer to one, two, or three contracts? It refers to one contract, and to a £35 final voucher on another bridge. Excepting the £35 voucher it refers to only one contract.

21. Did you complete the whole of the bridge on Contract 21v yourself? Mr. Gracie put on a few men to spread the metal on the road; that is all he did.

22. Why did he do that? He refused to send for any money for me to do it, and he moved for the cancellation of the other contract.

23. How much work do you say he did on the bridge on Contract 21v? He spread the metal on the road, at a cost of £26.

24. Did you refuse to do that? No.

25. Why didn't you do it? He would not send for any money to assist me to do it.

26. You had not money enough, I suppose, to do it? I had plenty of money to do it if he would let me have it.

27. He did not cancel the contract? No.

28. You said in answer to my question that you did not spread the metal because Mr. Gracie did not send for money due on the other contract? There was another contract finished with money owing on it.

29. What I want to get at is, why didn't you finish the Contract 21v? He reckoned that it was too long incomplete.

30. Had you no money to complete it? I had plenty of money to complete the job at the time.

31. Why didn't you complete it? He reckoned that it was not being done quickly enough.

32. *Chairman.*] Were you working on the job all the time? I was keeping it going, but I wanted to get the other job finished first. He disputed the quantities on this job before. He returned 1,236 yards for the quantities of earthwork, and I was not satisfied; I would not accept it. He remeasured it again, and returned for 1,660 yards. Even then the quantity was not in it, but I agreed to accept it if he would pay me. He wanted to get out of paying it at the finish.

33. *Mr. Lyne.*] I understand you to say that you did not complete this contract quickly, that you left it in abeyance, that you were not going on with it, and that Mr. Gracie took it out of your hands because you were over time, and finished it at a cost of £26 for spreading the metal? Yes.

34. You did not want to finish it, because you wished to finish the other two first? Yes.

35. Why? There was no necessity to finish this contract, because the road was clear and the traffic was going on. It was merely a matter of putting the metal on.

36. Was this bridge being used before the metal was put on? It was being used all the time; it was used for two months previously.

37. *Mr. Kelly.*] How many contracts have you carried out for the Department? Three altogether.

38. *Chairman.*] Will you now make a statement to the Committee in respect to Contract 57v? I will. I may state that the metal was an extra work, given by the Road Superintendent, Mr. Gracie, to me after the earthworks were finished. Contract No. 57v, of 1891, Casino to Mount Lindsay, was let to me on 19th November, 1891. According to the conditions of this contract they agreed to pay me 80 per cent. as the work proceeded. In a permit to start work they agreed to pay 70 per cent. each month as the work proceeded. They made no payment on the contract to 23rd February, 1892, when they returned for £80 (eighty pounds). Early in December, 1891, I signed a paper for all moneys coming to me to be paid to an account in the Commercial Bank in the names of the sureties of this contract—A. Cumming and T. J. Reddecliff. They were to go security for stores, and pay it to my credit as I required it. They did

did so for a time. On 23rd February they kept £80 on this contract and £45 on the Bean-tree Bridge contract. On the 3rd of March, 1892, I was in Mr. Gracie's office, and he told me that the sureties for this contract had requested him to take it out of my hands and give it to them; that they said they would lose money through me. He asked me if I would sign it over to them. This I refused to do. I gave A. Cumming a note that evening demanding an explanation. Next morning I got no reply, and I went and saw Mr. Gracie, and asked him to send for some money for me to enable me to complete the work. This he refused to do, saying that I and the sureties were partners, and he had seen a letter that morning in which I had been threatening them. He said, "Anyhow, I have moved for the cancellation of your contract this morning." That was 4th March, 1892. There was £35 due on Bean-tree Bridge; also £39 fine that has since been remitted; also the amount of claims in these two contracts. I sent him a letter for the Secretary of Public Works that on and after that date all money coming from Government should be paid to me, and no other person or persons. I went on the work and measured up the work; gave the men an order on Mr. Gracie for their money. Some of them he refused to pay, and I had to get them orders of the Court. You will see a letter where he charges this to Contract 21v. I was going by Cumming's place a few days after, and Cumming told me that he had a very snotty letter from Mr. Gracie. He showed me the letter; it read in reference to a request by him (Cumming) and T. J. Reddecliff. They could have this, my contract, providing they were responsible for all liabilities incurred. His bookkeeper is aware of this letter, and at present he lives in Glenmore-road, Sydney. A flood came and washed the contract away. The Department offered to complete it, and then consider my claims. This I objected to, as there was plenty of money in the Department belonging to me to have completed it, and have been paid for it before the flood came, on 27th of April. The Department has since paid the sureties £25 on the contract, and charged the wages on it to Contract No. 21v, which wages, I believe, they never paid.

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39. *Mr. Lyne.*] How much do you estimate the Department owes you on that contract? £69 13s. 4d.
40. Did you complete that contract? No.
41. Did the Department complete it for you? Not for me.
42. They charged you with it, didn't they? They refused to acknowledge owing me anything. I got nothing on it but £80 they paid to the sureties. It seems they had paid the sureties £20 on it afterwards without my consent.
43. If during the progress of the contract a flood came and washed away the bridge you were liable? The work was not a bridge, but approaches to the bridge. Mr. Gracie refused to give me money or to send for money for me to complete the work.
44. How much was given to you on the work done when he refused to send for money? £80.
45. That is 75 per cent. of the value of the work which was done? No. This was owing to me at the time Mr. Gracie cancelled the contract.
46. On that one bridge? The approaches to a bridge; I had completed the bridge; before this there was a second contract in the same place.
47. *Chairman.*] Contract 57v is not for a bridge, but for approaches to a bridge? Yes.
48. *Mr. Lyne.*] How much was the whole tender for it? £276 3s. 4d. There is an extra £28 12s. for culverts on Contract 57v.
49. Where is Mr. Gracie now? He is stationed in Glen Innes.
50. *Mr. Kelly.*] The bridge you mentioned is the first contract you did, and it is not included in this sum? Yes.
51. *Chairman.*] You were paid for that? I would like the Department to explain what is being done with the £35. Mr. Gracie told me that he paid McCall, a sub-contractor who worked on Contract 21v, £25 out of that sum, and he charges £11 to McCall later on.
52. Did you owe McCall this money? Yes. It is alright if he has paid that money to him. He could not pay him £25 and pay him £11 afterwards, as I only owed him £28 in all.
53. *Mr. Lyne.*] Could you not find out from McCall whether he received the money? I wrote to him, but he did not supply the information. He may have charged more to the contract than he has a right to charge.
54. I suppose what you want is to get the Department to pay you the balance of the money? Yes.

THURSDAY, 5 NOVEMBER, 1896.

Present:—

Mr. HARRIS, | Mr. LYNE.
ROBERT PYERS, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

Percy Scarr sworn and examined:—

55. *Chairman.*] What is your position? I am Principal Assistant Engineer for Roads.
56. Do you know the particulars of Mr. Brennan's claim? I only know what I see in the papers. I have no personal knowledge of the matter. The papers are all here.
57. *Mr. Lyne.*] Mr. Brennan has stated that he had three contracts from the Department? I understand that he had Contracts 57v, 21v, and 27.
58. Can you state the circumstances under which the local officer refused to pay the balance which was due on Contract 21v? I have a statement which was drawn up for me in the office from the papers, at the time I was dealing with the case.
59. It is a *précis* of the case, I suppose? Yes.

P. Scarr.
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P. Scarr. 60. Will you read the *précis* to the Committee? It is as follows:—

JOHN BRENNAN'S CLAIM ON CONTRACT 91-21U—BRIDGE OVER CREEK ON ROAD CASINO TO LISMORE.		£	s.	d.
Amount of Contract		302	18	2
Extras.....		75	5	7
		<u>£378</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>9</u>
Less advances on a/c.....		289	0	0
		<u>£89</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>9</u>
Overtime fines—23 weeks @ £3	£69	0	0	
Less remitted—13 weeks @ £3	39	0	0	
		<u>30</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
		<u>£59</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>9</u>
Wages claims paid		16	17	2
		<u>£42</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
Additional extras approved since final voucher.....		3	18	9
		<u>£46</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>

The amount of the final voucher, £59 3s. 9d., was paid to the local officer's credit, and out of it orders of the Court, amounting to £16 17s. 2d., as shown above, were paid, leaving a balance of £42 6s. 7d.

Difficulty then arose as to final adjustment of contract. It appears that Brennan had signed an order to pay all money due to the credit of his sureties, who were finding nearly everything to carry on the work, Brennan being practically insolvent. This order he subsequently cancelled, and the sureties sued him for amount of a guarantee bond of £100 to the Bank, but they were non-suited on a point of law.

It was then decided to pay the balance, £42 6s. 7d. (which had been held by local officer for about eight months pending decision of Court), to Brennan, but on payment being offered he refused to accept it on the grounds that it was less than he was entitled to.

The matter was fully considered, and on the recommendation of Mr. Divisional-Engineer Hanna, Mr. Secretary Lyne approved, 25/3/93, of an additional amount of £3 18s. 9d. (making a total of £46 5s. 4d.) being offered, without prejudice, as payment in full of all demands. Voucher for £3 18s. 9d. was passed for payment and forwarded to local officer.

The proposed settlement, however, Brennan persistently refused to agree to, and the amount of vouchers (£46 5s. 4d.) was refunded to Treasury.

Considerable correspondence has since passed between Brennan and the Department, but his applications for increased payment for extras, and for further remission of fines, have been several times refused.

As recently as January of this year an interview was held between the local officer and Brennan, with a view to a settlement, but although Mr. Gracie offered (without prejudice) to make very considerable concessions, the offer was refused, Brennan speaking of getting a Select Committee of Parliament appointed to look into the case.

It was then stated by the local officer that one of Brennan's creditors was taking steps to compel sequestration of his estate, but nothing further has been heard of this.

Mr. Secretary Lyne approved, 12/2/94, of the previous decision being adhered to, viz., that claims be not recognised. Similar action was taken with regard to a later communication from Brennan, dated 15/3/94, again urging his claims.

Mr. Pears, M.P., now forwards a letter from Brennan, dated "Debtors' Prison, Casino Gaol," 23rd November, asking that he may be paid £40 on account, pending a final settlement of his claim.

Then there are recommendations and minutes on the papers.

61. The fines amounted to £69;—is there anything in the papers to show that the bridge was not erected on the site which was first pointed out to Mr. Brennan? I am not aware.

62. Mr. Brennan in his evidence at our last meeting stated that the site which was first pointed out to him, and for which he tendered was abandoned, and that the bridge was moved a mile or two away, and he explained that that was one cause of the delay for which the fines were charged? There is nothing about that in any of the statements. It is a long time since I went through the papers.

63. Have you a copy of the *Gazette* notice calling for the tenders? It is not a *Gazette* notice, but a notice in a local newspaper in these terms:—

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

TENDERS are invited up to noon on Wednesday, 23rd April, for supply and erection of bridge (2 spans) on road, Casino to Lismore, near Tunstall.

Specifications may be seen at the Court-houses, Casino and Lismore.

Tenders to be marked "Tender for Bridge," and to be addressed to the undersigned.

Time of receipt of tenders has been extended to noon on the 22nd instant.

ARTHUR GRACIE,
Resident Engineer.

Roads Office, Casino, 31st March, 1891.

64. I notice in the advertisement, in the first paragraph, that tenders are invited up to the 23rd April, and in the last paragraph it says the time of receipt of tenders has been extended to the 22nd instant, although the notice is dated the 31st March? I take it that the explanation is that the advertisement was originally written out on the 31st March for tenders to close on the 15th April, and that this is a second notice extending the time to the 23rd April, and they have, by some means or other, retained the original date. The two things conflict with each other.

65. There are three mistakes in this notice? Yes.

66. *Chairman.*] You have not a copy of the *Gazette* notice calling for tenders? Tenders were not called for in the *Gazette*.

67. *Mr. Lyne.*] Is it possible to find out the reason why the site was altered? I could find out if there is any reference to it in the papers by going through them.

68. What I want to find out is whether the work was delayed in consequence of the site being altered? I do not know.

69. It appears from the papers that he was allowed four months over and above the contract time before they commenced to charge any fines;—will you read the next paper bearing on this contract? The next paper is a report from Mr. Allman to the Commissioner and the Engineer-in-Chief for Roads in these terms:—

J. BRENNAN APPLYING FOR REMISSION OF FINE ON CONTRACT 21U, CASINO TO LISMORE, AND FURTHER *Re* ALLEGED BALANCE DUE ON CONTRACT.

Mr. Brennan makes application herein for remission of £30 fine, imposed on Contract 21U, and reopens the apparently interminable question of balance alleged to be due for extra work on same contract.

The claim for extra work has been very fully dealt with by Mr. Hanna and the local officer, and has been disallowed by Ministerial direction, consequently no useful purpose can now be served by discussing this matter further.

With

With regard to remission of fines.—The original contract was for £302 18s.; time for completion, three months; actual overtime twenty-seven weeks, of which only ten weeks has been charged as a fine in final voucher. It will thus be seen that the contractor has been allowed four months over and above time specified for completion. This, when the actual extra work amounted to only £101 12s. 4d., is a very liberal allowance, and I cannot see how any further concession can be granted, more particularly having in view the unsatisfactory manner in which the contractor appears to have carried on his work.

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70. In one paper here it says, "The contract has been delayed for the causes stated";—what are the causes stated? I do not know what they would be.
71. I do not see anything in the papers about the site? I have no recollection of anything of the kind. It would have got into the *précis* had there been any alteration.
72. *Chairman.*] Are not tenders called for in the *Gazette*? Not always. At that time frequently they were only called for in local newspapers for these small bridges.
73. And there is nothing in the papers about the site? No.
74. Is there anything to show whether the bridge is to be built over a gully or over a creek? I do not see anything.
75. *Mr. Lyne.*] You know of no instructions to put the bridge on one site and afterwards to alter it? I have no recollection of anything of that kind occurring.
76. *Chairman.*] Does it say that it is a bridge over a creek, near Tunstall? It says, "On road, Casino to Lismore, near Tunstall."
77. Is there nothing about a creek or gully in the notice? No.
78. Mr. Alliman inspected the work? Yes; he is acquainted with the whole case.
79. *Mr. Lyne.*] With reference to Contract 57u, will you read the *précis* of the case? It is as follows:—

CONTRACT NO. 57U.—ROAD, CASINO TO MOUNT LINDSAY—APPROACHES TO BRIDGE OVER BEAN-TREE CROSSING.

This contract was let to John Brennan for the sum of £276 3s. 4d., the bond being signed on the 19th November, 1891.

On the 7th March, 1892, the resident engineer (Mr. Gracie) reported by telegram that contractor was seven weeks over time, and work was not more than half completed. Contractor had just had a meeting of his creditors, and could not possibly finish, as he was without means. He (Mr. Gracie) recommended cancellation of contract and transfer to sureties, who had up to date paid all charges. Supervising Engineer concurred.

Minister approved, and cancellation notice was accordingly issued, 21/3/92.

After a long report (6/4/92) had been received from Mr. Gracie, in which he recommended that contract be determined, work done paid for, and new arrangements made for the completion for reasons stated, telegrams came to hand stating that Brennan's sureties were willing to complete the work under contract, and take over all liabilities.

The papers were then sent to Mr. Norrie as to the course to be followed, and he stated that if the amount of new contract for completing the works exceeded £200 the contractors (Brennan's sureties) must enter into a bond with sureties, and as these gentlemen were willing to take over all Brennan's liabilities herein, a schedule of these liabilities should be prepared, and made part of whatever document was signed.

Acting on Mr. Statham's instructions, Mr. Gracie, 4/5/92, forwarded the following list of Brennan's liabilities under the contract:—

Edward Murray	£	s.	d.
J. Jalland	3	4	0
D. O'Neill	11	7	6
W. Ryan	8	10	2
J. Doherty	2	14	10
	4	4	1
These are all orders of Court	£30	0	7
D. McCarthy	1	10	0
A. Murray	2	0	0
J. Kelly	2	8	0
M. Jamieson	1	2	0
These are all acknowledged debts	£7	0	0
	30	0	7
	7	0	0
Total liabilities	£37	0	7

He also strongly recommended that the contract be at once wound up as the sureties did not wish to complete, and it would in every way be more convenient for the Department to bring "this troublesome and confused matter" to an end.

The Minister has since approved of the work being completed by day-labour.

The Local Officer submitted a voucher for £37 in favour of the sureties in order to pay for useful work and material on the ground, and the Supervising Engineer recommended payment, but the Commissioner considered payment should stand over until completion of the work, as the balance for completion was £196 13s. 4d., and estimated cost of works to be done, £188. He minuted, "See also telegram," and it is on telegram that approval is given to work being done by day-labour, but voucher does not appear to have been dealt with.

Brennan applied through Mr. T. T. Ewing, M.P., 10/9/92, for payment of balance due on contracts.

Voucher is now submitted for payment for £37 2s. Mr. Steel returned this to Mr. Statham, 19/9/92, with a minute to the effect that Ministerial approval is required to taking the work out of sureties' hands, and payment of the voucher for £37 2s. as termination of the contract.

From the papers it would not appear that the placing of work in sureties hands ever actually took place, though Ministerial approval was given thereto.

It now remains to decide whether or not this voucher should be paid to the sureties at the present time, or whether it be held over pending completion of work under general conditions of contract.

Mr. Statham recommends that it be paid on condition of sureties signing an agreement to discharge liability for claims submitted.

Mr. Steel states that when he wrote minute of 19/9/92 he had not seen Minister's approval to do work by day-labour, and he now thinks voucher should be held over until completion of work, when Mr. Gracie should render statement showing amount of contract, amount paid under contract, and amount paid for work done by day-labour, consideration might then be given to the question of paying the surplus, if any, to the sureties.

There is a later statement in John Brennan's contracts, dated 13/1/94, as follows:—

27U.—ERECTOR OF BRIDGE OVER BEAN-TREE CROSSING, ON ROAD CASINO TO MOUNT LINDSAY.

57U.—APPROACHES TO BRIDGE, BEAN-TREE CROSSING—ROAD CASINO TO MOUNT LINDSAY.

On 5th December, 1891, Brennan executed an order to pay all moneys to Messrs. A. Cummings and T. J. Reddacliff, sureties for Contract 59U.

Contract 27 was completed, and fine for thirteen weeks overtime, £39, was remitted, 22/5/93, and part of this amount was, under order of Court, used to pay a creditor—Robert Cressy—£28 7s. 10d., being £23 3s. 2d. amount claimed, and £5 4s. 8d. costs of Court, and the balance £10 12s. 2d., after being offered to Brennan, and, as reported by Mr. Gracie, on paper attached, refused by him, was refunded to the Treasury, 22/1/94.

57U.

P. Scarr.

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57*v*. Part of the work was done by Brennan, and the contract was cancelled through delays in completion, and approval given for transfer to his sureties; but as circumstances had rendered necessary certain alterations in the proposed work it was eventually decided to complete the work by day-labour.

It was then decided to allow payment for all work done under contract, and the Local Officer made a report and estimate of amount to be paid with a view to the claims by workmen being settled—£37 6s. 7d. Mr. Gracie, Local Officer, in his report stated that the floods had destroyed some of the work done in approaches, and that the metal was not to specification, and estimated the value of the work to the Department at £117 2s. 1d.

Brennan had been paid £80 as an advance on the contract, and the balance (£37 2s. 1d.) was paid to Brennan's sureties.

Brennan wrote to the Department in January, 1893, claiming £70 5s. 5d. as being due to him on this contract (57*v*) after deducting amounts, £70 for advances and £23 7s. 7d. for wages, from value of work done—£164 3s.

The rates quoted by him do not agree with those in his tender with Bond. The amount of advance is given at £70 instead of £80.

Brennan was informed (22 4 93) that a voucher was in course of payment to be paid to his sureties, the voucher being for £37 2s. 1d., amount referred to above.

Brennan has written several times since asking that the matter may be settled, but as far as the papers show nothing has been written in reply to his claim.

Perhaps the best course would be to inform Brennan that, as the contract was cancelled, he has no claim upon the Government, and also that, as a matter of grace, the Department paid for the value of work so as to meet the claims of workmen.

There is a later statement still, dated 14th May, 1895, as follows:—

JOHN BRENNAN'S CLAIM FOR BALANCE ALLEGED TO BE DUE TO HIM ON CONTRACT 91/57*v*. APPROACHES TO BEAN-TREE CROSSING—ROAD, CASINO TO MOUNT LINDEAY.

Full statements of this case are with the file, 94,2,990 and 92,9,224.

The contract which was for £276 3s. 4d. was, owing to unsatisfactory progress, cancelled 12/3/92, and the work completed by day-labour.

It was decided to allow payment at Local Officer's valuation for all work done under the contract.

This Mr. Gracie estimated at £117 2s. 1d., and an advance of £80 having been already paid, the balance, £37 2s. 1d., was, on approval of Mr. Secretary Lyne, paid to Brennan's sureties to allow them to pay the workmen engaged upon the contract.

Brennan now writes through Mr. Pyers, M.P., claiming an additional amount of £77 15s. 11d., which he says is due to him on the contract.

It appears quite evident from the papers that there is nothing due on the contract in question, and that the contract having been cancelled Brennan can have no legal claim.

80. *Chairman.*] To whom was the sum of £80 you mentioned paid? The statement here is that it was paid to Mr. Brennan, but it does not necessarily follow from that that it was paid to Mr. Brennan himself—it may have been paid to his sureties. It is stated that Brennan executed in December, 1891, an order to pay all moneys to Mr. Reddacliff and another. If that advance of £80 was paid subsequent to that order being signed it would be paid to the credit of those persons in the usual course.

81. Referring to the Bean-tree bridge contract, to whom was the sum of £35 paid? There is no statement here about the Bean-tree bridge.

82. *Mr. Lyne.*] Do I understand from the *précis* of Contract 21*v* that a balance of £40 has been placed in the Treasury, that Mr. Brennan has been offered the money since, and that he has refused to accept it? Yes; the amount is £46 5s. 4d.

83. *Chairman.*] As regards the statement of the amount of wages on Contract 21*v*, to whom was the sum of £16 for orders of the Court paid? The statement says:—"The amount of the final voucher, £59 3s. 9d., was paid to the Local Officer's credit, and out of it orders of the Court amounting to £16 17s. 2d., as shown above, were paid, leaving a balance of £42 6s. 7d."

84. *Mr. Lyne.*] That would be orders obtained by creditors at some time—by the men? Yes.

85. *Mr. Harris.*] From what I can gather from these statements Mr. Brennan signed an order that his sureties were to get all money paid? Yes; the usual order. It says here:—"On 5th December, 1891, he executed an order to pay all moneys to Messrs. A. Cummings and T. J. Reddacliff, sureties for Contract 59*v*." The sureties for Bridge Contract 21*v* were Alfred C. Simpson and Alexander Cummings, not Reddacliff and Cummings, who were sureties for Contract 59*v*.

86. *Mr. Lyne.*] Did Brennan give an order to pay all moneys on Contract 21*v* to these sureties? It appears so.

87. Will you be good enough to make sure that he did, because he said something about that the other day? The order does not appear to be here; probably it is in the accountant's office.

88. Is the order he signed to pay over the money there? No; that probably is still with the accountant. It could be obtained from the accounts.

89. Can you say whether or not he signed away the moneys on Contract 21*v* to sureties—Reddacliff and somebody else? I could not say beyond what is stated here.

90. Was the money which you referred to as being paid away—£16 and another amount—due on Contract 21*v*?

91. You said it was paid by order of the Court? £16 17s. 2d. is due on Contract 21*v*.

92. Where is the authority for paying that sum? I do not see the order here.

93. *Chairman.*] Do you mean for paying the claims? Yes. I do not see it stated here what authority there was for paying that.

94. Was there any other money on Contract 21*v* paid to the sureties of the other Contract 57? That I could not say.

TUESDAY, 10 NOVEMBER, 1896.

Present:—

Mr. HARRIS, | Mr. KELLY.

ROBERT PYERS, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Arthur Gracie, Road Superintendent, sworn and examined:—

A. Gracie,

10 Nov., 1896.

95. *Chairman.*] What is your occupation? I am Road Superintendent in the Public Works Department.

96. You are residing in Glen Innes at the present time? Yes.

97. You were the engineer for the work on Contracts 21*v* and 27*v* in the Casino district at the time Brennan carried them out? I was.

98.

98. Brennan has stated in his evidence that he was directed in the first instance to go to the wrong site, and that after he had done some work there he was shown the proper site? The site of the bridge for which tenders were called was about 3 miles from Lismore, over Black Gully. Brennan secured the contract. As far as I know there were iron-spikes in the road-way denoting the site of the proper bridge which, of course, were not very visible, as it was to be erected on a traffic road, it would have been dangerous to have had them very prominent above the metal—the spikes were driven into the metal. However, the site was well known, for I afterwards inquired from several contractors who tendered for the work, and there was no doubt whatever in their minds as to the site of the bridge they tendered for. I heard nothing from Brennan. He did not come near the office to ask that the work be laid out. The first time I saw him was when I happened to be casually riding along the road on other business. I then saw him at work at a creek about 2 miles to the west of the proper site, that is on the Casino side. I asked him what he was doing. I informed him that he was at the wrong place, and he accordingly moved on to the proper site. At that time he had some girders across the creek, as the commencement of a temporary structure, and he had commenced to dismantle the existing bridge. The site he adopted as the proper one was in no way similar to the site as depicted on the plans and sections. I know of nothing which could have induced him to start to erect the bridge where he did. It seemed to be just as unaccountable as if I had told him to erect a bridge over the Hawkesbury and he had put it over the Nepean River.

A. Gracie.
10 Nov., 1896.

99. Were tenders called in the *Gazette* for the work? I am almost sure they were. It used to be the practice then as it is now to do so.

100. *Mr. Kelly.*] Tenders were called in the local Press as well as the *Gazette*? Yes. The matter was initiated by Mr. Allman, of the Lismore district. Mr. Allman prepared the section of the bridge. It was in his district then, but at the time of calling for tenders it was in my district.

101. *Mr. Harris.*] You had a maintenance-man with you at the time you saw Brennan on the road;—do you remember his name? I believe a man named Alecock was with me at the time.

102. You do not remember a man named William Harley? Yes.

103. Could he have pointed any pegs to Brennan? Yes; he knew the site of the bridge.

104. If Brennan had gone to Harley he could have been told the site of the bridge? Certainly. He put up the bridge at a totally dissimilar place. The section was nothing like what was shown on the plan. We have since put up a bridge at the place where he proposed to put up the bridge. It is a structure consisting of three spans instead of two. As for Brennan's bridge, it is also a very much higher bridge.

105. *Chairman.*] When you met Brennan at the place did he ask you what you were going to give him for doing some work in a wrong place;—did you agree to allow him anything for stripping the bridge? Certainly not, the mistake was unaccountable to me.

106. Did he make any complaint when you drew his attention to the fact that he was at the wrong place;—did he say anything to you? No; except that there were no pegs in; there were no pegs in at the place where he commenced to put up the bridge. He might as well have put it up 5 or 10 miles this side of the site. There were no visible pegs at proper site, but Mr. Allman had driven spikes into the metal, which was really all that could be done.

107. Of course the tenders must have been called for in the local papers? I see a copy of the advertisement among the departmental papers. I admit that the situation of the creek is not well defined on the plan or specification, except that it is near Tunstall. The creek had no name on the map, but it was locally known as the Black Gully, near Tunstall.

108. *Chairman.*] Why was the stuff in the embankment increased from 61 yards to 110 yards;—that is nearly twice the original quantity? There was a mistake in the plans at the head office. This section is not correct. I had nothing to do with the work before the tenders were called for. I had nothing to do with the preparation of the section or of the plans. I found when I took it over that the section was wrong—that the bed of the creek had been shown at the level of the existing culvert; that involved extras on everything—extra length of piles, wales, bracing, sheathing, and rubble filling. What is shown on plan as the bed of the creek is the roadway level of the old culvert.

109. *Mr. Harris.*] The tenders were advertised to close on the 15th April, and the time was extended to the 23rd April;—do you know why the time was extended for a week? I do not recollect.

110. Was it found out during this time that there was a mistake made in the plan? No; that was found out afterwards.

111. The driving of iron pegs down into the metal is the usual manner in which you mark out where a bridge is going to be built? Yes, when traffic has to use the road.

112. *Chairman.*] I thought it was usual to drive in wooden pegs? In macadamised roads we generally drive in iron spikes, but in other situations we use wooden pegs.

113. *Mr. Harris.*] Was this contract carried out contrary to the plans, specification, and district? No; the contract was carried out according to the plans, with that exception, and that was a matter of schedule quantities, which we adjusted afterwards.

114. *Mr. Kelly.*] You say that Brennan has no further claim against the Department? I do not know of any fair claim which he can possibly have now; I think that the Department has dealt with him liberally.

115. *Chairman.*] As regards the dispute about the remeasurements—after some trouble you gave him fresh measurements? I allowed him extra measurements on some of the items.

116. You allowed him a considerable lot more embankment than you agreed to give him at first? I am not sure whether it was not a couple of hundred yards; I cannot say exactly without looking over the papers. The measurements of the earth-work were difficult to make, and I was inclined to be liberal with him to cover any possible error; the ground was very uneven and scoured out. There was an old embankment underneath which had to be deducted. We measured the excavation as carefully as possible, and arrived, after a conference with Brennan, at what I think was a very fair calculation of the quantities.

117. But this additional lot which you agreed to give him was only offered after he had refused to accept what you first offered him? Yes.

118. He demurred to taking the first measurements? Yes.

119. Afterwards you agreed to give him an extended measurement? Yes; I asked him for his calculations.

A. Gracie.
10 Nov., 1896.

120. You did not agree to give him anything for the work he did at the bridge on the other side of Tunstall? No; because I considered that was quite unaccountable and foolish on his part.

121. Did you agree not to bind him to time because he had carried out some work there? I would not have said that. I might have said that possibly he would get some consideration on account of the mistake he had made.

122. *Mr. Harris.*] Do you know how long he had for completing the bridge? I could not say without looking at the specifications.

123. Do you know if he was over his time? I have not had a chance yet to look through all the papers. My memory does not serve me sufficiently well to say he was over his time. I know there was a lot of extra work.

124. How long is it since the bridge has been built? About four or five years.

125. *Chairman.*] Did Mr. Hanna report on the bridge? On the claims.

126. Have you ever heard that he said that these specifications were carelessly got up? No; I never heard that.

127. *Mr. Kelly.*] In the matter of disputes with contractors as to measurements I suppose it often occurs, or sometimes occurs, after a conference with them, that you make some extra allowance for something which they have pointed out? Yes; we try to meet them in a fair way in matters of doubt or dispute. We would be willing to give and take a little; we would rather give more than less.

128. Especially as regards the measurement of an embankment? Yes; where it is absolutely impossible in some cases to get an exact measurement. In this case I was in a position to get very close to the measurement, by reason of having taken a good many cross-sections of the old embankment before the new one went over the top of it.

129. Was this work carried out well? Yes.

130. From your point of view, was it carried out satisfactorily? I do not recollect having anything to find fault with as regards the work.

131. *Chairman.*] The dispute is only as to the measurements and as to the site? That is all in connection with that contract.

132. *Mr. Harris.*] He had more contracts than this one? He had two other contracts going on about the same period.

133. *Mr. Kelly.*] Were not the payments on previous contracts mixed up with the payments on this contract in some peculiar way? I do not think there was any confusion in connection with this contract; it went on smoothly. The final payment, according to my voucher, was £59 odd, and then there was a claim against that which reduced it to £42.

134. That is an outside claim which you had to meet? Yes; this balance was offered to Brennan as full payment for the work, and he refused the offer.

135. On the ground that this claim was not met? No; on the ground that it did not include his own claims as regards the site and the extras. The money was eventually sent down to the Treasury to the Suspense Account.

136. He did not object to your paying the claims which you felt called upon to pay, but he objected to accept your offer on the ground that there was not enough money coming to him? On the ground that it was not large enough; that I had allowed him nothing for shifting from the site where he first commenced to work, nor for sufficient extra work.

137. His main objection, I suppose, was, that he should have been allowed something for the error as to the site? Yes; and he claimed an extra small amount in connection with various items of the work which we could not allow.

138. *Chairman.*] There was a payment of £25 to a man named Neill McCall? I think it was £17.

139. What was the money paid to McCall for? For work done on the approaches to the bridge.

140. Are you sure that the amount of £17 was paid to McCall? £16 7s. 2d. was paid out of that £59 on orders of the Court. I do not see the vouchers among these papers at the moment, but I know that he was one of the creditors for wages due.

141. Did Brennan finish the contract himself? Yes.

142. Did you do anything, or did he finish it? He finished it. He afterwards improved it, but that was another matter.

143. Was it extra work you did? It had nothing to do with his contract. It was afterwards found to be necessary to prevent a scour.

144. *Mr. Harris.*] You did not refuse to send for any money for Brennan? No; I was always prepared to settle up.

145. You did not put on any men to spread metal? I see now from the papers that I employed labour to finish up the contract for him.

146. *Chairman.*] Then he did not finish the contract himself? According to our views he finished the contract, inasmuch as we did not cancel it. He still remained the contractor, although we put on men to expedite the completion of the contract, as we sometimes do in cases where the progress is too slow.

147. There was no charge made to him for that;—you deducted nothing out of his contract? We deducted the value of these men's labour from his final voucher.

148. Could you ascertain by a reference to the papers the cost of spreading that metal on the road? We deducted £26 6s. 9d. from his contract for labour employed by the Department.

149. That is for spreading the metal and for other works? For spreading the metal and for breaking some metal too.

150. Why did you put these men on to spread the metal? The work was going on altogether too slowly. Brennan's finances seemed to be running out, and probably he was unable to carry out the work.

151. Had he money coming to him from the Department at this time? Only the final payment, which was not due until he finished up.

152. *Mr. Kelly.*] You made, I suppose, the necessary allowance for the change of the plan which necessitated a change of timbers to a certain extent? We allowed him schedule rates for extras in every case.

153. *Chairman.*] With regard to Contract 57v,—“Approaches to Beau-tree Bridge,” the built the bridge, and that work was finished and done with before he commenced to build the approaches? Yes.

154. How was Contract 57v carried out? Very unsatisfactorily.

155. He did not finish that contract? No; we cancelled it. We paid him the value of the work done as a special concession.

156. Was that work carried out by the sureties, or by the Department? By the Department.
157. What was the reason for cancelling the contract? Its slow progress. To the best of my recollection he had pretty well abandoned the work.
158. Were the approaches ever washed away by a flood while he was carrying out the contract? No; not to any great extent. He had not sufficient work done to make any washing away a serious matter. Of course, the river used to rise very often there. We valued the work he had completed at £117. The amount of the contract was £276 3s. 4d.
159. Was the work carried out at his expense, and was the cost of finishing the work charged to his contract? No; the contract was transferred to his sureties and then cancelled.
160. It was afterwards carried out by the Department? Yes; we finished it. We determined the value of Brennan's work at £117. He had an advance of £80; the balance of £37 2s. 1d. was paid to his sureties, to whom the contract had been transferred.
161. *Mr. Kelly.*] Brennan states in his evidence that there was some great delay in paying him on account of this contract, that the agreement was that he should be paid 70 per cent. per month as the work proceeded, but that as a matter of fact nothing was paid till the 23rd February? We usually pay them when they have sufficient work done to make it worth while to give them an advance—about once a month is stated in the conditions.
162. You have no agreement that you will pay them about once a month? About once a month, as the work proceeds.
163. In this case, I suppose, you did pay when there was enough work done to pay on? Yes; we gave him an advance of £80.
164. *Chairman.*] He had money coming to him, then, when you cancelled that contract? I do not think, after the fines were deducted, he would have had anything coming to him.
165. How is it that money was paid to his sureties afterwards? The contract was transferred to them.
166. What were they paid money for;—did they do any work on the contract after Brennan left? No.
167. If you paid the sureties £37 2s. 1d. he must have had that money coming to him when he left? We always have to deduct the fines due at the time the advances are being made out. Then there is the percentage reduction.
168. Was he fined on this contract? There was no fine deducted. He was treated liberally. He was given the value of his work done, which was a concession. When a contract is cancelled the whole of the money, as a rule, is lost.
169. *Mr. Kelly.*] In your opinion, Brennan has no cause of complaint—you paid him in full on this contract? We paid him in full for the value of his work done at the time on the basis of his schedule rates where he had any completed work, and on the basis of a fair valuation for uncompleted work—that is, for work half finished, and so on.
170. *Mr. Harris.*] Was he allowed for the material on the ground? He was allowed for all material on the ground. What is he claiming?
171. *Chairman.*] He is claiming £69 13s. 4d. on this contract. You say that the work was never washed away during the time he was carrying it out? Perhaps some damage was done, because the river used often to rise. He was taking a good while over the contract, and probably on account of the delay the work was damaged to some extent. It would be damaged every fresh, even after it was finished.
172. *Mr. Kelly.*] What is the usual practice in such cases;—do you allow the contractor to take full risk? Yes.
173. So that even if the work were ever so much damaged, you claim that you are not responsible for it? He would not get a penny more.
174. *Chairman.*] Did Brennan apply to you for money on this contract, and did you refuse to pay? I have no recollection of it. He used to have his dealings with his sureties, who were supposed to supply him with money, and it would probably be his sureties who would come to see me. I have no recollection of any disagreement with him on that score. I could not say how he makes up the claim of £69.

A. Gracie.
10 Nov., 1896.

WEDNESDAY, 11 NOVEMBER, 1896.

Present:—

MR. F. CLARKE,

MR. HARRIS,

MR. KELLY.

ROBERT PYERS, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

Arthur Gracie recalled and further examined:—

175. *Chairman.*] Do you remember Brennan being at your office at Casino before you saw him at the site of the bridge over the creek near Tunstall? I have no recollection of Brennan having come into my office on the business of wishing to know where the site of the bridge was, or of requesting me to go out and point out the site for him; in fact, I am sure he did not come.
176. Did you go over the crossing he erected on the day you saw him or on the site near Tunstall? No; I was on horseback. I do not think it was in a state to allow one to cross over on horseback.
177. In what way did you get over? I went over the old bridge.
178. Was there any particular business on at Lismore on that day? I could not say.
179. Do you remember any law cases being on that day? No; I recollect no law case in which I was interested.
180. Was this contract for a bridge over creek on road Casino to Lismore advertised? It was.
181. What quantities of earth-work did you agree to pay for on this contract? Between 1,600 and 1,700 cubic yards.
182. What quantity of ballast did you agree to pay for? Metal, 120·88 cubic yards; ballast, 134·80 cubic yards.
183. Why did you refuse to pay for them in the final voucher? I did not refuse. Here is the final voucher certified by me. The Department never refused to pay Brennan for these items.
184. Why did you refuse to pay for 1,660 yards of earth-work? We have got down here 830 cubic yards as an extra on his contract. There is a certain quantity to be done by him under the specification.

A. Gracie.
11 Nov., 1896.

- A. Gracie. 185. What is the quantity according to the specification? I made the total 1,515 yards of earth-work, and we allowed him 122 yards more on revision of the matter to attempt a settlement.
- 11 Nov., 1896. 186. What was the total quantity in the approaches according to the tracings on the plan? 685 cubic yards. We did allow Brennan between 1,600 and 1,700 cubic yards. I put 122 yards more on to attempt a settlement with him afterwards, so that it makes a total of 1,637 cubic yards, which we offered to pay him, less the original amount of earth-work, leaving an extra of 952 cubic yards under the heading of earth-work.
187. What was the total quantity of the earth-work metal and ballast according to the tracings? 685 cubic yards.
188. Is that of earth or metal? Of earth.
189. What was the quantity of metal specified in the original specification? $92\frac{1}{2}$ cubic yards.
190. What was the quantity of 4-inch ballast specified? 134.8 cubic yards.
191. What was the full length of the approaches according to the tracing? 182 feet.
192. Is not the quantity of metal specified $1\frac{1}{2}$ yards to the lineal yard of road? Yes.
193. What is the quantity of 4-inch ballast specified per lineal yard of road? $1\frac{1}{2}$ cubic yards. Those quantities were afterwards altered by me.
194. Would that be $60\frac{3}{4}$ yards in length according to the tracing? $60\frac{3}{4}$ lineal yards.
195. What would the total quantity of ballast be, according to that measurement? A total of 91 cubic yards.
196. How was it that no pegs could be found in the gully near Lismore municipality? Because they were not visible. No one could have found the pegs except he knew where to look for them. Brennan certainly could not find them.
197. How was it that Mr. Smallwood could not find them? He was not there when they were put in. It is a matter of extreme difficulty to find them.
198. Were there gum-trees at each site at the time? There were gum-trees all over that locality. There were no gum-trees at the proper site, except a few scattered ones. It was a rather thick brush gully where he started to put up the bridge, but at the other site there were clear banks.
199. How was it that the bridge would not be over the gully according to the tracings on B.M. mark on gum-trees;—it specifies on plan from B.M. mark on gum-trees? We put B.M.'s all over the country. That simply means bench-mark. It is a standard point in levelling.
200. How was it that Mr. Smallwood found out this to be the site of the pier? I was not aware that he found anything of the sort.
201. There is his mark there? No; that is the abutment of the old bridge, which extended from 289 feet 6 inches on section to 327 feet on section.
202. You say that there were no gum-trees on the proper site? I could not be sure. It was a black-soil plain; the other was not. There is no country about there quite untimbered; there may have been a few scattered gum-trees on the plain.
203. Why is the plan marked "Datum-peg 40 feet below B.M. mark on gum-tree, south side" if this is the proper site? There may have been a gum-tree there. I am not prepared to swear that there was not one gum-tree there to put the bench-mark on. In fact there must have been one close by, as it so stated on the plan.
204. You have said that there was not any gum-trees there? No; it is hard to find a place about the Richmond where you could not find a tree to put a bench-mark on.
205. How was it that the plan did not in any way correspond with the present construction? It was a mistake of the office.
206. What quantities in the embankment did you write to Neill McCall? I have no record of them, except in the Casino office, perhaps. I am away from that office now; I left that district.
207. Did Mr. Hilliard, who was the foreman on the job, let you know when the metal was all broken on this contract? I did not wish to know; I had men breaking it myself, and guaranteed them the payment. Mr. Brennan did not finish the metalling; I had it finished. I would not naturally want to be informed by him. I would inform him if he had been finishing the work himself.
208. Hilliard was the foreman on the work? I finished the metalling myself; it was measured as soon as it was broken.
209. Did you instruct Hilliard and the other men to put the metal on? I suppose so. We were carrying on the work ourselves pretty well, guaranteeing them the payment for everything they did.
210. Why did you refuse to pay Hilliard and McCall when Brennan gave them an order for the money? We never pay such orders.
211. Referring to the final voucher on Contract 27v Bean-tree Bridge,—whom did you pay that £35 to;—did you pay the £35 which was owing on Contract 27v or Contract 21v? Brennan has accepted the final payment and signed a certificate. There is no further money due to him on that contract.
212. Brennan says he never got the money;—did you tell him that you paid McCall £25 out of that sum? No; I paid a lot of other men. The final payment on the bridge, Bean-tree crossing, was paid to the credit of Messrs. Cummings and Reddacliff, his sureties. Brennan gave them an order to receive all the moneys.
213. Did he give them an order to receive all the moneys on that contract? Yes.
214. When did he apply for permission to give that order? He applied for no permission; he just signed one of the usual forms at the office which were in existence at that time. They also received all the previous payments on the contract.
215. Does not No. 11 of the General Conditions say:—"The contractor shall not sub-let any portion of any work, or assign any of the moneys payable or to become payable under this contract without the written consent of the Engineer-in-Chief, and no such document without such consent shall have any effect, or be in any way recognised"? Yes; it was done with the Engineer-in-Chief's permission. We recognised it, and acted on the order.
216. When did Brennan apply for his permission? There was an order in the office signed by Brennan to pay Cummings and Reddacliff.
217. Will you be good enough to produce the application to assign that money? I am afraid it is with the Account Branch, but if necessary it can be produced.
218. What was the amount of McCall's order on Contract 21v given by Brennan? I paid £16 17s. 2d., and McCall's was in that amount.

219. What did you do with the balance? The balance was offered to Brennan, and refused, as the papers will show. The balance was £42 6s. 7d., and we increased it a little on the final offer.
220. You say you paid £35, owing on the Bean-tree Bridge, to the sureties for Contract 57U? Brennan cancelled that order, and the money was paid. I am not quite sure whether it was paid to his sureties or to himself. It was paid to one or the other.
221. Will you state the amount of the order which Brennan gave McCall on Contract 21U? I do not recollect. It was paid, whatever it was.
222. Was it not £28 odd? McCall was satisfied whatever it was. I could not say what it was.
223. You cannot find from these papers the amount which was paid? No. His claim was satisfied. It was a legal claim.
224. Why did you state that this sum of £16 17s. 2d., paid to McCall and Hilliard, was paid on orders of the Court on Contract 21U, i.e., to Hilliard £4 odd, and to McCall £11 odd? It is stated in the papers that they were orders of the Court amounting to £16 17s. 2d.
225. Orders of what Court? It says so here. At any rate, they were claims, whether they were orders of the Court or wages.
226. Was it to blacken Brennan with the Department that you stated they were orders of the Court? Certainly not. It would not blacken anyone.
227. Can you prove that they were orders of the Court? It was not done to blacken Brennan at all. Sometimes it is not considered sufficient for a contractor to acknowledge that he owes a man money. A man sometimes has to sue, and he can get an order of the Court. There may be collusion between the contractor and a man.
228. What was your object in stating that they were orders of the Court on the contract? It must have been because they were orders of the Court. Some workmen sued Brennan.
229. Not on that contract? The men worked on that contract.
230. What was your idea in making the statement? It was my duty. Nearly every month I am reporting that labourers have procured orders of the Court; for instance, I sent one down three or four days ago.
231. Is it your duty to report that the labourer has received an order of the Court when the contractor has given him an order without going to the Court? We report that we have received a claim from a labourer in connection with a certain contract, and send out notice to the contractor and to the labourer to prove his claim in the proper Court within a certain time.
232. Have these claims been proved in a Court, or taken to a Court of any kind? Here is the final voucher. There have been wages claims.
233. Will you admit, to save time, that it was a contractor's order, and not an order of the Court? Yes; it was an acknowledged debt of the contractor's. Sometimes we pay it to save trouble. Sometimes we make the labourer go to the Court and prove it. In this case, to save time in looking up the papers, I will say it was an acknowledged debt.
234. Why did you state that you offered Brennan £42 in the final voucher on Contract 21U? Because I was quite sure that we did. We offered him more than that amount; we offered him £40 eventually.
235. Will you swear that you ever offered Brennan £42? Certainly we did.
236. Was it not £30 18s. 8d.? No; here is the final voucher I sent in—£59 3s. 9d., less claims paid on account £42.
237. What was the amount you offered to deduct out of that final voucher? £16 17s. 2d., wages claimed, leaving a balance of £42 6s. 7d. offered to him and refused, and eventually forwarded to Suspense Account in the Treasury.
238. On what date? I could not say. Brennan would call at office, or I would write to him and inform that the money was there for him.
239. On what date did you offer him this amount of £42 6s. 7d.? I could not say; but here are his letters refusing the offer. The letter in which the offer was made would be in the Casino office.
240. Is this final voucher on Contract 21U:—

Memo. to Mr. John Brennan, Broadwater Post Office.

Department of Public Works, Roads and Bridges and Sewerage Branch, Casino, 14 December, 1892.

THE final payment on your contract for bridge and approaches on the Lismore Road amounted to £59 3s. 9d. From this the following sums have been paid in accordance with the orders given by you—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Neil McCall	11	9	11	Wm. Ryan	2	14	10
John Pattison	0	5	3	Denis McCarthy	1	10	0
M. Jameson	1	2	0	John Doherty	4	4	1
G. Hilliard	4	0	0				
E. Murray	3	4	0				
					£28	10	1

The balance, £30 13s. 8d., will be paid to you on your informing me of your address, and on your returning this paper endorsed on the back that the statement is satisfactory, and is accepted by you in full of any demands you have.

ARTHUR GRACIE,
Resident Engineer.

? No; the first voucher was sent in at this time.

241. That states that it is the final voucher? Yes; but it had not been finally adjusted. We wanted to know what he would take before the final voucher was prepared. Brennan objected to some of these men getting paid, and we did not pay them apparently, so that he actually got more than this amount. At any rate, when the final voucher went back it was for £59 3s. 9d., out of which claims amounted to £16 17s. 2d.

242. Did you put a man on to break metal on Contract 21U? Yes.

243. In what direction were you going when you put him on? I could not say in what direction I was going when I engaged the man. There were some other men working there. I guaranteed their wages to them. That would otherwise have ceased work.

244. Was this man working there when you came back the same day? I could not say.

245. Why did you ask Alfred Clark Simpson, of Casino, to put Brennan through the Court in order to save the Department further trouble? I did not ask him to put Brennan through the Court. I may have made the remark on Mr. Simpson's statement, that there was to be a meeting of Brennan's creditors, to the effect that trouble would be saved.

246. Why did you refuse to pay Hilliard and McCall when they first got an order from Brennan? Perhaps we had not the money, or perhaps we may have been waiting to see what other claims would come in, so that we could pay *pro rata*.

- A. Gracie. 217. Did you tell them there was no money on the contracts? I could not have told them that.
- 11 Nov., 1896. 248. Did you send Brennan a final voucher on Contract 21U for a sum of £29? I do not recollect sending him any such voucher.
249. Do you recollect sending your groom, Frank Walsh, for the voucher I spoke about? I cannot say that I recollect whether I did or not, as I have sent so many vouchers.
250. Did you give him an extra on Contract 57U, Approaches to Bean-tree Bridge? The contract was cancelled. As a matter of fact, there was no extra allowed him on the contract. I did let him an extra, which was not carried out.
251. Did you state that the floods washed away the approaches, and you estimated the value of the remaining work to the Department at £117 2s. 1d.? That is correct.
252. Would the 13½ chains of filling and cutting at £2 10s. per chain, which was washed away, be worth £63 15s.? It would be worth nothing if it was washed away.
253. Would it cost that amount to do the work? Brennan seems to have been getting a price varying from 37s. to 58s. a chain.
254. You would not give 57s. or 58s. a chain for forming a road 20 feet wide where there was only forming to do? We give five times as much for a heavy side-cutting.
255. What was the actual value of the cutting and filling when it was done—before it was washed away? £2 10s. a lineal yard.
256. It does not say per yard—it says per chain? I estimated it at per chain afterwards.
257. It is per chain in the specifications? Had Brennan finished it, I would have adopted the same thing. I estimated it by the chain in its unfinished condition. He tendered by the lineal yard.
258. That would be about £9 a chain? No—£3 2s. 4d. a chain.
259. That would make it about £5 less,—that would be £175 for 13½ chains? I think it was 21½ chains.
260. The portion which was completed was 13½ chains; the cutting and filling were all done, and there were 5 chains of forming to do at the time? What Brennan would call finished and what I would call finished would vary a little.
261. Did you not leave out the culvert portion of the contract in your estimation? Yes.
262. When did you make the first payment on this contract? I have only the final voucher here.
263. Was it not on the 23rd February? I could not say, as the voucher is in the Account Branch. I have been away from my papers in the Casino office for some years, and therefore I cannot say.
264. Did you make it within the contract time? Whatever date we made it, it is certainly within the contract time.
265. When did you first inspect this work? That I am unable to say. My measurement books and everything are up at the Casino office. They have not been produced at the inquiry.
266. Did you measure the distance from the centre pegs to the water-tables in cuttings and approaches, and instruct the removal of the heaps? For his own convenience, I allowed him to remove some. They were in his way.
267. If the cutting was not wide enough I suppose you would not have removed them? Oh, yes; they are left principally to verify the depth.
268. They were supposed to be there until the cutting was measured? Supposed to be, or until I ordered their removal.
269. Were you satisfied that the width was sufficient when you ordered their removal? No; it never came to my being satisfied. I am never satisfied until I pass the work.
270. According to the conditions, you are not supposed to instruct the removal of the heaps until you are satisfied? I can do many things. It was done for his own convenience, so that he might work his carts and horses better. The conditions state that the heaps are to be left there until their removal is instructed by me.
271. Did you instruct their removal? Yes, in some cases.
272. Why did you refuse to pay his orders to the men on Contract 57U? We never refuse to pay any just claims.
273. Did you not refuse to pay Edward Murray, J. Jalland, D. O'Neill, W. Ryan, and J. Doherty? No; I reported that these men had claims against the contractor.
274. Did not these men have to sue Brennan before their claims would be recognised, making extra expense on the contract? In some cases, as I pointed out, we do force the men to sue in the Courts, so as to get them to go into the box and swear that the amount is due, otherwise there might be collusion on the part of the contractor and the men to defraud others.
275. Why did you charge the wages of these men to Contract 21U? If they were charged to that contract they worked on that contract, part of the time at any rate.
276. Will you produce the receipts of these workmen for the money they received? They can be produced on an application at the Casino Roads Office.
277. Are you aware that the sureties for this contract paid money to Brennan to leave his employ? No; I never heard about that.
278. When did the sureties first ask for this contract? When its cancellation was being mooted.
279. Was this work abandoned when the cancellation of the contract was moved? It was carried on so unsatisfactorily and the delay was so great, being seven weeks over time when I made my report, and not half finished, that the Department on my report agreed to cancel the work.
280. Why did you not return for the £35 due to Brennan on the Bean-tree Bridge, and either complete this contract or let him do so when he requested that you should? I returned for everything due to him on Bean-tree Bridge. We were not disposed to allow him to delay the completion of the approaches any longer, and we decided to take the work out of his hands.
281. £35 was owing to Brennan on Bean-tree Bridge, which had then been completed over two months;—why did you not return for that money and complete this work? He was agitating for a remission of fines during that time, and probably they were being considered.
282. Will you read No. 2 of the General Conditions of this contract? It is as follows:—
- The contractor is on no account to commence any contract without an order in writing, signed by the Road Superintendent, and no claim for any work executed without an order will be admitted.
283. Are the conditions in this contract binding on the Government as well as the contractor? Yes.
284. Is there any contract between the parties when a permit is given? Certainly.
285. Where does it come in? The signing of the bond constitutes the contract. 286.

286. Does it not say that the contractor is on no account to commence any contract without an order in writing, signed by the Roads Superintendent, and no claim for any work executed without an order will be admitted? That is for extra work or deviations from the contract.

287. Have you a copy of the permit to start the work? No.

288. Is this the permit?—

A. Gracie.
11 Nov., 1896.

No. 57c. CASINO TO MOUNT LINDSAY ROAD—CASINO DISTRICT.
Mr. A. GRACIE, Road Superintendent, hereby undertakes to return for payment to the Roads Department the sum of £276 3s. 4d. for the following works, which Mr. John Brennan has contracted to execute for the Government of New South Wales, when and as the same are completed to his satisfaction and in accordance with the General Conditions, signed by the said Mr. J. Brennan, such payment to be made as follows—that is to say, 70 per cent. of the value of the work done under this agreement to be returned for payment as nearly as possible each month, and the remainder when the whole is finished to the satisfaction of Mr. A. Gracie.

Construction of approaches to Bean-tree Crossing Bridge, as per specification.

ARTHUR GRACIE,
Resident Engineer.

Dated the 19th day of November, A.D. 1891.

No. This is not a permit to start work. It is a counterpart of an agreement to show that Brennan was a contractor.

289. I suppose it is the same as a permit? No; it is no permission for Brennan to start the work.

290. Mr. Kelly.] It is an endorsement that he is the contractor? Yes. There is a permit on the other side, I think, to get metal.

291. Chairman.] Will you read what is on the other side of this paper? It reads as follows:—

NOTICE.

No payment will be made on account of work let by Superintendent except a task executed on the proper form is produced. Verbal agreements will not be recognised (however small the amounts), but will be a private liability of the officer, for which the Department will not be responsible.

Contractor's Permit.

Mr. John Brennan is to forthwith proceed with the within-mentioned contract, and is hereby authorised to quarry, excavate, and remove all stone required for contract.

This permit is only granted for the purposes of this contract, and expires with the time specified for the completion of same, viz., 21st January, 1892.

ARTHUR GRACIE,
Road Superintendent.

It is years since we used this form.

292. Have you made payments according to that agreement? We only made one. We might have made payments more frequently.

293. Did you make any payments within the contract time? Yes; we paid him £80.

294. Within the contract time? I do not know. He was seven weeks over the contract time, and he might have got this £80 after the contract time expired. I am not sure whether he did not get it after the contract time had expired.

295. Will you admit that you did not pay according to that agreement? No. I say that we paid in accordance with the practice of the Department.

296. Did you instruct Mr. Crouch, the assistant engineer, to ask Brennan to assign this money to the sureties for Contract 57v? No; it was not a matter I would ever interfere with.

John Brennan recalled and further examined:—

297. Chairman.] Do you desire to make a statement to the Committee? Yes.

J. Brennan.

Re Contract 57v.

I was asked by Henry Ernest Crouch, Assistant Superintendent, if I was going to sign the money coming to me to be paid to an account in the Commercial Bank in the names of A. Cumming and T. J. Reddick. I thought as the Department asked me to do so that it would be all right, and I say they had a right to stop it when I asked them to do so, as I was being unfairly treated, and they were a party to the signing of such documents. No. 2 of the General Conditions provides that on no account will a contractor commence any contract without an order signed by the Road Superintendent, and no work executed without an order will be admitted. The order agrees to pay 70 per cent. each month as the work proceeds. The Department has paid no money within the contract time, nor for a month later, and then they cancel it for not making sufficient progress. Below are the names of the men who worked on this Contract 57v. None of them worked on Contract 21v.

11 Nov., 1896.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Edward Murray	3	4	6	D. McCarthy	1	10	0
J. Jalland	11	7	6	A. Murray.....	2	0	0
W. Ryan	2	14	10	J. Kelly.....	2	8	0
J. Doherty.....	4	4	1	J. Jamieson	1	2	0
D. O'Neil	8	10	2				

To my order the four were paid.

Five orders of Court for which he refused to pay to my order.

Document No. 57v, Casino to Mount Lindsay Road, Casino District Division.—Mr. A. Gracie, Road Superintendent, hereby undertakes to return for payment to the Roads Department the sum of £276 3s. 4d. for the following work which Mr. John Brennan has contracted to execute for the Government of New South Wales, when and as the same are completed to his satisfaction, and in accordance with the General Conditions signed by the said John Brennan, such payment to be made as follows—that is to say, 70 per cent. of the value of the work done under this agreement to be returned for payment as nearly as possible each month, and the remainder when the whole is finished to the satisfaction of Mr. A. Gracie. Construction of approaches to Bean-tree Crossing Bridge, as per specification.

The first payment made on contract was 23rd February, 1892.

Dated 19th day of November, 1891.

ARTHUR GRACIE.

Department of Public Works, Roads, Bridges, and Sewerage Branch.

DEBTOR to John Brennan in the sum of £69 13s. 4d., for work done on Contract No. 57v, approaches to Bean-tree Bridge, in Casino district.

	£	s.	d.
18½-chain road, formation, cutting, and filling, £3 10s. per lineal chain	64	15	0
158 cubic yards metal supplied and broken 2½-inch, cost 6s., schedule 7s.....	47	8	0
195 cubic yards metal supplied and broken 4-inch, cost 3s. 6d., schedule 4s. 6d.	34	2	6
43 cubic yards stone supplied, unbroken, cost 2s. 6d., schedule 3s. 6d.	5	7	6
Round timber for culvert, 18 pieces 12-in. diameter 6 ft. 3 in.; 5 pieces 13-in. diameter 16 ft. 6 in.; 192 ft. 6 in. lineal feet, at 1s. per square foot.....	9	12	6
	£161	5	6

To be deducted—Voucher signed by me..... £80 0 0
Orders to pay wages..... 11 12 2

£91 12 2

Balance due to me .. £69 13 0

John Brennan, No. 5, Hannam-street, Darlinghurst, Sydney, 24th June, 1895.

Arthur

Arthur Gracie recalled and further examined :—

A. Gracie. 298. *Chairman.*] Is that a mistake on the plan—that the datum-post is 40 feet from the gum-tree marked B.M.? No, it is not a mistake; it is simply an indication that the original levels are under the pegs 66·5 feet, and that we have reduced the whole section 40 feet in plotting.
 11 Nov., 1896. 299. There was a gum-tree within 40 feet of that site? That does not refer to the distance of any gum-tree. The B.M. is on the south side of the gum-tree.

John Brennan recalled and further examined :—

J. Brennan. 300. *Chairman.*] Do you desire to make a statement with regard to the particulars of your claim on Contract 21v? I do. It is as follows:—
 11 Nov., 1896.

	£	s.	d.	
The original contract was	302	18	2	
Extras for materials and labour in contract	135	1	7	
Extra for having to shift from creek near Tunstall to gully in Lismore municipality, and erect a bridge contrary to specification, plan, advertisement, and district	35	9	6	
	<hr/>			
	£473	9	3	
Losses sustained for having to shift from creek near Tunstall to gully in Lismore municipality.....	77	0	0	
	<hr/>			
	£550	9	3	
Damages through being imprisoned for debt while the Department held the moneys the writ was issued against me for, and would not pay it unless I accepted £46 5s. 4d. as payment in full of all demands and give a receipt in that form. I have a receipt for documents re quantities I would be paid for, and instructed to carry out work, and when calculated exceeds the amount offered to me by the Departments. For this act, on behalf of the Departments, I claim £500.....	500	0	0	
	<hr/>			
To be deducted—	£	s.	d.	
Paid on account	289	0	0	
Paid to complete work	26	0	0	
" Hilliard	4	0	0	
Order to McCall	11	9	11	
" Glynn	10	0	0	
	<hr/>			
To be deducted	£340	9	11	
	<hr/>			
	473	9	3	
	340	9	11	to be deducted.
	<hr/>			
Balance in connection with contract	132	19	4	now due to me.
Amount re losses	77	0	0	
Amount of damages.....	500	0	0	
	<hr/>			
	£709	19	4	

CONTRACT No. 21v OF 1891, CASINO DISTRICT.

	£	s.	d.
Extras, original contract.....	302	18	2
Pile-driving, including timber under ground—13½ feet, at 3s. per lineal foot.....	2	0	6
Round timber in piles above ground—50 feet, at 1s. 3d. per lineal foot	3	2	6
" wing-piles—22½ lineal feet, at 1s. 3d. per lineal foot.....	1	8	1
Setting one wing-pile an extra depth of 8 feet, at 3s. per lineal foot	1	4	0
" " " " 2 feet, at 3s. per lineal foot	0	6	0
Sawn timber in wales and braces—7 cubic feet, at 2s. per cubic foot	0	14	0
" sheathing—93 cubic feet, at 2s. per cubic foot	9	6	0
Tar and composition, three coats—93 superficial yards, at 1s. per yard	4	13	0
Wing-piles, as per plan, unused, being too short—28 lineal feet, at 1s. per foot	2	8	0
Embanked approaches to plan 626; agreed to pay 1,660 extra—1,034 cubic yards, at 1s. 4d. per yard	68	18	8
Rubble backing—37 cubic yards, at 8s. per cubic yard	14	16	0
Ballast, 4-inch—41½ cubic yards, at 4s. 8d.	9	14	10
Metal, 2½-inch—29½ cubic yards, at 7s. 6d.	12	3	0
Blinding length of road, increased from 61 to 110 lineal yards extra—44 cubic yards, at 2s.	4	8	0
Extra temporary crossing	14	0	0
Shifting material and redecking bridge at Tunstall	12	0	0
1s. per yard extra for breaking metal	6	2	6
6d. per yard extra for breaking ballast	3	7	0
	<hr/>		
	£473	10	3
Paid on account	£289	0	0
" to complete work	26	0	0
Order to Hilliard	4	0	0
" McCall	11	9	11
" Glynn	10	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£340	9	11
	<hr/>		
To be deducted	340	9	11
	<hr/>		
Balance due for work done.....	£133	0	4
For loss sustained on other work re shifting from Tunstall	77	0	0
Claim re causing me to be imprisoned for debt	500	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£709	6	0

CONTRACT

ON THE CLAIM OF JOHN BRENNAN AGAINST ROADS DEPARTMENT.

CONTRACT No. 21U, of 1891, Casino District.

J. Brennan.
11 Nov., 1896.

Bridge and Approaches on Road, Casino to Lismore.—Quantities in approaches, according to plan ; commencing at Casino end.

No.	Feet long.	Feet high.	Feet wide.	Cubic yards to left.	Cubic yards in section.
No. 1	39 0	1 9	28 10	1 28 5	73 11 3
No. 2	36 0	4 0	32 0	4 20 0	170 18 0
No. 3	13 0	5 3	33 7	6 14 4½	84 14 10½
No. 4	29 0	6 6	35 3	8 13 1½	246 12 7½
No. 5	88 6	6 9	31 0	7 20 0	65 21 6
No. 6	8 6	6 4	30 9	7 5 9	61 8 4½
No. 7	14 6	5 6	34 3	6 26 4½	101 4 3½
No. 8	37 0	2 3	29 4	2 12 0	90 12 0

Total length, 61 lineal yards—2 parts.....	891 4 0
Metal, 2½-inch, 1½ cubic yards to lineal yard.....	92
Ballast, 4-inch, 1½ cubic yards to lineal yard.....	92
Blinding, ½ cubic yard to lineal yard.....	21
Rubble backing, 60 cubic yards.....	60

Earth embankments, cubic yards.....	265
	626

	£	s.	d.
Money received.....	289	0	0
Paid for completing contract.....	26	0	0
Paid to N. McCall.....	11	9	11
Paid to Hilliard.....	4	0	0
Paid to Glynn.....	10	0	0

To be deducted..... £340 9 11

Balance due.....	132	6	0
Re loss through shifting.....	77	0	0
Through being imprisoned for debt.....	500	0	0

Total..... £709 6 0

301. Do you also desire to make a statement with regard to Contract 21U?

[Letter No. 4,010, R. and B.]
Sir,

Department of Public Works, Sydney, 12 June, 1893.

With reference to your letter of the 24th of April last, in regard to amount due to you on account of your contract of bridge and approaches on road Casino to Lismore, with regard to the amount of final voucher on account of this work, I am to point out that the sum originally was £59 3s. 9d., but sums were afterwards paid in pursuance of orders of the Court, which reduced it to £42 6s. 7d. ; in addition to this amount the sum of £3 18s. 9d. has been allowed on account of your claim for rubble backing, making it a total of £46 5s. 4d., the amount offered to you.

J. BARLING,
Under Secretary.

Memo. to Mr. John Brennan, Broadwater Post-office.

Department of Public Works, Roads, Bridges, and Sewerage Branch, Casino, 14 December, 1892.

The final payment on your contract of bridge and approaches on the Lismore Road amounted to £59 3s. 9d. ; from this the following sums have been paid in accordance with orders given by you :—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Neil McCall.....	11	9	11	Wm. Ryan.....	2	14	10
John Pattison.....	0	5	3	Denis McCarthy.....	1	10	0
J. Jameson.....	1	2	0	John Doherty.....	4	4	1
Gilbert Hilliard.....	4	0	0				
E. Murray.....	3	4	0				
					£28	10	1

The balance, £30 13s. 8d., will be paid to you on your informing me of your address, and on your returning this paper, endorsed on the back that this statement is satisfactory, and is accepted by you in full of any demand you have.

ARTHUR GRACIE,

To Mr. John Brennan, Broadwater,—

Department of Public Works, Casino, 15 December, 1892.

With further reference to my letter of yesterday, I have to inform you that, before the payment of the balance due on contract for bridge on Lismore Road, it will be necessary for you to receipt the voucher enclosed, leaving your signature witnessed in the proper column. Please return the voucher as early as possible.

ARTHUR GRACIE,
Resident Engineer.

I would like to explain why this contract was so long incomplete. When I shifted from the creek where I tendered for, near Tunstall, that broke my agreement with the Casino Sawmill Company for the delivery of ironbark timber. I ordered it at Coraki, 9th July, to be delivered at Lismore in a fortnight from that date. On the 27th of July I had a letter from Mr. Yabsley stating that my timber was cut, and asking would I let him have my cheque in payment before delivering it to me at Lismore. I did not do so, because the timber was ordered to the plan, and the wales and bracing would have been too short. On 29th July I gave an order to Mr. Bailey at Codrington. He was to deliver it at Lismore within nine days. On the 7th August I had a letter from him stating that his teamster had gone on strike for 8d. per 100 more for drawing, and that if I would consent to pay half he would have it drawn in. On the 8th of August I ordered it at the North Lismore Sawmills, Glasgow and McNight, where I had got tallow-wood for the decking. They were to have some cut in a week. They had not. I kept going about it every second day. I got the first delivered on the 5th September, 15th, 18th, 19th, 20th, and 21st. Then the firm went bankrupt. On the 24th of September I gave an order to George Cattie, Lismore, and got the first delivered on the 12th October, and completed on the 9th November. Each time I went about this timber it cost me from £7 to £8 every day. I have been away from Bean-tree Bridge contract, which was 50 miles from this one. I have been losing from £3 10s. to £4 per day. I have been there two days in succession, pile driving. I drove two piles each day 21 feet each. When I have been away I got one pile a day driven from 18 to 21 feet. My schedule price was 4s. 6d. per foot. The material cost 1s. per foot delivered, which was 3s. 6d. for labour in topping. My losses were equally as large. This would be twelve times—two from Lismore Road, £3 10s. each, and ten times from the Bean-tree, two days each time, £7 each—or £77 in all.

The embankments were commenced on 28th of September, and completed on the 22nd of November. The traffic was on the bridge from that date. A few days previous to this I got an extra metal and ballast. I got the stone carted. I had a couple of men breaking. I brought a quantity of rations and left it in the camp with them, so that any men who wanted work could get some rations and start breaking at 3s. 6d. per cubic yard. Good men did not care about starting on such a small job, and the stone was so hard that they could not break more than 1½ cubic yard per day each. I came there every week till it was finished once at least, but could not afford to come oftener, as I had a dozen men on the other contract, and when I was away I did not get satisfaction. I had a letter sent to me by Denis O'Neill, of Casino, stating that the Department had requested Alfred Clark Simpson to put me through the Court. I wish the Committee to send for this letter. I requested it to be taken care of. I sent this letter to the District Court Casino, held on Monday, the 25th day of June, 1894, in defence of summonses for writs of *Capias ad satisfaciendum* No. of plaint 14 of 1892, between Denis

J. Brennan. Denis O'Neill, plaintiff, and John Brennan, defendant, and No. of plaint 14 of 1892, Thomas Glynn, plaintiff, and John Brennan, defendant. Alfred Clark Simpson, of Casino, sent me an eight-day summons. He had no claim. I defended this summons according to directions on the back of it, sending a copy of the defence to the C.P.S. for Glynn and O'Neill. This led to these writs being applied for and obtained for £46, which the Departments offer as settlement in full of all demands on this contract, causing me to be imprisoned for debt, while the Departments refused to pay me for quantities they had agreed to pay me for, and would not pay me any portion unless I accepted £46 as a final settlement, in full of all demands on this contract. For this action on behalf of the Departments I claim £500 damages.

11 Nov., 1896.

Contract 21v was for a lump sum according to plan and specification, and schedule prices were for deducting or increasing any of the items.

No. 11 of the General Conditions of this contract provides that the contractor is not to assign any moneys payable or to become payable under the contract without the written consent of the Engineer-in-Chief, and no such document, without such consent, shall have any effect or be in any way recognised.

THURSDAY, 12 NOVEMBER, 1896.

Present:—

MR. KELLY,

MR. LYNE.

ROBERT PYERS, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

Arthur Gracie recalled and further examined:—

A. Gracie. 302-3. *Mr. Lyne.*] At what time did you find the pegs at the site where Brennan first started to put the bridge over the creek near Tunstall? I do not know that I found any pegs there.

12 Nov., 1896. 304. How do you know that any pegs were there? Mr. Allman, of the Lismore district, told me that he drove spikes there.

305. You stated in your evidence that spikes were driven into the ground, and that they were covered by metal;—what was the use of spikes being driven in there if they were driven in after Brennan made his mistake? Not after, but eighteen months before.

306. I wish you to state definitely whether the pegs were there eighteen months before, or any time before he made his mistake;—if there was any doubt as to the site, and Brennan had gone to the other site, where the bridge was ultimately put up, he might have found the pegs? No, I do not think he could.

307. Why not? They got driven down into the metal and covered up with the traffic, and he would require to measure the site to find the position of the pegs.

308. Do you know that the pegs were ever there? Not of my own knowledge, but Mr. Allman, of the Lismore district, informed me that pegs were driven in there, and it is usual to do so.

309. That they were driven in a long time before? Yes.

310. You never saw the pegs yourself? I never saw them. You might say practically that there were no visible pegs at either point. There were no visible pegs at the proper place, and no pegs at all were at the place where Brennan started to erect the bridge.

311. *Mr. Kelly.*] Do you expect a successful tenderer to come to you and have the place pointed out to him? Certainly.

312. *Mr. Lyne.*] That Brennan did not do? No.

313. *Chairman.*] Brennan, in his evidence, says he did? Without even going to the spot I could have explained where we wanted the bridge put over the creek. I think his memory cannot serve him correctly.

314. *Mr. Lyne.*] Are you certain that he did not go to you and ask you for information as to the spot? I am certain that he did not. I reported at the time that he did not.

315. Did Brennan give you an authority to pay his sureties for one contract some money on that contract, and did you pay them the money on another contract for which he had given you no authority? I do not recollect such a case. I have given evidence to the effect that the balance was paid according to the orders of the Court.

316. *Chairman.*] There were no orders of the Court on Contract 21v, and this money was paid on Contract 27v? Brennan signed a final receipt as being satisfied with the disbursement of the money.

317. *Mr. Lyne.*] Did Brennan sign a final voucher that he was satisfied with all the payments which had been made in connection with Contract 27v;—have you got the document he signed? It is not among the papers here. I believe some of the men who worked on Contract 27v also worked on Contract 57v, and if they did we might have paid the money to them.

318. Brennan stated that you got an order of the Court to pay the money on one contract, and that you paid the money on another contract? The men used to work on the various contracts. The final voucher for the bridge of the Bean-tree Crossing was £35 1s. 3d.

319. As you knew that this case was coming on, why did you not look through the papers before you came here? I had no opportunity to look through the papers. I am not in the Casino district now, and I did not see these papers until I came here.

320. An authority to pay on Contract 75v is no authority to pay on Contract 21v? We look upon it as an authority to pay all moneys due by the Government in respect of any Department. It includes all money due by the Treasury.

321. If so, it does not matter on what contract it is paid? No.

322. Does it not say on what contract;—have you not a copy of the order? No; it was asked for yesterday, but it has not been supplied.

323. Surely your memory will serve you well enough to be able to give us some information about this matter? It is five or six years since it took place. It has been considerably mixed up. Here is a *précis* of the business, but I cannot go by it because it is wrong.

324. Will you read the *précis*? It is as follows:—

It appears, however, that he did not actually receive this amount, although he signed for it, Mr. Gracie merely taking his receipts as a matter of form, the amount being used along with £11 12s. 11d., part final payment on Contract 57v, approaches to Bean-tree Bridge (total amount, £46 14s. 2d.), to pay the undermentioned claims against the contracts:—

	£	s.	d.	
M. McCall.....	15	3	7	Receipt at Audit Office with voucher.
E. Murray.....	3	4	0	
W. Ryan.....	2	14	10	
D. McCarthy.....	1	10	0	
John Doherty.....	4	4	1	
J. Gallan.....	11	7	6	
O'Neill.....	8	10	2	

Total £46 14 2

ON THE CLAIM OF JOHN BRENNAN AGAINST ROADS DEPARTMENT.

There is a balance due to Brennan on this contract amounting to £10 12s. 2d. (part of remitted fine £39), which he refused to accept, amount was consequently refunded to the Treasury. R. Cressy's judgment order against Brennan was settled with the other portion of fine; amount, £28 7s. 10d. £25 9s. 2d., balance of final voucher, £37 2s. 1d., Contract 57u, approaches to Bean-tree Bridge, was paid to Brennan's sureties, Messrs. Cumming and Reddacliff, on the 17th April, 1893. A. Gracie. 12 Nov., 1896.

With reference to the payment of this final voucher, Brennan was informed that as the contract was cancelled, he has no claim upon the Government, and also that as a matter of grace the Department paid for the value of work, so as to meet the claims of workmen.

The final voucher, £59 3s. 9d., Contract 21c, bridge over creek, road Lismore to Casino, was disposed of as follows:—

Claim against Contract paid.

	£	s.	d.	
N. McCall	11	9	11	} Receipts at Audit Office, attached to voucher.
M. R. Jameson	1	2	0	
Jno. Patterson	0	5	3	
G. Hilliard	4	0	0	
Total	£16 17 2			

And balance, £42 6s. 7d., refused by Brennan, refunded to the Treasury.

325. You say that *précis* is no guide for you, because it is not correct? I doubt whether it is correct, because towards the end they did not understand very much about it in the head office, as the three contracts were getting mixed up. Then there is the remission of fines, which came afterwards, with separate papers on each contract, and they got mixed up.

326. Brennan asked for these receipts to be produced? I asked for the receipts to be sent down from the Casino office. I got some papers, but not what I wanted—not any which would be of any use to me.

327. *Chairman.*] You cannot get all the papers you want, and some of them are at the Casino office? The receipts of McCall attached to the voucher are at the Audit Office. The receipted vouchers eventually find their way to the Audit Office, and are filed there. I would have liked more time to look into the matter. I did not reach Sydney until midnight on Monday, and the Committee sat on Tuesday morning.

328. You cannot say that Brennan's assertion that a certain sum was paid on one contract for work done on another contract is true or not unless you have all the papers, which are not available? Not unless I have some papers to see who got the money.

329. You cannot say whether orders of the Court given for work done on one contract were paid out of another contract? No; it would be very unusual. I never do it.

330. It would be unusual, but you cannot say that it is not so, because you cannot see the papers? No. It is an old case, and my memory will not allow me to say that it is not so. I daresay if I had more time to look through the papers I might find something which would clear that up.

John Brennan recalled and further examined:—

331. *Chairman.*] Do you wish to make a statement? I do. In his evidence yesterday, Mr. Gracie said that when he went there there was no crossing over the creek at Tunstall. I wish to say that a crossing was there, and that it was erected for one day only. It was finished on the night previous to his coming along, and I removed it on the following night. Mr. A. Gracie, Mr. Denis Alcock, Mr. Robert Walters, Mr. A. C. Simpson, Mr. Robert Pyers, crossed over the temporary crossing on that day. J. Brennan. 12 Nov., 1896.

332. *Mr. Lyne.*] It did not cost you much? It was the decking.

333. Do you mean to say that Mr. Gracie might not have known that it was there? He could not have gone across it if it was not there.

334. *Chairman.*] You mean that Mr. Gracie crossed this crossing? Yes; but he says that he did not; that there was none there.

335. *Mr. Lyne.*] Are you claiming for a temporary bridge? Yes.

336. How much do you claim? £14. There is a schedule in the contract for a temporary bridge. It had to be erected before the traffic could be put off the other.

337. How do you come to the conclusion that you ought to be allowed £14? For the girders and labour.

338. Was it ever passed as valued at £14? I tendered for it at that price.

339. When were you in prison for a debt? Two years ago.

340. That was two or three years after the contracts were completed;—how do you connect the Department with causing you to go to prison? They asked a man to put me through the Court.

341. Whom did they ask? I have a letter from Denis O'Neill—it is not here, but it is in the Court—stating that the Department asked Charles Clark Simpson to put me through the Court, in order to save them further trouble.

342. What branch of the Department? The Roads and Bridges.

343. It seems a very unusual thing to do? Yes.

344. Who is Mr. O'Neill? He had a case against me. He is one of the parties who imprisoned me.

345. What does he know about it? He seems to know about it. He wrote a letter to me to that effect.

346. Have you any other evidence to show that the Department did put you through the Court? There is a statement in evidence here that Mr. Gracie requested me to come to a settlement, and that he made several concessions, but that I would not accept them, and later on a statement came to the office that one of my creditors was taking steps to secure my insolvency.

347. Suppose O'Neill has stated that it is not true? I suppose he has to prove it. It is between him and the Department, not between him and me.

1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE

THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

CLAIM OF JOHN BRENNAN AGAINST ROADS DEPARTMENT.

TUESDAY, 25 OCTOBER, 1898.

Present:—

MR. J. C. L. FITZPATRICK,
MR. HURLEY,

MR. HASSALL,
MR. ANDERSON.

ROBERT PYERS, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

John Brennan sworn and examined:—

1. *Chairman.*] Do you wish to submit fresh evidence to the Committee? Yes.
2. *Mr. Hurley.*] Are the plans now before us the plans of the bridge in question? Yes.
3. Did you work out the quantities before you tendered? Yes. I have given in a bill showing the quantities worked out. J. Brennan.
25 Oct., 1898.
4. Did you start at the Casino end? Yes; I meant Casino end to work out tracings.
5. Was there any datum-peg there? There was supposed to be a datum-peg a certain distance from a bench-mark upon a gum-tree. The tree was there, but the datum-peg could not be found.
6. Is the tree alongside the present bridge? No; the datum-peg should be 40 feet below the bench-mark on the gum-tree.
7. I understand the difference is that you tendered to build a bridge at a certain place on a creek, and the Government authorities put you in another place? Yes.
8. In the specifications is there anything about a tree as a landmark? No, only the way in which the bridge is to be carried out. The datum-peg could not be found when the inspector went there to measure the site; it could not be found according to the plan.
9. Did an officer go with you to the site where the bridge was to be built? I went to the site and looked at it, but could find no pegs.
10. How did you know that was the site? It was the creek where I tendered to build a bridge. I went on the road and could not find any pegs. I went to the office to find out where was the place.
11. *Mr. Anderson.*] Did any of the officers point out where you were to commence the bridge? Not until after I began.
12. Were any marks laid down for you to make a start? Yes; a peg was driven for the first pile.
13. *Mr. Fitzpatrick.*] In your evidence-in-chief you stated, "I waited on Mr. Gracie next morning, 8th June, 1891. I requested that he would meet me on the site by appointment as I could find no pegs, and might put the temporary crossing in the way of the bridge. He said the bridge was going on the site of the old one, and that I could not go wrong with the crossing, and he told me to get the material delivered, and he would be out there in a few days. When he came the crossing was complete, the piles, girders, and head-stocks delivered, and the old bridge stripped. When he came he said, 'This is not the place.'" Between the time you asked him to come and the period when you had constructed a portion of the works, had he been there? No.
14. *Mr. Anderson.*] Did he give instructions to do this work? He told me to get it ready when I saw him in the office, and that he would be there in a few days, and that I could not go wrong with the crossing.

- J. Brennan. 15. In the meantime you undertook to strip the bridge? Yes, according to his instructions.
- 25 Oct., 1898. 16. Then you had his instructions? Yes, but not pegged out. He was not supposed to have pegged out the crossings, he was supposed to peg the bridge.
17. *Mr. Hurley.*] Did Mr. Gracie tell you that the bridge was to go on the site of the old one? Yes.
18. When Mr. Gracie came there did he indicate on the plan that a different locality was intended? No.
19. *Mr. Anderson.*] When you commenced to construct the bridge who gave you instructions? Mr. Smallwood, one of the officials.
20. *Mr. Hurley.*] Is there any other old bridge on the creek? There was an old bridge where I began work.
21. Did you know of any other old bridge? No.
22. *Mr. Hassall.*] How long did it take to strip the crossing, and replace it? Three or four days.
23. I see in your original evidence that you were twenty-seven weeks over the time allowed for the completion of the work? Yes.
24. They fined you for being over time; one reason you gave for being over time was the fact that you commenced work on the wrong site; that you had done a certain amount of work there and had to shift. In the documents it is stated that the Department remitted a portion of the fine on account of your beginning at a wrong place;—what was the whole time occupied by you in doing the work over which the mistake arose? My loss was not sustained only through the time lost; I had made agreements for timber to be delivered there, and I had to go elsewhere.
25. *Mr. Hurley.*] When the mistake was found out, you asked him what he was going to give you for what you had done; and he said that he could not send in a voucher for that, but that he would allow you for it in something else? Yes.
26. I suppose that meant that he would not fine you on account of the over time? Yes.
27. I see that according to the evidence, you had to move the bridge a considerable distance from where you began;—was there any other old bridge where you moved to? No; it was only a culvert crossing.
28. That shows he must have misled you when he said the old bridge was the identical crossing, and when he then shifted you to where there was no bridge at all? Yes; there was a culvert $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles away, but there was no creek there.
29. Was it at that culvert that the bridge was afterwards erected? Yes.
30. Was the bridge carried out in accordance with the plan? No, not by a long way; that is shown in the extras.
31. *Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick.*] How far from Lismore did you construct the bridge? Within 3 miles of Lismore—within the municipality.
32. Where you originally stripped the bridge was it $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles away? Yes.
33. *Mr. Hassall.*] Were these plans obtained from the head office? I got them from Mr. Gracie.
34. When was the mistake found out? When they came to peg the site they could not get any pegs, and they had to send one of my men to the office for a tracing; then they found the plans would not suit the place.
35. Was an allowance made in your contract price afterwards? He agreed to pay for certain quantities, then he refused to certify for the quantities in the voucher.
36. Was that after you had done the work? Yes. I sent Mr. Gracie a bill, and he refused to accept it. This is the reply of Mr. Gracie on the bill I sent him, which was much less than it should be:—"These extras will not be allowed, and as I have determined that you shall cause no further trouble to the Department, the voucher will be passed and paid to my credit in due course without your signature, leaving it to you to take any course you may think fit. I can understand that your motive is now to delay the payment of money properly due to your sureties and to men whom you employed and neglected to pay. You may rest assured, however, that steps will be successfully taken to frustrate this design. You may not again communicate with this office unless specially requested.—АВТНУМЪ ГРАСІЕ, Resident Engineer, Casino, 29/3/92." Mr. Gracie sent me a document that he would pay me for certain quantities of metal and ballast, earthwork and rubble packing. When he sent me a final voucher he did not include those quantities correctly. He charged wages for workmen who were working on other contracts.
37. *Chairman.*] Did the timber, according to the plans and specifications, suit the bridge which you eventually put up? No, they were too short; the piles for the piers were too short by 5 or 6 feet.
38. Was the length of driving the same? No; there was an extra length of driving piles to the depth of $13\frac{1}{2}$ feet.
39. *Mr. Hurley.*] Did you ever ask the officers to show you the site? Yes.
40. Mr. Gracie positively swears you did not? I did. It would be hardly likely that I would go and get material on to the place without asking him.
41. *Mr. Anderson.*] When you started the work you had not the officer's authority by his presence for beginning there—you were only told verbally, and there was a mistake? He should have come with me when I requested him.
42. *Mr. Hurley.*] Did you ever build a bridge for the Government before? That was the first bridge I built for the Government, but I built another for them later on.
43. How did you manage about that? The officer who was with me on the first bridge went with me and pegged out the site. The wooden pegs were to be found there.
44. You did not see any change in the system? No.
45. *Chairman.*] You say there was no change in the system; but do you not say in the one case there were pegs to be found, while in the other case there were not? Yes; in the second case there were pegs to be found, but in the case of the first bridge there were no pegs.
46. *Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick.*] In Question No. 282 there is a reference to No. 2 of the General Conditions of this contract, in which it is stated "the contractor is on no account to commence any contract without an order in writing signed by the Road Superintendent, and no claim for any work executed without an order will be admitted";—did you receive any such order? Yes.
47. *Mr. Hurley.*] Can you produce that order? No; but it is included in the documents already handed in.
48. *Chairman.*] Have you any new evidence that you can give us? Yes.
49. What is it? I received from Mr. Gracie documents that he would pay me for certain quantities.

50. Is that in connection with that contract on the Lismore Road? Yes. I brought a final voucher to Sydney, and left it in the head office. Mr. Stathan insisted on my leaving it. He said there would not be a voucher to settle the matter if I did not leave the one I had with him. The Department has kept that voucher, and did not return it. I sent those documents to the Under Secretary for Works to prove that the quantities I was claiming were due to me. These have been sent to Mr. Gracie, at Casino. He was instructed to communicate with me *re* a final settlement. He sent me a tracing, and I worked out the quantities; they are shown on a bill before the Committee. This is Mr. Gracie's reply to me:—
 "Memo. to Mr. J. Brennan, Broadwater. Contract No. 21v. Without prejudice. I do not understand the methods of your measurement. What do you mean, for instance, by sections G, 7, &c.? What do these numbers refer to? I may mention that my revised calculations made the total earthworks 1,515 cubic yards, and I believe this is as near as it is possible to get to the correct quantity. As a kind of a check, Mr. Smallwood measured the excavations (anything but rough measurement being impossible). He made the quantity somewhat greater; the end being that you were allowed what I now think was the too liberal quantity of 1,660 cubic yards. However, I have been over the papers and measurement again, and if it will end the matter as far as this item is concerned, I am prepared to recommend 122 cubic yards more, or a total extra under this head of 952 cubic yards. I have recalculated quantities as per plan of rubble, and find the total of 76½ cubic yards. This shows an extra of 2½ yards (17½ and 19½) in your favour, and although there may have been circumstances now forgotten which made 17½ the correct quantity, I will recommend this 2½ cubic yards. Regarding the ballast and metal, unless there were at the time affecting the measurement and now forgotten, it appears the contract should be credited with an extra 5 cubic yards of ballast, and 5 cubic yards metal:—

Ballast—quantity supplied ... 134·80	Metal—quantity supplied ... 120·38
" " specified ... 92·60	" " specified ... 92·50
Extra ... 42·30	28·38
On voucher ... 37·25	On voucher... 23·38
5 cubic yards.	5 cubic yards.

The other items of your claim I cannot discuss. They have been refused by the Department, and will, I think, always be. In making you the offer herein I am satisfied that the position of the Department is perfectly secure in any action you make take. It only remains for you to let me know straightforwardly if you will accept this arrangement if the Department approves of it. *Note:—Do not write any more long letters; a line will do in this case.—ARTHUR GRACIE, Resident Engineer, 15/1/94.*" What I want to point out is that Mr. Gracie admits that this quantity was owing to me. Why did he not return in the final voucher for this 1,660 cubic yards. He also led the Department to believe that I was offered a final voucher, the amount coming to me being £42; that was incorrect.

51. *Mr. Hurley.*] How do you know that he led them to believe that? I have papers here to that effect. There is a claim for £500. The Department retained this money; they would not give it to me unless I accepted it as a final settlement. There was a *ca. sa.* got against me for the amount, and I was imprisoned.

52. *Mr. Hassall.*] How long after the completion of the contract were you imprisoned? Going on for three years. A judgment was got against me, and they applied for a *ca. sa.* Mr. Gracie gave evidence that this amount was offered to me and I refused to accept it. I was forced either to forfeit my claim or to accept what they offered.

53. But the Government did not take steps against you? No; other people did. They would not give me money to pay these people unless I accepted it as a final settlement.

54. The Government, then, had offered you what they thought was the amount of your claim, on condition that you accepted it as a final settlement in connection with the contract? Yes.

55. On your refusing to accept that amount three years afterwards somebody took proceedings against you for debt, and had you imprisoned? Yes.

56. Was the debt which you were imprisoned for incurred in connection with this contract? Yes; for materials, and money lent, and stores.

57. *Mr. Anderson.*] Was the money standing in the hands of the Government handed over to the creditors by order of the Court? No; I agreed to give these men a certain amount of money. I agreed to give an order for £10.

58. What was the amount of the debt? £40 was divided among two, according to the order of the Judge.

59. Who got the money lying in the hands of the Government? The money is still in the hands of the Government.

60. *Mr. Hassall.*] It seems that a long time elapsed between the completion of the contract and those proceedings? They had a judgment against me. It appears they got some information from the Government that they should take proceedings.

61. Had you earned no money after the completion of the contract until proceedings were taken against you? Yes, I was working for wages; but I was not in a position to pay the claims. There was some evidence revised by Mr. Gracie which I would like to call attention to. I think it should have been revised before the Committee. It is a question I asked him. He revised it apparently, or it is not given as he answered. I refer to Question 245. It is as follows:—"Why did you ask Alfred Clark Simpson, of Casino, to put Brennan through the Court, in order to save the Department further trouble? I did not ask him to put Brennan through the Court. I may have made the remark on Mr. Simpson's statement, that there was to be a meeting of Brennan's creditors, to the effect that trouble would be saved." The answer of Mr. Gracie was, "I might have insinuated it, but I have not made use of those words." Those words are not in the answer as printed.

62. *Chairman.*] But there is very little difference? At the time I had a meeting of creditors I was doing work for the Government, and these contracts were not completed.

63. That question was put by me to Mr. Gracie, through the Chairman? It may have been put through the Chairman. I took a note as to how they were answered.

64. How did you come to the conclusion that this evidence had been altered? Because I had taken a note of it.

TUESDAY, 13 DECEMBER, 1898.

Present:—

MR. HASSALL,

MR. HURLEY,

ROBERT PYERS, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

John Brennan recalled and further examined:—

- J. Brennan. 65. *Chairman.*] On page 20 of the Minutes of Evidence taken before the Select Committee in 1896, you have "balance due for work done £133 0s. 4d.," and on page 21 you have "balance due (on the same contract), £132 6s. "? I have done the bill over again. I find there is a slight mistake. I have put down "setting one wing-pile an extra depth of 3 feet, at 3s. per lineal foot, 6s." Instead of 6s., of course it ought to be 9s.
- 18 Dec., 1898.
66. Is there any other mistake? Yes; "wing-piles, as per plan, unused, being too short—49 lineal feet, at 1s. per foot—£2 8s.," should be £2 9s.; and "metal, 2½ inch—29½ cubic yards, at 7s. 6d.—£12 3s.," should be £11 3s. 1d. That makes up the difference. That does not bring the account out exactly the same as on the next page. There is still a difference of 2s. But what I have just stated are the correct amounts.
67. *Mr. Hurley*] How much are you asking interest on? £132 4s. 5d., and I claim £45 14s. 6d., interest at 5 per cent. for six years. The time was over six years, but I have claimed interest for only six years. That is on Contract 21 v.
68. What is the amount due on the second contract, 57 v? £69 13s. 4d.
69. For the same years? Yes.
70. What interest are you charging for that? Interest at the rate of 5 per cent.
71. How much does that amount to? £23 1s.
72. What is your total claim for interest? £68 15s. 6d.
73. How long were you in gaol? About a fortnight, I think.
74. And you claim £500 damages for that? Yes. I ought not to have been there at all.
75. The Government had money of yours in hand when you were put in gaol? Yes; they refused to pay it unless I would accept £46 as a final settlement. There were two *ca. sa.*'s got against the amount—one by Thomas Glynn, and the other by Dennis O'Neill—and the Government refused to pay me anything unless I would accept £46 as a final settlement.
76. Do you know the full amount for which you are asking,—interest on the money due, and the back money, and the damages for being imprisoned? £847 13s. 3d. That includes £77 "for loss sustained on other work *re* shifting from Tunstall."
77. *Chairman.*] Do you wish to make out that you lost that money through the fault of the Government? Yes. When I was carrying out that contract, when I could be there I was getting two piles a day driven by the same number of men as I used to get one pile a day driven by when I was absent. My schedule price for pile driving was 4s. 6d. a foot—the timber cost 1s. and the labour 3s. 6d.
78. How do you account for being so far behind the contract time? I got messed up over the matter of shifting from Tunstall. I had let a contract for the supply of timber to the Casino Saw-mill Company. When I shifted to the other place they would not supply the timber.
79. Was it any fault of the Department that that was not done? Yes; because I tendered for work at a creek near Tunstall, and I had to erect the bridge over a "black gully" in the Lismore municipality. I had to order the timber at Coraki, according to the plan, but when we came to put the bridge up a great quantity of the timber was found to be too short.
80. *Mr. Hassall.*] You say you were put in gaol because you owed certain money which you could not pay? Yes.
81. How was that debt contracted? Part of it was for plant and material, and some was money borrowed to pay wages.
82. All in connection with this work? Yes.
83. The debt did not arise at all in connection with any other transaction? No—only these contracts. I did not keep the money paid on each of them separately, but paid money when it was required.
84. Then the judgment was obtained against you for what? For stores supplied in connection with Contract 57 v and for plant.
85. How much was the judgment for? £49.
86. And the Government held money in hand to what amount? £132 4s. 5d. They offered me £46, and refused to give me any portion of it unless I would accept that as a final settlement.
87. What distance did you have to shift from your camp at Tunstall? About a mile and a half.
88. You say it cost you £77 for "loss sustained on other work, *re* shifting from Tunstall?" Yes; because when I had to shift from Tunstall my agreement for timber was broken; and every time I tried to get timber it took me two days, and I was at a loss of so much per day. I got about 42 feet of piles driven when I was there, but when I was away only from 17 feet to 20 feet were driven.
89. So, practically, you had to stand alongside the men to see that they did a fair day's work for you? Yes.
90. That is the sort of men you had? Yes; it was not easy to get men then.
91. *Mr. Hurley.*] How is it that you have not charged interest on the £77? I did not think it would be of any use charging it.
92. Then what is the use of your charging interest on the other amount? I did not think I could charge interest on a claim for losses or damages. If the Committee recommend that I should be paid interest on it I should be pleased to take it. I have not asked for interest on the £500 damages, either.

1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

SAYWELL'S TRAMWAY AND ELECTRIC
LIGHTING BILL;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

AND

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

ORDERED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO BE PRINTED,
7th October, 1898, A.M.

SYDNEY : WILLIAM APPLIGATE GULLICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1898.

1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

EXTRACTS FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDING OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VOTES No. 15. TUESDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER, 1898.

9. SAYWELL'S TRAMWAY AND ELECTRIC LIGHTING BILL (*Formal Motion*):—Mr. Cohen moved, pursuant to Notice,—
- (1.) That Saywell's Tramway and Electric Lighting Bill be referred to a Select Committee for consideration and report.
- (2.) That such Committee consist of Mr. Young, Mr. McLean, Mr. Rigg, Mr. Cann, Mr. Ashton, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Waddell, Mr. Ewing, Mr. Moore, and the Mover.
- Question put and passed.
-

VOTES No. 23. THURSDAY, 6 OCTOBER, 1898.

6. SAYWELL'S TRAMWAY AND ELECTRIC LIGHTING BILL:—Mr. Cohen, as Chairman, brought up the Report from, and laid upon the Table the Minutes of Proceeding of, and Evidence taken before the Select Committee for whose consideration and Report this Bill was referred on 20th September, 1898, together with a copy of the Bill as amended and agreed to by the Committee.
- Ordered to be printed.
- * * * * *
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1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

SAYWELL'S TRAMWAY AND ELECTRIC LIGHTING BILL.

REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, for whose consideration and report was referred on 20th September, 1898, "*Saywell's Tramway and Electric Lighting Bill*,"—beg to report to your Honorable House:—

That they have examined the witnesses named in the List* (whose evidence ^{*See List, p. 5.} will be found appended hereto), and that the Preamble having been satisfactorily proved to your Committee, they proceeded to consider the Bill, in which it was deemed necessary to make certain amendments.

Your Committee now beg to lay before your Honorable House the Bill as amended by them.

JOHN J. COHEN,
Chairman.

No. 1 Committee Room,
Legislative Assembly,
6th October, 1898.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

TUESDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Cann,	|	Mr. Cohen,
Mr. Ewing,	|	Mr. Hayes,
Mr. McLean,	|	Mr. Moore,
	Mr. Rigg.	

Mr. Cohen called to the Chair.

Entry from Votes and Proceedings appointing the Committee read by the Clerk.

Printed copies of the Bill referred, together with original Petition to introduce same before the Committee.

Thomas Saywell (*The Promoter*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Thomas Selwood Huntley called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Ordered,—That the Mayor of Rockdale, the Council Clerk, Rockdale, P. B. Walker, Chief Electrician and Engineer-in-Chief, Postal and Telegraph Department, and H. McLachlan, Secretary to the Railway Commissioners, be summoned to give evidence next meeting.

[Adjourned till to-morrow at 11 o'clock.]

WEDNESDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Cohen in the Chair.

Mr. Hayes,	|	Mr. McLean,
Mr. Moore,	|	Mr. Rigg.

Hugh McLachlan (*Secretary to the Railway Commissioners*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

William George Judd (*Mayor of the Municipal District of Rockdale*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Philip Billingsley Walker (*Chief Electrician and Engineer-in-Chief, Postal and Electric Telegraph Department*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Thomas Selwood Huntley recalled and further examined.

Room cleared—Preamble considered.

Question,—“That this Preamble stand part of the Bill,”—put and passed.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next at 11 o'clock.]

TUESDAY, 4 OCTOBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Cohen in the Chair.

Mr. Ewing,	|	Mr. Moore,
Mr. Rigg,	|	Mr. Waddell.

Thomas Selwood Huntley recalled, and examined in explanation of his answer to Question 124. Bill considered.

Clause 1 read and agreed to.

Clause 2 read, amended,* and agreed to.

Clauses 3 to 6 read and agreed to.

Clause 7 read and postponed.

Clauses 8 and 9 read and agreed to.

Clause 10 read, amended,* and agreed to.

Clauses 11 to 28 read and agreed to.

Clauses 29 to 35 read and postponed.

Clause 36 read and agreed to.

Clauses 37 and 38 read and postponed.

Clauses 39 to 44 read and agreed to.

Clause 45 read and postponed.

Clause 46 read and agreed to.

[Adjourned till Thursday next at Twelve o'clock noon.]

*See Schedule of Amendments.

THURSDAY,

THURSDAY, 6 OCTOBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Cohen in the Chair.
Mr. Hayes, | Mr. McLean,
Mr. Moore.

Bill further considered.
Clause 7 read, amended,* and agreed to.
Clauses 29 and 30 read and agreed to.
Clause 31 read and omitted.
Clauses 32 to 35 read and agreed to.
Clause 37 read and omitted.
Clause 38 read and agreed to.
Clause 45 read, amended,* and agreed to.
Clause 8 reconsidered, amended,* and agreed to.
New clauses to follow clause 45 read and agreed to.
Title read and agreed to.
Chairman to report the Bill with amendments to the House.

* See Schedule of Amendments.

SCHEDULE OF AMENDMENTS.

Page 3, clause 2, lines 40 and 41. Omit "Governor" means the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council "

Page 5, clause 7, line 26. After "line" insert "or tunnel"
" " " " 30. After "Works" insert "or the Railway Commissioners"
" " " " 31. After "line" insert "or tunnel"
" " " " 34. After "Works" insert "or the Railway Commissioners"
" " " " 36. Omit "wire" insert "line or tunnel"
" " " " 38. After "Works" insert "or the Railway Commissioners"
" 6, " " " 1. After "Works" insert "or the Railway Commissioners"
" " " " 2. After "telephone" insert "line or tunnel"
" " " 8, " 11. After "Works" insert "the Railway Commissioners"
" " " " 21. After "Works" insert "the Railway Commissioners"
" " " 10, " 37. Omit "approbation" insert "approval"
" 11, " 31, " Omit clause 31.
" 12, " 37, " Omit clause 37.
" 14, " 45, 43, " 8. After "Saywell" insert "and the Secretary for Public Works on behalf of the Government, and the Municipal Council of West Botany (now the Municipal Council of Rockdale) respectively."

" " Insert the following new clauses to follow clause 45, 43 of the Bill :—
44. The power of purchase or resumption conferred upon the Secretary for Public Works on behalf of the Government and the Municipal Council of West Botany (now the Municipal Council of Rockdale) under or by virtue of the said Saywell's Tramway Act of 1884, and Saywell's Tramway Act Amendment Act shall extend to and be applicable to the works to be constructed by the said Thomas Saywell in pursuance of this Act. Power of Government or Municipal Council of Rockdale to purchase works.

45. The employment and use of electricity as the motive and propelling power on and in connection with the tramway shall be brought into operation within a period of three years from the passing of this Act otherwise all rights and privileges granted under this Act shall cease. Time limit for bringing electric power into operation.

LIST OF WITNESSES.

	PAGE.
Huntley, T. S.	8, 11, 12
Judd, W. G.	9
McLachlan, H.	9
Saywell, T.	7
Walker, P. B.	11

1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE

THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

SAYWELL'S TRAMWAY AND ELECTRIC
LIGHTING BILL.

TUESDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER, 1898.

Present:—

MR. CANN,
MR. EWING,
MR. McLEAN,

MR. RIGG,
MR. MOORE,
MR. HAYES.

J. J. COHEN, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

Thomas Saywell called in, sworn, and examined:—

1. *Chairman.*] You are the Thomas Saywell referred to in the Saywell's Tramway Act, 1884? Yes.
2. And you are the petitioner for this Bill? Yes.
3. You desire, I understand, to change the method of traction of your tramway by substituting electricity for steam-power? Yes.
4. And you also desire to supply electricity for lighting and mechanical purposes if any of the residents adjacent to the tramway desire it? Yes.
5. How do you propose to supply the electricity? By overhead wires, similar to the method to be adopted by the Government in George-street.
6. Will the alteration in the mode of traction enable you to work your tramway more economically, or otherwise? I do not think there will be any saving.
7. What do you estimate will be the approximate cost of the necessary plant and alterations? I should think between £4,000 and £5,000.
8. Will there be any advantage to the public by the proposed alteration? Yes; I should say so.
9. In what way? By dispensing with smoke there will be greater cleanliness, and the traction will be easier, and in every way more suitable.
10. And as to speed? I do not expect to have any greater speed. At present the tramway runs at a speed of 6 or 7 miles an hour.
11. You are not seeking any exclusive rights for this tramway? Not at all.
12. Nor as regards electricity? Not at all.
13. *Mr. McLean.*] Have you had any communication with the municipal council of Rockdale with reference to the proposal? I have not, but Mr. Huntley has on my behalf.
14. Do you know whether a copy of the Bill has been forwarded to them? Yes, I think so.
15. *Chairman.*] You purpose using this power for lighting the streets for the municipality? Yes, if they require it.
16. And you only intend to do that within the municipal district of Rockdale, and you are applying for this power for a period of thirty-five years from the passing of this Bill? Yes.
17. How many years has your present term to run? It has already run fourteen years, and the term was originally twenty-five years.

T. Saywell.

27 Sept., 1898.

Thomas

Thomas Selwood Huntley called in, sworn, and examined :—

- T.S. Huntley. 18. *Chairman.*] You have been acting as agent for Mr. Saywell? I have.
 19. For how long? A few months, for this purpose.
 27 Sept., 1898. 20. Did you have any interview with the municipal council of Rockdale about this Bill? Yes; several interviews and correspondence.
 21. Have the municipal council of Rockdale had a copy of the Bill? Yes.
 22. Did they have a copy during the time of your discussion? Yes; they had a copy during the discussion.
 23. And before they wrote to you? Yes.
 24. Have you any communication from them that you can produce? Yes. After passing resolutions in favour of the application of Mr. Saywell they finally sent me this letter, with the corporate seal attached :—

Municipal District of Rockdale, Town Hall, Rockdale, 25 August, 1898.

Thomas Saywell, Esq., 16, York-street, Sydney,—
 Sir,

Referring to your request that the approval of the municipal council of Rockdale should be given to a Bill proposed to be submitted to the Parliament of New South Wales, "to further amend Saywell's Tramway Act of 1884 and Saywell's Tramway Act Amendment Act, and to authorise, enable, and empower Thomas Saywell to apply electricity as a motive and propelling power on and in connection with the said tramway, and to extend the authorities and powers conferred by the said Acts for a period of thirty-five years from the passing of the said Bill; and, further, to authorise, enable, and empower the said Thomas Saywell to generate and supply electric power for the purposes of the said tramway, and also to generate and supply electricity for any public or private purpose, for the purpose of lighting the streets and public and private places, houses, and premises situated in the municipal district of Rockdale, and to generate and supply electric power to persons and public and private bodies in the said municipal district, and to exercise all powers necessary for such purposes." I am directed by His Worship the Mayor (Alderman W. G. Judd) to intimate to you that at a meeting of the council, held on the 4th day of August, 1898, the following resolution was carried unanimously :—

Resolution referred to.—Saywell's Tramway Bill.

MR. T. S. HUNTLEY'S letter asking for council's approval to an extension of an additional term of twenty years to Saywell's Tramway Act.—It was resolved by Alderman Green, seconded by Alderman Small, and carried unanimously :—"That this council approve of the extension asked for, viz., twenty years, and that the Mayor be authorised to affix the corporate seal to the letter conveying such approval."

I have, &c.,
 GEORGE LEEDER,
 Council Clerk.

25. What is the meaning of the resolution approving of the extension of the term for twenty years? The unexpired term is really fifteen years, and the new Bill, if carried through, will confer powers for thirty-five years—that is, twenty years in addition to the unexpired period.
 26. *Mr. Moore.*] The council in their resolution do not touch the question of electricity? The first part of the letter is really the preamble of the Bill, and they approve of that.
 27. They simply say, "This council approves of the extension asked for, namely, twenty years"? The Bill was submitted to them.
 28. Seeing that the substitution of electricity would affect them to some extent, would you not think they would have expressed an opinion about it? All this was discussed very freely at the council for three nights, as to why the twenty years was asked for. The twenty years' extension was asked for to enable Mr. Saywell to recoup himself for the proposed extra expenditure of capital, and also partly to recoup himself for losses in the past. The council realise that Mr. Saywell fought a very uphill battle in running this tramway through the late depression which we have experienced, at a loss every day of his life, for years, and they say, "He is the largest ratepayer in the district; he has attracted more people to the municipal district of Rockdale than all the other ratepayers put together, and we ought to assist him, and we intend to assist him."
 29. *Mr. Ewing.*] The first point is as to the extension of time;—there is no reference to any alteration of route as far as the tramway is concerned? None whatever.
 30. The old tramway remains as it is, but with a different motive power? Quite so.
 31. With regard to the question of lighting: In Saywell's old Bill there is no reference to lighting, and therefore that becomes a matter for serious consideration? Yes; that is an additional power.
 32. *Mr. Rigg.*] You nullify the existing lease, and ask for another term, and as the Bill proposes to extend greater powers than the old one, it is therefore your starting-point for thirty-five years? Yes.
 33. *Mr. Moore.*] This Bill, then, will repeal the old one? No; clause 45 says :—

The several and respective rights, powers, and authorities given to, vested in, or conferred upon the said Thomas Saywell under or by virtue of Saywell's Tramway Act of 1884, Saywell's Tramway Act Amendment Act, and this Act shall continue and be in full force and effect for a period of thirty-five years from the passing of this Act.

That will remain unaltered. In this Bill the two additional matters are an extension of time and the change of motive power.

34. *Mr. Hayes.*] There is power in the original Act for the municipality or the Government to purchase—that is saved by this Bill? Yes; that power remains.
 35. *Mr. Ewing.*] Where did the framer of the Bill get the clause with regard to the reinstatement of streets;—I ask that question in view of possible complications with the municipal council? Perhaps it will shorten the whole matter if I say that this Bill, so far as the lighting-power is concerned, is a copy, almost verbatim, where suitable, of the City of Sydney Electric Lighting Act.
 36. When you use the term lighting, I presume you mean also all works incidental to lighting? Quite so; all that can be done by the electric current. All that part has been taken from the City of Sydney Electric Lighting Bill.
 37. The Bill places Mr. Saywell in the same position as that in which the City Council would be were they working under their own Act? Yes; with alterations to suit the locality. With regard to the municipal council, I am prepared to say that the Bill was absolutely and thoroughly understood by every member of the council and by the council as a whole, and that they knew when they were giving their approval to the proposed extension for twenty years that they were giving their consent to the electric lighting part, as well as to the electric traction and the extension of term.
 38. *Mr. Moore.*] Has the Bill, now before the Committee, been submitted to the municipal council of Rockdale? Yes.
 39. Have they expressed their approval of it as it now appears? They have.
 40. Do they suggest any alterations or make any suggestions? None whatever.

41. Then you are prepared to say the council are willing to accept this Bill as it is? I am. T.S. Huntley.
42. Everything in the old Bill as regards charges remains? Yes. 27 Sept., 1898.
43. Under the existing Act Mr. Saywell is empowered to make a charge for passengers not exceeding 3d. per head each way? Yes.
44. What charges have been actually imposed? Twopence each way or 3d. return.
45. *Mr. McLean.*] That is the charge at present? Yes.
46. Has it been in operation for some time? For ten years.
47. Have there been any complaints from the public with regard to these charges? None.
48. Are you in a position to say what have been the charges on goods? No goods have been carried over the line.
49. *Chairman.*] Apart from your charge of 2d., I believe you have some arrangement by which a passenger gets a through ticket to the terminus? Yes; there is an arrangement with the Railway Department by which, for 1s., you can get a ticket right through to the Beach, including a bath, and return to Sydney. This arrangement has been in operation for ten years, and has been a great boon to thousands of people.
50. What is the fare by the railway alone? Eightpence. So that they get a bath and return ticket to the Beach for 4d.
51. *Mr. Rigg.*] Is there any opposition so far as the public outside the council are concerned to the proposed Bill? Not the slightest.
52. You have heard of none? None whatever.
53. What about the charge for electricity, is provision made for safeguarding the public in that respect? No arrangement has been made. The proposal is that if anyone desires to be supplied with electricity, and Mr. Saywell has it to sell, it will be a matter for mutual contract; no consumer will pay more than he pays for gas, that is quite certain.
54. *Chairman.*] He would not take it otherwise? No.
55. *Mr. Rigg.*] It would be a protection to the public if there were some restriction with regard to the charge for electricity, as there is with regard to the passenger fares? Mr. Saywell is a business man, and he will put down a plant sufficient to deal with the necessities that may arise, and if he can see his way clear to sell electricity, and make a profit out of it, even at a price a good deal lower than that of gas, he will be very ready to do it.
56. But if it were provided that the price should not exceed a certain sum that would protect the interests of the public in that respect? There would be no objection I take it to the insertion of a clause in the Bill providing that in the event of electricity being purchased by anybody the price should not exceed the price for gas—that is, that the price should be equivalent.
57. *Mr. Moore.*] Is any provision made in the Bill with regard to gauge, levels, and so on? The gauge of the tramway is 4 ft. 8½ in., and it will remain so. It is connected with the Government line.

WEDNESDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER, 1898.

Present:—

MR. MOORE,	|	MR. RIGG,
MR. HAYES,	|	MR. McLEAN.

J. J. COHEN, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

Huch McLachlan called in, sworn, and examined:—

58. *Chairman.*] What are you? Secretary to the Railway Commissioners.
59. Have you seen the Bill that is under the consideration of this Committee? Yes. H. McLachlan.
60. In your opinion will there be any objection to its provisions as far as the Railway Commissioners are concerned, or are there any suggestions which you think they would like to make? I spoke to the Railway Commissioners about the Bill. Personally they have no objection to the proposed extension of time, or to the electric power as provided in the Bill. The only thing is, that they would like to have some safeguard that no interference will be made with the Rockdale Station in carrying out the new works. Of course, I know Mr. Saywell would only be too happy to assist us, still the Commissioners think it should be provided for. The Bill provides in the Preamble that the promoters shall have power to enter any public place which would practically included the railway-station, and there are certain precautions taken, but the Railway Commissioners are not specifically mentioned, and should like to be protected in this respect. 28 Sept., 1898.
61. *Mr. Hayes.*] Would it be sufficient to insert the words "subject to the approval of the Railway Commissioners"? A clause might be inserted providing that in the case of any work being undertaken which might interfere with the railway premises or approaches, it should not be commenced until plans and conditions had been submitted to, and approved by the Railway Commissioners. I think Mr. Saywell would be only too happy to agree to such a clause.
62. *Chairman.*] The proposed electric lighting would not interfere with you in any way? No.

William George Judd called in, sworn, and examined:—

63. *Chairman.*] You are Mayor of Rockdale? Yes. W. G. Judd.
64. Have you seen the proposed Bill to amend Saywell's Tramway Act? Yes. 28 Sept., 1898.
65. Has that Bill been before your council, and have you considered it? Yes.
66. Are there any objections to it on the part of your council? None whatever. The vote in its favour was unanimous.
67. In the letter written by the Town Clerk to the promoter of the Bill conveying the resolution of the council, reference is made only to the extension of time;—do you now say that the council are agreeable that the provisions of the Bill in all respects should be carried out? Yes; they are.
68. Including the provision with regard to the supply of electricity to private persons, and also if required to the Rockdale municipality, and the provision substituting electricity for steam as a motive power to the tramway? Yes.
69. *Mr. Moore.*] The resolution of the council was intended to give approval to the whole scheme? Yes. We had before us the old Bill and the new Bill. I was Mayor at the time the old Bill was put through. 70.

W. G. Judd. We thought it would be better for the borough that the traction should be by electricity instead of steam. The steam-tramway has been a boon, and this one will be a greater boon. We had two or three meetings to consider this matter and did not come to any rash conclusion. The vote was taken at the second or third meeting, and the matter was thoroughly thrashed out.

28 Sept., 1898.

70. *Mr. Hayes.*] In reference to electric lighting, as you know, there is now a very strong feeling in the direction of having such matters under the control of the municipality;—have you fully considered that aspect of the question? Yes.

71. You know you are practically admitting a rival competitor by the adoption of this part of the Bill? Yes; we saw that; but we do not think we should be in a position to compete with the electric light that Mr. Saywell would be able to put down, and the council do not consider that he would be a rival to the borough.

72. You are perfectly satisfied to leave this matter in the hands of Mr. Saywell? Yes.

73. Have you also considered the question of the charge for electric lighting;—would you require a clause in the Bill with regard to that? No; we did not consider that question. We thought that if the electric light were not cheaper than gas the public would not take it, and as the use of electric light is not compulsory, we did not consider that in this respect Mr. Saywell would be a rival to us. We knew the ratepayers would not take it unless it was cheaper than gas.

74. There is a very strong feeling both in the Legislative Assembly and outside on the question that the lighting in any municipality should be solely in the hands of the municipality. Therefore I want you to say whether you have considered this matter fully? Yes; the council talked the matter over. There are three municipalities in the electoral district of St. George, and if the place is to be lit by electricity, it must come from the Beach side. We are fully seized of that fact.

75. In that case, coming from the Beach side, it would be to some extent a rival? Well, we did not look at it in that way; that was not the opinion of the council.

76. This is a matter that will certainly be seriously considered in the Assembly, and I should like you to be very clear that you are satisfied that, as far as the municipality is concerned, there is no objection to these provisions in the Bill—you have stated that? Yes.

77. *Mr. Rigg.*] What is the indebtedness of the municipality? About £16,000.

78. What is the revenue? About £2,800—the general revenue.

79. What interest are you paying on the £16,000? We are paying, I think, 4 per cent.

80. That would be about £650. So that you would have about £2,000 to spend in ordinary improvements in the borough? Yes.

81. In the matter of electric lighting, a special Bill would be required on behalf of the council to carry it out? Yes.

82. And that would mean expense to the borough? Yes.

83. And would weigh with the council in not claiming the right to erect these electric-lighting works? I may state that as the council is at present constituted, I do not think they would attempt anything in the way of lighting the borough.

84. You mean owing to the personnel of the council, or owing to its financial condition? On account of its financial condition.

85. There being an indebtedness of £16,000 at the present time, the council, as at present constituted, would not care to involve the borough in any further liability? No; our desire is to reduce the indebtedness.

86. That is the principal reason for allowing a private individual to take up the work of electric lighting in the borough? Yes. In fact, we have looked upon Mr. Saywell as being a great boon to Rockdale.

87. Has there been any objection on the part of the public to the proposed electric lighting? No.

88. You have heard of none? None whatever; and if there was any objection I should hear of it.

89. *Mr. Moore.*] Did your council consider the question of the extension of time to a period of thirty-five years? Yes; that was the cause of the adjournment from the first meeting. The aldermen were not then all present, and though I was very sorry to send Mr. Huntley back after he had come out that evening; still I thought it would not be fair to deal with the matter when some of the aldermen were absent. We thoroughly discussed the question of the extension of time.

90. And you came to the conclusion that the time asked for—thirty-five years from the passing of this Bill—would be a fair thing? Yes.

91. *Mr. McLean.*] Have you any reason to believe that there will be large settlement and growth of population towards Lady Robinson's Beach within the next few years? Yes; I think so; in fact the population is now increasing.

92. And you think the traffic on the tramway will become very much heavier? There will be more regular traffic; I do not know that it will be heavier. At present large numbers of pleasure-seekers use the tramway at holiday time, but I think there is a prospect of a more regular traffic from residents at the Beach.

93. Do you consider the extension of time a reasonable one in view of the possible growth of traffic? Yes; I think it is reasonable. Of course we looked at the matter from that standpoint. We knew the tramway did not pay Mr. Saywell. We were quite satisfied about that. Had it been in the hands of a private company, the company would have been liquidated years ago, and the tramway pulled up, and the people would have suffered. Mr. Saywell has an interest down there no doubt; but we thought the time he was asking for was not too much.

94. *Mr. Moore.*] I understand from an answer you gave just now to Mr. McLean, that your council, in considering the question of extension of time took into consideration not only the capital that would now be sunk in this work; but also the fact that for years the old tramway has been worked at a loss? Yes; and it has been a boon to the people.

95. Have you any idea how long it has been worked at a loss? I think from the very start, in 1834.

96. So that really the public have had all the benefit from the tramway? There is no doubt about that.

97. And you have taken that fact into consideration in agreeing to the extension of time asked for? Yes; the ratepayers look upon it in the light that it has been a boon to their district. It has in fact opened up what was formerly a desert, and what is now a beautiful place.

98. *Mr. Rigg.*] The tramway being run at a loss, do you think if it were discontinued, that would retard the progress of the district? Yes, very much; because numbers of our own ratepayers visit the Beach every afternoon at this time of year.

- 99. And it is in the interests of the public to keep the tramway going? Yes.
- 100. *Mr. Moore.*] Have the public been well served, and have they been satisfied? Yes; I have never heard a complaint; in fact, when we have made any suggestion through the council to Mr. Saywell that the tram might run up to meet a certain train, for instance, it has been carried out immediately.
- 101. *Chairman.*] There is a provision enabling the tramway to be taken over by the municipal council;—has the council had under consideration the question whether they would desire to have the same right to purchase the electric-lighting plant? No; the question of the right to purchase the electric-lighting plant was not considered.
- 102. Can you offer any opinion about it yourself, without, of course, in any way committing the council? Personally I do not think we would be in a position to undertake such a work. You see we have a heavy indebtedness.
- 103. You are not in a position even now to take over the tramway, still power is reserved to enable the council to do so;—do you think a like power should be reserved to you to take over the electric-lighting plant? I think it would perhaps be as well to have that power.
- 104. *Mr. McLean.*] You think it would be in the public interest to have the power to resume? Yes; I think it would be advisable.
- 105. *Chairman.*] Does the tramway meet all trains? Yes; from 7 o'clock in the morning until 10 at night on four days in the week and until 11 o'clock on two days, and on Sunday it meets all trains.

W. G. Judd.
28 Sept., 1898.

Philip Billingsley Walker, C.E., M. Inst. Civil Engineers, England, called in, sworn, and examined:—

- 106. *Chairman.*] What are you? Chief Electrician and Engineer-in-Chief, Postal and Telegraph Department, also M. Institute Civil Engineers, England.
- 107. Has this Bill, proposing to extend the time under the Saywell Tramway Act, and to allow the promoter to use electric traction, been brought under your notice? Yes.
- 108. In your opinion, will it in any way affect any of the arrangements of the Electrical Department? Clause 4 provides that "the said Thomas Saywell may open and break up the soil and pavement of any street, and open and break up any sewers, drains, or tunnels within or under such streets." The words "or tunnels" should be struck out, because the Postmaster-General may construct tunnels in this district, and it would never do to allow those tunnels to be cut open. If the words "or tunnels" were struck out, there would be no objection to the clause, and I do not think they are necessary.
- 109. If a clause were inserted in the Bill something to this effect "that no tunnels of the Postal and Telegraph Department shall be interfered with, unless the sanction of the Department be first obtained";—would not that meet everything? Yes; that would meet the case.
- 110. Have you any other suggestion? Clause 5 says, that Mr. Saywell may alter the position of any "pipes, wires, sewers, drains, or tunnels." The same objection occurs there, and the word "wires" should be omitted, because there are no wires in the district except the wires of the Postmaster-General.
- 111. Then you think there should be a similar provision in regard to wires as that which you have suggested in the case of tunnels? Yes; there is a provision in clause 7 for the protection of telegraph and telephone lines and other public works, but I do not think that quite meets the case, and it would be better to insert a clause such as that indicated. Those are the only two points in the Bill where it appears to me any alteration is required so far as the Postmaster-General is concerned.
- 112. Do you think any injury is likely to result from the construction of these works to any of your works? That would, of course, depend upon the method of construction. If brought into contact with any of our works serious damage might result, but if properly constructed, and with due precaution, no damage need arise.
- 113. *Mr. Hayes.*] Do you not think that a slight alteration to clause 7 would cover the two points you have mentioned? Yes; but I do not consider clause 7 is sufficient as it stands.
- 114. An alteration in clause 7 would cover the objections you have raised? I think so. Otherwise the Bill appears to me to be in no way objectionable so far as the Department is concerned.
- 115. *Mr. McLean.*] The Department has no objection to the granting of these powers with regard to electric lighting and the supply of electric power? No.
- 116. It has no intention of exercising those powers itself, so far as you are aware at present? So far as we are concerned, I am not aware of any intention to do so. But it is a matter for the Postmaster-General to decide.
- 117. Still it is not a matter that is being done by the Department at the present time? Not at present, except for our own purposes.

Philip Billingsley Walker.
28 Sept., 1898.

Thomas Selwood Huntley recalled and further examined:—

- 118. *Chairman.*] Have you a site for your electric-lighting plant? Mr. Saywell has any quantity of spare land there, but he has not actually fixed upon a site yet. He has land available for a site.
- 119. How long after the Bill was passed do you think you would have your works erected and the plant in working order? That would, necessarily, take some time, because in the first place Mr. Saywell would like to get his plant on the very best terms he could.
- 120. About how long—without binding you down to a month or two? It would not take, perhaps, more than a year to complete the whole thing.
- 121. Would two years be a reasonable time? I think three years.
- 122. Would you be prepared to have a clause inserted in the Bill providing that in three years from the date of the passing of the Act you should start the electric traction? Yes; I should think the works would be completed within three years. There would be no objection to a clause to that effect being inserted in the Bill.
- 123. *Mr. Rigg.*] You say that no particular spot has been fixed upon for the site? There is nothing absolutely fixed.
- 124. Is it likely to go on to the beach? Yes.
- 125. Would there be any crossings or anything of the kind that would involve any danger to the public? None whatever.
- 126. No provision is made for gatekeepers; I suppose there would be no necessity for anything of the kind? None whatever.

T. S. Huntley.
28 Sept., 1898.

TUESDAY, 4 OCTOBER, 1898.

Present:—

MR. EWING,
MR. MOORE,MR. RIGG,
MR. WADDELL.

J. J. COHEN, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Thomas Selwood Huntley recalled and further examined:—

T. S. Huntley. 127. *Chairman.*] You wish to correct your answer to Question 124—"Is it likely to go on to the beach?"
 Yes.
 4 Oct., 1898. 128. What answer do you wish to give to that question? There is no intention to extend the tramline beyond its present terminus, at the intersection of Bay-street with the Grand Parade.

1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE
ON THE
CITY AND NORTH SYDNEY CONNECTION BILL ;
TOGETHER WITH THE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE
AND
MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

ORDERED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO BE PRINTED,
7 October, 1898, a.m.

SYDNEY: WILLIAM APPLIGATE GULLICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1898.

1898.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VOTES No. 15. TUESDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER, 1898.

4. CITY AND NORTH SYDNEY CONNECTION BILL (*Formal Motion*):—Mr. McLean moved, pursuant to Notice,—
- (1.) That the City and North Sydney Connection Bill be referred to a Select Committee for consideration and report.
- (2.) That such Committee consist of Mr. Austin Chapman, Mr. Young, Mr. Dick, Mr. Howarth, Mr. Kidd, Mr. E. M. Clark, Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Watson, Mr. Sleath, and the Mover.
- (3.) That the Reports, Minutes of Proceedings, and Evidence of previous Select Committees on the subject of connecting Sydney with North Sydney by bridge, tunnel, or tunnel railway, be referred to such Committee.
- Question put and passed.

VOTES No. 23. THURSDAY, 6 OCTOBER, 1898.

7. CITY AND NORTH SYDNEY CONNECTION BILL:—Mr. McLean, as Chairman, brought up the Report from, and laid upon the Table the Minutes of Proceedings of, and Evidence taken before the Select Committee for whose consideration and Report this Bill was referred on 20th September, 1898, together with a copy of the Bill as amended and agreed to by the Committee.
- Ordered to be printed.

* * * * *

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1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

CITY AND NORTH SYDNEY CONNECTION BILL.

REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, for whose consideration and report was referred, on 20th September, 1898, the "*City and North Sydney Connection Bill*," and to whom was referred, on the same date, "*the Reports, Minutes of Proceedings, and Evidence of previous Select Committees, on the subject of connecting Sydney with North Sydney by bridge, tunnel, or tunnel-railway*,"—beg to report to your Honorable House:—

That they have examined the witnesses named in the List* (whose evidence will be found appended hereto), and considered the Reports and Evidence referred; and that the Preamble having been satisfactorily proved to your Committee, they proceeded to consider the Bill, in which it was deemed necessary to make certain amendments.

Your Committee now beg to lay before your Honorable House the Bill as amended by them.

F. E. McLEAN,
Chairman.

No. 1 Committee Room,
Legislative Assembly,
6th October, 1898.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

TUESDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER, 1898.

MEMBER PRESENT:—

Mr. McLean.

In the absence of a Quorum, the meeting called for this day lapsed.

TUESDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Howarth,	|	Mr. McLean,
Mr. Sleath,	|	Mr. Watson.

Mr. McLean called to the Chair.

Entry from Votes and Proceedings, appointing the Committee, and referring Report, Minutes of Proceedings, and Evidence of previous Select Committees, on the subject of connecting Sydney with North Sydney by bridge, tunnel, or tunnel-railway, read by the Clerk.

Printed copies of the Bill referred, together with original Petition to introduce same, and copies of the papers referred, before the Committee.

Present:—E. E. Fosbery, Esq. (*Solicitor for the Bill*).

John Sulman (*the Promotor*) sworn and examined.

Witness *produced* plans showing the routes of the proposed tunnels.

Ordered,—That the Engineer-in-Chief for Railway Construction and the Secretary to the Railway Commissioners be summoned to give evidence next meeting.

[Adjourned till Thursday next at *Two* o'clock.]

THURSDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. McLean in the Chair.

Mr. E. M. Clark,	|	Mr. Howarth,
Mr. O'Connor,	|	Mr. Sleath,
		Mr. Watson.

Present:—E. E. Fosbery, Esq. (*Solicitor for the Bill*).

Eustace Edmund Fosbery sworn and examined.

Henry Deane (*Engineer-in-Chief, Railway Construction Branch, Public Works Department*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next at *Two* o'clock.]

TUESDAY, 4 OCTOBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. McLean in the Chair.

Mr. Howarth,		Mr. Watson.
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Present:—E. E. Fosbery, Esq. (*Solicitor for the Bill*).

Hugh McLachlan (*Secretary to the Railway Commissioners*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

John Sulman recalled and further examined.

Eustace Edmund Fosbery recalled and further examined.

John Sulman recalled and further examined.

[Adjourned till Thursday next at a *Quarter to Two* o'clock.]

THURSDAY, 6 OCTOBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. McLean in the Chair.

Mr. Howarth	|	Mr. Kidd,
		Mr. Watson.

Present:—E. E. Fosbery, Esq. (*Solicitor for the Bill*).

Room cleared.

Preamble considered.

Question,—“That this Preamble stand part of the Bill,”—put and passed.

Solicitor called in.

Clauses 1 and 2 read and agreed to.

Clause

Clause 3 read, amended,* and agreed to.
 Clause 4 read, amended,* and agreed to.
 Clauses 5, 6, and 7 read and agreed to.
 Clause 8 read, amended,* and agreed to.
 Clauses 9 to 22 read and agreed to.
 Clause 23 read, amended,* and agreed to.
 Clauses 24 to 48 read and agreed to.
 Clause 49 read, amended,* and agreed to.
 Clause 50 read, amended,* and agreed to.
 Clauses 51 to 53 read and agreed to.
 Schedule read and agreed to.
 Title read and agreed to.
 Chairman to report the Bill with amendments to the House.

SCHEDULE OF AMENDMENTS.

Page 6, clause 3, line 21. After "any" *insert* "lands vested in the Railway Commissioners save and except with their prior written consent, or the surface of any other"
 " " " " " 32. Before "Governor" *insert* "Railway Commissioners, the"
 " 7, " " " 14. After "whose" *insert* "approval of the plans and specifications both as to design and location shall be obtained before the works are commenced, and whose"
 " " " 4, " 31. *Omit* "twenty-six" *insert* "twenty-five"
 " 10, " 8, " 21. *Omit* "throughout"
 " 17, " 23, " 16. *Omit* "twelve" *insert* "six"
 " " " " 17. *Omit* "twelve" *insert* "six"
 " 25, " 48, " 12. After "shall" *omit* "be the amount of the actual *bona fide* cost of acquisition, purchase, and construction of the said property and premises, with an amount added equal to three years net profits on the working of the whole undertaking calculated on the basis of an average of the last two preceding years." *insert* "be determined in case of dispute by arbitration in accordance with and subject to the provisions of the Arbitration Act, 1892, and for the purposes of arbitration thereunder this Act shall be deemed to be an instrument or document between the parties within the meaning of the same. Provided that the amount of such compensation shall not exceed the amount of the actual *bona fide* cost of acquisition, purchase, or construction of the said property and premises, with an amount added equal to three years net profits on the working of the whole undertaking calculated on the basis of an average of the last two preceding years. The arbitrator or umpire shall in every case have power to direct how and by whom the costs of the reference and award shall be paid."
 Page 25, clause 50, line 31. *Omit* "The Company" *insert* "any such Company as is"

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1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE

THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

CITY AND NORTH SYDNEY CONNECTION BILL.

TUESDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER, 1898.

Present:—

MR. HOWARTH,

MR. WATSON.

MR. SLEATH,

FRANCIS EDWARD MCLEAN, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Eustace Edmund Fosbery, Esq., appeared as Solicitor for the Bill.

John Sulman, architect, sworn and examined:—

1. *Chairman.*] Where are you carrying on your profession? Wynyard-street, Sydney.
2. You are the petitioner with reference to this Bill, known as the City and North Sydney Connection Bill? Yes.
3. You previously petitioned Parliament for their sanction to construct two tunnels, under two separate Bills? I did.
4. Will you explain to the Committee the purport of this present Bill, and the object of asking for the one Bill to be passed instead of the two, as formerly? I have asked for one Bill to be passed instead of two Bills, because, in the Committees of the previous Parliament, objection was raised that if two Bills were passed, one of the works might be proceeded with and the other not. I made a verbal promise to the Committee that I would regard the two Bills as inseparable, and to make them inseparable they are now put into one Bill.
5. Perhaps you would like to make a general statement of your proposals? Yes, I would. I now hand in plans of the proposed works, which are fully described in the statement I am about to read.

J. Sulman.
27 Sept., 1898.

In the first Session of the last Parliament I applied for a Bill to enable me to construct an underground electric railway to carry passengers between the city and North Sydney; and in the second Session of the same Parliament I applied for a further Bill to construct a tunnel roadway, for vehicular traffic, between Circular Quay and Milson's Point.

The Electric Railway Bill reached its second reading, which was passed by a large majority, and referred to Committee; but, owing to pressure of legislative business, no further progress was made.

Last year I was in England for several months, and took the opportunity of carefully examining all the electric underground railways and modern subaqueous tunnels constructed or constructing. These comprised the City and Stockwell electric line, which has been running for several years, and the City and Waterloo electric line (just opened), both passing under the Thames; the Central London electric line, 6 miles in length, from the Mansion House to Shepherd's Bush, which is being pushed forward with great energy, and is expected to have a traffic of 60,000,000 annually; the Mersey railway tunnel, at Liverpool, and the Glasgow underground circular line, which twice passes under the Clyde. I also carefully examined the celebrated Blackwall Tunnel, the finest subaqueous tunnel yet constructed for vehicular traffic.

The experience thus gained, and consultation with the engineers of the various works, has confirmed the opinion previously formed that the only practicable and possible means of connecting the city and North Sydney, with a due regard to economy and efficiency, is by tunnel.

I have, therefore, applied to this Parliament for permission to construct the same tunnels as I did to the last; but, to fulfil a promise made to the Select Committee before which I had the honor to appear, the two Bills have been recast into one. To meet another objection I have inserted a clause in the Bill that the electric railway tunnel shall be not less than 12 feet in diameter, instead of that it shall not exceed 12 feet 6 inches.

With these exceptions the schemes are the same as those proposed to the last Parliament.

The

J. Sulman.

27 Sept., 1893.

The description of the electric railway and tunnel is as follows :—

It will commence at Milson's Point, about 85 feet below high-water level, and just under the railway station; thence it will run in a straight line through the bed of the harbour to Dawes Point, pass under the Government property bordering Circular Quay, and thence under Pitt-street to its intersection with King-street, a total distance of 1 mile and 26 chains.

There will be stations at the termini and at Circular Quay.

The gradients will not exceed 1 in 60, and at no point will the roof of the tunnel approach nearer than 35 feet of the surface. It will thus be well below all sewers or basements, and being in solid rock, no surface disturbance will be caused.

At first only one tunnel will be constructed, but as soon as the traffic warrants it a second alongside the first will be provided. In each case they will be not less than 12 feet internal diameter. In the rock they will be excavated in the ordinary way, and lined with concrete; but under the harbour, shields with air-locks will be used, and the tunnel formed of cast-iron segments, lined inside with concrete, and the slight space of about an inch left outside by the shield will be filled up solid with cement grout. The iron will thus be protected and rendered indestructible. This is the method adopted in constructing modern subaqueous tunnels, and was brought to perfection by the late Mr. J. H. Greathead, the eminent engineer, who was employed in all the English works, and prepared the plans for those I am now proposing.

The stations are the same size as in the London examples, which are calculated for a very much larger traffic. They will be lined with glazed tiles and brilliantly lighted by electricity, and access thereto provided by staircases and large lifts, each carrying 120 passengers. There will be two lifts at each terminus and one at Circular Quay station.

It is intended to have a continuous service of trains leaving each terminus every five minutes during the day, and every fifteen minutes between midnight and 6 a.m. The time required to convey passengers from Milson's Point to the City terminus at King-street will be only four minutes, and without the inconvenience of changing *en route* as at present. The motive-power proposed to be used is electricity, thus avoiding the smoke and dirt of the ordinary tunnel where steam traction is used. The carriages will be similar in some respects to those on the suburban lines, and trains will be made up of four or more carriages, the length of each carriage being 45 feet, and the width 8 ft. 6 in., accommodating sixty passengers in each. They will have three side-doors for ingress and egress, and a passage from end to end, and will be brilliantly lighted by incandescent electric lamps. The gauge of the line will be the standard size, 4 ft. 8½ in., with rails 60 lb. to the yard. The electric conductor, from which each train takes the current sent out from the generating station, is to be mounted on the sleepers between the line rails. Glass insulators fixed to alternate sleepers will be employed to support it.

As to the fares to be charged, in the Bill itself, clause 25, it is stipulated that the fare for each section, viz., from Pitt-street to Circular Quay, and Circular Quay to Milson's Point, shall not exceed 1d.; and if it is possible to run the traffic at a lower rate, there is no doubt even this moderate charge would be reduced.

To conserve the rights of the general public, power is given to the Government to resume the undertaking in thirty years at cost price, with an amount added equal to three years' net profits calculated on the average of the two preceding years, the latter being compensation for forced sale.

The provision for vehicular traffic is by an entirely separate tunnel roadway of 25 feet internal diameter (the same as that at Blackwall), starting from Circular Quay, near Mott's wool store, passing thence under Phillip-street, Albert-street, Macquarie-street, and by a curve under Government House grounds to Macquarie Point, where the harbour is tunnelled in a straight line to Baulak-street, on the opposite side. Thence a curve is made to the left, and passing under the tram-lines at Milson's Point, the tunnel debouches close to the railway station-yard gates. The whole length is 1 mile 19 chains.

The construction will be the same as for the railway tunnels, but the grades will be 1 in 32 on the Sydney side, and 1 in 27 on the North Shore section. These are extremely easy, and would permit of the heaviest traffic.

As Alfred-street, on the North Shore side, is in parts very steep, I propose to make a new road from the mouth of the tunnel, curving round the slopes of the high ground facing Lavender Bay till it reaches the intersection of Junction and Alfred streets. Its grade will be 1 in 25 against 1 in 14 at present ascended in Alfred-street.

The roadway in the tunnel is to be 21 feet in width, thus permitting of three lines of traffic. The clear height in the centre is 19 feet, and at the sides 16 feet. The road-bed will be formed of concrete, covered with close-jointed wooden blocks, similar to those now being laid in the streets of the city, and it will be kept clean by hydrants placed at frequent intervals. The waste water will be carried off by drains under the roadway to a sump at the bottom level, whence it will be pumped up by a compressed air or electric motor, and discharged into the sewers. Under the roadway a large tunnel will be formed for pipes, drains, electric lighting, telegraph and telephone wires, gas, water, and compressed-air mains, &c., accessible at frequent intervals by ventilated manholes in the roadway, thus obviating any interference with the wood-blocking, and enabling the roadway to be kept permanently open for traffic. The tunnel will be kept continuously lit by three lines of electric lamps, at frequent intervals. The light would be the same as at Blackwall, which enables a newspaper to be read at any part. The most thorough ventilation will also be secured by a shaft 15 feet in diameter on each side of the harbour, which, after being used in construction as a working shaft, will be retained for ventilation.

The tolls are expressly limited in the Act to somewhat less than those now charged by the North Shore Ferry Company; but as the traffic increases it will be to the interest of the company which constructs and owns the tunnel to reduce these tolls as low as possible, and so still further encourage the traffic, and render competition impossible. The same conditions as to resummptions apply as in the electric railway.

In conclusion, may I be permitted to summarise the advantages I claim for the electric railway and tunnel-roadway schemes?

1. Neither interferes with public or private rights or vested interests to any appreciable extent, and less so than any other scheme.
2. There is no monopoly of site, as in other modes of surface communication, for fifty tunnels can, if required, be run under the harbour.
3. There is absolutely no interference with the very important shipping interests of the Port.
4. Accident to the structure of the tunnels is a practical impossibility.
5. The electric railway serves all kinds of passenger traffic—rail, tram, and road—and not a section only.
6. It is more speedy by nearly fifteen minutes than any other mode.
7. It does not compete with the Government railway and tramway services, and, in fact, will feed them, and make non-paying into paying lines.
8. It delivers passengers at Circular Quay and King-street, in the heart of the city.
9. It can be built in two years.
10. The tunnel-roadway connects the two foreshores at water-level at the most central points for traffic, viz., Circular Quay and Milson's Point.
11. The foreshores on both sides will eventually be thickly packed with warehouses and wharfs, to which a tunnel would give the easiest access.
12. In Lavender Bay there is much Government foreshore, which would be greatly improved in value for warehouse and wharfage purposes by the tunnel-roadway, which debouches right on this position.
13. The new road will relieve Alfred-street of vehicular traffic, and thus assist the running of the trams by removing obstructions.
14. The cost of both tunnels will be much below that of a suitable bridge. The cost to the country, if resumed by the Government, will, therefore, be less.
15. The tunnels are practically indestructible, as there is no corrosion, and hence cost of maintenance is low.
16. If resumed by Government they would not have appreciably deteriorated.
17. The whole of the expenditure for tunnels would be in the Colony, except for electric plant; consequently, the employment given would be large, viz., about 1,000 men for two years on both tunnels, and 500 men on the tunnel-roadway for a third year, besides men employed indirectly in brickmaking, &c.
18. It is the only proposal which deals comprehensively with the whole of the traffic of the northern side of the harbour down to the water's edge, both passenger and vehicular, and for passengers it is the only scheme that expedites their transit to any appreciable extent.

6. Mr. Watson.] I notice that clause 49 provides that: "It shall be lawful for the Governor, at any time after the expiration of thirty years from the bringing into use of the railway and tunnel-roadway, or from the bringing into use of the last of them, in case they shall not be simultaneously brought into use, to give

give to the said John Sulman notice of the intention of the Crown to purchase the railway and tunnel-roadway," &c.;—does not that period seem rather long? We have gone into the matter very carefully, and we could not do it for less than that, for the simple reason that for several years the undertaking will not pay. There will be a very large capital outlay, and we shall have to fight the existing means of transit, and even at the very best—if we got the whole of the traffic—it cannot pay for several years. We are looking to the inevitable increase of later years to recoup us for the loss of the earlier years, and it will take at least thirty years to give a fair average return on the investment.

J. Sulman.
27 Sept., 1898.

7. But it would seem that that provision would allow the matter to rest with you as to when the thirty-year period should commence? Clause 22 provides: "If the railway is not completed and brought into use within five years from the passing of this Act as to at least one tunnel thereof, and if the tunnel-roadway is not completed and brought into use within five years from the passing of this Act, then it shall be lawful for the Governor to impose on the said John Sulman a fine or forfeit at a rate not exceeding £500 per month until such time (not exceeding seven years from the passing of this Act) as the railway and tunnel-roadway shall be so completed and brought into use; and if, on the expiration of the said period of seven years, the same shall not be so completed and brought into use, then on the expiration of the said period of seven years the rights hereby conferred shall cease." That definitely determines the period during which construction is to be possible. Of course, if the Bill be passed, the sooner the works can be brought into use the sooner revenue will be earned.

8. As regards the charges, I notice that the charges for vehicles are in some instances slightly under those at present charged by the North Shore Ferry Company;—can you particularise, where the present charges are more, for I notice one or two instances where they seem about the same? In several instances they are the same, but in other instances they are less. The Ferry Company charges extra for heavily-loaded vans. We do not do that.

9. Your schedule says: "For every light buggy, and for every cart, dray, van, cab, or other two-wheeled vehicle similar to any of these, drawn by one horse or other animal, 6d."? I think the charges are the same, except where the charge is more for heavy weight in the case of the North Shore Ferry Company. The charge is the same for light vehicles, but it is in regard to heavily-loaded vans, &c., carrying produce that we give the advantage.

10. As to the amount to be paid in case of purchase by the Government, clause 49 provides: "And the amount of compensation to be paid to the said John Sulman upon such purchase by the Crown shall be the amount of the actual *bonâ fide* cost of acquisition, purchase, and construction, of the said property and premises, with an amount added equal to three years' net profits on the working of the whole undertaking, calculated on an average of the last two preceding years";—would there be any objection to specifying that the amount of compensation shall "not exceed" the amount of the actual *bonâ fide* cost, instead of "shall be"; this would practically mean that the amount would have to be determined, as in the case of an ordinary resumption, with the limitation, of course, that it was not to exceed the actual cost; there might be some deterioration in the course of thirty years? There is one point you might consider. Supposing that the profits of the undertaking are large, it will be a very profitable thing for the Government to take it over at cost price, and, therefore, the owners would be quite justified in asking for the three years' profits. Supposing that the profits are very small—that the undertaking is giving only a very small return—then the three years' profits would be a very small amount for the Government to pay. I think it is only a fair resumption price for the Government to pay when taking over the works at cost price.

11. But this aspect of the matter may be thought over by yourself; it may become desirable, from the standpoint of public policy, for the Government to resume this work, so that it shall not compete with some project the Government may have in hand, and it, perhaps, would be worth more to the Government taking it over than to the company carrying it on; although it may have deteriorated as an actual work, it may be to the Government's advantage to take it rather than put in a tunnel of their own, and, in that case, it seems to me that laying it down that the price to be paid by the Government shall "not exceed" the cost, would leave it open to have a fair value placed upon it, together with a certain amount as representing the three years' profit? I think on the whole that the clause ought to stand as it is; but I should like to consider the point, the question being rather too important a one for me to answer offhand.

12. *Mr. Sleath.*] How long do you think the rolling-stock, rails, &c., are likely to last? The life in the tunnel would be very much longer than on the surface; and it would depend upon the amount of traffic. It is difficult for me to answer the question; but I may say that the rails would have to be continually renewed if they needed it. The traffic could not be conducted without that being done.

13. The promoters of the Bill surely have some idea as to how long they expect the rails and rolling-stock to last? The whole thing, as to construction, will be under the supervision of Government officers, and the Railway Commissioners have to be satisfied as to the condition of the rolling-stock.

14. *Mr. Howarth.*] Could you reduce the time of five years for construction? We hope to get one work done in two years and the other in three years. We should have to forfeit if we did not complete the construction within a specified period.

15. I admit it is to your interest to complete the work as soon as possible, because you cannot afford to allow your capital to lie idle? There might be unforeseen contingencies. In the Blackwall Tunnel, near London, they had a serious difficulty. The water nearly got in, and if it had got in it would have meant a year's delay at least. It is in view of unforeseen contingencies that the period provided for in this Bill has been fixed as it is.

THURSDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER, 1898.

Present:—

MR. E. M. CLARK,	|	MR. O'CONNOR,
MR. HOWARTH,	|	MR. SLEATH,
	MR. WATSON.	

FRANCIS EDWARD McLEAN, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Eustace Edmund Fosbery, Esq., appeared as Solicitor for the Bill.

Eustace Edmund Fosbery, Solicitor, sworn and examined:—

E. E. Fosbery. 16. *Chairman.*] You are the solicitor for this Bill, authorising Mr. Sulman to construct a railway and a tunnel-roadway? Yes.

29 Sept., 1898. 17. Have you given the necessary notices to the Government and the local authorities? I have sent notices to the Crown Solicitor, the Secretary of the Water and Sewerage Board, the Engineer-in-Chief for Harbours and Rivers, the Town Clerk of Sydney, the Council Clerk at North Sydney, the Minister for Works, the Telegraph Department, the Engineer-in-Chief for Public Works, and the Engineer-in-Chief for Railway Construction. They were all delivered between the 22nd and the 25th August, 1898. I have had acknowledgments from the Council Clerk at North Sydney, the Town Clerk of Sydney, and the Telegraph Department. I also heard from Mr. Deane, the Engineer-in-Chief for Railway Construction, and I have discussed with him various portions of the Bill. So far, I have not heard from any of the other persons to whom the Bill was sent. In the letter that I wrote to those various officials I stated that I enclosed a copy of the Bill, and said that I would be glad to have their views on it generally.

18. You were the solicitor for two former Bills introduced to enable Mr. Sulman to construct tunnels under the harbour? Yes.

19. Would you explain to the Committee the difference between the Bills formerly introduced and the Bill you are now seeking to pass? The Bill we now seek to pass is an amalgamation of the two previous Bills, with some variations, chiefly in matters of detail.

20. *Mr. Watson.*] There is no variation of any importance with the exception of putting the two Bills into one Bill? There are alterations.

21. Will you point out any that may be of importance? So as to meet the objection caused by a recent case in the Courts, I have given power to Mr. Sulman to use explosives in the tunnelling, subject to the reasonable restrictions of the Works Department. I have varied the application of those sections of the Public Works Act of 1888 which are to be engrafted on this Bill, so as to improve the measure. In the original Bills there was a provision that Mr. Sulman should give notice within six months after the passing of the Act, of any land required for the purpose of the works. In this Bill I have altered the time to twelve months. That is more in accordance with what will be the requirement. I have made some slight alterations in the clause with regard to the power of deviating laterally. I have altered the clause for the protection of the Water and Sewerage Board, adding, at their request, a provision for their protection. It is a provision to enable them to take water-pipes through the tunnel. I have extended the clause with regard to the persons who are to have power to supervise the works during their progress—that is, clause 21 of the present Bill. The clauses with regard to limit of time and to deposit have been altered. The clauses with regard to tolls for passengers have been altered slightly. The power to make by-laws has been somewhat extended; also the clause with regard to publication and evidence of by-laws, and the mode in which they are to be made binding. I have also altered the Bill as to the mode in which penalties are to be recovered (making the Bill much shorter and more concise) by providing that penalties shall be recoverable in accordance with the provisions of the Justices Act; these alterations also touch the matter of appeal. I have made the time when the right of resumption by the Crown arises the same for both works, namely, thirty years. I have added to the end of sub-clause 1 of clause 50, a provision giving the assignee company similar powers of assignment. That, probably, would have been implied under the previous measure. In clause 52 the last proviso has been added. It will, of course, necessarily be found that clause 3, with regard to power to construct the works, has alterations and variations in it, because it practically had to be entirely re-cast. I have also altered and extended the provision with regard to tolls on the tunnel-roadway, and have added a provision that police, soldiers, sailors, members of fire brigades, and post and telegraph servants shall be allowed free passage. I have added a provision which was omitted from the other Bill, and should have been inserted, that Mr. Sulman is not to be liable for any damages arising from the unavoidable temporary blocking of the railway or the tunnel-roadway when it is in operation.

22. *Chairman.*] Generally speaking, the Bill is an amalgamation of the other Bills? Yes, except with regard to the above and to such matters as would occur to a draftsman who consolidated the two Bills into one measure.

23. *Mr. E. M. Clark.*] Has any arrangement been made in the Bill as to which of these tunnels shall take precedence in construction; that was a matter that came before the House on the last occasion? No; but one is made dependent on the other. If you are referring to the same thing I am referring to, I remember that there was a discussion in the House, and it was proposed to put in the previous Bill a provision that one work should be actually dependent on the other.

24. It was proposed, I think, that the tunnel-roadway should take precedence by being the first work constructed? If that is so, there is no such provision in the present Bill. There is a provision in the Bill, namely, clause 22, which makes one work absolutely dependent on the other.

25. *Mr. Watson.*] The rights cease unless both works are completed within seven years? Yes.

Henry Deane, Engineer-in-Chief, Railway Construction Branch, Department of Public Works, sworn and examined:—

H. Deane. 26. *Chairman.*] Have you seen this Bill—the City and North Sydney Connection Bill? Yes.

29 Sept., 1898. 27. Do you wish to make any observations, for the guidance of the Committee, as to your attitude in regard to the Bill? I submitted to the Minister a recommendation that a paragraph should be inserted before

before the last paragraph in clause 3, requiring that before construction of the works plans should be submitted to the Minister for Public Works for approval, both as to design and location. I think there can be no objection to that on the part of the promoters of the Bill. On the other hand, it seems to me a very necessary provision, especially as the northern end of the railway tunnel is to be under Government property at Milson's Point—in fact, under the Railway Commissioners' property. H. Deane.
29 Sept., 1898.

28. Apart from that, have you any further amendments that you would suggest in the Bill for the protection of the public or the Government interests? I have nothing to remark. It appeared to me, so far as I could discover from a perusal of the Bill, that it sufficiently provided for the public safety.

29. *Mr. E. M. Clark.*] You have no objection, I suppose, to the proposal to have lifts to a great height at either end of the tunnel? No; that is a recognised construction.

30. I suppose you have not had any report from Mr. Fischer, who gave evidence before a former Committee in favour of a graded tunnel in preference to a tunnel provided with lifts? Mr. Fischer, before the Committee referred to, gave evidence on a scheme of my own, I think, which I had submitted to the Committee.

31. That was evidence given before a Committee of the House? Yes; and it was got for me, because I happened to be away at the time.

32. I suppose that scheme of his was a well-thought-out scheme? It was my own scheme.

33. That was for a graded tunnel? Yes, it was; but it was to take trams right through from Sydney to the North Shore. My first suggestion in regard to that was to have a lift for the cars at Milson's Point. I was not aware at the time that Mr. Sulman had any scheme in hand. I proposed to run into the rocks under Macquarie-street in a somewhat similar way to what Mr. Sulman proposes for the tunnel-roadway and to come out at Milson's Point and have lifts there to lift the trams bodily up on to the existing tramline, which will sooner or later be converted into an electric line. I afterwards made a modification of that proposal, to run round to something like the same position as is shown in the case of the tunnel-roadway and to come out on the surface without lifts. But I see no objection to lifts for passengers—in fact, there are many instances in the Northern Hemisphere where they are used. They are a perfectly safe construction.

34. You think that this tramway with lifts would be preferable to a graded tunnel? The graded tunnel would, of course, serve quite a different purpose. The proposition that I made was one to carry trams right through so that passengers should go right through without changing. But I do not see how you can apply that principle on the line of the proposed tunnel. In order to get along the line of Pitt-street, and to go straight over to Milson's Point, you must put the tunnel below the level of the street and the harbour, and enter at Milson's Point below the level there. You could not have a graded tunnel on the line of this tunnel.

35. Would this tunnel fit in with any proposal that you may have for railway extension into the city? No.

36. Then it is not at all likely that the Government would ever resume this tunnel in connection with any Government work that would be undertaken in connection with the railway extension into the city? I cannot see it is likely at all. It would not suit for railway purposes.

37. Then, if any railway connection by tunnel between North Sydney and the city were made, the Government railway would virtually have to run in competition with this tramway or railway? If approximately the same location was adopted—that is to say, if the railway went exactly overhead, there would be competition.

38. *Chairman.*] Is there any such scheme in contemplation by the Department? No.

39. *Mr. E. M. Clark.*] There is a scheme for railway extension into the city in contemplation by the Department? Yes; but not from Pitt-street to Milson's Point.

40. That extension is virtually an underground extension into the city—I am referring to the Hyde Park scheme? You can call it underground, because it would be underground for a short distance; but only between Liverpool-street and Park-street.

41. However, this railway would make no provision for connection with the Milson's Point line, or with any proposed Government extension into the city? No; it would not be suitable.

42. So that although provision is made for resumption of this railway by the Government within a certain time, it is likely that it would never be necessary for the Government to resume? I think it is very likely it would not. That is the most probable.

43. I suppose you have given very little consideration to the tunnel-roadway; it is a matter pretty well outside your province? I have not paid very much attention to it. I may say that I do not think the tunnel-roadway need interfere at all with the railway at Milson's Point. It seems to keep quite clear of the resumptions. The only thing that occurs to me is, that as the traffic at the Milson's Point railway terminus increases, it will be necessary to have an entire reconstruction of the station at Milson's Point, and it would be as well to keep the road clear for any possible widening.

44. *Mr. Watson.*] The Railway Commissioners would want more room, and might want to go where it is proposed to take that road? It appears to me that the road, as shown on plan, leaves sufficient room for widening.

45. *Mr. E. M. Clark.*] If any railway extension into the city were made to connect Milson's Point with the city railway, would not this tunnel-roadway follow the route to be taken by an underground railway tunnel for a connection between Milson's Point and the city? There has been a proposal to carry a railway tunnel across to the North Shore somewhere near the line of the proposed tunnel-roadway, and to bring it round and up on the eastern side of Lavender Bay; but, if that were seriously contemplated, no doubt the two tunnels could be kept clear of one another.

46. *Mr. Watson.*] Could they get a practicable grade for an ordinary railway between the eastern side of Lavender Bay and the city easily? It would be a steep grade—1 in 33, or 1 in 35.

47. That is what you have on the Zig Zag? Yes. I do not like it. It would be only as a matter of necessity that I would consent to lay the line to a grade of that kind.

48. You said, in reply to Mr. Clark, that unless the same location were chosen, or approximately the same location were chosen, for a Government work—over bridge or through tunnel—you did not think this work would compete with the Government work—that is, unless the Government work took practically the same route? What was passing in my mind at the time I made that remark was that, as the city and the North Shore grow, the traffic between the two shores will grow immensely, and the more methods of communication you have between the north and the south shores, the more traffic there will be. A bridge has been proposed from Dawes Point across
to

- H. Deane. to Milson's Point, and also to McMahon's Point. That would be an entirely different location, however, because that would land passengers on the southern side, right up near the Observatory and York-street, and therefore, in a certain sense, it would not compete. If either the one or the other was the only means of getting across to the North Shore and passengers had to go across, the same passengers would have to adopt either the one or the other, and in that way one would be a substitution for the other. So they would be competing lines; but, with the enormous increase of traffic that must necessarily take place, I think there will be comparatively little competition. Those who wanted to start from one point would go by the nearest route, and those who started from the lower shores would go by the other. I meant my remarks to be understood in that way. Of course, any methods of communication with the North Shore would compete with one another to a certain extent, just the same as these would compete with the steamers.
49. In the event of it being considered necessary in future to connect the railway at North Shore with a railway from the southern shore, would this proposal not have the effect of drawing traffic from that possible Government railway? It very likely would.
50. I presume you think it is not impossible for the Government, if they did project a railway of that description, to provide for all traffic—that is, all passenger traffic, any how—by means of that scheme—either over a bridge or through a tunnel—for railway connection between the two shores? I think that if a railway tunnel were made it would have to start so far back on the southern side that a lot of the traffic which this tunnel would take would be missed. On the northern side, as I have explained, in order to get up you would have to have a great twist in the railway, somewhat similar to what is shown in this tunnel-roadway.
51. It would not be possible to have a lift at a nearer point than where you would reach the surface with your tunnel railway? That would not be for trains. You could not make a lift long enough to take a full-sized train.
52. I did not mean to take the train, but for the convenience of passengers who might want to get out half a mile before reaching the exit of the tunnel? You could do that.
53. It would be possible to provide in that way against an extreme length before you would reach an exit? Yes, you could do that. If you went under Fort Macquarie you could put in lifts there, to enable people to take the train there.
54. *Mr. O'Connor.*] Are we to understand that, if the Government were to connect the railway at the North Shore by tunnel with the railway on the southern shore, and if this projected electrical railway tunnel were constructed, those two schemes would serve different interests? I think they would very largely.
55. *Mr. Watson.*] Assuming that the Government scheme were to take the shape of a bridge, would it be possible to get an approach on the northern side for a railway over a bridge—I mean an approach on the northern side which would serve the traffic which this projected electrical railway would serve;—assuming that you have a bridge for a railway amongst other purposes from the North Shore to the south shore, would it then be possible to get such an approach to a train as would serve the traffic that this electrical railway is intended to serve? A railway carried over the harbour would land you at a considerable height above the water-level on the North Shore. If the railway bridge had a headway of 180 feet, as has been proposed or suggested as the least possible headway that would be granted, it would bring you to a great height even above that projection on Blue's Point road, which is about 120 feet above the water, and it would connect with a different part of the North Shore.
56. I am speaking of a line to Milson's Point—a gentleman named Kenwood proposed a line to Milson's Point? Yes.
57. Was his scheme for a line to Milson's Point practicable? Yes; he kept on high ground.
58. He increased the height to 180 feet, and you think that, with that height, his scheme was practicable? Yes.
59. Supposing that something approaching that scheme were adopted, so far as starting from North Shore is concerned, would it be possible to get a connection with the railway system on the Milson's Point line, say, some distance back—beyond the first tunnel? Oh, yes; it could be done, undoubtedly.
60. And that would serve the railway traffic at any rate, and probably catch the tram traffic coming down Alfred-street? It could be done.
61. That being so, it would seem that the projected electric railway might compete with a practicable scheme if the Government were to take it in hand? Yes; I dare say it would, to some extent.
62. *Mr. E. M. Clark.*] Would it be practicable to connect the North Shore line by bridge with any at present proposed railway extension into the city—would it be practicable to connect with the Hyde Park route by bridge? In this way it would: You could connect the southern end of the bridge, take the railway along the York-street ridge, and then turn round and bring it back into Hyde Park.
63. A roundabout course, I should think? I do not know that it would matter very much.
64. A better connection would be, if the railway extension were made to the western side, rather than to the eastern side of the city? Yes; it would make a more direct connection possible with the North Shore. On the other hand, there does not appear any suitable area of land for a main railway station on that side.
65. *Mr. Howarth.*] Assuming that the railway is extended to Hyde Park, is there anything in this proposed scheme which would prevent a tunnel from being successfully constructed, so as to connect the North Shore railway by tunnel with the railway at Hyde Park? I do not think there is, if a grade of 1 in 35 is adopted.
66. *Mr. Watson.*] That is, from an engineering point of view? Yes.
67. *Mr. E. M. Clark.*] Has your Department ever given serious consideration as to by what means the railway at Milson's Point or some other part of North Shore should be connected with the railway into the city—whether by bridge or by tunnel? Yes, the matter has been seriously considered—that is to say, as to possibility. It has not yet been looked upon as a desirable thing to do; but it has been looked at in connection with other schemes of city railway extension. It came up, I think, also on the occasion of the inquiry into the proposed construction of the Milson's Point railway—I mean as to what might be done in future to connect the North Shore with Sydney by railway. There is no doubt that a line could be laid across a bridge, passing from McMahon's Point to Dawes Point, and then along the ridge to meet an existing railway, then to curve round and enter Hyde Park, or a connection could be made, by tunnel with steep grades, with the existing line at Lavender Bay, passing under the harbour and coming up into Hyde Park, being in tunnel all the way. The question has been gone into so as to prove the practicability of these schemes.

68. You prefer a bridge to the steep gradients, I suppose—you just now said you did not like steep gradients in a tunnel? It is very much pleasanter to be in the open air.

69. *Chairman.*] Has it been the excessive cost of the bridge connection which has kept the Government from dealing with that idea? Yes; I think so. It is a matter of great cost, especially of land resumption in the city. I know that expense is one very considerable factor, because of the interest on the outlay.

70. *Mr. E. M. Clark.*] From a departmental standpoint you do not look upon this connection of the city and the North Shore as commercially possible at present? No.

71. From a commercial aspect you do not look upon this connection as a payable one? No.

72. *Mr. Fosbery.*] Referring to the question put to you just now about bringing the railway round to go on to a bridge with abutments on the heights of Milson's Point, it would be necessary to have fresh resumptions of land from the point a good way back up to the abutments at a part of the shore very much built upon? Yes. The resumption would be very costly.

73. And of course the lower branch of the line, except for the purpose of goods traffic, would be practically useless? Yes. If I were to make a bridge I would prefer to go across to McMahan's Point. It would be much more direct, and there would be less resumption.

74. *Mr. E. M. Clark.*] Would there not be resumption at McMahan's Point? Yes, but not so much.

75. What opportunities have you had of inquiring into the cost of resumption at Milson's Point as being more than at McMahan's Point; both would run along the edge of the water, and there is little difference in the cost of land at those two points? I know that less length of land would have to be resumed at McMahan's Point.

H. Deane.

29 Sept., 1898.

TUESDAY, 4 OCTOBER, 1898.

Present:—

MR. HOWARTH,

MR. WATSON.

FRANCIS EDWARD McLEAN, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

Eustace Edmund Fosbery, Esq., appeared as Solicitor for the Bill.

Hugh McLachlan, Secretary to the Railway Commissioners, sworn and examined:—

76. *Chairman.*] Has this Bill, authorising Mr. Sulman to construct a tunnel under Port Jackson, and to run an electric railway, been brought under the notice of the Commissioners? Yes.

77. Have you any suggestions to make with reference to the Bill, or any objections to urge against its being passed? The only thing the Commissioners ask is that their property shall not be touched.

78. Do you consider that your interests are adequately protected by the Bill? Hardly. I should like it to be made a little clearer.

79. What alteration would you suggest? I would leave it to the Committee. But first of all, so far as I understand the proposal, it is proposed to have the lifts for the passenger line on railway property at the Milson's Point terminus. The Commissioners reckon that we have not too much land there for ourselves, and are very much averse to any of the railway land at the terminus being taken for a private railway. At Milson's Point, as in the case of all other places where a railway has been built near Sydney, great development has taken place, and must take place, and we have not a very great deal of room at the Milson's Point terminus, and if something else were to come in which would prevent our extending, we should in the future find it very inconvenient. Our idea is that the promoters of this Bill should be moved out of that corner, and that we should retain all the room we have at the Milson's Point terminus at the present time.

80. *Mr. Howarth.*] Otherwise, if you were compelled to extend afterwards, it would have to be into the bay? Yes; because they close us right up on the other side. I take it that there would be no great difficulty in their going a little further north, outside our property.

81. *Mr. Watson.*] Do the Commissioners own the land between the tramway and the water? Not where the Arcade buildings are. That land belongs to the Ferry Company. At least I believe all those buildings have been erected by the Ferry Company, and that they either own the land or have a lease of it from the Government. I know that we do not own it.

82. That does not include the railway refreshment rooms that have recently been put up? The whole of those shops. As a matter of fact, the terminus of the tramway is on the Ferry Company's land. We pay them £60 a year—really to bring them traffic, and it has always been a sore point with us. We have always looked upon it as a most irritating charge.

83. *Mr. Howarth.*] I think the boundary of your railway property is just on this side of the booking-office, and that the remainder belongs to the Ferry Company? The Point practically belongs either to the Ferry Company or to the Government. I know it does not belong to us.

84. *Mr. Watson.*] Do the plans show exactly where the starting-point of this proposed railway would be? The plans show that the passenger-lift would be almost alongside our rails.

85. Then, practically, you object to their landing on that side of Alfred-street, unless they go further up Alfred-street? Yes.

86. How far beyond your present property, in view of your future railway development? As far up as they could go. We would rather see our own property there preserved.

87. How would it do to make the location of their starting-point subject to the approval of the Commissioners? I was going to suggest that. You might, perhaps, insert some words such as these:—“Nothing hereinafter contained shall give the company power to enter upon and take possession of land vested in the Railway Commissioners without the consent of the Commissioners, or permit the company to interfere with the approaches, unless the plans and conditions have been previously agreed to by the Commissioners.” That is, practically, the only point that the Commissioners take, that no interference with railway property in any way should be made without the Commissioners being first consulted. I do not suppose the company would do that; but I think it is reasonable to make provision in respect of it. We ought not to be put under any disability by the making of this electrical railway, which is not going to benefit us in any way.

H. McLachlan.

4 Oct., 1898.

H.
McLachlan.
4 Oct., 1898.

88. Do you think that this passenger line, running up as far as King-street, would have any effect on the probable takings of the George-street tramway? It would be a competitor. I do not see how it could benefit us. If this proposed line were not in existence, people going to North Shore and starting at about Market-street, or beyond King-street, might take the electric tram along George-street to the ferry, and then go by ferry across the harbour. But if this proposed line were built, they would simply make one journey by going by it. I do not know if it would be a big competitor, but it would be a competitor to that extent.

89. Can you tell us what the Commissioners propose to charge by the George-street electrical tramway from the Circular Quay to the Redfern Railway Station? The charge will probably be one penny.

90. *Chairman.*] That fare would be charged on any section of the line? Yes. We could not make any smaller charge.

91. *Mr. Watson.*] Do you know if the Commissioners have considered the question of railway communication between the northern and the southern shores? No; it has never been referred to them—at least not to my knowledge, as an immediate question. It was referred to incidentally in connection with the original City Railway Commission, about 1891, but I think the Commissioners at that time held the idea that it was a long way ahead.

92. If it were proposed to connect the northern and the southern shores by railway as a Government scheme, would the carrying out of this project have the effect of making any serious competition? That is really a very big question, and it has not been considered. Of course this line would be a competitor, but to what extent I should not like to say. Naturally, if two lines run between the same points they must compete with each other.

93. *Mr. Howarth.*] Assuming that the connection, if carried out, would be by means of a bridge, the junction points would have to be on the high land, far back on each side of the harbour, would they not? The approaches, certainly, would have to be a considerable distance back, especially on the southern side.

94. Then it would not compete for the traffic on the foreshores of the harbour on either side? I do not suppose it would—not for the ferry traffic across the harbour.

95. But you assume that this underground railway would compete with the George-street electrical tramway as regards the traffic between Circular Quay and King-street? Yes.

96. At what do you estimate the competition beyond King-street? It is simply the matter of a certain area which this line would drain. A man who was going, say, from Market-street to North Shore—perhaps on a warm day—might say, "I can ride down for a penny to Circular Quay, and then I can go in the ferry-boat by paying another penny, and get to North Shore," and we would get a penny from him.

97. That is in the case of casual travellers? Casual or regular. Another man might say, "I can walk to King-street, and by paying twopence I can go from there to North Shore by the underground electrical railway." In that case the underground electrical railway would have the advantage of affording an unbroken journey. There would be no transfer of passengers *en route*. In addition to that, this company would have a station at Circular Quay, and therefore might pick up a certain amount of local traffic—people going to or coming from Manly Beach, or places in that direction. I do not say that it would be extensive competition with the George-street electrical tramway, but it would be competition. I do not see how this proposed line would help us.

98. It could not help you, but I fail to see how there could be any serious competition, so long as the Government are not also running a tramway under the harbour to the North Shore? The point of competition would be between Market-street and Circular Quay.

99. People in places of business lying nearer to Circular Quay than to King-street would use the Government tramway on the surface in preference to the company's underground railway—they would not pay twopence to go right through to King-street from North Shore, and then walk back to their places of business? They would probably not use our tramway at all, but would come over by the ferry, and then walk to their places of business.

100. *Mr. Watson.*] I presume that King-street would tap most of the traffic that wanted to go to the North Shore? King-street would tap a lot of that traffic. But most of the traffic from King-street, I take it, would walk, whatever scheme was adopted. I daresay that nine-tenths of the traffic from King-street down would be foot traffic, people whose places of business were within a certain radius.

101. *Mr. Howarth.*] Then the competition would really be between this company and the ferry company? Yes, most largely. The competition with us would be a minor competition. I should like to remark that this question of competition has been raised by the Committee, and that I do not volunteer to say that we feared this proposed line as a very serious competitor.

102. *Mr. Fosbery.*] Do you not think that this underground railway of ours would act as a very good feeder to the North Shore line if it were constructed? No; I do not see how it could so act.

103. Not indirectly by inducing settlement on the other side of the harbour? I do not think it would induce ten people to go and settle on the other side of the harbour to benefit us. That is my own opinion.

104. The objection to this line of ours, as to its competing with the Government line, is only from a Government standpoint? That is all.

105. Not from the point of view of the public, for whom we are catering? No.

106. Have you read the Bill? Yes.

107. Do you approve of it generally, so far as the Commissioners are concerned, in other respects? Yes.

108. I ask you this particularly in regard to clause 24, in reference to the powers that are given to the Commissioners? I have looked through that, and it seems to me to give very fair powers.

109. Have you any objection to the charges mentioned in the Bill;—do you think they would be reasonable? They seem reasonable, and no doubt they would be regulated by competition.

110. *Chairman.*] Do you wish to make any other observations? Clause 49 it might be well for the Committee to look at. It deals with a matter in which we have had some little experience. I daresay that the company have some special reason for making the period as to resumption thirty years; but wherever the question of the resumption of a private railway, or anything of that kind, has been referred to the Commissioners, they have generally thought that it might be desirable not to specify a term of years, and not to have any resumption on the basis of some assumed profits, but to make it an open arbitration matter if the parties cannot agree. In one or two instances, where the other provision has been put in, it would work rather inconveniently. In this instance we might have a fixed basis, in accordance with the Land for Public Purposes Acquisition Act, providing for arbitration to be taken in a certain legal way.

I think that is the simplest plan. It is adopted in regard to most private railways now-a-days. The Government have power to resume at any time, and if the parties fail to agree, the compensation to be paid is to be determined by arbitration as provided for under the Land for Public Purposes Acquisition Act.

H.
McLachlan.
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111. *Mr. Fosbery.*] Do you mean that the sum to be settled by arbitration is to be the whole sum, or only the sum to be added? I would submit the whole thing to arbitration. The Government should have power to resume, and if the parties fail to agree as to the cost, arbitration should be on the basis that has been found to work easiest in other cases. The whole thing as to what is a fair price to be paid. I would again remark that we are anxious to give up no land at the terminus, or at any rate that no land shall be taken without the Commissioners first approving and settling the conditions and arrangements.

John Sulman recalled and further examined:—

112. *Chairman.*] Do you wish to add anything to your former evidence? I should like to refer to a matter that has been raised by Mr. Watson. I have considered the question of resumption, and, bearing in view what Mr. McLachlan has just said, I wish to point out that a specific period is necessary to be mentioned, because the scheme will take several years in construction, and we anticipate that for several years afterwards it will not pay reasonable interest on the outlay, and, therefore, if it were resumed (say) a few years after that, we would not be recouped reasonably for our capital outlay, in the way of interest. That is why we ask for a period of thirty years, and on that point I must adhere to my request in the Bill, for thirty years to be allowed. On the question of clause 49, raised by Mr. Watson, I am quite agreeable to substitute arbitration as suggested by Mr. McLachlan.

J. Sulman.
4 Oct., 1898.

113. *Mr. Watson.*] With a maximum provision? If you wish it, you can change the word "be" in line 12 to "not exceeding." But we are willing to take it as a full and open arbitration.

114. In view of Mr. McLachlan's opinion that the proposed tunnel railway, so far as regards the section from Circular Quay to King-street, would compete with the Government tramway along George-street, can you state to the Committee what is the reason for running your line so far as King-street and not stopping at Circular Quay? Simply because it would not be worth making to Circular Quay only. Its object is to compete with the ferry traffic, and to offer a better service to the residents of the whole of the North Shore. At present they go either by tram or by rail to Milson's Point; then they change to the ferry boat, and afterwards they have to take other means of conveyance into the city. We anticipate that our line will very largely increase settlement on the North Sydney side of the harbour, and so incidentally largely benefit the Government railways and tramways by giving the people on that side a quicker means of access to the centre of the city.

115. It would not be sufficient for your purpose to land your passengers finally at Circular Quay? No; such a line would not be worth the making. As I have already pointed out, our traffic is to be a quick underground express traffic, whereas the surface tram in George-street would be a slow, stopping traffic. Even if there were competition between the two lines, we should serve the public thereby.

116. *Chairman.*] As a matter of fact, there would not be sufficient inducement for you to construct the proposed railway without the King-street section? Absolutely no. As regards the question put by Mr. Sleath the other day, as to the time within which the deposit was to be paid, I am willing for it to be reduced from twelve months, and a further twelve months, with the sanction of the Governor, to six months, and a further six months, with the sanction of the Governor. The only object in asking for the previous term was to meet possible but not probable eventualities, such as for instance illness or difficulties of that kind, or inability to take up the business at once and proceed with it through not being able to leave immediately after the Bill has been passed. My anticipation, however, is that within a month of the Bill being received in London the money will be paid.

Eustace Edmund Fosbery, solicitor, recalled and further examined:—

117. *Chairman.*] I understand that you wish to add something to your former evidence? Since I gave my evidence on the 29th September, I have received from the Under Secretary for Public Works and Commissioner for Roads an acknowledgment of the receipt of my letter, and of copy of this Bill, and saying further that he thinks it advisable that the following words be inserted before the last paragraph in clause 3 of the Bill:—"Before construction is commenced, plans must be submitted to the Minister for Public Works for approval, both as to design and location." That is almost precisely the same as the clause asked for by Mr. Deane the other day. I think, perhaps, that we could combine the two. It will suit Mr. Deane's purpose if the plans and specifications, both as to design and location, are first of all submitted and approved of by the Minister.

E. E.
Fosbery.
4 Oct., 1898.

John Sulman recalled and further examined:—

118. *Chairman.*] I understand that you wish to add something to your former evidence? In reference to the letter from the Under Secretary for Public Works, just mentioned by Mr. Fosbery, I should like to say that Mr. Greathead, the engineer who prepared the original scheme, has since died; but while I was in England last year it was practically arranged that the engineer for these works should be Mr. Mott, who is the engineer for the Waterloo and Mansion House line, and for the Central London line—the two most important undertakings of the kind in London—and that Sir Benjamin Baker will probably be the consulting engineer, and he is the highest authority in England at the present time.

J. Sulman.
4 Oct., 1898.

1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

NORTH SHORE BRIDGE BILL;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

AND

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

ORDERED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO BE PRINTED,
30 *November*, 1898.

SYDNEY: WILLIAM APPELGATE GULLICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1898.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

EXTRACTS FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VOTES No. 31. WEDNESDAY, 26 OCTOBER, 1898.

20. NORTH SHORE BRIDGE BILL:—Mr. Neild moved, pursuant to *amended* Notice,—
- (1.) That the North Shore Bridge Bill be referred to a Select Committee for consideration and report.
- (2.) That such Committee consist of Mr. Young, Mr. Dugald Thomson, Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Suttor, Mr. Slcath, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Sawers, and the Mover.
- Debate ensued.
- Question put.
- The House divided.

Ayes, 29.

Mr. Jessop, Mr. Hogue, Mr. Reid, Mr. Cook, Mr. Spruson, Mr. Lee, Mr. E. M. Clark, Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Chanter, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Rigg, Mr. Affleck, Mr. Hurley, Mr. Lyne, Mr. Wood, Mr. Neild, Mr. Smith, Mr. McGowen, Mr. Spence, Mr. Hawthorne, Mr. Ross,
--	--

Mr. James Thomson, Mr. Macdonald, Mr. Alexander Campbell, Mr. Watson, Mr. Millard.	<i>Tellers,</i> Mr. Willis, Mr. Moore.
--	--

Noes, 4.

Mr. Dacey, Mr. Bennett.	<i>Tellers,</i> Mr. Carroll, Mr. Thomas Brown.
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And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

VOTES No. 44. WEDNESDAY, 30 NOVEMBER, 1898.

- 7 NORTH SHORE BRIDGE BILL:—Mr. Neild, as Chairman, brought up the Report from, and laid upon the Table the Minutes of Proceedings of, and Evidence taken before the Select Committee for whose consideration and report this Bill was referred on 26th October, 1898, together with a copy of the Bill as amended and agreed to by the Committee.
- Ordered to be printed.
- * * * * *

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1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

NORTH SHORE BRIDGE BILL.

REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, for whose consideration and report was referred on the 26th October, 1898, the "*North Shore Bridge Bill*,"—beg to report to your Honorable House:—

That they have examined the witnesses named in the List* (whose * See List p. 7. evidence will be found appended hereto), and the Preamble having been satisfactorily proved to your Committee, they proceeded to consider the clauses and Schedules of the Bill, in which it was deemed necessary to make certain amendments.

Your Committee now beg to lay before your Honorable House the Bill as amended by them.

JNO. C. NEILD,
Chairman.

*No. 2 Committee Room, Legislative Assembly,
29th November, 1898.*

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

TUESDAY, 1 NOVEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Cohen,	|	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Neild,	|	Mr. Sawers,
	|	Mr. Dugald Thomson.

Mr. Neild called to the Chair.

Entry from Votes and Proceedings appointing the Committee read by the Clerk.

Printed copies of the Bill referred, together with original Petition to introduce same before the Committee.

Benjamin Crispin Simpson (*M. Inst. C.E., the Promoter*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness produced local sketch (A); plan showing scheme as originally proposed (B); plan of amended scheme (C).

[Adjourned till Thursday next at *Half-past Eleven* o'clock.]

THURSDAY, 3 NOVEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Cohen,	|	Mr. Hayes,
Mr. Sawers,	|	Mr. Sleath,
	|	Mr. Dugald Thomson.

Mr. Neild in the Chair.

Present:—Bruce Smith, Esq. (*Counsel for the Promoter*);
W. G. Parish, Esq. (*Solicitor for the Promoter*).

Benjamin Crispin Simpson recalled and further examined.

Witness produced plan showing the position of the southern pier, in accordance with clause 18 (as amended) of the Bill (D).

Henry Deane (*Engineer-in-Chief, Railway Construction Department*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next at *Eleven* o'clock.]

TUESDAY, 8 NOVEMBER, 1898.

The House having adjourned over till Thursday, 10th instant, the meeting ordered for to-day could not be held.

TUESDAY, 15 NOVEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Cohen,	|	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Hayes,	|	Mr. Sawers,
	|	Mr. Dugald Thomson.

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Hayes called to the Chair *pro tem*.
Henry Deane recalled and further examined.

The Chairman entered the room and took the Chair.

Witness withdrew.

Cecil West Darley (*Engineer-in-Chief for Public Works*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Benjamin Crispin Simpson recalled and further examined.

[Adjourned till To-morrow at *Half-past Eleven* o'clock.]

WEDNESDAY, 16 NOVEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Neild,		Mr. Sawers.
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In the absence of a Quorum, the meeting called for this day lapsed.

TUESDAY, 22 NOVEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Cohen,	|	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Sawers,	|	Mr. Dugald Thomson.

Mr. Neild in the Chair.

Present:—Bruce Smith, Esq. (*Counsel for the Promoter*).Henry Gorman (*Auctioneer and Land Valuator*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Captain

Captain Francis Hixson (*President of the Marine Board*) called in, sworn, and examined.
 Witness withdrew.
 Benjamin Crispin Simpson, recalled and further examined.
 John Mitchell Purves (*Land and Estate Agent*) called in, sworn, and examined.
 Witness withdrew.
 John Moore Smail (*Engineer-in-Chief, Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage*) called in, sworn, and examined.
 Witness withdrew.

[Adjourned till To-morrow at *Half-past Eleven* o'clock.]

WEDNESDAY, 23 NOVEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Neild in the Chair.

Mr. Hayes,
 Mr. Suttor,

Mr. Sawers,
 Mr. Dugald Thomson.

Present:—Bruce Smith, Esq. (*Counsel for the Promoter*).
 Francis Clarke (*Mayor of North Sydney*) called in, sworn, and examined.
 Witness withdrew.
 Major-General George Arthur French (*Officer Commanding the Defence Forces*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Hugh McLachlan (*Secretary to the Railway Commissioners*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Richard Watkins Richards (*City Surveyor*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Room cleared. Preamble considered.

Question, "That this Preamble stand part of the Bill,"—put and passed.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next at *Half-past Eleven* o'clock.]

TUESDAY, 29 NOVEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Neild in the Chair.

Mr. Cohen,
 Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,

Mr. Dugald Thomson.

Mr. Hayes,
 Mr. Sleath,

Bill considered.

Clause 1 read and *agreed to*.

Clause 2 read, amended,* and *agreed to*.

Clauses 3, 4, 5, and 6 read and *agreed to*.

Clause 7 read, amended,* and *agreed to*.

Clauses 8, 9, and 10 read and *agreed to*.

Clause 11 read, amended;* and *agreed to*.

Clause 12 read and *agreed to*.

Clause 13 read, amended,* and *agreed to*.

Clauses 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 read, amended,* and *agreed to*.

Clause 20 read and *agreed to*.

Clauses 21, 22, 23 read, amended,* and *agreed to*.

Clauses 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 read and *agreed to*.

Clauses 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39 read and *omitted*.

Clauses 40, 41 and 42 read and *agreed to*.

Clause 43 read and *omitted*.

Clauses 44, 45 and 46 read and *agreed to*.

First, Second, and Third Schedules read and *agreed to*.

New clauses to stand as clauses 21, 22, 23, 24, and 35, respectively, read and *agreed to*.

Title read and *agreed to*.

Chairman to report the Bill with amendments to the House.

* See Schedule of Amendments.

SCHEDULE OF AMENDMENTS.

Page 2, clause 2, lines 35 and 36. *Omit* "' Governor ' shall mean the Governor of the Colony of New South Wales for the time being, with the advice of the Executive Council "

" 3, " 2, " 1 and 2. *Omit* "' Gazette ' shall mean the Government Gazette of New South Wales "

" 3, " 2, line 8. *Omit* "' Person ' shall include corporation or company "

" 4, " 7, lines 20 and 21. *Omit* "in the opinion of the Engineer-in-Chief for Public Works "

" 4, " 7, line 24. *Omit* "thereof" *insert* "of the said highway "

" 5, " 11, " 8. *After* "head" *insert* "Bicycle and rider a sum not exceeding two pence "

" 5, " 11, " 9. *After* "horse" *insert* "with rider or attendant but "

" 5, " 11, " 12. *After* "vehicle" *insert* "and load not over three tons "

" 5, " 11, " 13. *After* "shillings" *insert* "The driver of each vehicle shall pass free, but each passenger in or upon any vehicle shall pay a sum not exceeding one penny "

" 5, " 11, " 14. *Omit* "and "

Page

- Page 5, clause 11, line 14. *After* "vehicles" *insert* "and loads"
- " 5, " 13, " 36. *Omit* "transit commissioners" *insert* "Minister"
- " 5, " 14, " 43. *Omit* "of such by-laws"
- " 5, " 14, " 44. *Omit* "under the same" *insert* "that the same have been duly made and confirmed and are still in force"
- " 6, " 15, lines 3 and 4. *Omit* "any stipendiary or police magistrate or any two justices of the peace" *insert* "a court of summary jurisdiction"
- " 6, " 16, " 10 and 11. *Omit* "Engineer-in-Chief for Public Works for the time being" *insert* "Minister"
- " 6, " 17, " 21 and 22. *Omit* "Engineer-in-Chief for Public Works for the time being" *insert* "Minister"
- " 6, " 18, line 27. *Omit* "low" *insert* "high"
- " 6, " 18, " 27. *After* "mark" *insert* "and at no point over the harbour shall such clear headway be less than 165 feet"
- " 6, " 18, " 31. *After* "piers" (second occurring) *insert* "and the detailed drawings of all the proposed works"
- " 6, " 18, lines 32 and 33. *Omit* "Engineer-in-Chief for Public Works, or to such other person as may be approved by the Governor for such purpose" *insert* "Minister"
- " 6, " 18, line 34. *After* "him" *insert* "as regards location and design"
- " 6, " 18. *Add* at end of clause "Provided that the southern group of piers at Dawes Point shall not encroach on the fairway of the harbour, that is to say—shall not project in the longitudinal direction of the bridge beyond the extreme point of Dawes Point."
- " 6, " 19, lines 39 and 40. *Omit* "metropolitan transit commissioners for the time being" *insert* "Minister"
- " 7. *Insert* the following new clauses to stand as clauses 21, 22, 23, and 24 :—

Protection of
sewers.

21. The following provisions for the protection of the sewers, water-mains, and works of the Water and Sewerage Board, and of all house-services and connections in respect thereof, shall have effect, namely :—

1. The said Benjamin Crispin Simpson shall comply with and conform to all reasonable directions of the Water and Sewerage Board in the execution of the works, and shall not in any manner interfere with any of the sewers, water-mains, or works of the Water and Sewerage Board, or with any house-services or connections in respect thereof, without notice to and the sanction of the Water and Sewerage Board; and shall provide to the reasonable satisfaction of the Water and Sewerage Board, for the proper protection of and for preventing injury or impediment to any such sewers, water-mains, works, house-services, or connections, by reason of the works or any part thereof; and shall save harmless the Water and Sewerage Board and all owners of any such house-services or connections aforesaid, against all expenses to be occasioned by the works or any part thereof.
2. The said Benjamin Crispin Simpson shall be liable to make good, with all reasonable despatch, and to the satisfaction of the Water and Sewerage Board, all injury or damage caused by or resulting from any of the works to any such sewers, water-mains, works, house-services, or connections, as mentioned in sub-section (1) of this section; and the Water and Sewerage Board, or any owner of any such house-service or connection sustaining injury or damage, shall from time to time have power to recover the amount thereof from the said Benjamin Crispin Simpson, in any court of competent jurisdiction.
3. The approval by the Water and Sewerage Board of any work under the provisions of this section shall not exonerate the said Benjamin Crispin Simpson from any liability, or affect any claim for damages under this section or otherwise.
4. If the said Benjamin Crispin Simpson shall in any respect fail to comply with and conform to any such reasonable directions of the Water and Sewerage Board as are mentioned in sub-section (1) of this section, or shall fail to provide to the reasonable satisfaction of the Water and Sewerage Board for the proper protection of and for preventing injury or impediment to any such sewers, water-mains, works, house-services, or connections, as mentioned in the said sub-section, or shall fail to make good with all reasonable despatch, and to the satisfaction of the Water and Sewerage Board, any such injury or damage to any sewers, water-mains, works, house-services, or connections, as is mentioned in sub-section (2) of this section, the Water and Sewerage Board, or any owner of any such house-service or connection, as the case may be, shall have full power and authority (in the case of the Water and Sewerage Board by their engineer, officers, workmen, and servants, and in the case of any such owner, by his workmen and servants) to enter upon the works of the said Benjamin Crispin Simpson, or any part thereof, and to do all such acts and things and carry out all such works as may be necessary and proper for the protection, amendment, or repair of any such sewer, water-main, or other works, house-service, or connection, as the case may be, and any and all costs, charges, and expenses incurred by the Water and Sewerage Board, or by such owner, as the case may be, in the exercise of the powers in this sub-section contained shall be paid to the Water and Sewerage Board or to such owner, as the case may be, by the said Benjamin Crispin Simpson on demand, or in default may be recovered from the said Benjamin Crispin Simpson by the Water and Sewerage Board, or by such owner, as the case may be, in any court of competent jurisdiction.
5. Otherwise than is herein expressly enacted the said Benjamin Crispin Simpson shall, in the construction of the said works, observe and comply with the provisions of the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Acts, and the by-laws made by the Water and Sewerage Board under such Acts.

Inspection of
works.

22. It shall be lawful for the Minister and for the Municipal Council of Sydney, and for the Borough of North Sydney and also for the Water and Sewerage Board, at any time during the construction of the said bridge or approaches, or any works in connection therewith, to appoint an engineer to enter upon and inspect the same; and the said Benjamin Crispin Simpson and all persons acting under him shall afford all reasonable facilities in connection with any such inspection as hereinbefore mentioned.

23. For the purposes of such inspection as in the last section mentioned, the said Benjamin Crispin Simpson shall, before commencing to construct either the said bridge or the said approaches, deposit with the Minister, the Municipal Council of Sydney, the Borough of North Sydney, and the Water and Sewerage Board respectively, a copy of the plan or design of the same, together with a copy of the specifications and all necessary drawings. Plans to be lodged.

24. Provision shall be made in the design of the said bridge for the laying of water-mains, and the Water Supply and Sewerage Board are empowered to lay a water-main or water-mains, having a total inside sectional area of not more than two hundred and fifty-five square inches along the said works, where the said provision shall be made, and without any charge for the facilities herein provided. But for any additional mains which the said Board may require to lay, they shall pay to the said promoter such a sum as may be agreed upon between the said Board and the said Promoter. And in the event of the said Board and the said Promoter being unable to agree, the matter in dispute shall be referred to arbitration under the provisions of the Arbitration Act of 1892. Water-mains to be carried.

Page 7, clause 24, 25, line 8. *Omit* "Governor" *insert* "Minister"

" 7, " 24, 25. *Add* at end of clause "The Promoter shall at all times maintain the said bridge and approaches thereto in good order and condition to the satisfaction of the Minister"

" 7, " 22, 26, line 16. *Omit* "for Works"

" 7, " 22, 26, " 17. *Omit* "the Engineer-in-Chief for Public Works" *insert* "him"

" 7, " 23, 27, " 25. *Omit* "Governor" *insert* "Minister"

Pages 9, 10, and 11. *Omit* clauses 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, and 39.

Page 11. *Insert* the following new clause to stand as clause 36:—

36. Except as herein otherwise provided, the provisions of the Arbitration Act of 1892 shall apply to all arbitrations under this Act. Arbitration Act of 1892 to apply

Page 12. *Omit* clause 43.

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1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE

THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

NORTH SHORE BRIDGE BILL.

TUESDAY, 1 NOVEMBER, 1898.

Present:—

MR. COHEN,		MR. SAWERS,
MR. J. C. L. FITZPATRICK,	|	MR. DUGALD THOMSON.
J. C. NEILD, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.		

Benjamin Crispin Simpson called in, sworn, and examined:—

1. *Chairman.*] You are promoter of the Bill before the House known as the North Shore Bridge Bill? *B. C. Simpson.*
 Yes.
2. You produce plans for the proposed structure? Yes. I produce plan A, a general local sketch; plan B, a drawing scheme as originally proposed; and plan C, a drawing of the amended scheme. 1 Nov., 1898.
3. Would you like to make any general statement to the Committee in reference to your proposal? Yes. I have prepared a general statement, which I think would give the Committee a general idea of the proposal. It is as follows:—

I think I may assume it to be admitted that better connection between the City of Sydney and North Sydney is urgently required, both on account of the safety of the navigation, and for the convenience of residents on the north side of the harbour.

The increasing number of ferry boats between Circular Quay and the north side of the harbour, all of which have to cross the courses of the Manly and outward-bound steamers, and the frequent collisions which occur, are cogent reasons why other communication between the city and North Sydney should relieve the congestion of harbour navigation. And the rapid increase in the number of residents on the northern side of the harbour makes it imperative that better facilities for communication between the city and their homes should be afforded them.

Many years ago I was asked by influential friends interested in the progress of North Sydney, to promote a private Bill in Parliament for this purpose, as it was recognised that it was improbable that any Government would construct such expensive works for a local advantage.

I gave the most careful consideration to this subject, and was convinced that a high-level bridge was the only satisfactory means of affording the necessary connection.

Under any circumstances there are the most serious disadvantages inseparable from tunnel travelling, viz., imperfect ventilation, possible failure of light, dampness, narrowness, and noise. And in the case of the Blackwall Tunnel lately constructed under the Thames, at a cost of nearly £1,000,000, these disadvantages are found to be so serious that it is stated that a suitable bridge must eventually be constructed; but in the case of North Sydney, where the objective point of the proposed work is over 120 feet above high-water level, a tunnel is peculiarly unsuitable, as every passenger and every vehicle using such a tunnel must ascend and descend 220 feet, even supposing the lowest point of the tunnel floor is only 100 feet under high water, whereas in the case of a bridge, even with a headway of 180 feet, the ascent and descent would be only 60 feet. This disadvantage, combined with the disagreeableness and danger of a drive of 1½ mile in a narrow and noisy tunnel, convinced me that for the real want of North Sydney, viz., a roadway connecting it with the city, a tunnel would be useless, and would not be used, as the present ferry-boat journey in daylight, and fresh air, would certainly be preferred.

Two years ago, in consequence of the rapid growth of the residential districts on the north side of the harbour, and of promised financial support to construct the work, I promoted a Bill in Parliament to authorise the construction of a bridge between Daves Point and Milson's Point. The joint Select Committee appointed to report on the various proposals, stated that generally the witnesses heard by them favoured a bridge rather than a tunnel; but various objections were taken to the bridge then proposed by me, by Government officers and by Members in Parliament. My amended proposal is designed to meet all those objections.

B. C.
Simpson.
1 Nov., 1898.

The route recommended by the Engineer-in-Chief for Railway Construction, viz., Dawes Point to McMahon's Point, has been adopted, and the bridge has been specially designed so that a railway bridge, if ever required, can be built alongside, thus forming, practically, one bridge with the advantage that the road traffic would be separated from the railway traffic.

The adoption of the McMahon's Point route necessitates an entirely different design of bridge, which adds to the cost of the works, but I entirely concur with Mr. Deane's preference for this route for several reasons.

1. In the event of a railway bridge ever being required, this must undoubtedly be the route it would take, and it is certainly undesirable that two bridges of possibly different spans should cross the harbour in different directions.
2. The possible interference with extension of Milson's Point Railway Station is avoided.
3. A more direct communication with the North Shore Tramway, and better gradients are attained.
4. Passengers can join the Milson's Point and Hornsby Railway at French-street, Blue's Point Road, without the serious disadvantages of a lift.

The objection was also taken to my former design that the central pier and the arms of the cantilever would obstruct the navigation of the harbour.

In the design which I now submit a clear span of over 1,300 feet is provided over the fairway of the harbour of which at least 600 feet has a clear headway of 180 feet over high water. From the ends of this centre length of 600 feet the roadway falls with a gradient of 1 in 274, but at the piers the clear headway provided is 167 feet over high water. The piers will be protected by strong floating booms, and if desired by the Marine Board, a lighted buoy will be anchored at the centre of this span, which would separate the incoming and outgoing courses, but would not be a dangerous obstruction to navigation in foggy weather.

The piers supporting the main span over the harbour are shown on my original drawing to be situated in the water about 300 feet from Dawes Point and McMahon's Point respectively, but clause 18 of the Bill provides that the exact position of these piers shall be determined by the Engineer-in-Chief for Public Works before they are constructed. This drawing has been submitted to the Engineer-in-Chief for Public Works, who considers the northern pier at McMahon's Point to be well clear of the navigation, but objected to the position of the southern pier on the ground that it obstructed the present courses of navigation.

To obviate this objection, I have removed this pier to a position close to Dawes Point, and propose to amend clause 18 of the Bill by the following addition to that clause, viz. :—“But the southern group of piers at Dawes Point shall not encroach on the fairway of the harbour more than 100 feet, measuring in the longitudinal direction of the bridge from the extreme point of the shore at Dawes Point.”

This entirely satisfies Mr. Darley's objection, and I believe he will state to the Committee that the bridge as now proposed will cause no obstruction to the navigation of the harbour, but will in fact relieve it, as it will relieve the harbour of a great deal of the cross traffic which now causes a dangerous congestion.

The bridge and approaches have a clear width of 60 feet, viz., a roadway of 40 feet and two pathways of 10 feet each, and the works are designed to carry a double line of tramway which the Minister for Works for the time being is empowered to lay and use, by clause 22 of the Bill.

This tramway will enable the Government to connect this George-street line, now being constructed, with the North Shore tramway, leaving the George-street tramway either at the Town Hall as shown on my general plan, or at Wynyard-street, as is, I believe, proposed by the Engineer-in-Chief for Railway Construction, and running along York-street, Princes-street, the approaches and bridge now proposed, and Blue's Point Road to a junction with the North Shore tramway in Miller-street. I have asked for no power in this Bill to construct a private tramway over the bridge and approaches, as I consider that the Government could not properly grant to any private company the ownership of what would virtually be an intervening link in the Government tramways. Moreover, any such private ownership would entail very serious inconvenience on the travelling public, as it would necessitate two changes of carriage instead of the facility for an unbroken journey between the city and North Sydney. This through tramway connection would inevitably lead to large extensions of the North Shore tramways, and the Government would reap the advantage of the increased revenue.

The proposed work commences at the northern end of Princes-street, crosses over Cumberland-street and George-street North on a steel girder viaduct carried on steel tressle piers, leaving a clear headway of nearly 30 feet over the former street, and 50 over the latter. The approach then curves to the left with a 400 feet radius through the Dawes Point Battery lands to the southern end of the bridge at Dawes Point. Thence across the harbour to McMahon's Point when the southern approach commences. This approach is carried on a steel girder viaduct of similar construction to the northern approach, across East Crescent-street leaving a clear headway of 30 feet and across Middle-street, which is diverted under an archway having a headway of 20 feet to Blue's Point Road near its junction with East Crescent-street, where the proposed works terminate.

The only street in any way interfered with is Middle-street, which is only a 30-foot lane, and this street can be diverted, as shown, into East Crescent-street; or, if preferred by the North Sydney Borough Council, into Blue's Point Road.

A new station can be placed at western mouth of the railway tunnel, under the Blue's Point Road, and passengers for the Milson's Point and Hornsby Railway can approach this station by French-street, without any lift.

The increasing population on the north side of the harbour, and the dangerous congestion of steamer traffic in the harbour, makes it urgently desirable that better and other facilities should be given for communication between the city and North Sydney. The present Government has stated that it will not construct the necessary works, and their expensive character makes it improbable that any Government could undertake such works for the local advantage of the districts on the north side of the harbour. It appears, therefore, that private enterprise is the only means by which this want can be supplied, and if it should be found desirable that the proposed works should be acquired by the Government their acquisition on reasonable terms is provided for by clause 23 of the Bill. I have already given my reasons for considering that a bridge is the only satisfactory solution of the question of better communication between the city and North Sydney, and I claim for the bridge now submitted by me the following advantages :—

It would afford a broad open roadway in daylight, and fresh air for pedestrian, equestrian, and vehicular traffic, and the maximum rates chargeable under the Bill are generally lower than the rates now charged by the North Shore Ferry Company.

It would enable the Government to connect their George-street tramway with the North Shore tramway, thus giving unbroken tramway connection between Sydney and North Sydney.

It would not compete with either the Government tramway or railway, but would increase the revenues of both, and lead to lucrative extensions of the former.

It would enable the Government tramway to carry passengers to the Milson's Point and Hornsby Railway, direct to the proposed station at French-street, without the disadvantage of a lift.

The route is that which must be taken by a railway bridge if ever required, and, therefore, no second crossing of the harbour will be necessary.

It would employ a large amount of labour, and stimulate various building trades.

4. Towards the conclusion of your statement you said that the work would give employment to a large amount of labour, and stimulate various building trades;—can you give the Committee any idea, roughly, what sum would be expended upon the work in question for, we will say, labour and material—the question of the cost of land is one concerning which it is difficult to arrive at any conclusion? It is very difficult to separate material from labour. Of course, one takes a contract price for concrete, brickwork, and steelwork, but one does not consider the portion which is actually material and the portion which is actually labour. I should say that the cost of this bridge would be about £400,000 as amended, and I should say that at least three-eighths of that amount would be expended upon labour.

5. In the Colony? Yes.

6. Your estimate of labour would include the cost of labour upon locally-produced material? Yes. Of course, it is quite possible that the steelwork might be locally supplied, and including that possibility, the portion expended upon labour would be greater than that which I have stated.

7. *Mr. D. Thomson.*] Will you state the exact amendment which you propose to make in the 18th clause? I propose to amend that clause by adding the following words:—"But the southern group of piers at Dawes Point shall not encroach on the fair way of the harbour more than 100 feet, measuring in the longitudinal direction of the bridge from the extreme point of the shore at Dawes Point."
8. You propose, I understand, to increase your span? Yes; I have left the clause otherwise as it stands, because it is my intention to carry out the bridge in that way. If the Committee desire I shall be happy to amend the clause, but it is really unimportant. The plan which Mr. Darley has had prepared shows that if the piers were brought in from 200 to 250 feet it would not interfere with the courses of the steamers. My reason for keeping the piers in that position are engineering reasons. Although it adds to the cost of the span and superstructure, we get a better foundation. You could put very satisfactory piers further out, but they would be at a great depth.
9. You are referring to the piers on the right-hand side;—are they covered by Blue's Point? Yes. Although I left myself power to put the piers in the position named in the Bill, I might not avail myself of it, because of the engineering difficulties.
10. As regards the Dawes Point piers, they still project 100 feet; what would be the objection to bringing those piers to the junction of land and water; I suppose the effect of that would be that you would have to remove your other piers and increase the cost of the bridge? There is another objection. It is that although I can move my southern piers to the position shown on the amended drawings, encroaching only 100 feet on the harbour, if I were to bring them right back on to the shore, I should increase the difficulties of approach. I might also create a difficulty in connection with the railway bridge, which I must consider may eventually be constructed. The difficulty in the case of the railway bridge would be greater still, because the railway authorities could not adopt the sharp curvature which I could adopt in the case of a road. But I will prepare a plan showing both positions for this pier.
11. *Chairman.*] In designing this bridge, I believe you have made provision for the position of a railway bridge alongside? Yes.
12. Therefore, it cannot be said with regard to your present proposal that you are utilising or occupying the only site the Government have for a railway bridge? No; on the contrary, my proposal was submitted to the Engineer-in-Chief for Railway Construction to know whether it would enable him to put a railway bridge alongside in case it were ever required to build one, and it was approved by him under that idea. Mr. Deane himself is to be here to give evidence upon that point.
13. *Mr. Sawers.*] The North Sydney Municipal Council had the matter submitted to them, and they are entirely satisfied with your proposal? I went over to a meeting of the North Sydney Council about a fortnight ago, and they expressed themselves very well satisfied, but I only showed them the original drawings. The amended drawings then were really not determined upon.
14. *Mr. Cohen.*] There is no practical difference between the original and the amended drawings, so far as the North Shore end is concerned? No.

B. C.
Simpson.
1 Nov., 1898.

THURSDAY, 3 NOVEMBER, 1898.

Present:—

MR. COHEN,	|	MR. D. THOMSON,
MR. SLEATH,	|	MR. HAYES,
	MR. SAWERS.	

J. C. NEILD, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

Bruce Smith, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, appeared on behalf of the promoters of the Bill.

Benjamin Crispin Simpson recalled and further examined:—

15. *Chairman.*] You produce a plan showing the position of the pier on the southern side in accordance with clause 18, as amended by you? Yes. We will call the tracing plan D; the plan shows in black the position of the pier as shown in the amended drawing C. It also shows, as requested by Mr. Cohen, what the position of the approach would be if the southern pier were brought back actually on to Dawes Point, so as to not to intrude upon the water-way at all. I have further amended clause 18 of the Bill to enable the Minister, if he considers the position of the pier shown in red on the plan to be more desirable, to have it adopted. There are various amendments which I propose to make in the Bill, which I should like to go through directly.
16. *Mr. Cohen.*] Does the pier in the position in which you have now shown it on the plan project into the water at all? No; it does not project at all beyond the extreme point of Dawes Point. I think it is desirable that the matter should be left to the determination of the Minister, with the advice of his officers, because it might be that Mr. Deane, in considering that a railway bridge might be erected, would prefer the position marked black, to enable him to get a railway curve in. The Bill provides that the Minister may direct not only generally, as to the position of the piers and the design, and the creation of the work generally; but that he may direct specially that this southern pier at Dawes Point should not intrude into the water beyond the extremity of that point.
17. What is the radius of the curve according to your amended plan? In either case whether the position marked in black or red is adopted, the radius in the curve will be 3 chains, which is a good radius for tramway purposes.
18. I understood you to say, yesterday, that if you brought the pier in at the southern shore it would cause a curve impracticable in the event of the adoption of a Railway Bill;—do you wish in any way to modify that statement now? Yes; from further information which I have acquired regarding this position I do not think it would be impracticable. I think, however, that it would be just as well that the position of the pier should be left to the discretion of the Minister, because the Engineer-in-Chief for Railway Construction might find that the position of the pier marked in black, which Mr. Darley holds does not interfere with the navigation, might suit his railway purposes better than the pier marked in red. For that reason I think it will be better to leave the provision of the Bill absolutely elastic, so that the Government officers may determine upon the site which best suits their purposes.

B. C. Simpson.
3 Nov., 1898.

- B. C. Simpson. 19. What is the height under the centre of the bridge from high water at ordinary spring tides to the under side of the girders? 180 feet clear.
- 3 Nov., 1898. 20. What is the clear height of the piers from high water? 167 feet.
21. You have allowed for a camber of 15 feet? Yes.
22. You told us yesterday that the distance from McMahon's pier to the shore was about 300 feet? Yes.
23. What is the depth of water between the shore at McMahon's Point and the pier? It varies from 12 feet to about 35 feet.
24. What are the dimensions of the piers? Twenty-four feet at the base.
25. There are six pedestals? Yes.
26. What is the extreme dimension of the piers longitudinally from the apex of the triangles? About 140 feet by 80 feet.
27. That is to the water-line? Yes. Each group of piers supporting the main span of the bridge consists of six pedestals, each having a foundation of 24 feet diameter.
28. *Chairman.*] Is each pedestal 24 feet in diameter? Yes. They will vary with the depth—they are from 21 to 24 feet.
29. What will be the total water surface taken up by each of the piers? About 9,600 square feet.
30. Does that include the floating booms? No; they will be outside that. There is occupied, approximately, round these piers a space of 10 feet, so as to give room for displacement without damage to either ship or pier; that will add another 6,300 square feet to the water area occupied.
31. That will be another 160 ft. x 100 ft.? Yes; according to the proposal shown on plan D, one pier will be on the shore practically, and the other pier is a long way clear of all the navigation courses.
32. *Mr. Bruce Smith.*] Do you look upon the floating booms as necessary? I think they are desirable.
33. Do you find them in the case of the bridges on the Thames? No.
34. For instance, you would not find them at London Bridge or Blackfriars Bridge? No; I never saw such a thing there.
35. *Mr. Cohen.*] You have promised to show us upon plan D the ties and anchorages? Yes; I have not shown them at present, because the anchorage can be carried down in a direct line with the straight portion of the bridge without interfering with the curve, but I will have them marked on the plan before the next meeting of the Committee. I will have shown on the plan the anchorages for both schemes—the red and black.
36. You say you have adopted this scheme in order that the railway bridge might be put alongside of it? Yes.
37. Have you any suggestion to make as to how the railway is to be connected with the main system? No, that is a matter for the decision of the Engineer-in-Chief for Railway Construction.
38. I understood you to say that it was the best site in view of that purpose? The matter has been submitted to Mr. Deane, and he will give you evidence as to that. He will tell you that he can put a railway bridge alongside the bridge—in fact the bridge was specially designed to meet Mr. Deane's requirements in that way.
39. Is there in the Bill any time named for the completion of the work? Yes; clause 17 says:—
- The said bridge shall be commenced within one year from the passing of this Act, and shall be completed and brought into use within four years from the time of such commencement, and the whole of the said bridge shall be constructed in a proper and workmanlike manner to the satisfaction of the Engineer-in-Chief for Public Works for the time being.
40. Is there any provision in the Bill with regard to a deposit? Yes; that is contained in clause 16.
41. Have you any idea, making a rough estimate, how much more expensive it would be, supposing you brought the McMahon's Point pier further out into the harbour;—of course it is possible that may be done, and we should like to know what further expense would be entailed? It would not make the bridge more expensive; it would increase the cost of the foundations, but, on the other hand, it would reduce the cost of the superstructure.
42. Supposing the Legislature said you would have to provide a span of 1,600 feet clear, instead of 1,200 feet, which you have shown on the second plan, and supposing you brought the pier back another 100 feet to give the 1,600 feet, necessitating your bringing the McMahon's Point pier 100 feet further out, would not that mean making the bridge more expensive? Yes, it would. The additional cost, however, would be very slight, because the pier at McMahon's Point would still be at a practicable depth. It would add slightly to the cost of that pier, but the cost of the other pier would be diminished. As long as there was 1,200 feet clear, it would cover all the navigation courses. Therefore the position of the pier outside the 1,200 feet would be a matter for the determination by the Minister on the advice of his officers. The consideration which would sway them probably would be, not only the general convenience, but the convenience of the proposed railway bridge. Suppose the northern pier were obliged to be put in the position shown on the drawing, it might be an inconvenience to the railway bridge. Therefore, as long as the northern portion is quite clear of the navigation courses, it is better to leave it to the option of the Minister, on the advice of his officers. They can then determine the position of that pier to suit the arrangement they propose with regard to a railway bridge. There is not very much in the question of water area occupied, because it is taken longitudinally. If the space occupied came across the fairway it would be another matter.
43. What is the total breadth of the harbour there at high water, from shore to shore? 1,850 feet.
44. What is the distance between Garden Island and Macquarie Point? 1,200 feet.
45. What is the distance between Goat Island and Milson's Point? 1,250 feet.
46. *Mr. Hayes.*] Can you tell us the height of the Brooklyn Bridge above high water? I have not been to New York since the Brooklyn Bridge has been erected; but I understand it has a headway of 155 feet. The proposed bridge is the highest in any part of the world for the purpose—that is, a big bridge over navigable water.
47. *Mr. Bruce Smith.*] Is not the Orient steamer shown upon the plan designed to scale? It is only put on to illustrate the real size of the bridge, which would otherwise hardly be apparent.
48. I understood that it was designedly put on to scale? Yes; but there are Orient boats of different sizes. That is a boat with about 100-ft. masts.
49. *Mr. Cohen.*] How far does Blue's Point project out beyond McMahon's Point, taking a line at right angles with the line of the proposed bridge? About 750 ft.

50. *Chairman.*] You have already, in regard to clause 18, indicated some additions which you desire to be made to the clause as printed;—are there any other alterations or additions in the other clauses to which you would like to direct the attention of the Committee? Yes; I have made several additions and alterations which I propose to recommend to the Committee, and I will deal with them seriatim. In clause 7, in lines 21 and 22, I propose to omit the words “in the opinion of the Engineer-in-Chief for Public Works.” I may say that this elimination is proposed on the ground of the objection of the Engineer-in-Chief of Public Works to undertaking such a responsibility. The elimination of the words will leave the promoters with the legal responsibility without the opinion of the Engineer-in-Chief. I would suggest that if it is determined to leave the responsibility with the Department that the Minister should be substituted for the words “Engineer-in-Chief for Public Works.” In clause 14, line 13, I propose to eliminate the words “of such by-laws,” and in the next line to omit the words “under the same,” and to add to the clause the words “that the same have been duly made and confirmed and are still in force.” On page 6, in lines 10 and 11, I propose to eliminate the words “Engineer-in-Chief for Public Works for the time being” and to substitute the word “Minister.” In the next clause—17—I also propose to omit the words “Engineer-in-Chief for the time being” at the end of the clause and to substitute the word “Minister.” In clause 18 the term “low-water mark” in line 27 should be “high-water mark.” In line 32 of the clause I propose to omit the words “Engineer-in-Chief for Public Works or to such other person as may be approved by the Governor for such purpose” and to substitute the word “Minister.” In the same clause in line 31, after the word “pier” I wish to add to the words “and the detailed drawings of all the proposed works.” In line 34 I propose to insert after the words “approved by him” the words “both as regards location and design.” I propose the following addition to clause 18:—

At the southern pier the group of pedestals at Dawes Point shall not encroach on the fairway of the harbour more than 100 feet measuring in the longitudinal direction of the bridge from the extreme point of the shore at Dawes Point, and if required by the Minister they shall not project at all beyond the extreme point of the shore at Dawes Point.

That is a provision in the Bill for the position of the pier marked red in plan D. I propose after clause 20 to introduce certain clauses for the protection of the Water and Sewerage Department, as follows:—

The protection of Sewers, &c.

21. The following provisions for the protection of the sewers, water-mains, and works of the Water and Sewerage Board, and of all house-services and connections in respect thereof, shall have effect, namely:—

1. The said Benjamin Crispin Simpson shall comply with and conform to all reasonable directions of the Water and Sewerage Board in the execution of the works, and shall not in any manner interfere with any of the sewers, water-mains, or works of the Water and Sewerage Board, or with any house-services or connections in respect thereof, without notice to and the sanction of the Water and Sewerage Board; and shall provide to the reasonable satisfaction of the Water and Sewerage Board, for the proper protection of and for preventing injury or impediment to any such sewers, water-mains, works, house-services, or connections, by reason of the works or any part thereof; and shall save harmless the Water and Sewerage Board and all owners of any such house-services or connections aforesaid, against all expenses to be occasioned by the works or any part thereof.
2. The said Benjamin Crispin Simpson shall be liable to make good, with all reasonable despatch, and to the satisfaction of the Water and Sewerage Board, all injury or damage caused by or resulting from any of the works to any such sewers, water-mains, works, house-services, or connections, as mentioned in sub-section (1) of this section; and the Water and Sewerage Board, or any owner of any such house-service or connection sustaining injury or damage, shall from time to time have power to recover the amount thereof from the said Benjamin Crispin Simpson, in any court of competent jurisdiction.
3. The approval by the Water and Sewerage Board of any work under the provisions of this section shall not exonerate the said Benjamin Crispin Simpson from any liability, or affect any claim for damages under this section or otherwise.
4. If the said Benjamin Crispin Simpson shall in any respect fail to comply with and conform to any such reasonable directions of the Water and Sewerage Board as are mentioned in sub-section (1) of this section, or shall fail to provide to the reasonable satisfaction of the Water and Sewerage Board for the proper protection of and for preventing injury or impediment to any such sewers, water-mains, works, house-services, or connections, as mentioned in the said sub-section, or shall fail to make good with all reasonable despatch, and to the satisfaction of the Water and Sewerage Board any such injury or damage to any sewers, water-mains, works, house-services, or connections as is mentioned in sub-section (2) of this section, the Water and Sewerage Board, or any owner of any such house-service or connection as the case may be, shall have full power and authority (in the case of the Water and Sewerage Board by their engineer, officers, workmen, and servants, and in the case of any such owner by his workmen and servants) to enter upon the works of the said Benjamin Crispin Simpson, or any part thereof, and to do all such acts and things and carry out all such works as may be necessary and proper for the protection, amendment, or repair of any such sewer, water-main, or other works, house-service, or connection as the case may be, and any and all costs, charges, and expenses incurred by the Water and Sewerage Board, or by such owner as the case may be, in the exercise of the powers in this sub-section contained shall be paid to the Water and Sewerage Board or to such owner as the case may be by the said Benjamin Crispin Simpson on demand, or in default may be recovered from the said Benjamin Crispin Simpson by the Water and Sewerage Board, or by such owner as the case may be, in any court of competent jurisdiction.
5. Otherwise than is herein expressly enacted the said Benjamin Crispin Simpson shall, in the construction of the said works, observe and comply with the provisions of the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Acts, and the by-laws made by the Water and Sewerage Board under such Acts.

Inspection of Works.

22. It shall be lawful for the Minister and for the Municipal Council of Sydney and for the Borough of North Sydney, and also for the Water and Sewerage Board, at any time during the construction of the said bridge or approaches, or any works in connection therewith, to appoint an engineer to enter upon and inspect the same; and the said Benjamin Crispin Simpson and all persons acting under him shall afford all reasonable facilities in connection with any such inspection as hereinbefore mentioned.

Plans to be lodged.

23. For the purposes of such inspection as in the last section mentioned, the said Benjamin Crispin Simpson shall, before commencing to construct either the said bridge or the said approaches, deposit with the Minister, the Municipal Council of Sydney, the Borough of North Sydney, and the Water and Sewerage Board respectively, a copy of the plan or design of the same, together with a copy of the specifications and all necessary drawings.

In clause 21, which will become clause 24, I propose to substitute the word “Minister” for the word “Governor,” in line 8. In clause 22, line 16, I propose to omit the words “for Works,” the word “Minister” being sufficient; but in the marginal note, “Power to construct tramway,” I propose to insert the words “of Minister,” after the word “power.” I also propose, in the same clause, to omit the words “Engineer-in-Chief for Public Works,” and to substitute the word “him.” In the first line of clause 23 I desire to substitute the word “Minister” for the word “Governor.” Those, I think, are all the alterations I would suggest to the Committee.

B.C. Simpson. 51. *Chairman.*] It will be, of necessity, a point of great importance in connection with the bridge, that the Committee in the first instance, and the House afterwards, should be satisfied as to the absolute stability of the structure—that it will not be a work of a transient character, but for the permanent benefit of those who desire to use it;—are you in a position to give any direct evidence now as to the strength of the structure as compared with bridges of a similar character lately constructed in other parts of the world;—in a bridge which is required to carry not only passenger and vehicular traffic, but also tramway traffic, what strain should the structure be able to bear? The bridge will carry a general weight of live load of 50 lb. to the square foot over the 60 feet of the roadway, and also 100 lb. per square foot locally over every 75 feet.

3 Nov., 1893. 52. *Mr. Cohen.*] That, again, would be the moving load? Yes; that covers the weight of the tramway for main and cross girders. The bridge is specially designed to carry the heaviest description of tramway cars fully loaded. I have taken from the Departmental officers the heaviest load they ever provide for. I have provided for a car loaded with as many people as can possibly be packed into it. The margin of safety adopted would allow a string of loaded cars to pass over the bridge.

53. *Chairman.*] Such cars as are at present used in the electrical tram service in the Colony? Yes.

54. Does the Bill describe anywhere the materials of which it is proposed that the bridge is to be constructed? That is not in the Bill; but it provides that all the drawings shall be submitted to the Minister for his approval.

55. *Mr. D. Thomson.*] Are you prepared that the Bill should limit the position of the piers at a certain distance from the shore? The Bill does limit it.

56. On one side? On one side it limits it to the intrusion of 100 feet; but there is a span of 1,200 feet which would limit the pier on the other side.

57. While you put in the Bill that 1,200 feet, you propose, as a matter of fact, to make the span 1,600 feet? Yes; but the 1,200 feet will cover all the navigation courses, and therefore no advantage can be obtained by making a longer span compulsory.

Henry Deane called in, sworn, and examined:—

H. Deane. 58. *Chairman.*] You are Engineer-in-Chief for Railways? Yes.

3 Nov., 1893. 59. Have you examined the plans connected with the project in the Bill before us? I have seen the plan which was submitted to me by Mr. Simpson some little time ago; also, a modification which it is now proposed should be adopted in regard to the pier on the Dawes Point side.

60. Would you like to make any general statement with reference to the question whether the bridge proposed would or would not occupy the only site available for a railway bridge:—I may explain that one of the objections raised to a bridge to connect two sides of the harbour has been that the only site available for a railway bridge might be monopolised;—in your opinion would the proposed scheme monopolise the only railway bridge site? That was my objection last year when these bridge schemes were before the respective Select Committees. I pointed out that if they went across from Milson's Point to Dawes Point, touching approximately on the points shown in plan A, there would be no room for another bridge. I indicated that, in my opinion, if a bridge were made across the harbour to North Shore, it would only be a matter of a short time when a railway bridge would be insisted upon, and that therefore the location of the road bridge should be such as to permit of a railway bridge, and that the bridge should be so designed as to combine the two schemes. Mr. Simpson has pointed out to me that, with his location, in his opinion a railway bridge could be added in future alongside the other bridge, and I think it could be done without difficulty.

61. You think, then, that the scheme at present submitted, is, in respect of future railway communication, superior to the scheme submitted to you previously? Yes, I do. It does not clash with a railway bridge; whereas a railway bridge from Milson's Point to the extreme point of Dawes Point would certainly clash with it.

62. The present scheme proposing to take a bridge from Dawes Point to McMahon's Point would not interfere with a future railway bridge to Milson's Point? No; with a future railway bridge to McMahon's Point. I do not recommend a railway bridge to Milson's Point. I think that that would be the wrong place to which to take it.

63. The present scheme would not interfere with a take-off on either shore? I think a railway bridge could be added very well. Of course it would almost necessitate the adoption of the same design. I do not know whether it would be the most economical, but it might be. For a road bridge you can adopt the suspension principle, whereas for a railway bridge it is not so desirable. However, I am not offering any objection to it. It is not exactly a suspension bridge nor a cantilever bridge. It is a combination of the two principles. Looked at from a certain point of view it is more like a suspension bridge, but from another point of view it is more like a cantilever bridge. No cantilever bridge I know of is designed in exactly the same way as is this bridge. It is a design of a very special character which I have not at present investigated.

64. Are you disposed to offer any observations on the proposals as regards the Bill itself? As regards the Bill itself, I would suggest that the word "Minister" should be substituted for any officer of the Department. Mr. Darley and I agreed as to that. We recommended in the case of another Bill that words should be inserted to the effect that the plans should be submitted for approval before the commencement of the work, both as to design and location. An important reason for that is, I may mention, that Mr. Simpson has altered the position of the pier shown in red on plan D. It is shown just at the point. I think it might prove to be better to put it a little round the point where the baths are, in order to suit the future railway. It would not interfere with the bridge in any way or introduce any difficulty, but it might make it much easier for future railway purposes.

65. *Mr. Bruce Smith.*] That is as Mr. Simpson now suggests? It would be rather to the west of the place named. It has already been pointed out verbally that various City authorities, the Railway Commissioners, and the Water and Sewerage Board, as their interests may possibly be interfered with, should be consulted. There is one other matter I wanted to mention, and it may, perhaps, assist Mr. Smith in his questions. The objection which I made last year and which I mentioned just now, was to a bridge from Milson's Point to the extreme point of Dawes Point. Mr. Kenwood has modified his plan of last year.

He

H. Deane.
3 Nov., 1898.

- He now has one span over the harbour with high end arms. The northern arm of his cantilever goes right over the railway property, and right over Alfred-street, and lands, it may be, 5 chains to the east of Alfred-street. That avoids the interference with the railway property and the railway expansion which, as I showed last year, was so objectionable. He also brings the southern pier, as I stated, at a considerable distance to the south-east of the position where he landed according to his scheme of last year.
66. *Chairman.*] Towards the old A.S.N. Company's wharf? Yes. I only wanted to say that my objection, from an engineering point of view, is considerably modified by the position of that pier. The bridge would not interfere so much with a railway bridge across to McMahon's Point.
67. *Mr. Bruce Smith.*] Taking the span right over the harbour, he has avoided the obstruction to the railway property which you so much objected to? Yes, very largely.
68. You have spoken about Mr. Kenwood's scheme;—I would like to ask you, with regard to the Dawes Point end, what is the military aspect of the work? That I cannot say. I cannot give any evidence in regard to the military question.
69. Going from that to Mr. Simpson's plan, let me ask you generally this question: Assuming that the time has arrived for some connection between Sydney and North Sydney, what do you think is the best form of connection to have? I think the bridge connection is decidedly preferable to any other, if there is any necessity for it.
70. But assuming that the time has arrived for some road connection between Sydney and North Sydney, what form of connection, in your opinion, is it best to have? A bridge; I do not think there can be two opinions about that.
71. *Chairman.*] In preference to a tunnel connection? Yes, decidedly.
72. *Mr. Bruce Smith.*] Assuming that the time has arrived to connect the two sides, and that a bridge is the best means of connection, what points on either side of the harbour do you think are best adapted to the purpose—what route do you think the bridge should take? I would go from Dawes Point to McMahon's Point, because that lends itself to the construction of a railway bridge. That is the location for a railway bridge, and I think a road bridge ought to adopt the same course.
73. Then, as I understand you, the route Mr. Simpson's proposed bridge takes is the one you think best under all the circumstances? Yes, speaking generally.
74. *Chairman.*] Having regard to railway construction only, or having regard also to the existing tramway arrangements? I do not think it matters so much from that point of view. It is the railway location that I lay so much stress upon.
75. I suppose you recognise that if the time has arrived for a bridge connection, it is of some importance that it should fall in there with the railway line at a convenient point? Yes; it has always seemed so to me.
76. And which do you think the best point, having regard to railway purposes, for the bridge route to take? McMahon's Point.
77. Then, both for the purposes of taking a railway bridge side by side, so as to minimise obstruction to harbour traffic as far as possible, and also for the purpose of taking a railway to the best point on the other side, the route proposed in Mr. Simpson's Bill is, you think, the best? Yes. If you have obstruction of any description to the harbour traffic it is desirable that that obstruction should be confined to one spot. The railway location I regard therefore as of paramount importance, and from that point of view the proposed bridge is in the right location.
78. In your opinion, if such a bridge be constructed, it should provide for a tramway? Yes; decidedly there would be no difficulty about that.
79. Would not this route for tramway purposes also fall in with the most convenient point with the railway? Yes; it would fall in with the railway very well, and it would also connect with the North Sydney tramway system very well.
80. You mean the tramway on the North Sydney side? Yes.
81. But how would it fit in with the tramway construction on the Sydney side? You would have to carry it down to Wynyard Square and connect it with the George-street line at Wynyard-street, or you could take the route along York-street.
82. *Mr. Bruce Smith.*] Do you see any objection to that? No.
83. Would not the connection on this side fit in with the tramway line as being now constructed? Yes; it would fit in very well.
84. Connecting the two systems—the one on the other side with that on this side? Yes.
85. The plans of this bridge have been submitted to you, have they not? I have seen plan B, and before the Committee sat this afternoon I saw plan D.
86. Do you consider that the engineering arrangements, as exhibited by these plans, are satisfactory;—do the plans represent a satisfactory way of carrying out this want, making allowance for the modification of the plan with which you are acquainted? As far as I can see it seems to be quite satisfactory.
87. *Chairman.*] Supposing you were constructing a railway bridge across the harbour, what height would you provide between the under side of the bridge and high water? 180 feet was the conclusion I came to before when going into the matter.
88. You think, after making due inquiry, that that will suffice for the requirements of the shipping? Yes.
89. It would not be worth while to obtain a little further head room to go to greater expense? No; that was the conclusion I came to. I discussed the matter with Mr. Darley and we agreed that 180 feet was necessary, and that it would also be sufficient.
90. *Mr. Bruce Smith.*] The fact is that, for every foot higher you make the bridge you compel every individual or vehicle to rise that height at each approach? Yes. What I should consider most about the matter again relates to the railway question. You have a grade at the approaches which I do not like at all. It is a grade of about 1 in 30. Still it is workable. I should insist on the grade not being steeper, and, if you had a greater headway than 180 feet, it appears to me that it would compel you to adopt a steeper grade than 1 in 30 on the southern shore. Consequently the headway of 180 feet is about the highest you can give.
91. *Chairman.*] In connection with a railway bridge? Yes; it is necessary at the same time to make a suitable connection on the southern side. There would, therefore, be no possible advantage to shipping in constructing a vehicular bridge at a greater altitude than 180 feet if its construction were followed by a railway bridge at that altitude? No.

- H. Deane.
3 Nov., 1898.
92. *Mr. Bruce Smith.*] With regard to the provisions with regard to span and height are they, in your opinion, suitable for the requirements of navigation subject to the proposed modification? I am not an authority on navigation, but I think it is quite clear from a common-sense point of view that the larger the span the better it is, and if you keep the southern end of the span so as not to be obstructive the northern end would come in very well. I think the span is a satisfactory one.
93. You think that both span and height are satisfactory? Yes.
94. I understood you to say, in answer to the Chairman, that a railway bridge could be built alongside this one? I fully believe it could.
95. So as to constitute one bridge practically? Yes, especially with a view to the suggested alteration in the Bill, as to submitting designs beforehand.
96. Clause 18, as proposed by Mr. Simpson in his draft, says: "The main span of the bridge shall be carried by two groups of piers, and a plan showing the exact position of these piers, and detailed drawings of all the proposed works, shall be submitted to the Minister, and shall be approved by him as regards location and design";—assuming that the clause is amended in a way satisfactory to the Committee in those aspects, the proposal would be satisfactory? Yes.
97. Would you recommend that a tramway should be constructed over such a bridge? I think a tramway should be constructed.
98. Would you think it desirable that a tramway over a bridge, taking in only a short portion of a line, should be in the hands of private individuals? No; it would have to be worked by the Government.
99. From what you know of the traffic from North Shore, do you consider such a tramway would be convenient? Undoubtedly; if a bridge is made the tramway will be a necessity.
100. *Chairman.*] It will be advantageous to the Government tramway system? Yes; I have not the slightest doubt about that.

TUESDAY, 15 NOVEMBER, 1898.

Present:—

MR. COHEN,
MR. HAYES,

MR. J. C. L. FITZPATRICK,
MR. SAWERS.

MR. D. THOMSON.

J. C. NEILD, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

Bruce Smith, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, appeared on behalf of the promoter of the Bill.

Henry Deane recalled and further examined:—

- H. Deane.
15 Nov., 1898.
101. *Mr. Bruce Smith.*] Do you consider that a tramway connection across a bridge between the northern and southern shores of the harbour would increase the Government tramway revenue? I have no doubt it would.
102. You have seen the plan showing the proposed railway station at French-street? Yes.
103. In your opinion, could a station be constructed there on the railway? Yes; it could be constructed. There is a grade of 1 in 50, and it is therefore not a very suitable place, but there are worse places.
104. It is practicable as a railway-station site? Yes.
105. Could passengers crossing by that bridge get easy access to the railway station without the assistance of a lift? I should think so. They would simply have to walk down from the bridge to the railway station.
106. There would not be a very great incline? No; I do not know what the difference in the levels would be. I suppose there would be 20 or 30 feet difference.
107. The difference would be such that the distance could be traversed without a lift? I have no doubt it could.
108. In your opinion, lift communication is a disadvantage to railway traffic? Sometimes it is a necessity, but one would sooner do without it, of course.
109. *Mr. Cohen.*] You mean a passenger lift? Yes.
110. *Mr. Bruce Smith.*] You have said something about Mr. Kenwood's Bill. I should like to ask you one or two questions concerning it. In your opinion, would the private ownership of a length of tramway, as proposed by that Bill, be convenient or inconvenient to the public coming in between the two sections of the Government tramways? I do not believe the tramways could be conveniently worked with a section of private tramway coming in between them. Probably some arrangement would have to be made by the Government, either to take over the section or to work it.
111. You know that Mr. Kenwood's Bill in its present form provides for the right to construct a tramway over the bridge and for some distance on either side? It does, I believe.
112. In your opinion, would that be an inconvenience in the working of the Government tramway system? The Government would have to work the tramway on the bridge, I think, whatever was done.
113. Assuming that in connecting with Milson's Point under Mr. Kenwood's Bill a lift had to be provided for carrying passengers down 140 feet or so, in your opinion, which scheme would be preferable—that one, or one connecting at the station at French-street—quite apart from the question of route? I think that what I have said already will sufficiently answer that question. A lift is sometimes a necessity, but if you can do without it it is very much better.
114. You think the Bill before the Committee would have an advantage over the other Bill in this respect; that there would be no necessity for lift accommodation? Yes. Of course, people right down at the point might want to use a lift.
115. But, looking at the matter from the point of view of railway communication, you think it would be a decided advantage to avoid lifts if possible? Yes. They would, of course, have to go to a wayside station instead of to the terminal station. I do not know whether that would matter very much. In the case of Mr. Kenwood's scheme, they would go to the terminal station where the train started. There is some advantage in that, instead of going to a wayside station. On the other hand, this scheme has the advantage of not being encumbered with a lift.

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116. *Chairman.*] But it would not make much difference whether persons got in the train at a wayside station or at the terminal station? It does not make much difference in short-distance traffic.

117. What difference does it make in long-distance traffic? In that case, travellers like to choose their seats at the terminal station, and to avail themselves of the facilities thus offered for arranging their luggage. If they get in at an intermediate station they have to take what accommodation they can get.

118. *Mr. Bruce Smith.*] As a rule, in the case of this particular line, the traffic would be suburban traffic? Yes; and in that respect it would not make much difference whether persons got in at a wayside station or at the terminal station.

119. *Chairman.*] If the connection were made at French-street instead of at the terminal point, that would be the more important station of the two as regards the quantity of traffic;—if, for instance, all the city traffic went to the station at French-street, there would really be more traffic there than at the present terminal station? That is very likely, but it is difficult to say.

120. *Mr. Bruce Smith.*] Have you formed any opinion as to the merits of a tunnel under the harbour as compared with a bridge? Do you mean for road or railway traffic, or for pedestrian traffic?

121. I mean for all classes of traffic? It makes a great deal of difference what kind of traffic you are providing for.

122. Will you deal with the several kinds of traffic, so that the Committee may become aware of your views? For road traffic, I should say decidedly that a bridge was preferable. I should not think there could be much question about that.

123. And for pedestrian traffic? The same applies to pedestrian traffic, generally speaking. With regard to railway traffic, it depends very much upon the points you wish to connect.

124. I am supposing the conditions we have before us;—take the railway traffic? If the connection were made by a tunnel the northern end would come above the surface at Lavender Bay on practically a level.

125. I am talking of the tunnel proposal before Parliament? I did not know you were referring to that.

126. In your opinion, is that a practicable scheme? It is quite practicable.

127. With lifts at either end? Yes.

128. When you say practicable, you really mean possible? In London, not to speak of other places, there are such connections.

129. But in your opinion, looking at the question from the point of view of convenience, would such a connection compare for a moment with a bridge connection? Taking my own case, if I were crossing the harbour, I would sooner go by boat or by bridge.

130. Looking at the matter from the point of view of the convenience of the public, who would have to descend in a lift, cross under the harbour by tunnel, and then ascend by lift again, would such a scheme, in your opinion, be nearly as convenient to the public as crossing on a level by means of a bridge? No; it would not.

131. And if, in addition to that, the tramway along George-street could be continued over the bridge to connect at almost the same level as the railway, could there be any comparison between the two schemes in point of convenience? No; the connection with the city south of the Post Office, or Wynyard Square, would be much more convenient probably. If the bridge were north of that, in order to go over it, people would have to rise a considerable height—they would have to go up Church Hill, for example.

132. You are speaking now of vehicular traffic,—I was referring to the tramway system? I am inclined to think that if people found the bridge inconvenient they would cross by boat, and not by tunnel.

133. Assuming that the tramway were constructed over the bridge to connect as proposed at French-street, and that were inconvenient, the next most convenient thing would be to cross by a boat? Yes; I think so. It remains to be seen, of course, but that is my own opinion. Does it not depend very much upon people's fancy—whether they prefer to travel over or under ground?

134. I am dealing with the question of convenience, upon which I consider that you, as an expert, can give us information. I ask you to assume these things: first, a bridge with a tramway across it from George-street; secondly, that the tramway is taken down to Circular Quay with boat communication at Milson's Point; and thirdly, a tunnel under the harbour, which has to be approached by two lifts—approached by one, and left by another;—of those three schemes, which do you consider the most convenient for the general public? I should say, decidedly, that the bridge would be.

135. Which do you consider the next? I fancy the next most convenient method is the present method of going over by boat.

136. The tunnel you would place last in the order of convenience? I have very grave doubts about the convenience of a tunnel.

137. *Chairman.*] There would not be much difficulty involved in running the proposed bridge from George-street at Margaret-street—there would be rather a steep grade, but the distance is short? There would not be very much trouble about that.

138. So that, practically, you might say that the bridge could come from Hunter-street instead of from the Post Office? Yes; I have no objection to include Hunter-street.

139. *Mr. Bruce Smith.*] What length of approach would a tunnel under the harbour involve? I could not tell you from memory what the distance would be from the Post Office to Milson's Point.

140. Assuming that the distance from inlet to outlet would be $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile, the tunnel being 20 feet in width, what would you say about that—I am talking now of a road tunnel from the point of view of public convenience and comfort? It is a very long tunnel.

141. How long, in your opinion, would it take ordinary traffic—not train traffic—to get through that? Ordinary traffic would go, I suppose, about 6 miles an hour; it would, therefore, take twelve minutes. Heavy traffic would go only about two-thirds of that speed—say 3 or 4 miles an hour.

142. You have to assume mixed traffic, such as you get at the present time;—looking at the matter from the point of view of comfort and ventilation, and all those circumstances, what do you say about it? I think a tunnel like that could be ventilated very well. It also could be lighted up pretty well with glazed bricks and electric light; but it is not a very nice thing if it can be avoided.

143. Would it be damp? I do not see that it need be particularly damp. It would be made watertight, and with sufficient ventilation it could be kept dry.

144. What sort of experience have they had in the case of the Blackwall Tunnel, under the Thames? I have seen only the reports in the newspapers. I have seen no official or very trustworthy reports.

145. Then you do not care to speak about it? No.

146.

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146. *Chairman.*] You have given very strong evidence, I think, before other bodies with reference to the inadvisableness of a railway tunnel for bringing the railway into the city;—you took strong objection to a tunnel in that case? With steam locomotion, yes.
147. Would not the same class of objection to some extent apply to a lengthy tunnel for vehicular traffic, omitting the question of smoke? No; I think it would be quite different. A long tunnel, such as that suggested, would have to be properly ventilated, otherwise the air would become very objectionable.
148. Could you indicate in any way what ventilation would be necessary? I believe it could easily be done with a fan.
149. *Mr. Cohen.*] You think there would be no difficulty in ventilating a tunnel? No great difficulty.
150. You would build your railway bridge on the east side of the proposed bridge, I take it? I think so, in order to keep clear of the southern road and approach.
151. Presuming that the pier of this bridge is on Dawes Point, your piers would of necessity be a little under water, and you would have a curve in the railway of about 3 chains? I should want Mr. Simpson, I think, to shift his pier a little further west, to make further room; but that is a matter of arrangement.
152. What is the least radius you could do with there? I always avoid anything sharper than 10 chains for a running line. We had on the mountains 8 chains, but nearly all those curves have been cut out.
153. With a pier 100 feet away from the shore it would be necessary to have a curve of 400 feet;—would you consider that sufficient? That would be for a road bridge—it would be 6 chains.
154. Could you utilise the proposed piers in any way for your bridge, or would it be necessary for you to have independent piers? We should want independent piers, or we should have to widen the piers shown.
155. Your piers would have to be alongside the piers shown? Yes.
156. Would you consider a span of 1,600 feet too much for a railway bridge built upon that principle? I have not gone in to the principle—it is somewhat new; but I have no doubt it is sound.
157. You would not object to a span of 1,600 feet for railway purposes? I should not like it perhaps, with a suspension bridge, but stiffened up in the way that bridge is, it is something more in the nature of a cantilever. If the bridge can be stiffened up sufficiently for railway traffic, I see no objection to it.
158. Have you considered the question how your railway bridge on the eastern side would affect the streets shown upon the plan—they are at an angle to the bridge;—how would the bridge affect them? It would go over those streets. The bridge approach would drop down for a road, but for a railway the grade would still be a rising one.
159. Unless you followed Mr. Simpson's grade you would not touch at French-street? No; I should make the connection with the railway at about the Bay Road Station.
160. If you are going to follow a different grade from that of Mr. Simpson on your northern side with your railway bridge, then the statements we have heard concerning the station at French-street could not apply? That would not affect the railway at all. What you are referring to has to do with a connection between the railway as it stands and the proposed tramway.
161. But you were referring, I thought, this morning to a station on the present railway;—if there is to be a station at French-street, and if you do not follow the grades shown by Mr. Simpson, you will be higher. Under those circumstances, how are you going to get your approach to the station? It would be a station for access to the tramway, not to the railway. The tramway would connect with the present railway at French-street. The railway, if carried across the harbour alongside the proposed bridge, would rise over it, and connect with the railway at Bay Road.
162. I understood you to say that the connection with the tramway would be somewhere in the neighbourhood of Wynyard Square? Yes.
163. You propose to extend the cable-tram in that direction? If the line remains as laid down there now, it will be an electric line. I did propose, some years ago, a cable-line down Erskine-street. It would be a branch from the George-street tramway, and the traffic could be arranged so as to run right through.
164. You think that the site indicated would be about the best site for a railway bridge? Yes.
165. That means a railway bridge to connect with the railway system on this side? Yes.
166. Could that connection be made, supposing the Hyde Park scheme were adopted? To bring the railway into Hyde Park you would have to go round past the Town Hall and come across with a curve into the Park.
167. *Mr. D. Thomson.*] I understand that you have no objection to the proposed bridge if the pier, as proposed, is moved slightly, as regards the possibility of running a railway bridge alongside of it? I see no objection to that.
168. Neither to the bridge itself across the harbour, nor to the curve after reaching the land? No; I think that all that can be arranged to suit a roadway and railway.
169. Are you prepared to say whether you favour a pier on Dawes Point, or one projecting further into the harbour than the point, because it might be inside the point, although in water? I think without doubt that it would be better to keep the waterway clear.
170. Entirely clear? If possible.
171. Assuming that the pier is not extended beyond Dawes Point, where would the 1,200 feet come to on the opposite side;—would it come clear of the fairway? It would be north of a line connecting Milson's Point and Blue's Point.
172. Then you would consider that if one pier were fixed at Dawes Point, and the other were 1,200 feet beyond it, the fairway would be properly preserved? Yes.
173. You spoke of 1,600 feet being rather a lengthy span for such a bridge;—do you know what the nature of the bridge connecting the New Jersey shore with New York is? I do not know what was ultimately decided, but I know that it was proposed to have a span of about 3,000 feet.
174. You do not know that it is a suspension bridge? No, I do not; but it was proposed to make it a suspension bridge. A short-span suspension bridge is not suitable for a railway, because the train in passing over sets up an inconvenient vibration. The load of the train is a considerable proportion of the dead load of the bridge. The longer the span, the heavier the bridge, the less becomes the live load as compared with the dead load, and the less effect it has. Consequently, when you get to a span of over 3,000 feet, or less than that, the dead weight of the superstructure of the bridge is so large in proportion to the weight of the train moving over it, that all the vibration due to the train will be absorbed without producing any inconvenient effect. Whether that proper limit is arrived at at 1,200 feet is a question; I am not sure that it is. I am not sure that I would recommend a suspension bridge of 1,200 feet span for a railway; but this bridge is stated not to be a suspension bridge.

175. You have not made any examination which would enable you yet to say that this system of bridge would be satisfactory for the traffic it would have to carry? No; I have not yet had an opportunity.
176. I presume you do not know that if traffic such as that going over the Pyrmont Bridge were developed upon this bridge the structure would be sufficiently powerful for it? It is merely a matter of design. It is in the case of a railway train going over that any difficulty might occur.
177. Do you know whether the bridge from New Jersey to New York has been carrying six lines of railway? I cannot say from memory.
178. The connection you suggested with Hyde Park would be a very costly one, would it not? Yes, it would be costly. It would come to about the same thing as connecting with Redfern.
179. Would it not have some effect, if such a thing were contemplated, on the question of bringing the city railway in by the eastern or western route? I do not think so. The question of bringing the railway into the city is one which necessitates a spot being chosen with a considerable area, and you cannot get sufficient space on the western side of the city.
180. *Mr. Sowers.*] In answer to a question by Mr. Bruce Smith as to the engineering features of the bridge, you said, "As far as I can see, it seems to be quite satisfactory";—are we to understand, from what you said just now, that it would be stiff enough to prevent any vibration to speak of from any likely traffic—that is, tramway traffic or road traffic? I have not the slightest doubt that the details can be designed so as to make the bridge quite stiff enough.
181. Do you know enough of the plans to say whether the bridge would be substantial enough in a general way to be a long-lived bridge? It would have to be.
182. It would not be flimsy in character? No. You will see that, according to the provisions of the Bill, the design has to be approved by the Department, and a flimsy structure would not be passed.
183. *Mr. Bruce Smith.*] There is nothing about the bridge, so far as you have examined it, to suggest any doubt to your mind as to the stability of the proposed structure? No; or as to the possibility of designing it, so as to make it perfectly safe.
184. *Chairman.*] Regarding the possible construction of a railway bridge alongside this road bridge, you have already said that it was quite clear that this proposal would not monopolise the only site for a bridge connection, and that therefore a railway bridge alongside would be a possibility? Yes.
185. With reference to the position of the piers on the south side, would you, in constructing a railway bridge, be able to keep your railway piers back to the land at Dawes Point, or would you have to take them out into the water? They would have to be in a line with the piers proposed in connection with this bridge.
186. They would not be further out? Not beyond the extreme point. One or the other might have to be in the water, but not beyond the extreme point—not north of it. The point is a narrow one, and there might not be sufficient width there for the double piers without going into the water, but they would not go beyond the point.
187. They would not be north of a line drawn east and west and touching the point? No.

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Cecil West Darley called in, sworn, and examined:—

188. *Chairman.*] You are Engineer-in-Chief for Public Works? Yes.
189. Have you had a copy of this Bill which is before this Committee for consideration? Yes.
190. Have you seen the plans of the proposed bridge? Yes; the outline plans.
191. Have you seen plan D, showing the alternative positions for the piers on the south shore, marked in red and black. You will see that the piers marked in black are about 100 feet from the point, while the piers marked in red are on the water-line;—which position do you think will be the most convenient, having regard to the traffic of the harbour? The position of the piers shown in red.
192. The piers if constructed there would not necessarily constitute any obstruction? No; there would be no obstruction.
193. The bridge, therefore, as designed with southern piers in that position, would form, in your opinion, no obstruction to the fairway of the harbour? No.
194. With reference to the height of the bridge, namely, 180 feet, in the centre above high water for a minimum length of 600 feet in the centre of the span;—would that be a sufficient height to accommodate large vessels which might require to pass under? Yes, with that height over high water.
195. It would really give you at low water about 185 feet? Practically. It would enable the highest masts which have been in the harbour, I think, to pass underneath.
196. *Mr. Bruce Smith.*] In your opinion is it desirable to have a road connection between the north and south sides of the harbour? I think so.
197. Why do you think that? The traffic is increasing so much that I think that the day has come when we must have increased means of communication between Sydney and North Sydney.
198. Is it not desirable that the steamer traffic should be relieved as much as possible? Yes; there is a perfect congestion of traffic there now, and considerable danger to life. Even if the bridge be put up it does not mean that the ferries would be run off, because a large quantity of traffic would still go to the ferries. The traffic to the lower portions of Milson's Point and Lavender Bay would still go that way; but the ferry traffic from Circular Quay is now increasing so much that it has become dangerous and difficult to manage it. While there would be room for a certain amount of ferry traffic even with a bridge, I think it is desirable to relieve the Circular Quay of a large portion of it.
199. Assuming that a road connection has become necessary, what do you regard as the most satisfactory solution of the difficulty? A bridge.
200. As compared with a tunnel provision, what are the advantages of a bridge? There is a great deal to be said in favour of a bridge in preference to a tunnel. I do not think a tunnel will ever be very popular, although for the purposes of electric traffic it is a great success.
201. What are the advantages of a bridge over a tunnel generally? In the case of a bridge you cross in the fresh air, and in a tunnel you do not; and unless special precautions are taken there is always a certain amount of difficulty in getting proper ventilation.
202. Supposing a tunnel ascended and descended by lift provision;—would that, in your opinion, be a disadvantage to the large amount of traffic which there would probably be across the harbour? For through traffic. If there were a tramway, you could get down into the tunnel by that means. 203.

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- C. W. Darley. 203. But it would be necessary to approach it at a certain distance? Yes; that would be the case also with a bridge, but the distance would not be so great.
- 15 Nov., 1898. 204. If the approach were comparatively near to the harbour crossing, it would be necessary to descend or ascend by lift? Yes.
205. Is not that a further disadvantage? Not to passenger traffic. It is easily worked. You go down into the Liverpool tunnel by lift.
206. Has the bridge not the advantage of enabling the two tramway systems to be connected? Yes, decidedly. You can have direct communication between the two systems by a bridge.
207. You are aware that it is proposed to have a span of 1,200 feet, with piers as indicated on plan D, one either on the point or at a short distance from it, and the other in such a position as to be within a straight line drawn from Milson's Point to McMahon's Point. You would have no objection to that so long as it did not interfere with the shipping? No.
208. If 180 feet were provided above high-water mark for a distance of 600 feet, that would be satisfactory as regards headway? Yes.
209. With a further provision that there should not be a less height than 165 feet at the piers? Yes; that would be ample for all ordinary navigation. The larger class of traffic, of course, would keep in the centre.
210. You know that the gradient would be 1 in 27½? Yes.
211. That is satisfactory for road traffic? Yes.
212. In your opinion, is a connection between McMahon's Point and Dawes Point preferable to a connection between Miller's Point and Dawes Point? I have not gone into the question very closely, but so far as I have looked into it, it does give the most direct communication.
213. Assuming that the railway bridge takes the line which this bridge proposes to take, it would be better for the two bridges to cross alongside than to have two bridges crossing the harbour at different angles? Decidedly.
214. In your opinion, would it be desirable to have a section of the tramway system in the hands of a private company—that is, a section between the tramways on the north shore and on the south side of the harbour? No, I do not think it would be wise to have a break in the system of management.
215. So that if there be any tramway connection across any proposed bridge, in your opinion, it should be under the same management as the system on the two sides of the harbour? Yes, it should be all under one control.
216. *Chairman.*] The span of the proposed bridge would be greater in length than the distance between Miller's Point and Balmain, would it not? The two distances are about equal. It is about 1,200 feet from Miller's Point to Balmain.
217. But if the bridge were constructed with a span of 1,600 feet, instead of 1,200 feet, the distance would be greater in the case of the bridge? Yes.
218. *Mr. D. Thomson.*] Should any pier on the southern side be kept within Dawes Point, in your opinion? I should not like to see any pier projecting beyond the point.
219. You have not tested the stability of the proposed structure? I have not seen the detail drawings; I have seen only an outline sketch.
220. *Chairman.*] Are there any provisions in the Bill itself which you think, in the public interest, should be amended? I had an interview with Mr. Simpson, at which I called his attention to some things which I thought should be altered. For instance, the term "Engineer-in-Chief for Public Works" is used in different portions of the Bill, and I said I thought it ought to be altered to "Minister." I also said that "Minister" should be defined in the interpretation clause. I also directed attention to clause 7. That clause provides that wherever the bridge would, in the opinion of the Engineer-in-Chief for Public Works, have the effect of interfering with the traffic over the highway, the promoter should provide a substituted way to the satisfaction of the body then responsible for repair and maintenance. In that case I think neither the Minister nor the Engineer-in-Chief for Public Works would do. It seems to be a matter for the Corporation. There would be a sort of clashing between the Minister and the Corporation. The Minister, for instance, might say there was sufficient headroom, and the Corporation might say there was not. Those were the only points I raised.
221. *Mr. D. Thomson.*] You have said that you preferred a connection with McMahon's Point rather than with Miller's Point;—is that because of the easier junction of the tramway system with the railway system? Yes. I have not studied the question closely; but so far as I have studied it, that would be the better connection for both railway and tramway purposes.

Benjamin Crispin Simpson recalled and further examined:—

- B. C. Simpson. 222. *Chairman.*] I believe you desire to modify the evidence you gave in reply to Questions 8 and 9? Yes. The questions and answers are given as follows:
- 15 Nov., 1898. 8. You propose, I understand, to increase your span? Yes; I have left the clause otherwise as it stands, because it is my intention to carry out the bridge in that way. If the Committee desire I shall be happy to amend the clause, but it is really unimportant. The plan which Mr. Darley has had prepared shows that if the piers were brought in from 200 to 250 feet it would not interfere with the courses of the steamers. My reason for keeping the piers in that position are engineering reasons. Although it adds to the cost of the span and superstructure, we get a better foundation. You could put very satisfactory piers further out, but they would be at a great depth.
9. You are referring to the piers on the right-hand side;—are they covered by Blue's Point? Yes. Although I left myself power to put the piers in the position named in the Bill, I might not avail myself of it, because of the engineering difficulties. The answer I would substitute for those given is in these terms: Plan C shows an increased span, as I may probably keep the northern pier in its present position to avoid difficulties in the foundations of that pier; but I have left a minimum span of 1,200 feet unaltered in clause 18 of the Bill, as this span covers the whole of the fairway of the harbour, as will be seen by drawing a line on plan A between Milson's Point and Blue's Point. As therefore the 1,200 feet span covers the fairway, and clause 18 provides that the position of these piers shall be approved by the Minister before construction, I consider it better to leave the minimum span in the Bill as it stands, that the decision of the Minister may not be unnecessarily hampered in the selection of a site that may also be considered convenient for a railway bridge by the Engineer-in-Chief for Railway Construction.

223. *Mr. Cohen.*] I wish to direct your attention to Mr. Deane's statement that it would be necessary to have a 10-chain radius; I suppose there would be no difficulty in that? No.
224. You are prepared to make that alteration? I should explain that the railway will only follow the direction of the road bridge across the harbour. Directly the two bridges reach the shore they will be apart. The sharper the radius of my curve the less likely it is to interfere with the other work.
225. You will remember that this morning I asked Mr. Deane some questions in connection with the proposed railway station at French-street, and he said that he would have to go up to Bay-street to make the railway connection; in your answer to Question No. 3 you spoke of passengers joining the Milson's Point and Hornsby railway at French-street, Blue's Point Road? There are three connections involved. Two of these connections are by my scheme: One is the tramway which the Government are empowered to lay over my work, bringing passengers to the railway at French-street, and then the tramway itself would also connect with the North Shore tramway at Milson's Point. But if a railway bridge were built there would be a third connection, which connection would be quite independent of the tramway connection.

B. C.
Simpson.
15 Nov., 1898.

TUESDAY, 22 NOVEMBER, 1898.

Present:—

Mr. COHEN,	Mr. SAWERS,
Mr. J. C. L. FITZPATRICK,	Mr. D. THOMSON.
J. C. NEILD, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.	

Bruce Smith, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, appeared on behalf of the promoters of the Bill.

Henry Gorman called in, sworn, and examined:—

226. *Chairman.*] You are a member of the firm of Hardie and Gorman, auctioneers and valuers? Yes.
227. Have you seen the plan of the bridge proposed by Mr. Simpson to be thrown across the harbour from Dawes Point to McMahon's Point? Yes.
228. Will you kindly look round the room at the plans A, B, C, and D, and say whether they are the plans you have seen? That is so.
229. I suppose the question of the land to be occupied by the site of the bridge on each side would be of more interest to you, and become more closely within your evidence, than any question of civil engineering? Certainly.
230. You possess a large knowledge of property on both sides of the harbour? Yes.
231. And necessarily a large knowledge of the movements of the travelling public from the north to the south? Yes.
232. In your opinion, would the position in which it is proposed to place the bridge be one convenient for the general traffic of the population on both sides? I think so.
233. It would not be so convenient as would ferry-boats for the lower level; but, in your opinion, it would be more convenient for the great bulk of the people? Yes.
234. Would the properties interfered with by the proposed bridge be of a specially valuable nature? No.
235. With reference to the traffic between the north and south side, which means of communication, in your opinion, would be the more convenient to the greater number—a bridge or a tunnel—regarding either as the exclusive means? I should certainly think a bridge.
236. Do you think a bridge would accommodate the greater number? Yes, and give greater satisfaction.
237. Do you think it would be more largely used than would a tunnel? A long way. I cannot imagine a tunnel being largely used. It seems to me to be against the spirit of the age.
238. In your opinion, persons would be more likely to stick to the ferry-boats than to plunge through a tunnel? Certainly. We have very little experience of tunnels here; but, at the same time, I think they are in opposition to what the people themselves desire.
239. You are aware that it is proposed in the Bill providing for the construction of this bridge that the Government should have power to run a tramway across? Yes.
240. Would that, in your opinion, add materially to the usefulness of the bridge, enabling the Government to connect their northern and southern tramway system? Certainly.
241. Have you any knowledge of the requirements of shipping in regard to headway? No.
242. Does your knowledge of local matters extend in any way to harbour requirements? No.
243. *Mr. Bruce Smith.*] I think you have studied this question of a connection between the North Shore and this side of the harbour for many years? Yes.
244. You have had many years' experience of the growth of population on the other side of the harbour? Yes; I have carefully watched it.
245. You have had large dealings in property on the other side of the harbour? Yes, very large.
246. What conclusion have you come to as to the necessity, in the first place, for a connection between the two sides? I have come to the conclusion that it is absolutely necessary to improve the means of communication between the north and south sides to meet the requirements of the large and growing population on the north side, and also to facilitate movements from the south to the north. Taking that view, it occurred to me that the very best means of communication would be a bridge, as now proposed, having the advantage of a connection between the Government tramway systems on both sides of the harbour.
247. Having regard to the course which shipping coming in and leaving the harbour take, in your opinion would it be possible, in the near future, to carry on a traffic across the harbour by means of ferry-boats? I think not; it is risky now. In the near future I think it will be positively dangerous.
248. Has the extension of the line from Milson's Point to Hornsby had any material effect upon the increase of population on that side? Yes, a very large effect. The population is growing now considerably.
249. In your opinion, some means of communication to supplement the ferry is absolutely necessary? Yes.
250. I understand you to have formed the opinion that a bridge is the best means of connecting the two sides? Yes; I think it will be most appreciated by the travelling public.
251. At what points on the two sides do you think it will be most convenient to the public to begin and terminate the bridge? I think it should go from Dawes Point to McMahon's Point.

H. Gorman.
22 Nov., 1898.

- H. Gorman. 252. That is the course this bridge is taking? Yes.
- 22 Nov., 1898. 253. In your opinion, as a citizen of many years' standing, do you think it would be desirable to give up the right to run a tramway over the proposed bridge to a company? No.
254. Or to have a section of tramway breaking in between two portions of the Government system? No; I understand the Government refused to sanction that years ago, and I think very wisely. I presume they would refuse equally in the future.
255. You think the provision in this Bill, preserving to the Government the right to run a tramway over the bridge, is a very proper one? I regard it as one of the strong reasons in favour of this proposal.
256. Have you studied the plans in order to ascertain the gradient for the tramway, and also for the general traffic? Only in a general way—not in any special way.
257. Which route for a bridge would interfere least with valuable property—Dawes Point to McMahon's Point, or Dawes Point to Milson's Point? Dawes Point to McMahon's Point.
258. If it were a question of taking a bridge from Dawes Point to McMahon's Point, or from Dawes Point to Milson's Point, which do you think would best serve the interests of the general public, having regard to future settlement and the enlargement of population? I think with regard to the future, the proposal to go to McMahon's Point is the better one, because you do away with the necessity for lifts. If you went to Milson's Point it would necessitate the use of lifts.
259. *Chairman.*] There is a large development to the north-west of McMahon's Point? Yes; and it is growing.
260. *Mr. Sowers.*] The bridge you favour would give a better connection with the Hornsby line? Yes; unquestionably.
261. *Mr. D. Thomson.*] To approach either bridge you would have to come by practically the same road? Yes.
262. *Mr. Bruce Smith.*] But in the case of this bridge you would avoid a tremendous dip and rise? Yes; the route proposed is the more direct, and is in every way more desirable.
263. There is a more continuous level? Yes.
264. Is the building and growth of population greater to the west or to the east after you have crossed the harbour? It has been greater to the east; it is greater to the west now. I think the east has extended pretty much as far as one might expect it would; but the west affords greater possibilities, and is being more largely availed of now.
265. *Chairman.*] The route you favour would absolutely strike the tramway route? Yes.
266. *Mr. D. Thomson.*] Do you consider that settlement on the railway line to the north has nearly reached its maximum? No; I think it has scarcely begun.

Francis Hixson called in, sworn, and examined:—

- F. Hixson. 267. *Chairman.*] You are President of the Marine Board? Yes.
- 22 Nov., 1898. 268. You have a very large and complete knowledge of the requirements of navigation in the harbour? I should have.
269. Have you seen the plan of the proposed bridge showing the suggested removal of the southern pier from a distance of a hundred feet from Dawes Point right on to the Point? I have not seen the plan before, but Mr. Simpson mentioned the matter to me. I approve very much of the alteration.
270. Would the removal of the pier in question to the foreshore of Dawes Point remove, in your view, any obstruction which the proposed piers might be expected to offer to the free navigation of the harbour? I think that by the suggested alteration all objections on that score have been removed.
271. You are aware that it is proposed that a distance of 600 feet in the centre of the bridge should have an altitude of 180 feet above high water? Yes.
272. In your opinion would that elevation be sufficient to meet all reasonable requirements of navigation? Certainly, to meet all reasonable requirements.
273. Occasionally, a vessel with unusually high masts might require to strike her top-gallant masts, but those cases would be very rare? That is so.
274. There would not, therefore, be, in your opinion, any justification for going to a large expense to achieve a higher elevation? I should think that a headway of 180 feet at high water and 185 feet at low water would meet all reasonable requirements.
275. As to the position of the northern pier, it would be within a line drawn east and west from Blue's Point to Milson's Point? Yes.
276. Suppose that pier were brought out even as far as the pencil-mark shown upon the plan, would its position offer any extraordinary obstruction to the navigation of the harbour? Not to navigation up and down the harbour, but it might obstruct to a little extent the small crafts using Lavender Bay.
277. They could go on the other side of the pier, could they not? Yes.
278. Is it the practice at the present time to moor vessels near the proposed site of the pier on the northern side? No, it is not.
279. Is there any rule of the harbour against it? Yes; any fairway is objected to for anchorage purposes.
280. But, so far as the access of small craft to Lavender Bay is concerned, the northern pier might be an obstruction? A slight obstruction.
281. Vessels which would seek admission to Lavender Bay would be either harbour steamers or small coasting crafts? Pleasure-boats and harbour steamers mostly.
282. In your view, a pier in that position would not offer any serious obstruction to navigation? No; at the same time, I should like to see it in as close to the Point as possible. I make no objection to the pier coming out to the point shown, but the closer it is in to the Point the better I shall be pleased.
283. So far as head-room is concerned, there would be abundance of head-room for craft which might desire to navigate that particular part of the harbour? Yes; the only obstruction would be the pier itself.
284. It would be no greater obstruction for craft of the kind to which you refer than would the ordinary traffic backwards and forwards? No; the only thing is that traffic is constantly moving, whereas the pier is there always.
285. But in view of the large convenience which bridge communication would afford to inhabitants on both sides of the harbour, you consider that the small possible inconvenience to small craft should be no reason whatever for objecting to the construction of a bridge with a pier as indicated? I do not think so.
- 286.

F. Hixson.
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286. You know that it has been for many years contemplated to throw a railway bridge across the harbour in about the position of the proposed bridge? I do.
287. Any railway bridge thrown across the harbour in this locality would, of necessity, be quite as great an obstruction to harbour traffic as would the proposed bridge? I think more so.
288. Will you kindly explain why you say more so? Because I fancy a railway bridge would require to be stronger. It would probably have more piers supporting it. This one-span bridge, to my mind, is about the best description of bridge that could be designed for the purpose.
289. *Mr. Bruce Smith.*] I suppose it would be only American ships, with exceptionally tall spars, which would require to house their topgallant masts, or royal masts, in order to get under the bridge? Yes, mostly.
290. Would it be costly? I have heard an estimate given; but I think the cost has been overstated. I should think it would be only a trifling expense. As a rule, the crew would be able to do the work themselves.
291. Without any additional expense to the ship-owners? I should think so. Possibly skilled labour from shore might be employed to save time.
292. But the total expense would be covered by one or two pounds? Yes, by a few pounds.
293. Are there, in your experience, many ships coming into the harbour which would require a greater headway than 180 feet? Not many; a few.
294. *Chairman.*] And it does not necessarily follow that they will desire to go to the upper harbour? No; they might go to Circular Quay, or Woolloomooloo Bay.
295. I suppose you recognise that in providing another 10 or 20 feet to accommodate every ship that may come into the harbour, you would be causing vehicular and pedestrian traffic to rise and fall the same distance? I quite realise that. 180 feet of headway would be a reasonable height for all conditions of traffic, in my opinion.
296. *Mr. D. Thomson.*] In your opinion, any pier on the southern side should be covered by Dawes Point? I would rather that that were so. I should like to see the pier either on the Point or inshore of the Point. The Point, in fact, should protect it.
297. As represented by the pier shown in red on plan D? Yes.
298. From your knowledge of the harbour traffic, is it, in your opinion, most important that that Point should be kept free from obstruction? I think so.
299. You have already said that the other pier indicated on the plan would be sufficiently out of the fairway? For the general up and down harbour traffic.
300. Even if a vessel or steamer were forced over there from any cause, would you consider the pier any great obstruction? The only interference or obstruction would be the pier itself. It is best to have clear water altogether; but I should not regard the pier as any great impediment, especially in these days of steam.
301. That is your sole reason for saying that you would like to have the pier in as close to McMahon's Point as possible? Yes. The great objection to these piers in the harbour would be in thick or foggy or squally weather, when a ship might be in difficulties for a short time. But in broad daylight the piers would offer no obstruction to speak of.
302. You said you considered 180 feet sufficient headway;—possibly you are aware that the headway drops to 167 feet at the piers? Yes.
303. You would not consider that an objection? No, not if there were a good width with a headway of 180 feet as appears on the plan. The fact that the bridge drops to 167 feet at the piers is not a matter of importance.
304. You do not think it is of any importance with this plan of bridge, but with a bridge as proposed in the last Parliament, with cantilever arches, it would be an objection? I like this proposal better than any other I have seen. There would be an objection under the conditions which you name.
305. I think you have said that a railway bridge would offer a greater obstruction than the bridge now proposed? In my opinion it would.
306. You mean that that would be the case if the bridge did not follow the lines of the proposed bridge—that is, if the piers were not in a corresponding position? Without knowing anything of the subject, I imagine that a railway bridge would require to be stronger and probably to have more supports. They would offer an impediment to navigation.
307. Are you aware that between New York and Jersey City there is a bridge with a span of over 3,000 feet designed to carry 6 lines of railway? I was not aware of that.
308. *Chairman.*] Do you know the distance between Miller's Point and Balmain? It is about 1,200 feet from Balmain to the shore of Darling Harbour opposite.
309. Therefore, the distance between the piers of the proposed bridge would be analogous to the distance between Miller's Point and Balmain? Yes.
310. The distance between Smith's wharf and Balmain would be similar to the distance between the piers of the proposed bridge? Yes.
311. You have not heard any suggestion that the entrance to Darling Harbour requires widening to accommodate the traffic? No.
312. The distance between the piers of this bridge will be ample for all purposes? Yes; I think that the proposed distance would be a little greater than the distance from Balmain to the Darling Harbour shore.
313. *Mr. Bruce Smith.*] In your answer to one of Mr. Thomson's questions you said, that if a vessel were coming up the harbour and were forced out of her way she might be to some extent inconvenienced by the northern pier;—would it not be an easy matter for her to go round the pier to Lavender Bay? She might do so, but I was referring to thick or foggy weather. I modified my answer by saying that in fair weather there would be very little, if any, objection to the pier.
314. You know that there is provision in the Bill for the efficient lighting of the lower bridge? Yes.
315. The lighting must be to the satisfaction of the Marine Board? Yes.
316. Then at a time of fog you could prescribe the necessary lights? You cannot see lights in a fog, but I think the provisions of the Bill in regard to lighting may be regarded as satisfactory.
317. *Mr. Sawers.*] You think it desirable that the southern pier should be actually on Dawes Point? Yes.
318. Do you go so far as to say that you think that essential? I should much prefer that it were so. At the same time I do not know that any great harm would accrue if it were not the case. I strongly advocate its being done however.

Benjamin Crispin Simpson recalled and further examined :—

- B. C. Simpson. 319. *Mr. Bruce Smith.*] The first schedule of the Bill properly describes the course of the centre line of the proposed bridge and its approaches? Yes.
 22 Nov., 1898. 320. Does the second schedule properly describe the land which may be appropriated or crossed over for the purposes of the work authorised under the Act? Yes.

John Mitchell Purves called in, sworn, and examined :—

- J. M. Purves. 321. *Chairman.*] What is your occupation? I am a land and estate agent.
 22 Nov., 1898. 322. You are an alderman of North Sydney, and you have been Mayor of North Sydney? I was Mayor last year.
 323. In your opinion, which is the best connection between the northern and southern shores of the harbour—a bridge or a tunnel? I think there can be no question but that a bridge would be by far the better means of connection. Tunnels are only used in places where it is almost impossible to put a bridge.
 324. How would you compare the two means of connection for the purposes of vehicular traffic? So far as that is concerned, it would be much more convenient and commodious to have a bridge.
 325. You have seen the proposal before the Committee? I have.
 326. In your opinion, does it fulfil the needs of the connection? Of course, I discard a tunnel altogether except for a tramway service. It might be more expeditious to run a tramway through a tunnel, because it might be possible to go at a greater speed, but the number of passengers carried would be limited. For general purposes, the bridge scheme is by far the best of the schemes which have been submitted. I think Mr. Simpson's scheme is the best, because there can be no question that if a railway bridge were taken over the harbour—and I suppose it will come some day—it can be constructed side by side with that bridge. You would not, therefore, increase the difficulties of traffic. If you took a road bridge across from Dawes Point to Milson's Point, and subsequently constructed a railway bridge, you would have two bridges at different angles, and you would thus offer considerable obstruction to harbour traffic. In addition to that, if you take the passengers over to Milson's Point, you cannot get them to the railway without a lift. It would be a difficult matter, I should say, to get people down on to the railway. The railway being almost on the water-level, and the bridge being a considerable height at that point, there would be that difficulty. If you adopted Mr. Simpson's route you would touch the North Shore at a point where the railway would have risen considerably, and there would be no difficulty in reaching it. I understand that it is proposed in Mr. Kenwood's scheme to have a private tramway across the bridge. That would be most inconvenient, involving as it would a change from one car to another. I understand that Mr. Simpson proposes to allow the Government to construct a tramway over the bridge, and by this means the Government would be able to form a connection between the northern and southern tramway systems. It is most important that this should be done, because the number of passengers carried across the harbour now is increasing very rapidly. The better the facilities, the greater the number of passengers there would be. We have a large area of vacant land at North Sydney which would be available for residence. It is one of the most popular suburbs of Sydney. I can give you a proof of the rate of increase of population in the borough of North Sydney. It is shown by the fact that, notwithstanding the fall in rents, our rates have decreased very slightly. That is to say, the amount of rates has been kept up by the new buildings. That is proof of a very rapid increase. Although rents have fallen 25 per cent. the revenue of the council is practically the same.
 372. Does that apply in the case of any other leading borough? I do not know the position of the other leading boroughs, but at Mosman's and also at Willoughby the population has increased considerably.
 328. *Mr. Bruce Smith.*] How far does your municipality extend? We join Willoughby about Dalton's property. Then we go down nearly to the St. Leonards railway station, and we take in all the point round by Ball's Head.
 329. And you say that within that radius the rates have kept up, notwithstanding the fall in rents? Yes.
 330. Is the increase of population beyond that radius greater than the increase within it, do you think? In the case of Mosman's the increase has been much greater, and also up the line, I believe, but I cannot speak of that as confidently. I do not think it is necessary that I should enter further into the difference between a bridge and a tunnel from the point of view of convenience, because it is a pretty well accepted fact that a tunnel would not meet the requirements of vehicular and passenger traffic. I doubt if anyone would get out of a tramway and get into a tunnel. I question whether they would not prefer to go across in a ferry unless they wanted to go to King-street. In the case of a tunnel they could land at only two places—either at the Quay or at King-street. If they went over a bridge in a tramway they could stop the tram anywhere. Suppose, for instance, a man had an office halfway between King-street and the Quay, it would be better for him to take the ferry. Besides, I do not think you could work lifts sufficient to carry the traffic. I have been through a great many of the tunnels in the Old Country. For example, there is a tunnel under the Mersey at Liverpool. There is an enormous lift there, but there is a considerable wait while the lift goes up and down. It only holds a certain number of people, and they are all jammed together.
 331. A certain number have to wait until the lift returns? They have to wait.
 332. In cases where a train leaves only once in forty minutes, as in North Sydney, it might be a matter of some importance;—there might be considerable inconvenience attaching to the missing of a certain train? Quite so; I should say it would be very inconvenient.
 333. You said just now that a tramway would be able to go through a tunnel faster than along a bridge;—on what ground do you make that statement? I presume that the authorities would not allow trams to travel at the same rate over a bridge that they would allow them to travel at in a tunnel. There would be no obstruction whatever in the case of a tunnel.
 334. *Chairman.*] What obstruction would there be in the case of a bridge? There would be the vehicular traffic. I suppose 6 or 7 miles an hour would be the maximum speed allowed. They would be able to go faster than that in a tunnel; but then again there would be only a limited number of passengers.
 335. In the case of a tunnel you would have to make allowance for the time occupied for the rise and fall of a lift;—do you think, taking that into consideration, that any time would be gained by the faster speed.

speed at which a tram might travel through the tunnel? Exactly; and you would have to go down to a particular spot to get to the lift, whereas if you were taking a tramway over a bridge to North Sydney you could get on or off at almost any point.

J. M. Purves.
22 Nov., 1898.

336. You have lived for many years at North Sydney? About five years.

337. Have you studied the broad question of the necessity for some means of communication beyond those which now exist? I have been trying to get the North Sydney Ferry Company to see that, although their service is a good one, there is great room for improvement, but beyond that the traffic has grown so fast that even now they can hardly discharge their passengers with a ten-minutes' service and load again. They are advertising now for a scheme which will enable them to discharge and load their steamers more quickly. They have offered a 10-guinea prize to anyone who will design a scheme by which they can get their passengers out and reload so as to keep up their ten-minutes' service. They must not run the ferry steamers too fast across the harbour, because it is dangerous. The danger is increasing every day with the increased number of boats.

338. Having regard to the immense traffic up and down the harbour, do you think the ferry service will ever be able to provide sufficient accommodation for all the vehicular and passenger traffic going across? I do not. I believe the Government have put £10,000 upon the Estimates for another horse ferry. They recognise that the present horse traffic cannot be carried by the existing service. You cannot manage it more quickly than once a quarter of an hour, because you must have time to load and unload your boats. Then, again, there is a good deal of cruelty involved. Every day you see dray horses go up the hill with loads which are killing to them. Every thing has to be dragged to a great height. They come down, to begin with, from York-street, Pitt-street, or George-street. Although you might not think it, there is a considerable fall in Pitt-street from Bathurst-street. You have to go down to the water-level, and you have to rise again on the North Shore to a height of at least 200 feet. The section of the population on the lower level at Milson's Point is comparatively small. The Point is pretty well built over, and there is not much room for extension. Leaving those people out of consideration, the bulk of the people will have to rise a great height. You take them down to the level of the sea, and you have to take them up again. You have only to calculate the number of vehicles, passengers, and goods, and the horse-power you would require to lift the weight up to the required height, in order to see what a great undertaking it is. I suppose you would have to rise on the average over 180 feet.

339. *Chairman.*] Is it not a fact that the steep gradients to which you refer are on those portions of the shore nearest the water? Yes.

340. After you have reached McMahon-street, where the proposed bridge strikes the roadway, you have easy grades up to the Reserve? Yes. The worst grade is from "Dind's Hotel" down to the water.

341. You have grades as steep as 1 in 10 or 11? I do not know exactly what they are. I know they are so steep that I cannot ride up them on my bicycle. When I get to "Dind's Hotel" I can ride the rest of the way easily. There is another thing I should like to mention with regard to Alfred-street. In laying the tramway they have taken the top of the road as the level, and they have allowed the road to fall very steeply into the gutter, so steeply in some places that it can scarcely be used. They have actually reduced the width the road nearly to two tram-lines. You can get a dray past in some places, but it is dangerous in other places. The footpaths and the kerbing and guttering will require to be altered in order to get the full benefit of the road. Heavy drays get on the tramway line and interrupt the traffic considerably, because with a heavy load you cannot easily swing about, and when once you get the horse into the gutter it is difficult to get out again. I saw a heavily laden dray there this morning with the shaft broken, no doubt from attempting to screw out from the steep place.

342. You have had a good deal of experience of horses, and apart from the cruelty you speak of in getting horses down to that level and getting them up again, is the present means of transit a safe method of carrying all classes of horses across the harbour? No, it is not at all safe. A restive horse beginning to back might do a tremendous amount of damage. It might even cause loss of life, because the passengers are mixed up with the horses. A big strong horse backing a dray and disturbing other vehicles might be very dangerous. One could not say what would happen.

343. You are an officer of the Sydney Lancers;—does the present method of communication between the two sides of the harbour admit of a squadron being taken across with any degree of ease? I think that if they knew we were coming, and had the boats ready, it would not take long to take across as many men as were wanted. You could easily put two or three squadrons on to one of the boats and take them over in seven or eight minutes.

344. *Mr. Bruce Smith.*] Apart from the convenience of the public, from the point of view of vehicular and pedestrian traffic on the bridge, would it be of any convenience to the population of North Sydney to have tramway connection with the city? It would be an immense convenience. Another point I was going to mention was the fact of our being cut off from the city in a case of fire. We have to depend upon the local fire-engine. If we had to wait when the boats are off at night until they could get up steam and bring their engines across in the vehicular boats, an enormous loss might occur. The danger is increasing, of course, with the increased number of buildings.

345. *Mr. D. Thomson.*] Leaving the character of the bridge out of the question, are you of opinion that a landing at McMahon's Point would be better than at Milson's Point? Yes; it is a shorter route to the main body of the people. The main body of the people lie behind Junction-street, where that street joins Miller-street. If you take that route you go straight to that point. If you take the other route you would have to come down Junction-street and Alfred-street, and it would be longer. You would land a little bit higher on McMahon's Point than at Milson's Point.

346. If the end of the bridge were placed near the Town Hall in Alfred-street, is it your opinion that, as compared with where the bridge before us would land the traffic, you would have to rise considerably to attain the same level? I do not know the relative heights of the different places. I do not quite know where Mr. Kenwood's bridge would land; but I thought it was lower down than the Town Hall.

347. I was endeavouring to institute a comparison between the merits of the two landing-places? That would be easily ascertained from a specific knowledge of the different heights.

348. *Mr. Sawers.*] The ascent from McMahon's Point would be the better of the two? Yes, because after you leave the Town Hall you go down hill again to the corner of Junction-street.

349. *Mr. Bruce Smith.*] Is it not necessary that a bridge should bring the traffic out near the railway at some point? I think it is absolutely necessary.

- J. M. Purves. 350. And if you were to bring the traffic out near the Milson's Point railway station, a lift would be inevitable? Yes, unless you make another station at the head of Lavender Bay.
- 22 Nov., 1898. 351. The bridge before the Committee, with a tramway run over it, would land the traffic close to a station without much descent or ascent? Yes.
352. You would land the traffic at a station beyond Milson's Point? Yes. I daresay you noticed that Mr. Young pointed out that he thought the Government should construct this bridge. From what I know of the Public Works Committee, I think they would want to see how the bridge was going to pay before recommending it. I think it would be almost too much to hope that the Government would ever get the proposal passed by the Public Works Committee. We should then be without this means of communication for years, unless we got private enterprise to carry it out. Then there are a great many persons who, if the Government built the bridge, would think that they should have the free use of it, because the Government have built bridges in other places.
353. You think that if the bridge were built by the Government, there would be a constant agitation to get the toll removed, in order to put the people in the metropolis on a level with people on different rivers, where the Government have built bridges? There is no doubt about that. The Government would have to face that question when they were considering whether or not they would build a bridge.

John Moore Smail called in, sworn, and examined:—

- J. M. Smail. 354. *Chairman.*] You are Engineer-in-Chief for the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage? Yes.
- 22 Nov., 1898. 355. You have perused a copy of the Bill introduced for the purpose of constructing the bridge, of which Mr. Simpson is the author? Yes.
356. Have you examined the plans? No. None of our works at present would be interfered with by the bridge—neither our sewers or our water-pipes.
357. Are there any matters connected with the Bill that have come under the notice of your Board upon which you desire to express an opinion? Yes; the original Bill did not contain any protective clauses, as far as our Board is concerned; but I understand that Mr. Simpson has since prepared some. I have seen a copy of his suggested amendments.
358. Would these amending clauses meet the requirements of your Board? Not quite. I should like to see another provision introduced. I have spoken to Mr. Simpson about it, and I think he agrees with me, so that there will be no dispute about the matter. I will quote the minute which I wrote to the Board on the subject. It is as follows:—"With regard to sewerage works, it is not likely that a sewer, metal or otherwise, would ever be required to cross the bridge, so that provision in this respect is not necessary. It may, however, be necessary in future to carry water-mains across the bridge, and provision should be made in the Bill to give the Board the right to do so. This could be done either outside the side members of the bridge, or underneath, as may best work in with the design of the proposed work. I think if the provisions were to include that, suitable provision should be made for carrying water-mains across the bridge free of cost, and subject to the approval of the Board's engineer, the interests of the Board would be amply protected." That would be an addition to the provisions Mr. Simpson has already included.
359. *Mr. Simpson.*] You would be satisfied if we gave you permission to lay water-mains in a position that might be agreed upon between us, over the bridge; but all the cost of laying you would bear yourselves? Of course.
360. We would give you the space; but all the expense incidental to supports, for instance, would be borne by yourselves? I do not think the Board would fight about that. The supports would be regarded as part of the pipes.
361. *Mr. D. Thomson.*] You do not mean that the bridge would have to be designed so as to allow of what you suggest? No; the pipes could either be slung, or put through the lattice.
362. *Mr. Bruce Smith.*] It would save the Board a great deal of money, as compared with laying the pipes under the harbour? We have already had experience of laying a main across the harbour near Balmain, and we do not want to repeat it.
363. What is the cost? It costs almost £2 a foot to lay even a small pipe. The divers only work four or five hours a day. They are expensive men to employ.
364. *Chairman.*] What would be the cost of the Balmain connection to which you refer? There are about 500 or 600 feet.
365. *Mr. Bruce Smith.*] If the bridge were constructed, the Board would find it advantageous for its entire length for their main—even as regards the approaches? Yes.
366. The bridge being a distance of nearly 5,000 feet, that would represent a saving of some thousands of pounds to the Board? The only saving would be where we should otherwise have to go under water.
367. But would it not be cheaper to sling your pipes than to go underground? Yes.
368. *Mr. D. Thomson.*] The water supply for North Sydney comes down the northern side of the Parramatta? Yes.
369. Do you anticipate that as far as North Sydney is concerned that will be sufficient for some time to come? Yes. I should like to point out that if the bridge were there, by carrying a pipe from the south side to the north side we should have a duplicate supply in case the Chatswood supply broke down. We have had to almost triplicate the size of the main pipe during the last twelve months.
370. Owing to the rapid increase in population there? Yes.
371. From the reports you have received as to the progress of this suburb do you anticipate that that increase of population will proceed in the same ratio? Yes.
372. *Chairman.*] You think it exceedingly likely that the Board would be glad to utilise the bridge in connection with the water supply? Assuming the bridge had been in existence, I would have proposed another scheme to the Board to bring the water from the Centennial Park reservoir.
373. If the bridge were constructed you would be likely to utilise it at an early date for a pipe connection? Yes.
374. I suppose you would get a somewhat better pressure by utilising the level of the bridge than by going down under the harbour? That would not affect the question. We have to pump the water from Ryde

Ryde to Chatswood 370 feet, and it gravitates almost to high-water mark at Milson's Point. If the bridge were constructed we should take the water from the Centennial Park reservoir for the lower levels and save the difference in the pumping.

375. You would restrict the delivery from the Chatswood reservoir to the higher levels of North Sydney? Yes.

376. What, roughly, would be the expense of the pumping? £2,000 a year.

377. Would you save that? About 33 per cent. of it.

378. *Mr. Bruce Smith.*] You would save a capitalised sum of £25,000 in addition to the saving effected by carrying the pipes across the bridge instead of under the harbour? Yes.

379. Assuming that there were a saving of one-third in the pumping there would be a total saving to the Department, capitalising that amount and adding it to the reduced cost of getting the pipes over, of about £30,000, £25,000 being the capitalised sum and £5,000 being the saving in crossing the harbour? I should think it would be something like that. If we could get a low-level supply pipe across the harbour without going under it it would be of great service to us.

J. M. Smail.
22 Nov., 1898.

WEDNESDAY, 23 NOVEMBER, 1898.

Present:—

MR. HAYES,	|	MR. SAWERS,
MR. F. B. SUTTON,	|	MR. D. THOMSON.
J. C. NEILD, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.		

Bruce Smith, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, appeared on behalf of the promoters of the Bill.

Francis Clarke called in, sworn, and examined:—

380. *Chairman.*] You are Mayor of North Sydney? Yes.

381. You have been summoned by the Committee, not by the promoters of the Bill; we want your evidence on the subject of the proposed bridge connection;—have you seen the plans of the proposed bridge? I saw the plans previously submitted, but I believe there are some amended plans.

F. Clarke.
23 Nov., 1898.

382. It is proposed to put the southern pier absolutely on the shore at Dawes Point; having looked at the plans, do you, as Mayor of North Sydney, offer any objection to them, or have you any representation to make to the Committee in respect of them? No; I have no objection as far as this particular proposal is concerned.

383. You are aware that there was another bridge proposal for a connection with Milson's Point; in this instance, the proposal is to connect with McMahon's Point, in the vicinity of the railway, and at a higher elevation than the water-level;—which, in your opinion, would be the most convenient connection for the people of your important borough—a connection with Milson's Point, at a low level, connecting with that level by lift, or the proposed connection at French-street, on the Blue's Point Road? I think the connection on the Blue's Point Road would be the more convenient, because I understand that the right is given to the Government to construct a tramway over the bridge. If they thought it necessary to construct a tramway, a branch line could be made from Miller-street running down towards the bridge.

384. If it were demonstrated to you that the bridge would strike the present tramway, practically, in your view, the proposal would be one which would meet the convenience of the larger number of residents on the North Shore—that is, comparing it with the Milson's Point connection? Of course, some persons living down towards Milson's Point and Kirribilli would have to turn their backs upon their destination to reach the proposed bridge, but there may be other advantages which outweigh that inconvenience—which would have more weight than the convenience of those people.

385. While the convenience of those persons at the lower level you speak of would be met by the present ferry service, that proposition would not apply necessarily to those on the higher level? It would not apply to those at all. In the same way you might say that persons at the higher level would be inconvenienced in reaching a bridge down at Milson's Point, which would be convenient to persons living at that point and at Kirribilli.

386. I believe the matter has been discussed in your council? Yes; it was brought before the council some little while ago.

387. Have you any objection to telling the Committee whether your council arrived at any decision? We arrived at no decision as far as supporting any particular scheme is concerned, but I think I am safe in saying that we were unanimous in thinking that it would be better for the Government to take the matter up instead of its being handed over to private-enterprise.

388. But, supposing the Government are not willing to definitely undertake the work, I imagine, from what you have already stated, that your council would, as a body, give a preference to a proposal to construct a bridge *via* McMahon's Point than to a proposal to connect at Milson's Point? In the event of the Government absolutely declining to proceed with the work, then I certainly think the council would give its adhesion to one of the schemes before the House, but I cannot say which one.

389. But expressing your personal view, you think, as you have already said, that the present proposal would afford a large measure of convenience? Yes, I think it would, undoubtedly. There is one point I might mention, which is that, as I understand the matter, the bridge would not provide for a connection with the railway, and that is a great point so far as the people of Chatswood are concerned. Of course a tramway line might run alongside and shunt up to the platform at the railway station. I might mention that the people on the Hornsby line very strongly wish that whatever bridge is built should consult their requirements in that respect. Of course I do not appear here in their interests.

390. *Mr. Bruce Smith.*] But they represent a larger interest? They represent a greater area, but not the greatest number of people. There is great development going on there.

391. *Chairman.*] I suppose the probability is that in the future the development will be greater there than in any other part of the suburb? Not greater I should say, but certainly very great.

392. May I explain to you that the Engineer-in-Chief for Railway Construction has given to this Committee evidence that he can conveniently place a railway bridge alongside this bridge so that there would be no interruption to the harbour traffic at two points. The piers of the railway bridge would be practically an extension of the proposed piers in this instance. He pointed out that he would be able to connect

F. Clarke. connect with the Hornsby line at Bay Road. That evidence has been absolutely given to the Committee, so that this bridge would in no wise conflict with the proposal for a railway connection between the northern and southern systems? That would make the Bill all the more acceptable.

29 Nov., 1898.

393. *Mr. Bruce Smith.*] You have had very good opportunities for watching the very rapid growth of population and settlement in North Sydney? I have during the last five years.

394. Have you any doubt in your mind as to the necessity for some better means of communication between North and South Sydney? None whatever. I think there is a great necessity for improved means of communication.

395. Of all classes of communication proposed, in your opinion, a bridge is the best? Candidly, I must say no. To meet the passenger traffic I think the Government proposal to connect the two tramway systems is undoubtedly the best.

396. Over a bridge? No, by a sub-aqueous tunnel.

397. Would you kindly tell the Committee what are your reasons for preferring a tunnel? My reasons are these: That a tunnel would involve no interference with the navigation. It would be possible to take the tramway up at Ridge-street, and to be carried to a place of business in the city, and put down at any particular street-crossing. I consider that that is a very great advantage. There is also the question of cost. A tunnel, according to the Departmental estimate, would cost £280,000, including all land resumptions, and the Government will be able to get interest on their outlay by charging an increased fare. You would not expect the Government to construct a tunnel and not charge anything to passengers for the privilege of being carried across the harbour. If a bridge is built we may be handing over to a syndicate or company that which I do not think we ought to hand over, even though the Government may resume the work later on. The probability is that as soon as the Government acquired the work there would be an agitation at once for the abolition of the toll. That would not be likely to happen in the case of a tunnel.

398. Why not? Because the tramway would be under the control of the Railway Commissioners, and they would not be likely to give way to any agitation of that sort.

399. You know it is proposed to give the Government power to construct a tramway over this bridge? Yes.

400. Then, as far as a tramway is concerned, it would offer the same advantages on a bridge as in a tunnel, in the respect you name? Not quite, because first of all you would have to make a tramway from Junction-street down to Blue's Point Road. It would serve the people on the heights, but it would not serve the people down about Milson's Point and Kirribilli.

401. Are you supposing that the tramway to Milson's Point would be discontinued? No, not at all; but residents at Milson's Point or Kirribilli would be able to get on the tram wherever it suited them, and would be landed in any part of the city in the same way that people living on the heights would be.

402. I understood you to say that the advantage of a tunnel would be, that the Government would not be called upon to carry people for nothing, because they would be travelling in a tramway;—I ask you whether the same argument would not apply to people travelling in a tramway on a bridge? Yes. Of course people travelling in a tramway would have to pay; but in the proposed tunnel scheme there is a gradient without any lift at all joining on with the electric tram in George-street. The people of the whole of North Sydney will be benefited by that scheme, as far as passenger traffic is concerned. I am alluding only to passenger traffic.

403. You are aware that it is proposed to connect the tramway system of the city with the North Shore system by means of this bridge? But not in such a convenient position.

404. At which end? At the North Shore end.

405. If Mr. Deane is of opinion that at both ends there can be a convenient connection with the tramway system, and with the railway system, assuming him to be right, the objection you name would be got rid of? If Mr. Deane says that the bridge across to McMahon's Point from Dawes Point can be made to fit in with the present tramway conveniently and cheaply, then of course I have no further objection to offer on that score.

406. You gave just now as a reason for preferring the tunnel the fact that a bridge would interfere with the navigation of the harbour;—if Captain Hixson, the President of the Marine Board, and Mr. Darley, the Engineer-in-Chief for Public Works, express the opinion that, as proposed to be placed, the piers will not interfere with navigation, there being a headway of 180 feet, sufficient for all reasonable purposes, would not that fact operate upon your mind? Yes; personally I do not think there is any great objection as far as navigation is concerned. It is only one of those objections which one might expect to be raised.

407. Quite apart from your council, are you of opinion that of two routes the McMahon's Point route is preferable to the Milson's Point route for a bridge? As a bridge site.

408. Having regard to the fact also that all passengers carried by the Milson's Point route will have to rise or fall by lift at the Milson's Point railway station? Yes; I should certainly say that the route from Dawes Point to McMahon's Point would be preferable for a bridge.

409. *Chairman.*] Am I correct in thinking that you referred to a tunnel scheme as the Government scheme? Yes; I believe such a scheme has been prepared.

410. It has never seen the light of day? Only through the Committee which previously sat to deal with this question. Mr. Deane first of all referred to it, and I believe Mr. Fisher worked out the scheme in detail.

411. When you refer to a tunnel scheme and a Government tramway, you are referring to a proposal which has been prepared by officers of the Department, but which has never been brought before the House and the public? I believe it was recommended by one of the previous Committees.

412. *Mr. Bruce Smith.*] Assuming that the Government constructed a tunnel and continued to charge the public, and did not respond to the agitation that would be got up to get rid of the charge, and assuming also that the Government had power to run a tramway over this proprietary bridge, what would be the advantage to the public of having it in the hands of the Government instead of in the hands of private enterprise? It seems to me undesirable that private enterprise should step in and make a valuable connection such as this would be.

413. The fares would be subject to regulation under an Act of Parliament, and there would be power on the part of the Government to take the bridge over; the Government, in any case, would run its own tramway over the bridge;—where, then, is the advantage of Government ownership of the bridge over private ownership? Simply that the Government should have control of all such connections—the Government having, whether rightly or wrongly, catered for the carriage of the public ought to do it thoroughly.

414. But suppose the Government only, and not the promoters, had power to construct a tramway over the bridge? That is a valuable concession. F. Clarke.
23 Nov., 1898.
415. Then where does the advantage of Government ownership, as compared with private ownership, of the bridge come in? It is not easy to answer such a question off-hand, I was looking at the question on broad principles.
416. You know that the Bill gives the Government power to construct its own tramway? That is a valuable concession, no doubt.
417. Your objection is founded upon broad principles;—it has no special application to the present proposal? Quite so.
418. *Mr. D. Thomson.*] I think I understood you to say that you did not consider a tunnel a desirable means of connection for vehicles? No, I did not say that; but I say that the Departmental scheme providing for the conveyance of passengers by grades connecting the two tramway systems, the North Sydney system and the proposed George-street electric tramway, in my opinion, meets the convenience of passengers better than anything else, but it provides no means of bettering the condition of the vehicular traffic.
419. Supposing the Government decided upon the construction of a tramway tunnel connecting the two systems, would there not still remain an outcry for a better means of getting vehicles over more regularly and efficiently than at present? Yes. I daresay you are aware that there is a proposal now on foot to put on an additional horse-ferry service from Dawes Point to Blue's Point. If that is established, I have no doubt it will meet requirements for some years to come, and probably later on a roadway tunnel might be constructed—that is, a tunnel for vehicular traffic.
420. But in regard to the only proposal so far made for a vehicular tunnel, is it not your opinion that the circuit which it would have to take to get the necessary grades would render it practically useless as a vehicular tunnel? I have not looked into the matter of grades in the proposal at all as far as the vehicular service is concerned, but I have no doubt the grade would be necessarily steep. I admit, of course, that a bridge would be preferable, providing it were practicable and within easy attainment. It is a question of funds and of the work paying; it is a question of competition with other services.
421. What I mean is that while they can get a grade would they have such a long circuit, as in Mr. Sulman's proposal, coming down by Kirribilli Point; that it would practically become much cheaper and a great saving of horse-flesh to go over by the ferry, especially when heavy loads are being transported? Many persons might regard a bridge in the same way, because they would have to climb up on to it at this end.
422. You admit that a bridge has this advantage, that it provides for both descriptions of traffic? From an ornamental point of view and for many reasons I should like to see a bridge constructed, but I think a tunnel is more practicable and is easier of attainment.
423. On account of the cost? Yes.
424. *Chairman.*] You are referring to the suggested Government tunnel? Yes. Personally, I should prefer that the Government should construct the tunnel.
425. *Mr. D. Thomson.*] Is it your opinion that the proposal before the Committee is much superior to previous proposals, inasmuch as it avoids interference with the harbour? Yes; the removal of the piers inshore will, I think, remove a lot of objections which existed to the previous proposal.
426. *Chairman.*] Your objection to the private ownership of the bridge would apply equally to the private ownership of a tunnel? Yes: undoubtedly.
427. So that as far as that objection goes it applies to any and all of the bridge and tunnel schemes of a private character? That is so. My objection to the proposed tunnel with lifts would be stronger than to the proposal to connect the two sides of a harbour by means of a bridge. I regard the lift proposal as absurd.
428. *Mr. Sawers.*] You have expressed a preference for some tunnel proposal which was prepared by the Government officers, but which was never submitted to the public? Yes.
429. Which, I understand from you, would not be worked by a lift, but on a grade? Yes.
430. Where was that proposed tunnel to strike North Sydney? Close to Milson's Point. It was designed to connect with either tramway or railway.
431. You are aware, I suppose, that the traffic up Alfred-street is on a very heavy grade;—you must be aware from your observation that the dray traffic up there is very rough on the horses? Yes.
432. In fact, it is almost cruelty to horses? Quite so.
433. Following that up, would it not be still worse if the dray traffic had to come from a tunnel beneath the harbour, and still work up Alfred-street? I had in view the establishment of a ferry service between Dawes Point and Blue's Point. That would materially reduce the congested state of the traffic up Alfred-street.
434. But the serious objection to dray traffic, on account of the grade, would remain? Yes; taking the tramway line the horses have all they can do to keep their load without getting out of the way of the trams at all. We expect on the establishment of the Blue's Point ferry to relieve the congestion of the traffic.
435. *Chairman.*] At Blue's Point the grade will be quite as bad as the grade at Milson's Point? But there will be more room. There is no tramway there.
436. *Mr. Sawers.*] With the exception of the limited traffic going to Alfred-street itself the traffic going to the main business portion of North Sydney if it came across the bridge would overcome the difficulty in regard to cruelty to the horses? Yes; as far as that side is concerned.
437. *Mr. Bruce Smith.*] Are you aware that, if the proposed tunnel were to come out near Alfred-street, in addition to the grade which the vehicles have to get over now, there would be a further 120 or 130 feet to rise from the tunnel-level to the present level? I am not advocating a tunnel for vehicular traffic, or to carry a passenger traffic.
438. The tunnel scheme you mention did not deal with vehicles at all? No.
439. Is it not a fact that the present vehicular traffic across the harbour is becoming very dangerous to navigation? Undoubtedly.
440. *Mr. F. B. Suttor.*] Would not such a tunnel as you advocate to connect the two systems of tramway necessitate a very steep grade? It would not be considered a steep grade for an electric tramway. They can get an easier grade than they are now using to Mossman's Bay up to the Military Road, and they think that satisfactory.

George Arthur French called in, sworn, and examined:—

- G. A. French. 441. *Chairman.*] You are the Major-General commanding the Defence Forces of New South Wales? Yes.
 23 Nov., 1898. 442. We have asked you to attend in order that we may hear your views as to the importance of bridge communication between the two sides of the harbour from a defence standpoint;—you have seen the drawings of the proposed bridge known as Simpson's bridge? Yes.
 443. Do you yourself consider a bridge or a tunnel preferable as a means of communication? I should prefer a bridge.
 444. For military purposes? Yes.
 445. Having regard to the fact that a bridge would give 60 feet of roadway, whereas a tunnel proposes only 20 feet or 21 feet of roadway, would that be a further objection to a tunnel from your standpoint? I should say so.
 446. In your opinion, would a tramway connection across such a bridge as that proposed be an advantage from a military standpoint? It would be of great advantage, because you could push through from one side to the other rapidly a large number of men.
 447. Supposing there were a bridge connecting the two sides of the harbour, and that the tramway running upon it were in the hands of private individuals, would that be as advantageous for military purposes as if there were a continuous Government tramway? I should certainly prefer a continuous Government tramway.
 448. You are aware that there is a scheme before Parliament for the construction of a tunnel which would have a lift at both ends;—I suppose that would be utterly useless for your purposes? Yes, practically; it would involve too much loss of time.
 449. In the case of such a tunnel as you heard Mr. Clarke speak of, with a heavy grade from the exit to the top of North Shore, I suppose that if you had to send guns across you would find that grade very awkward? Yes. I see that a tunnel would necessarily be about 60 feet below water-level, whereas a bridge would be 180 feet above. You would have 240 feet to make up.
 450. In a short distance? Yes. It would be very inconvenient for guns and waggons.
 451. *Chairman.*] A connection involving the use of lifts would be absolutely valueless for cavalry and artillery? Yes.
 452. And also for ammunition waggons? Yes; for military transport generally.
 453. Lift connection would be valueless for that purpose? Yes, if you had any large number of men to deal with.
 454. And if you wanted to use a bridge at a time of actual warfare, you would undoubtedly want to use it for a large number? Yes.
 455. It would not be required for a mere handful of troops? The probability is that if it were used it would be to push a large number of men across at short notice.
 456. For the general purposes of the defence of the metropolis and district, the present ferry service is, in your opinion, wholly inadequate? Quite.
 457. You have no doubt noticed such ferry communication as there is? I see a good deal of it at Dawes Point.
 458. In your opinion it would not only be inadequate but dangerous for the rapid movement of artillery? Yes. You would lose a lot of time in taking artillery across in the ferry.
 459. And there would be some degree of risk with heavy loads of guns or ammunition? None of the teams would run ordinarily beyond 2 tons—that is, for field service.
 460. *Mr. Bruce Smith.*] For the transport of artillery and cavalry is there any comparison between a bridge connection and the present transit? No; a bridge would be infinitely superior.
 461. *Chairman.*] With a tramway across a bridge the movement of infantry would be infinitely more rapid than by any existing means? Yes.
 462. Generally, for the defence of the port and district the proposed bridge would have considerable value? Yes.
 463. *Mr. D. Thomson.*] In the event of war would a bridge be much more easily destructible than a tunnel? By artillery, yes. I suppose you mean by the enemy.
 464. From that aspect then a bridge would have a disadvantage as compared with a tunnel? If you wanted to make a tunnel absolutely impassable you could flood it, and when the flooding had answered its purpose you could pump it out again. A bridge is comparatively disadvantageous, because if you destroyed it at all you would destroy it altogether. On the other hand, you could command it from one side with guns and render it impossible for an enemy to cross it.
 465. I presume it could be reached from outside the Heads by powerful artillery? They would not hit it once a month.
 466. *Chairman.*] In view of the distance from the seaboard at which a man-of-war would have to lay to get a sufficient elevation there would be very little chance of the bridge being hit? There would be very little chance. We have so arranged the defences of the Heads, of Bondi, and Coogee as to make war vessels lay off so far that they could not even bombard Sydney.
 467. As far as any artillery fire on the bridge is concerned it would have to come from the shore on this side or from a vessel west of a north and south line about Bradley's? Yes.
 468. A vessel would have had to pass the forts at the Heads before she would be able to get sight of the bridge? Yes. If she fired at the bridge from outside the Heads she might go on for the best part of the year without hitting it. She could not tell what effect the shot was having.

Hugh McLachlan called in, sworn, and examined:—

- H. McLachlan. 469. *Chairman.*] You are Secretary to the Railway Commissioners? Yes.
 23 Nov., 1898. 470. Have you seen a copy of the Bill authorising the construction of the bridge which is under consideration of the Committee? Yes.
 471. Have you examined it? Yes.
 472. Have you seen the plans? Yes.
 473. On behalf of the Railway Commissioners, are you prepared to offer any remarks on the proposed bridge;—have you any objections or suggestions to offer? No. The Commissioners do not wish to

H.
McLachlan.
23 Nov., 1898.

to volunteer any evidence at all. So far as this proposal is concerned, they look upon the matter as one of policy for the Government. They hardly like to say whether they object or approve. The matter is not one in which they would be consulted. It is really a question of policy for the Government whether they will build a bridge or allow a bridge built.

474. *Mr. Bruce Smith.*] Does this scheme, as set forth and planned, interfere, in the view of the Commissioners, with the Government interests? No, I do not think so, to any material extent.

475. Assuming that the Government have power in a clause of the Bill to construct a tramway, and that they availed themselves of that power, would the connection between the two systems be likely to increase the tramway receipts? I would not like to say that. I do not see how you would create traffic by a tramway over the bridge.

476. Not from the centre of the city, connecting with North Sydney? No, because the traffic already goes to Milson's Point. We should have a competing line to a certain extent. Everything would depend upon the terms and conditions we should make with the company. Perhaps I misunderstand the question and your idea is that we should get the traffic which now goes to the Ferry Company.

477. Exactly;—would it not increase the tramway receipts if you had a tramway from the city running to North Sydney to connect with the other tramway and railway systems? Yes; what I thought you intended to imply was that it would benefit the existing tramway. If you established a new tramway you would get new business; but I question whether it would pay. It would depend upon the terms we made with the owners of the bridge.

478. Supposing they were satisfactory, I take it that it would be a source of increased revenue? Yes.

479. *Chairman.*] Would it not also be a distinct advantage in connection with your rolling stock to have a connection between your northern and city tramway systems? It would be an advantage to have the connection. We do not have a great interchange, but there is a certain amount.

480. *Mr. Bruce Smith.*] In the case of a bridge it would be a distinct disadvantage to have a separate tramway system under private enterprise connecting the two systems on the northern and southern shores? It would be much better that the connection should be in our own hands.

481. *Chairman.*] You are aware that there is a proposal before Parliament for a tunnel connection between the two sides of the harbour;—it is proposed to run in the tunnel a private tramway? Yes.

482. You would prefer a means of communication which would allow of a tramway connection being absolutely under your own control? Yes.

483. *Mr. Bruce Smith.*] Would you consider it desirable to have a means of communication with North Sydney which involved the carrying of passengers from a bridge to the railway station? No. Although we have had no experience of big lift work in this Colony, and although there has been very little elsewhere, at the same time, where you have what I might call a suburban business—a crowded business—lift working would be inconvenient unless you had tramways working at each end where you could fill carloads at a time. I take it that the bridge you are referring to would be built to take the railway traffic across into Sydney. Take the morning business train: it carries every morning 300 or more passengers. I do not know whether any lifts could cope with traffic of that kind at one time. There is a great advantage in having business done on a level. It is just the same as a man having an office on a ground floor instead of upstairs.

484. If there was a large number of people such as you mention coming in by train to Milson's Point, having to be put into a tram on a bridge at a higher level, they would have to go up in a lift by instalments? A lot of people would be kept waiting by that arrangement? They would have to go up in instalments, and we would send them off in tramloads as they came up, but there would be a large amount of waiting unless they had an extensive lift which would carry the 300 passengers at one time.

485. In the case of passengers from Sydney to the Milson's Point train having to descend by lift in instalments, would not that be a serious disadvantage, necessitating the train being kept waiting? Passengers would have to go earlier. We should have a fixed time-table, and the passengers would come over accordingly. They could come over to a waiting train by instalments.

486. Your experience of North Sydney is that its population is growing enormously? Yes.

487. More rapidly than in any other suburb? Yes.

488. *Chairman.*] Is it within your knowledge and information with reference to the trend of settlement that it is in the direction of Hornsby or more to the eastward? Our experience is that settlement is going towards Hornsby.

489. To the west rather than to the east? Yes.

490. In fact, the character of the soil and the elevation affords inducements for settlement on the Hornsby line and thereabouts which do not exist on the more rugged and barren country to the north-east? And particularly the facilities given by railway communication.

491. *Mr. Sawers.*] If in the future a railway bridge has to be constructed, have the Railway Commissioners any definite views as to the point at North Sydney to which the bridge should go; in other words, should it go to McMahon's Point or to Milson's Point? I should like to see the question of a railway bridge dissociated from the consideration of this question, because the Commissioners have an idea that that is a question which does not require to be faced for many years. They think that commercially there is no necessity for a railway bridge. Their idea in considering the scheme some years ago was that if you made a connection the best and most economical would be by means of a tunnel from the proposed Railway Station in Hyde Park, coming a little above Milson's Point; but that is a matter which they look upon as commercially very much in the future, and it cannot well be definitely considered at the present time. There is a growing necessity to provide at North Sydney for what you might call local business, particularly vehicular business; that is the way in which we think the question ought to be most directly looked at.

492. *Mr. Bruce Smith.*] You are aware that Mr. Deane considers that the preferable route for a railway bridge, if one has to be constructed in the future, would be *via* McMahon's Point? ———

493. He thinks it better to have a railway bridge and a bridge for vehicular and pedestrian traffic, one alongside the other, so as to have practically only one interference with navigation? I understand that he gave that evidence; but, commercially, the matter seems to the Commissioners to be a long way ahead.

494. *Mr. Sawers.*] You have no definite information on that point? The opinion of the Commissioners is that which I have expressed.

Richard Watkins Richards called in, sworn, and examined:—

R. W.
Richards.
23 Nov., 1898.

495. *Chairman.*] You are the City Surveyor? Yes.
496. You have seen a copy of the Bill authorising the construction of the proposed bridge? Yes.
497. Have you also seen the plans? Yes.
498. The evidence you propose to give is given on behalf and at the request of the Mayor and the City Council? Yes; but any expression of opinion by me will not bind them.
499. You are more particularly concerned with the take-off of the bridge on the city side? That is the only part we are concerned in.
500. It is possible that you may be able to give your evidence more speedily in the form of a statement? Yes; I see no objection whatever to the proposal. It seems to me to be the first step to improve that portion of the city known as Gipps Ward; there is great need of improvement there. In regard to the Bill, I see that in clause 7, providing for authority to construct over streets, mention is made of the Engineer-in-Chief for Public Works. I think the City Council should be given a similar power to that proposed to be given to the Engineer-in-Chief. The clause says, "shall provide a substitute way to the satisfaction of the body then having the care and maintenance thereof"; that body, I presume, would be the City Council. Then in clause 13, dealing with by-laws, the clause provides that no by-law shall authorise the closing of the said bridge, or any section thereof, at any time, whether by night or by day, except at such times as, in consequence of the bridge being out of repair, or from any other sufficient cause, it shall be necessary to close the same or any section thereof, of which necessity the promoter shall first obtain the written approval of the Transit Commissioners. I think the matter should be subject to the approval of the City Council; the Transit Commissioners cannot close any street in the city, that power being vested in the Mayor and the Council. The power which the City Council enjoy now under the Corporation Act applies to the Sydney streets. We can control the approach, of course, but you might close portion of the bridge over the harbour, and that is where the difficulty would come in. The term, "any other sufficient cause," also seems to me to involve a very wide provision.
501. Suppose the provision were subject to the written approval of the Minister? I think that might do, as far as that portion above the harbour waters may be affected.
502. If it were provided that with regard to the approach at North Sydney it should be in the hands of the Council having charge of the streets there, and that with regard to the approach on the city side, it should be in charge of the City Council, and with regard to the closing of any portion of the bridge itself, that that should be in the hands of the Minister, I suppose you would have no objection? I do not see any objection to that. With regard, however, to clause 19, dealing with lights, I do not think that is a matter which should be in the hands of the Transit Commissioners, and I would suggest that in line 39, the word "Minister" should be substituted for the words "Transit Commissioners." The portion of the bridge which is in the city should, of course, be lighted to the satisfaction of the City Council.
503. If that alteration were made you would have no objection to the clause? No. With reference to clause 21, it provides that the Governor may from time to time appoint any person for the purpose of inspecting and reporting upon the condition of the said bridge, and of making any inquiry that may be deemed necessary with respect thereto. I think that in this respect the Council should have the same power that they would have in regard to ruinous or dangerous properties. The last comment I have to make upon the Bill applies to clause 27. I see that by the interpretation clause, the word "person" includes corporation or company. The Council may think fit to enter a claim for compensation in respect of a bridge crossing their streets. The Bill seems to me to be a very fair one, from the point of view of an officer of the City Council. If I were asked to deal with it I could not put forward any serious objection to it.
504. In your opinion it would have the effect of improving city property considerably in that locality? Yes.
505. Providing the bridge is constructed as shown upon the plan, would it, in your opinion, without committing the Council in any way to your view, interfere with the traffic of the streets? I do not think it would.
506. In your opinion would a bridge which involves lifts being used to carry people up to or down from the bridge be desirable, having regard to the large amount of traffic? I think not. Where they can be avoided that should certainly be done.
507. Have you seen the outlet and inlet of the tunnel under the Mersey? I have not seen them, but I have particulars of them.
508. Are you aware that people have to go up from the train by instalments, and that it is a very slow process? Yes. It was thought, when that tunnel was constructed, that people would travel by it to save time, but up to the present time it has been unable to compete with the ferry service. The tunnel is not popularised yet.
509. You have lately been through England and the Continent, and I think you have seen several tunnels of a modern character;—do you think a tunnel to North Sydney would compare with the average of them? Certainly not to a bridge.
510. Either from the point of view of comfort, convenience, and rapid travelling? Not upon any consideration.
511. From what you have seen in your travels, are you disposed to think that persons desirous of crossing the harbour would prefer a tunnel connection to the existing ferry connection, for instance? I do not think they would.
512. You think they would stick to the ferry-boats? I think so. Then, in respect of width, the bridge offers facilities which are not offered by a tunnel. I am very much in favour of bridge construction.
513. Generally speaking, and without asking that your views should bind the City Council in any way, do you think the proposed structure, with the southern pier on the foreshore of Dawes Point, would be a work of large public utility to the metropolis? Yes, I think it would.
514. Beyond the detailed suggestions you have made as to verbal alterations in the Bill, you are not prepared to offer any opposition to the scheme; on the contrary, you are disposed to approve of it? I am favourably disposed to the scheme.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

SYDNEY AND NORTH SYDNEY BRIDGE AND
TRAMWAY BILL ;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

O

AND

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

ORDERED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO BE PRINTED,
30th November, 1898.

SYDNEY : WILLIAM APPELEGATE GULLICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1898.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

EXTRACTS FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VOTES No. 31. WEDNESDAY, 26 OCTOBER, 1898.

21. SYDNEY AND NORTH SYDNEY BRIDGE AND TRAMWAY BILL:—Mr. E. M. Clark moved, pursuant to amended Notice,—

(1.) That the Sydney and North Sydney Bridge and Tramway Bill be referred to a Select Committee for consideration and report.

(2.) That such Committee consist of Mr. Young, Mr. Henry Clarke, Mr. Reymond, Mr. Watson, Mr. Howarth, Mr. Henry Chapman, Mr. Spruson, Mr. Levien, Mr. Price, and the Mover.

(3.) That the Reports, Minutes of Proceedings, and Evidence of previous Select Committees on the subject of connecting Sydney with North Sydney by bridge, tunnel, or tunnel-railway, be referred to such Committee.

Debate ensued.

Question put.

The House divided.

Ayes, 30.

Mr. Jessop, Mr. Neild, Mr. Reid, Mr. Spruson, Mr. Cook, Mr. Lee, Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Chanter, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Rigg, Mr. Archibald Campbell,	Mr. Hogue, Mr. Affleck, Mr. Hurley, Mr. E. M. Clark, Mr. Lyne, Mr. Macdonald, Mr. Smith, Mr. McGowen, Mr. Moore, Mr. Spence, Mr. Ferguson,
---	--

Mr. Ross, Mr. James Thomson, Mr. Alexander Campbell, Mr. Willis, Mr. Millard, Mr. Watson.	Noes, 4. Mr. Carroll, Mr. Dacey.
--	--

Tellers,

Mr. Phillips, Mr. Hawthorne.	<i>Tellers,</i> Mr. Thomas Brown, Mr. Bennett.
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And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

VOTES No. 44. WEDNESDAY, 30 NOVEMBER, 1898.

13. SYDNEY AND NORTH SYDNEY BRIDGE AND TRAMWAY BILL:—Mr. E. M. Clark, as Chairman, brought up the Report from, and laid upon the Table the Minutes of Proceedings of, and Evidence taken before the Select Committee for whose consideration and Report this Bill was referred on 26th October, 1898, together with a copy of the Bill as amended and agreed to by the Committee. Ordered to be printed.

* * * * *

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1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

 SYDNEY AND NORTH SYDNEY BRIDGE AND TRAMWAY BILL.

 REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, for whose consideration and report was referred on 26th October, 1898, the "*Sydney and North Sydney Bridge and Tramway Bill*," and to whom was referred on the same date, "*the Reports, Minutes of Proceedings, and Evidence of previous Select Committees on the subject of connecting Sydney with North Sydney by bridge, tunnel, or tunnel-railway*,"—beg to report to your Honorable House:—

That they have examined the witnesses named in the List* (whose evidence See List, p. 7. will be found appended hereto) and the Preamble, as amended, having been satisfactorily proved to your Committee, they proceeded to consider the clauses and schedules of the Bill, in which it was deemed necessary to make certain amendments.

Your Committee now beg to lay before your Honorable House the Bill, as amended by them, with an amended Preamble.

EDWARD M. CLARK,
Chairman.

*No. 3 Committee Room,
Legislative Assembly,
30th November, 1898.*

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

WEDNESDAY, 2 NOVEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Henry Chapman, | Mr. E. M. Clark,
Mr. Spruson.

Mr. E. M. Clark called to the Chair.

Entry from Votes and Proceedings, appointing the Committee, and referring the Reports, Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence of previous Select Committees on the subject of connecting Sydney with North Sydney by bridge, tunnel, or tunnel-railway, read by the Clerk.

Printed copies of the Bill referred, together with original Petition to introduce same, and copies of the Reports, &c., referred, before the Committee.

Present:—W. F. Brennan, Esq. (*Solicitor for the Bill*).

[Adjourned till to-morrow at *Eleven* o'clock.]

THURSDAY, 3 NOVEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. E. M. Clark in the Chair.
Mr. Henry Chapman, | Mr. Spruson.

Present:—W. F. Brennan, Esq. (*Solicitor for the Bill*).

William Kenwood (*The Promoter*), sworn and examined.

Witness produced plan of the proposed bridge.

Witness withdrew.

Richard Alfred Fullford, called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Ordered,—That the Secretary to the Railway Commissioners, the Engineer-in-Chief for Public Works, and the Engineer-in-Chief for Railway Construction, be summoned to give evidence next meeting.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next at *Quarter past Ten* o'clock.]

TUESDAY, 8 NOVEMBER, 1898.

The House having adjourned over till Thursday, 10th instant, no meeting could be held.

THURSDAY, 17 NOVEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. E. M. Clark in the Chair.
Mr. Henry Chapman, | Mr. Spruson.

Henry Deane (*Engineer-in-Chief for Railway Construction*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Ordered,—That the Secretary to the Railway Commissioners be summoned to give evidence next meeting.

[Adjourned till Thursday next, at *Eleven* o'clock.]

THURSDAY, 24 NOVEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. E. M. Clark in the Chair.
Mr. Henry Chapman, | Mr. Watson.

Present:—W. F. Brennan, Esq. (*Solicitor for the Bill*).

Hugh McLachlan (*Secretary to the Railway Commissioners*), called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Richard Watkins Richards (*City Surveyor*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

John Moore Smail (*Engineer-in-Chief, Water Supply and Sewerage Board*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

William Kenwood recalled, and further examined.

Room cleared.

Preamble considered.

Question put,—“That this Preamble stand part of the Bill.”

Committee divided.

Ayes.

No.

Mr. Henry Chapman,
Mr. Clark.

Mr. Watson.

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next at *Two* o'clock.]

TUESDAY,

TUESDAY, 29 NOVEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. E. M. Clark in the Chair.

Mr. Henry Chapman, | Mr. Henry Clarke,
Mr. Watson.

Present:—W. F. Brennan, Esq. (*Solicitor for the Bill*).

Mr. Watson moved,—That the resolution adopting the Preamble, agreed to at the last meeting of the Committee, be rescinded.

Question put and passed.

Preamble further considered, and amended.*

Question,—“That this Preamble, as amended, stand part of the Bill,”—put and passed.

Clauses 1 and 2 read and agreed to.

Clauses 3, 4, 5, 6 read, amended,* and agreed to.

Clauses 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 read and agreed to.

Clause 14 read, amended,* and agreed to.

Clauses 15 and 16 read and agreed to.

Clause 17 read, amended,* and agreed to.

Clauses 18 and 19 read and agreed to.

Clauses 20, 21, 22, and 23 read, amended,* and agreed to.

Clauses 24 and 25 read and agreed to.

Clause 26 read, amended,* and agreed to.

Clause 27 read and agreed to.

Clause 28 read, amended,* and agreed to.

Clauses 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 read and agreed to.

Clause 34 read, amended,* and agreed to.

Clause 35 read and agreed to.

Clause 36 read, amended,* and agreed to.

Clauses 37, 38, 39, 40 read and agreed to.

Clause 41 read, amended,* and agreed to.

Clause 42 read and omitted.

Clauses 43, 44, 45, 46, and 47 read and agreed to.

[Adjourned till To-morrow at Two o'clock.]

WEDNESDAY, 30 NOVEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. E. M. Clark in the Chair.

Mr. Henry Clarke, | Mr. Watson.

Bill further considered.

Clauses 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, and 56 read and agreed to.

Clause 57 read, amended*, and agreed to.

Clause 58 read and agreed to.

Clauses 59 and 60 read, amended*, and agreed to.

Clause 61 read and agreed to.

Clauses 62 and 63 read, amended*, and agreed to.

Clauses 64, 65, 66, and 67 read and agreed to.

First and second Schedules read, amended,* and agreed to.

Third Schedule read and agreed to.

New clauses to stand, as clauses 7, 64, and 65 read and agreed to.

Title read and agreed to.

Chairman to report the Bill with amendments to the House, including amendments in the Preamble.

SCHEDULE OF AMENDMENTS.

Page 2, Preamble, lines 4 and 5. *Omit* “about the north-east corner of Glen-street, at its intersection of or with Alfred-street” *insert* “or about the intersection of Alfred-street and Willoughby-street.”

„ 2, „ „ 11 and 12. *Omit* “the north-east corner of Glen-street at its intersection of or “with Alfred-street aforesaid” *insert* “the intersection of Alfred-street and Willoughby-street in the said borough.”

„ 4, clause 3 *add* at end of clause: “And whenever in this Act the said William Kenwood shall be named or referred to, such naming or reference shall (save where there is something in the subject or context inconsistent with or repugnant to or excluding such construction) mean and include the said William Kenwood and his executors, administrators, and assigns, or the said William Kenwood, his executors, administrators, or assigns, as the case may be and as the context may require or allow, and this clause shall besides its ordinary construction be construed as an enlargement and not as a restriction of the provisions of Sections 2, 64, and 65 respectively hereof or any or either of them.

Page 4, clause 4, line 14. After “at” *insert* “or about.”

„ 4, „ 4, lines 18, 19, and 20 *Omit* “north-east corner of Glen-street, at its intersection of or with Alfred-street in the said borough, and distant seventy-eight chains or thereabouts from the said starting point” *insert*, “intersection of Alfred-street and Willoughby-street in the said borough.”

Page

Page 4, clause 4, lines 36 to 44. *Omit* "be supported upon a set of piers placed at or about the centre of such waters, and built of iron or steel upon a base of granite or trachyte masonry not exceeding one hundred feet square, and shall have two spans crossing the said waters of not less than seven hundred feet each in length, with a clear height or headway for shipping of not less than one hundred and eighty feet above high-water mark for a length of three hundred and twenty-five feet at the least along the central portion of each of such spans" *insert* "have one span of not less than fourteen hundred feet clear width over the fairway of the said waters to the piers on the northern foreshores thereof, the central portion of which span for a length of four hundred feet at the least shall have a clear headway of not less than one hundred and eighty feet over high-water mark."

.. 5, .. 4, line 1. After "and" *insert* "based on bedrock or,"

.. 5, .. 4, .. 10. After "same" *insert* "showing the location thereof."

.. 5, .. 5, lines 30 to 33 *Omit* "north-east corner of Glen-street, at its intersection of or with Alfred-street aforesaid in the said borough, and distant one mile forty-seven chains or thereabouts from the said starting point," *insert* "intersection of Alfred-street and Willoughby-street aforesaid."

.. 5, .. 5 line 37. After "Provided" *insert* "that the gauge of the said tramway shall be first approved of by the Railway Commissioners and,"

.. 6, .. 6, .. 27. After "Jackson" *insert* "and to reclaim so much of the said waters, at Dawes Point and at Milsons' Point respectively, subject to approval of the Railway Commissioners."

.. 6, .. 6, .. 29. After "bridge" *insert* and to excavate under the said waters for the purposes of construction.

.. 6, .. 6. *Insert* the following new subsection to stand as subsection (6.)

(6.) To employ gunpowder, dynamite, or any other explosive in connection with the excavation of any of the works hereby authorised subject to such reasonable conditions and restrictions as may be from time to time imposed by the Minister and the Municipal Council of Sydney.

Page 6, clause 6, line 40. After "Acts" *insert* "and construct, maintain, and use all other works"

.. 7. *Insert* the following new clause to stand as clause 7—

"7. The said William Kenwood may from time to time contract for the laying or conducting of wires or cables under along or over the said bridge for electric, telephonic, or any other purpose or purposes, or for the laying of mains or other means for conducting or transmitting gas or electricity, hydraulic, or steam power, along, under, or over the said bridge, or for the doing of any other acts or things of any and every kind whatsoever, along, under, or over the said bridge that may be for the public convenience."

Page 8, clause 14 15, line 44. After "affected" *insert* "on or over whose lands any easement or easements may be taken"

.. 10, .. 17 18, .. 25. After "seventy-five" *insert* "Provided that if, on the taxation of such costs, one-sixth thereof be taxed off the person claiming such costs shall pay the said William Kenwood's costs of the taxation thereof."

.. 11, .. 20 21, .. 20. *Omit* "the same condition as nearly as possible" *insert* "as good a condition."

.. 11, .. 20 21, .. 21. After "thereof" *insert* "and for a period of six calendar months thereafter shall maintain and keep the same in the like good condition."

.. 12, .. 21 22. *Insert* the following new subsection to stand as subsection (4)—

"(4.) This section shall only apply to such of the works or such part thereof as shall be in the vicinity of any such sewers, water-mains, works, house services or connections as are mentioned in this section."

Page 13, clause 21 22. *Insert* the following new subsection to stand as subsection (7) :—

(7.) The said Water and Sewerage Board shall be at liberty, free from the payment of any rent, to enter upon the said bridge, and to lay and place thereunder or therealong, as the said William Kenwood may direct, a steel water-main, not exceeding 18 inches in diameter, and to alter and remove such water-main from time to time, subject to the reasonable approval of the said William Kenwood, and at their own expense shall make good any damage they may do to the said bridge.

Page 13, clause 22 23, line 10. After "Minister" *insert* "and for the Railway Commissioners."

.. 13, .. 23 24, .. 30. After "Minister" *insert* "the Railway Commissioners."

.. 14, .. 26 27, .. 7. *Omit* "will" *insert* "shall."

.. 14, .. 28 29, .. 20. *Omit* "Metropolitan Transit Commissioners" *insert* "Municipal Councils of Sydney and North Sydney."

.. 15, .. 34 35, lines 22 and 23. *Omit* "in force for the time being in respect of the same class of goods or parcels on the Government Railways for the same distance" *insert* "to be fixed in respect thereof in the by-laws in that behalf hereinafter mentioned."

.. 15, .. 36 37. Add at end of clause "or to limit the remedy of the said William Kenwood against any such licensed pilot, or against the person or persons, or body corporate, or board of persons licensing such pilot, according to his, its, and their respective liability in respect of such damage as aforesaid."

.. 17, .. 41 42, line 32. After "cars" *insert* "and for regulating the disposal of all unclaimed goods, parcels, or luggage."

.. 18. *Omit* clause 42.

.. 20, clause 57, line 43. *Omit* "five" *insert* "six"

.. 20, .. 57, .. 44. *Omit* "fifty" *insert* "seventy-five"

.. 21, .. 57, .. 4. *Omit* "five" *insert* "six"

.. 21, .. 57, .. 8. *Omit* "fifty" *insert* "seventy-five"

.. 21, .. 57, .. 9. *Omit* "five" *insert* "six"

.. 21, .. 57, .. 11. *Omit* "fifty" *insert* "seventy-five"

.. 21, .. 57, .. 13. *Omit* "five," *insert* "six"

- Page 21, clause 59, line 31. After "Commissioners" *insert* "and for the Municipal Council of Sydney"
- " 22, " 60, " 4. After "Minister" *insert* "and for the Railway Commissioners and the Municipal Council of Sydney"
- " 22, " 62, lines 35 to 41. *Omit* "the amount of the actual cost of acquisition, purchase, construction, erection, and maintenance of the bridge, tramway, premises, and works so purchased by the Crown, with an amount added equal to three years' net profits on the working of the said bridge and tramway, and other works used in connection therewith, calculated on the basis of an average of the last two preceding years" *insert* "determined in case of dispute by arbitration in accordance with and subject to the provisions of the Arbitration Act of 1892, and for the purposes of arbitration thereunder, this Act shall be deemed to be an instrument or document between the parties within the meaning of the same. Provided the amount of such compensation shall not exceed the amount of the actual *bond fide* cost of acquisition, purchase, and construction of the said bridge, tramway property and premises, with an amount added equal to three years' net profits on the working of the said bridge and tramway and other works used in connection therewith, calculated on the basis of an average of the net profits on the working of the said bridge and tramway, and other works used in connection therewith for the last two years immediately preceding the date of such notice. The Arbitrator or Umpire shall in every case have power to direct how and by whom the costs of the reference and award shall be paid"
- " 23 " 63, line 2. After "any" (second occurring) *insert* "incorporated"
- " 23. *Insert* the following new clauses to stand as clauses 64 and 65.
64. Upon and after the completion of any such assignment, transfer, and release as are mentioned in the last section hereof, any such assignee or assignees and his and their executors, administrators, and assigns, or any such incorporated Company and its officers, agents, servants, and assigns may lawfully exercise and enjoy the rights and privileges hereby conferred, and shall respectfully be and continue to be subject to all the liabilities, obligations, penalties, and forfeitures to which the said William Kenwood, his executors, administrators, or assigns, or his or their officers, agents, or servants, or any person or persons authorised by him or them would have been entitled or subject had no such assignment, transfer, or release been completed. Assignee or assignees entitled to rights, privileges, &c.
65. Upon the completion of any such assignment, transfer, and release to any such incorporated Company as is mentioned in section 63 hereof, this Act shall be read as if the words "William Kenwood" were omitted wherever they occur, and the words "incorporated Company," referred to in section 63 hereof, were inserted in their stead, and as if the words "him, his, and their," as referring to the said William Kenwood, his executors, administrators, and assigns, and his and their servants and agents, and all other persons authorised by him and them respectively were altered to "it" and "its" as referring to the said Company, and as if all other proper and necessary corresponding alterations were embodied. Completion of assignment.
- Page 24, First Schedule, line 6. After "aforesaid" *omit* remainder of schedule, *insert* "thence by lines bearing northerly to the intersection of Alfred-street and Willoughby-street, in North Sydney aforesaid"
- " 24, Second Schedule, lines 21 to 24. *Omit* "about the north-east corner of Glen-street, at its intersection of or with Alfred-street, in North Sydney aforesaid,—the entire length of the said tramway being one mile and forty-seven chains or thereabouts, the said bearings, distances, and length being all respectively a little more or less." *insert* "about the intersection of Alfred-street and Willoughby-street, in North Sydney aforesaid"

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1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE

THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

SYDNEY AND NORTH SYDNEY BRIDGE
AND TRAMWAY BILL.

THURSDAY, 3 NOVEMBER, 1898.

Present:—

MR. H. CHAPMAN, | MR. SPRUSON,
MR. E. M. CLARK.

E. M. CLARK, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

W. F. Brennan, Esq., appeared as Solicitor for the Bill.

William Kenwood, Civil Engineer, Sydney, sworn and examined:—

1. *Chairman.*] Do you produce a plan of the proposed bridge? Yes; I have a sketch plan. It is not a detailed plan, but it is absolutely correct in its main points. I may say that the scheme has been recently altered from a two-span to a one-span bridge, taking the waters from Dawes Point to Milson's Point. The first bridge I proposed with two piers in the water. We subsequently altered that to one pier, and about three weeks ago one span only was determined upon; and that is the reason why the drawing is of a special nature. It is perfectly correct with regard to its principal points, such as grades, spans, and proportions, but no details are mentioned, because there has not been sufficient time to give them.

2. Have you any statement to make? Yes; I put in the following written statement:—

I am a Civil Engineer, and a member of the Engineering Association of New South Wales. I am applying to Parliament for a Bill to enable me to construct, erect, and maintain a high-level bridge over the waters of Port Jackson, between the City of Sydney and the Borough of North Sydney, and to construct, maintain and work a tramway upon and over the said bridge, and between the City of Sydney and the Borough of North Sydney and its environs. The population of North Sydney and its environs, including Manly and the districts served by the North Shore Railway, numbers (according to the Government Statistician, and from information obtained from one of the aldermen of the said borough) upwards of thirty-four thousand (34,000), while the population of Sydney and its suburbs (excluding North Sydney and the other places stated) numbers between three hundred and seventy thousand (370,000) and three hundred and eighty thousand (380,000). The increase of population along the line of railway, from Milson's Point to Hornsby, during the past five years, amounts, I am credibly informed, to between three and four thousand. Communication between Sydney and North Sydney is effected by ferry-boats for passengers, and by horse-boats for horse and vehicular traffic and live-stock. These boats belong to the North Shore Steam Ferry Company (limited). This company has at present a large fleet of penny-ferry passenger-steamers running (1) between Sydney and Milson's Point; (2) between Sydney and McMahon's Point; (3) between Sydney and Lavender Bay; (4) between Sydney and Neutral Bay; and (5) between Sydney and Mosman's Bay, while there are large horse-boats running continuously throughout the day, until midnight, between Fort Denison and Milson's Point. The evidence taken before the Royal Commission appointed in 1891 to inquire into the City Railway Extension and North Shore Bridge connection, showed that the estimated passenger traffic on the ferry-boats during the preceding year was close upon 5,000,000, while 378,500 vehicles and 43,800 horsemen used the horse-ferry, and that the estimated annual revenue from this traffic was £45,000. The evidence given before the recent Parliamentary Committees showed that the annual revenue was between £45,000 and £50,000, and I am of opinion that the traffic must have increased fully 20 per cent. since 1891. The accommodation afforded

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by the fleet of steamers referred to is the only means of communication and of traffic between Sydney, North Sydney, and the other places specified, as there is no communication by land, except by a detour of a considerable number of miles. The distance across the waters of Port Jackson between Dawes Point and Milson's Point is approximately 1,500 feet. I am applying to Parliament for authority to construct a high-level bridge between Sydney and North Sydney in order to afford the public the means of communication and facilities for traffic between the places named, that are so urgently needed, and have been so long looked for. The bridge I am prepared to erect will be constructed of steel and iron of the very best quality and description obtainable, and all the material used will be subjected to the severest tests. The workmanship will be of the very best class, and everything in connection with the bridge will be of the most modern and approved character and of the highest order that engineering science can devise. My design of the bridge in question commences at the extreme end of Princes-street, Sydney; it then runs across George-street North, Dawes Point, the waters of Port Jackson, and the Government Railway premises; thence by lines bearing northerly to the intersection of Alfred-street and Willoughby-street in North Sydney. I may add that the best bridge experts in England will assist in the designing of the bridge I propose, and in arranging the details of its construction. The tramway, which is inseparable from the bridge, for the public convenience, and for the construction, maintenance, and working of which I am also asking in this Bill for Parliamentary sanction, will consist of a double line of rails, and will commence in York-street, at the corner of Wynyard-street, will run thence along about the centre of York, Grosvenor, and Princes streets, to the bridge, and then over and along the bridge to about the corner of Alfred-street and Willoughby-street in North Sydney. At that corner, as well as at Milson's Point, the Government tramway running to and from Milson's Point will receive and set down any passengers desiring to alight from or go over the bridge tramway. I may here mention that the portions of York, Grosvenor, and Princes Streets along which the tram will run are not busy streets, and traffic will not be impeded by the proposed tramway. The tramway and bridge will operate to feed the Government Railway at Milson's Point and the Government tramways in North Sydney. Passengers wishing to go by tram from Sydney will be carried from the centre of the city across the harbour to the railway station, from thence the tram proceeds along the bridge to about near the Council Chambers. At the Milson's Point portion of the bridge there will be huge lifts working continuously, as well as footways and approaches, for the convenience of the public desiring to go by train or by the Government tramway or otherwise. My present intention is to use the electric traction for the tramways, but I am likewise asking for authority from time to time to use cable, steam, or other motive powers, accordingly as the Railway Commissioners may sanction. The cars will be of a handsome and approved pattern, somewhat similar to those in use on the Rose Bay electric line, and the number supplied from time to time will always be ample for the public accommodation. There will be waiting-rooms at convenient places along the line of route of the pattern and style of the Government waiting-rooms in Elizabeth-street and in Liverpool-street, Sydney. Referring to that portion of the bridge which crosses the harbour, there will be one span of 1,400 feet in width at the least, with a clear continuous headway for shipping of about 400 feet along the central portion of this span of 180 feet from low water. The bridge is to be 60 feet wide, and is arranged for tram, passenger, vehicular, and live stock traffic. Provision is made in the Bill I am asking for so that the whole of the works may be inspected during their progress by the Minister for Works and his engineers, and the works are to be done in a substantial and workmanlike manner and to the satisfaction in all respects of the Minister. Provision is also made that the bridge is not to be open for traffic until the Minister or his engineers certify it is efficiently built and thoroughly safe in all respects. The Minister and his engineers are also empowered to make such periodical inspections of the works as they may elect to make, from time to time, in the public interest; and by the Bill, I am compelled, from time to time, to do whatever works they require to be done for its maintenance and efficiency. In like manner the Railway Commissioners and their engineers have the supervision of the tramway during its construction, and have to certify to its efficiency before it can be used. They also have power to periodically inspect and order whatever they think necessary to be done for the maintenance of the tram-lines and the maintenance and equipment of the tram-cars, and I will be obliged from time to time to comply with their directions in that behalf. The route of the bridge I have already defined, but I desire to point out that in designing it I have so contrived that no portion of the streets in Sydney or in North Sydney are altered or diverted in any way. The grades on to and off the Sydney side of the bridge will be one in 20, and one in 24, and on the North Sydney side, one in 44, which are grades of an easy nature, for vehicular traffic. There will be very little land resumptions required in the carrying out of my project, while proper safeguards are provided in the Bill for the payment to owners in respect of all lands required, as well as for payment for the right to bridge over such lands as may be necessary to be bridged over. In arranging the table of tolls and fares, I have adhered closely to, and in fact have copied the fares and rates charged by the North Shore Steam Ferry Company for the conveyance of passengers, horses, vehicles, &c.; and while a distinction is, I understand, made for heavily-laden vehicles on the horse-boats, no distinction whatever is made in the toll for such vehicles crossing the bridge. Passengers using the bridge may go by tram or walk, at their discretion, for the same fare as they are carried in the ferry boats, namely, for 1d. each way; and the whole tram journey to and from the centre of the city from and to the Council Chambers in North Sydney is not to exceed 2d. each way; while the carriage of parcels is to be at the same rate as that charged on the Government Railway for the same distance. At the end of the thirty years' period the Crown will have power to purchase the works, &c., at any time; so it will be seen, that in applying for this Bill I am not in any way trying to obtain a monopoly. The bridge and tramway will operate largely to settle population in and around North Sydney and its environs, and along the line of Government railway from Milson's Point to Hornsby, covering a distance of about 13 miles. This line passes through a country acknowledged by everybody to be one of the sanatoria of the Colony, and which is at present comparatively unpeopled. The passenger approaches and lifts to the bridge at Milson's Point, and the approach at near the Council Chambers, North Sydney, will convenience every person having occasion to cross the harbour. It is expected that there will be from 300 to 400 skilled and other workmen constantly employed on the works for the four years they will occupy in their construction. The bridge will be lighted at night by electricity; it will be a most graceful and substantial structure, and from an artistic point of view a feature to the harbour. A petition signed by over 86,000 persons in favour of the adoption of the bridge and tramway previously designed by me was presented to and received by the last Parliament. I may add, that I applied to the last Parliament for a Bill empowering me to build a bridge to North Shore, with one pier in the fairway. This Bill Parliament refused to grant, because it was thought a pier in the fairway might somewhat impede navigation, and also on the ground that the approach to my then designed bridge monopolised the only bridge site on the Sydney side. I am now asking for power to build a bridge crossing the harbour in one span, and I have altered the approach to my bridge on the Sydney side, so that it gets rid of the objection raised as to the alleged monopoly of site. I now propose to start my bridge on the Sydney side from the extreme end of Princes-street; and as in this locality there is room enough for the approaches of more than one bridge to McMahon's Point the position of the approach to my bridge will not affect the approach of a bridge to that point in the slightest degree. While the alteration in the design will, of course, add to the cost of construction, I have no hesitation in saying, and am well satisfied, that the bridge I now propose is commercially possible of construction.

The question of taking the bridge to McMahon's Point presented itself to me, but I dismissed it from consideration, the objections to it being fourfold.

First.—I considered a bridge to such an out-of-the-way place (from a populous point of view) as McMahon's Point would not meet the requirements of the travelling public to anything like the extent a bridge to Milson's Point would.

Secondly.—I was confronted with the fact that a bridge to McMahon's Point would involve the construction of piers in the water, and it might be claimed that such piers would possibly impede navigation, whereas a bridge to Milson's Point, such as I now propose, would only have one span, without any piers in mid-stream.

Thirdly.—I had before me the fact that at various times a Government scheme for a railway bridge *via* McMahon's Point had been spoken of, and though such a scheme from a practical point of view was out of the question, because of the costly railway resumptions that would have to be made on the Sydney side, and the low levels of the railway to Milson's Point, and was only remotely possible, still there would probably be a strong opposition to granting a bridge to McMahon's Point in view of the fact that the route to that point might afterwards be required for a railway bridge.

And fourthly.—Assuming that a vehicular bridge to McMahon's Point were constructed, and that a separate railway bridge were afterwards built alongside of, but independently of, or even near to it, still the proximity of the railway to the vehicular bridge would always involve a large element of danger to the vehicular traffic on the vehicular bridge; for not only is it undesirable that road and railway traffic should pass over the same bridge, but it is equally undesirable that they should run over different bridges, constructed side by side or near to each other. In any such case it would be absolutely necessary to screen the railway from the vehicular traffic by a substantial screen, and this would materially add to the cost of a railway bridge, as the erection of such a screen would require a bridge of greater stability and rigidity to resist the added wind strain occasioned by the screen.

ON SYDNEY AND NORTH SYDNEY BRIDGE AND TRAMWAY BILL.

To the end of the altering of the design of the bridge, and otherwise, I desire the Committee to make amendments in W. Kenwood's Bill according to the following Schedule:—

3 Nov., 1898.

SCHEDULE.

To introduce the following after line 9 of page 4, as a special clause, to form part of the interpretation clause (Section 3) and before section 4. "And whenever in this Act, the said William Kenwood shall be named or referred to, such naming or reference shall (save where there is something in the subject or context inconsistent with or repugnant to or excluding such construction) mean and include the said William Kenwood and his executors administrators and assigns, or the said William Kenwood his executors administrators or assigns as the case may be, and as the context may require or allow: And this clause shall, besides its ordinary construction, be construed as an enlargement and not as a restriction of the provisions of Sections 2, 64, and 65 respectively hereof or any or either of them."

In line 14, page 4 (Section 4) after the word "at" insert "or about."

At page 4 (Section 4) to strike out lines 18 and 19, and part of line 20 to, and inclusive of, the word "point," and to substitute in lieu thereof the following:—"intersection of Alfred-street and Willoughby-street in the said borough."

In section 4, to strike out all the words in line 36, page 4, after the word "shall," and all words in lines 37 to 43 inclusive, and all the words in line 44 down to the word "spans," and to substitute in lieu thereof, after the word "shall" in the said 36th line—"have one span of not less than 1,400 feet clear width over the fairway of the said waters, to the piers on the northern foreshores thereof, the central portion of which span for a length of 400 feet at the least, shall have a clear headway of not less than 180 feet over low water mark."

In line 1, page 5, after the word "and," insert "based on bedrock or."

In line 30, page 5, strike out the words after the word "the," and strike out lines 31, 32, and line 33 to and including the word "point," and insert in lieu thereof the words "intersection of Alfred-street and Willoughby-street aforesaid."

After the word "Jackson," in line 27, page 6 (sub-section 4 of section 6), to insert the words, "and to reclaim so much of the said waters at Dawes Point and at Milson's Point respectively."

After the word "Bridge," in line 29, page 6 (Sub-section 4 of Section 6), to insert the words, "and to excavate under the said waters for the purposes of construction."

To introduce as sub-section 6 to section 6, between the 36th and 37th lines of page 6, the following:—"To employ ^{Use of explosive} gunpowder, dynamite, or any other explosive, in connection with the excavation of any of the works hereby authorised, subject to such reasonable conditions and restrictions as may be from time to time imposed by the Minister."

To alter the numbers of the present sub-sections 6 and 7 respectively, to sub-sections 7 and 8 respectively.

To insert after the word "acts," in line 40, page 6, the words, "and construct, maintain, and use all other works."

In line 44, page 8, section 14, after the word "affected," insert the words, "on or over whose lands any easement or easements may be taken."

In line 25, page 10, after the words "seventy-five," insert, "Provided that if, on the taxation of such costs, one-sixth thereof be taxed off the person claiming such costs shall pay the said William Kenwood's costs of the taxation thereof."

In line 7, page 14 (section 26), strike out "will," and insert "shall."

In line 45, page 15, after the word "of" insert, "or to limit the remedy of the said William Kenwood against any such licensed pilot, or against the person or persons, body or board of persons licensing such pilot according to his and their respective liability in respect of such damages as aforesaid."

In line 32, page 17 (section 41), to add after the word "cars," "and for regulating the disposal of all unclaimed goods, parcels, and luggage."

In line 37, page 22 (section 62), after the word "so," insert the words "to be," and strike out the word "with" on the said 37th line, and on the same page strike out lines 38 to 41 inclusive, and insert in lieu thereof, after the word "Crown" on the 38th line, the following: "together with an additional sum amounting to 10 per centum on the total amount of such actual cost, with an amount added, equal to five years' net profits on the working of the said bridge and tramway, and other works used in connection therewith, calculated on the basis of an average of the net profits on the working of the said bridge, tramway, and other works used in connection therewith, for the last two years immediately preceding the date of such notice."

In line 2, page 23 (section 63), insert before the word "company" the word "incorporated."

On page 23 insert the following as Section 64,— "Upon and after the completion of any such assignment, transfer, and release as is mentioned in the last section hereof, any such assignee or assignees and his and their executors and administrators and assigns or any such incorporated company and its officers, agents, servants and assigns may lawfully exercise and enjoy the rights and privileges hereby conferred and shall respectively be and continue to be subject to all the liabilities, obligations, penalties, and forfeitures, to which the said William Kenwood his executors administrators and assigns or his or their officers agents or servants or any person or persons authorised by him or them would have been entitled or subject, had no such assignment, transfer or release been completed."

On page 23 insert the following as Section 65,— "Upon the completion of any such assignment, transfer and release to any such incorporated company, as is mentioned in section 63 hereof, this Act shall be read as if the words 'William Kenwood' were omitted wherever they occur, and the words 'incorporated company' referred to in Section 63 hereof, were inserted in their stead, and as if the words 'him, his, and theirs' as referring to the said William Kenwood, his executor, administrators, and assigns, or to the said William Kenwood, his executors, administrators or assigns and his and their servants, and agents and all other persons authorised by him and them respectively were altered to 'it' and 'its' as referring to the said company, and if all other proper and necessary corresponding alterations were embodied."

Alter numbers of present sections 64, 65, 66, and 67 respectively, to sections 66, 67, 68, and 69 respectively.

On page 24 in the first Schedule, strike out all the words in line 6 after the word "aforesaid"; and strike out lines 7 to 12 inclusive and insert in lieu thereof the following:—"thence by lines bearing northerly to the intersection of Alfred-street and Willoughby-street in North Sydney aforesaid."

On page 24, strike out lines 21 to 24 inclusive, and insert in lieu thereof the following:—"about the intersection of Alfred-street and Willoughby-street in North Sydney aforesaid."

3. *Mr. Chapman.*] Have you altered the height of the bridge from your former design? No.
4. Have you allowed for ships of 2,000 tons, with lofty spars, to go under? Yes; there are very few ships higher than the bridge.
5. Have you taken into account the fact that when they discharge in Darling Harbour the height of the hull is increased? Yes. If you go on board a ship and ask the captain what is the height of his mast, he will give it to you from the stem to the truck. If the ship draws 18 or 20 feet of water, the remainder will be the height of the mast above high-water mark.
6. What is the rise and fall of the tide? About 4 feet 10 inches.
7. *Mr. Spruson.*] You mention a petition in your statement? Yes, that is the original petition for the first scheme.
8. Was that petition obtained in such a way that the person signing it was able to discriminate between a petition for a bridge to North Shore, and for your particular bridge? I take it that it was for any bridge, for that matter; but it was put to the public as Kenwood's bridge. I think a good many signed it feeling that they would much rather have a bridge than a tunnel. I have not the slightest doubt that if Mr. Simpson had taken the same action as I did, he would have got many of those who signed my petition to sign his.
9. What I want to find out is, whether the 86,000 people said they wanted this bridge, or a bridge? They signed Kenwood's petition for Kenwood's bridge.
10. But did they know what Kenwood's bridge was? I am not vain enough to suppose that none of the 86,000 people did not sign Kenwood's petition. I take it that a great many of those who signed were in favour of the bridge as against a tunnel.

- W. Kenwood. 11. *Mr. Chapman.*] What is the width of the proposed bridge? We propose to extend Princes-street. It is a *cul de sac*, so that it cannot be said that we are monopolising the approaches, because we are going to extend that street, which has a dead end to it. The bridge will be 60 feet wide. It is an unusual width for a bridge. The North Shore people, when we were preparing our first designs, were anxious to have a wide thoroughfare, and the people that I am connected with thought that, to further the interests of the Bill, if possible, they would make it 60 feet wide. Personally I think 50 feet would be wide enough.
- 3 Nov., 1898. 12. *Chairman.*] Is it proposed to put a road in the centre for vehicular and pedestrian traffic? I scarcely think that. It would be better to carry the trams in the same way as they are carried in George-street. We do not want a very wide footway, as there will be no shops for the people to gaze in on the bridge. If we have 8 feet on either side of the bridge for footways, we shall have footways quite as wide as any ordinary street.
13. *Mr. Spruson.*] Do you propose to design the bridge with a view to carrying a railway over it at any time? No; it is intended purely for vehicular and passenger traffic.
14. *Chairman.*] Would it be strong enough to carry a railway? Undoubtedly, any bridge that is strong enough to carry vehicular and passenger traffic would be strong enough to carry a railway. I may state that a railway bridge would not be so strongly designed, that is to say if it were only a railway bridge.
15. *Mr. Chapman.*] What weight do you calculate the trams would carry? There would probably be two cars to one motor. At certain times, no doubt, we should require to do the same as they do at Flemington, when, as was the case last Tuesday, there were many thousands of people to carry away.
16. Is your scale of tolls and freights similar to that of the North Shore Ferry Company? It comes exactly the same. We have taken the ferry as our guide.
17. *Chairman.*] I suppose that when you first designed the bridge you did not foresee the many difficulties which would be thrown in your way in regard to harbour traffic? I may say that the first bridge was designed, like everything of this nature, to get the maximum for the minimum; that is to say that my instructions were to design a bridge at a minimum cost, and to meet the requirements, so far as I could see them myself. In order to do that, I designed a bridge with two piers in the water. I took off all the weights, detailed the drawings, and made a careful estimate, and it would have been built for £460,000, but this bridge will cost fully £300,000. That, however, is only a rough estimate, inasmuch as I have not had time to take off the weights and make any details. Without the sectional areas having been calculated, it would be impossible to calculate the weight of metal which will be required, and until that is done it is impossible to make a correct estimate.
18. Will the proposed bridge get rid of all the objections which were raised by shipping people, the Marine Board, and others? My instructions were to get rid of all those objections, if possible.
19. Then you may say that this is a perfect bridge for the connection? Yes; I think we have a bridge now which should meet every requirement. It is a very liberally designed bridge.
20. Do you believe the revenue coming from it will pay for the outlay? I think it will.
21. Have you submitted a design to any of the Government officers? I have made a rough tracing of it to submit to Mr. Deane for his report.
22. *Mr. Spruson.*] When this matter comes before Parliament some objection will, doubtless, be raised on the score of suspected concession; what may be said in reply to a statement to the effect that the concession is to be granted to some individual in order that he may speculate on the London market? A matter of this kind must, of necessity, to some extent be placed on the London market, but I shall ask the London market for as little assistance as any other project of this nature which is before the House.
23. *Mr. Chapman.*] You ask for a period of six months from the passing of the Act before you pay a deposit? Yes.
24. So that there is no security for your contract being carried out for six months? No; we put six months in the Bill, but I do not think that term will be necessary. It may or it may not be.
25. You will only lose £5,000, even though you never go on with the bridge at all? Yes; but I may tell you that, as a matter of fact, the central portion of the bridge will not be made here. If it is commenced, there is not the slightest doubt that it will be continued and finished. One portion will be under construction in the old country and another portion here. We should not make the approaches without having the central portion to complete the work.
26. £50,000 is not much to spend upon the work in three years? We hope to build the bridge in less than that time; but in a Bill of this kind we must give ourselves ample time. When you are dealing with people who are 13,000 miles away you must allow yourselves as much time as possible. The expenditure of £50,000 is merely put in as a sum; but the chances are that three or four times that amount will be expended.
27. *Chairman.*] If the Committee thought it necessary to raise that amount to any reasonable extent would you have any objection? I have no objection, because I am perfectly satisfied that if the Bill is granted the bridge will be built.
28. *Mr. Chapman.*] We have to remember that if permission is granted you to build the bridge we shut out anyone else from building one; if you deposit £5,000 you will really have three years in which you need not start work, although the bridge is to be built in five years; if we grant you the concession we shall deprive all others from applying even for a Bill for the construction of the bridge? There is an apparent monopoly in that way.
29. Do you acknowledge that by paying £5,000 you can shut out anyone else for three years? Yes; at any rate, I shall be prepared to receive any reasonable amendment upon that. I am willing to leave that in the hands of the Committee to deal with as they feel disposed.
30. *Mr. Spruson.*] I understand that you are not able to give us any definite calculations as to the carrying capacity and strength of the bridge; you say, however, that it will be strong enough for all the purposes of a heavy roadway and tramway? In designing a bridge you first determine what you are going to carry upon it. The first thing would be to calculate your dead and live loads, and your sectional areas are computed accordingly, and from the sectional areas you get your dead weight and material used in the construction of the bridge itself, and from that you get the cost. I have not had time to work that out in connection with this bridge. This is the third bridge that I have designed for this connection; consequently, I have not been able to make a detailed estimate. But I have been able to make a rough estimate that the cost will be about £800,000.
31. Mr. Darley, in his evidence, gives it as his opinion that the bridge should be 70 feet wide; you propose that it should be only 60 feet wide? I think he must have had in mind the idea that it was going to carry a railway across it as well.

32. *Mr. Chapman.*] Do you propose to have two lines of trams? Yes. With a bridge, the wider you go with your road, the greater everything becomes. Your road determines your dead load and your live load, and if you increase your superficial area by road to 70 feet wide, it means something very unusual. You would not find a bridge of this nature in any part of the world 70 feet wide. Sixty feet wide is wider than I would have made it myself, if I had had my way, and had not to be guided by the feelings and desires of the public. Personally, I would have made it 50 feet wide, which would have been more in accord with bridges of this nature. W. Kenwood.
3 Nov., 1898.

33. *Mr. Spruson.*] We have before Parliament a tunnel scheme;—would you like to say anything with regard to a tunnel scheme as opposed to a bridge scheme? There is very little to be said. My people do not seem to be alarmed in any way with regard to a tunnel. They say that the experience at Home, and in other parts of the world, is such that if anyone is mad enough to construct a tunnel they can do it. It will not interfere with the bridge to any serious extent. People thought that the Blackwall Tunnel, London, was going to be a success, but it is regarded as a failure. The Mersey Tunnel is also regarded as a failure. We do not regard a tunnel as a serious competitor. Our bridge will be irrespective and independent of any tunnels whatever. The tunnel will have one advantage; it will bring people more into the city, nearer to Circular Quay than the bridge. The chances are that people having offices near the Quay will use the tunnel in preference to our bridge. On the other hand, people wanting to go near the Post Office and King-street will use our bridge in preference to a tunnel.

34. *Chairman.*] What about the vehicular traffic? There is no question about that. People are not going to take horses down inclines, and then have to get out of them, unless they are mad. The bridge will take them more direct. There will be a very easy grade right across. To go by tunnel you must necessarily make long detours and long climbs, and a horse will be tired before it gets through, or to avoid this, you must have huge lifts to raise or lower the vehicles at both ends.

35. *Mr. Chapman.*] Lifts are not a popular method of locomotion? Not for vehicular traffic. I think you would think twice before taking a horse up a lift to get from Sydney to North Sydney.

36. You provide for two footways of 8 feet each? Yes; I think that would be quite sufficient.

37. That will give you 44 feet for a roadway and tramways? Yes.

38. That is 2 feet more than we have in the ordinary streets? Yes. That is one reason why I say the bridge, to my mind, is a little wider than is necessary. At the same time we want to make it as acceptable as possible to the public; therefore we are going in for what I term rather unnecessary expense. Still the bridge will be all the better for it.

39. What is the width of the Nowra Bridge? You will not find any bridge of this character more than 50 feet wide; the Prymont Bridge is only about 30 feet wide.

40. *Mr. Spruson.*] You only propose to run the tramway from Wynyard-street; if the Bill is to become law, it might as well provide for perfecting the system, so as to bring a tramway to meet the King-street tramway; otherwise it leaves a gap? I do not think there is any doubt that connection will be made ultimately. We are afraid to ask for such a connection; but there is no doubt that that connection will ultimately be made, and you will then be able to get from North Shore to Rose Bay, if you like.

41. There would be a gap there, and you would have a monopoly of it, practically, because no one else would run a tramway from Wynyard-street to King-street? We anticipate that that will be dealt with in the same way as the Railway Commissioners now deal with the Lady Robinson's Beach tram. This connection would, most likely, be made by the Railway Commissioners.

42. Do you anticipate that they might run trams from Wynyard-street to King-street? I think it is possible an arrangement could be made whereby the Commissioners would run right over our line.

43. Do your piers on the North Shore side interfere with the present railway arrangements? No; I propose a reclamation on this side, which will give me my piers on the water side of the railway. I make a reclamation by decking over on iron piers or by filling in, and we shall get an approach to our lifts. I purposely arranged that, so that our passenger traffic coming to the bridge, if they wish to go by railway, can get into the lifts and drop down on the level to the railway station, and take the train to Chatswood or anywhere they like. I explained that matter yesterday to Mr. Deane, and he could see no objection to it. We shall not encroach on the railway ground.

44. Do you think it is necessary to add any further evidence to the commercial evidence which has been given in connection with the previous inquiry? That evidence was given some time ago, and I think the estimate might now be increased. The railway and the ferry traffic is increasing rapidly every month.

45. Has the North Shore Council taken any action with regard to the bridges? I think there is something in the paper this morning. I believe they are going to interview the Government with a view of ascertaining what they propose to do.

Richard Alfred Fullford, clerk in the office of Mr. Brennan, solicitor, Sydney, sworn and examined:—

46. *Mr. Brennan.*] Did you deliver and post copies of the Bill to the following departments in October last:—The Commissioner for Railways, Town Clerk, Sydney, Water and Sewerage Board, Crown Solicitor, Secretary for Public Works, Council Clerks, Willoughby, North Sydney, Lane Cove, and Mosman? Yes. R. A. Fullford.
3 Nov., 1898.

THURSDAY, 17 NOVEMBER, 1898.

Present:—

MR. SPRUSON, | MR. H. CHAPMAN.
E. M. CLARK, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

W. F. Brennan, Esq., Solicitor, appeared on behalf of the promoter of the Bill.

Henry Deane sworn and examined:—

47. *Chairman.*] You are Engineer-in-Chief, Railway Construction Branch? Yes.

48. You gave some evidence before some previous Committee upon the matter of a bridge connection with North Shore? Yes. H. Deane.
17 Nov., 1898.

49. Also upon the proposed tunnel connection with North Shore? Yes.

50. You have had submitted to you some revised plans, some amended proposals of Mr. Kenwood, in regard to his proposed bridge? I have. 51.

H. Deane.
17 Nov., 1898.

51. The Committee will be glad to know if you have any objections to urge in regard to those proposals? I notice from the title of the Bill that the measure includes powers to "construct, maintain, and work a tramway upon and over the said bridge." It will be a very difficult matter for a private company to work a section in between the Railway Commissioners' lines. Arrangements would probably have to be made with the Railway Commissioners to work the traffic across the bridge.

52. *Mr. Spruson.*] Do you mean that it will only be inconvenient; or do you object, on principle, to a private company having anything to do with a metropolitan tramway? I point out the objection, and it will be for the Government to deal with it.

53. Is it an objection on the ground of policy? Yes. It will be inconvenient to have a private company's tramway running in between the Government tramways, on the north and south shores. I notice that the headway proposed on the plans is 180 feet above low water. I understood that that should be 180 feet above high water. Mr. Darley and I were instructed to go into that matter some time ago, by the Minister for Works, and our recommendation was that it should be 180 feet above high water. It is only a matter of a difference of about 5 or 6 feet. I wish to recommend that provision be made in this Bill, as has been proposed in the case of other Bills dealing with the North Sydney connection, that plans shall be submitted to the Minister for Works for approval, both as to design and location, before the commencement of the work, and that the work, as a whole, or in part, as the case may require, should be submitted before commencement to the authorities interested. The authorities are the Minister for Works, the Railway Commissioners, the Board of Water Supply and Sewerage, the City Council, and the North Sydney Council.

54. *Mr. Chapman.*] I think you will find that provision is made for that in clause 4, on page 5? It says that a plan or design, and specification of the same shall be submitted to, and approved of by, the said Minister, or by the Agent-General in London for the Colony of New South Wales. I should like the location to be specially mentioned. That proviso covers the matter fairly well, except as to location.

55. You would suggest the insertion of the word "location"? Yes; a plan or design may be subject to modifications in regard to location. It is an important thing. The location should be approved as well as the plan. I also wish to point out that the Agent-General is not the proper authority to submit the location of the work to.

56. The work might be started 100 yards or more from the place exhibited on the plan? Yes. I think there is a provision in the Bill for the deviation of the work; but I think it is far too vague, and that it should be restricted in the way I suggest.

57. Is it not located by clause 4? Yes, but only in a general way.

58. *Mr. Spruson.*] The words "a plan or design" are rather indefinite; I understand that you wish that you should practically have a working plan—details? Yes.

59. *Mr. Chapman.*] If we say in the clause "plans, designs, and specifications," with the location of the same, would that meet it? Yes.

60. The words should be "plans, designs, specifications, and location"? Yes; I think it should be a complete design.

61. And no deviation afterwards? No. I am really only recommending what is practically done in the British Isles, under the Board of Trade. I do not think there is any proper provision for applying to the Water and Sewerage Board and the City authorities with regard to any permission or privilege of work which would necessarily come under their jurisdiction. It is very important, as regards the deviation of streets and headways, and so on, that the City Council and the North Sydney Council should be consulted. I do not think that section 23 is quite sufficient. It wants not only proper notice, but application should be made for approval with regard to anything that is done. It would really be in the interests of the proprietors to take such steps beforehand so as to avoid difficulties. In making the reclamations proposed on the North Shore connecting the outer cylinders of the bridge with the North Shore Ferry Company's Point it would be necessary to provide that the Railway Commissioners and the North Shore Ferry Company should retain their frontage. I do not think there is anything in the Bill as to how that is to be done. As shown on the plan, it looks as if the reclamation was to be made and to become the property of the Bridge Company, whereas, I should doubt very much whether that could legally be done; whether anything of that sort in the Bill would not really be *ultra vires*; whether the owners of the land fronting the water have not the sole right of reclamation. At any rate it is a very important point, because if that land were reclaimed, on that portion of the water-frontage, and the Railway Commissioners were robbed of their frontage, it would be a very serious loss to them. They might find it necessary at any time in conjunction with or in opposition to the North Shore Ferry Company, to make a landing stage and run steamers right up opposite the railway station. I find that otherwise the headway proposed to be given under this sketch for the bridge would be sufficient, or nearly sufficient. I take it that the Bill would in no way bind the Government to agree to the lower line of the superstructure as shown on the plan.

62. Have you gone into the question as to the width of the bridge? A 60-foot roadway is, I think, quite enough. In the city one would like to have 66 feet or more; but on a bridge like this there will be no standing vehicles, and it makes a great difference. My former remarks would also apply to the proposed reclamations on the South Shore, though that is Government property. On previous occasions I objected to Mr. Kenwood's design on two grounds: First, that the bridge had its southern end at Dawes Point, and going over to Milson's Point would clash with a railway bridge; because I considered that there would not be room for two abutments and approaches at the southern end, and that the piers that were proposed on the North Shore, at that time, would seriously interfere with the further development and extension or widening of the railway station there. I find that the present design as regards the northern end, is, in this respect, unobjectionable; it permits of a widening of the station towards the land, although not towards the water. As regards the south side, of course the new location proposed, to some extent, gets over the objection that I formerly made. I think it is quite possible that by bringing the abutments so far east as is shown on this plan, to get a railway bridge across to McMahon's Point, and make the approaches to the road bridge without seriously interfering with the future railway bridge. It will require a great deal of scheming, but I think it might possibly be done.

63. *Mr. Spruson.*] If a railway bridge were to be built there at a future time, it would require the use of Princes-street for the purpose of a railway track? No; I do not think it is necessary to adopt any special location there. It might be north or south of Princes-street.

64. The Bill proposes to grant powers to lay down tramways along Princes-street;—would not that make it impracticable for a railway? I should not put a railway in Princes-street. The road approach would have

have to go under the railway bridge, and I should like to insist that provision be made in the Bill that the design must be such as not to clash with the railway. If Mr. Kenwood can show that that can be done, I should not object to the location. It would mean the taking of a lot of levels, and doing a good deal of work before you can show that that can be done. H. Deane.
17 Nov., 1898

65. You think that the location of Mr. Kenwood's bridge, although it would not necessarily preclude your building a railway bridge to McMahon's Point, would stand in the way of a second bridge being built in the Milson's Point direction? I do not think it would interfere with a second bridge to Milson's Point; but I do not believe that a railway bridge would ever be made across to Milson's Point. A higher point is necessary for the northern end of the railway bridge, and from Milson's Point there would be a detour through valuable property to join on to the existing railway. There is only one other matter to which I would refer, and that is, this new location on Dawes Point Battery ground. Probably it would be desirable to get the opinion of the Military authorities on that.

66. *Mr. Brennan.*] Your previous objection to the Bill with the altered design no longer holds as to the location on the Sydney side? No. The objection which I made before does not hold to the same extent, but the conditions abovementioned should be imposed.

67. *Mr. Chapman.*] You say that the bridge should be 180 feet above high-water mark? Yes.

68. *Chairman.*] Have you had any consultation with Mr. Darley since the altered plans have been submitted to you? Yes, I have had some conversation with Mr. Darley and, showed him the plans; he thought that as regards the navigation the scheme was unobjectionable; but, that, if necessary, the underslope of the cantilever could be raised.

69. I suppose you have not consulted the Railway Commissioners? I have seen them, but there are so many points in which the Railway Commissioners' interests are affected that I think they would prefer that Mr. McLachlan should give evidence.

THURSDAY, 24 NOVEMBER, 1898.

Present:—
MR. H. CHAPMAN, | MR. WATSON.
E. M. CLARK, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

W. F. Brennan, Esq., appeared as Solicitor for the Bill.

Hugh McLachlan, Secretary to the Railway Commissioners, sworn and examined:—

70. *Chairman.*] I understand that you desire to give some evidence in connection with this proposal? H.
McLachlan.
24 Nov., 1898.
The Commissioners had no special desire to give any evidence in regard to the policy of the Bill or the policy of constructing a bridge. They look upon that as being a matter for the Government to consider. The point in which the Commissioners are concerned is in regard particularly to the proposal to encroach on lands they occupy at Milson's Point; you will notice by the plan of the bridge that the promoters of the Bill propose to have a pier or piers practically on our property at Milson's Point; we have not too much room there; we have a water frontage, and if we extend the station, as no doubt we shall have to extend it, the extension will probably be on the water side, and it is a question whether the pier or piers for the bridge would not block our probable extension, the promoters of the Bill proposing to make a reclamation; if that reclamation be made, will that land belong to us? Of course we must have some consideration for our water frontage being taken. If the reclamation were given to us and we still retained a water frontage, we should to some extent be in the same position as we are now. That is one point which the Commissioners particularly wish should be provided for. The Commissioners are much affected by this proposal, and they should be consulted. Take, for instance, clause 6. It gives the promoters of the Bill power to enter upon Crown lands and private lands, and also provides that the promoters shall obtain the approval of the Minister or, in other cases, the approval of the Municipal Council of Sydney, or the borough of North Sydney, previous to the carrying out of the proposed works. As the Commissioners are so much concerned, they think that they also ought to be consulted, and have power of approving or otherwise any plan, so far as it affects their property.

71. *Mr. H. Chapman.*] They are not taken into consideration in the Bill? Apparently not.

72. *Chairman.*] The addition of the words "Railway Commissioners" in connection with that clause would meet that? Yes; I think so.

73. Then what power is given to the promoters of the Bill with regard to the reclamation; are they to make the reclamation, and is the land to be given to them;—are the Commissioners to be deprived of a valuable water frontage, and shut out from any extension? That is one matter the Commissioners specially desire the Committee to make provision for. The Commissioners should also be mentioned in clauses 21, 22, and 23. In other places where the Minister and the Municipal authorities are mentioned the Commissioners should also be mentioned.

74. *Mr. H. Chapman.*] You want the Commissioners treated just the same as the Municipal Council of Sydney or the borough of North Sydney? Yes; where they are affected.

75. In regard to the railway, do you see any objection to giving the promoters of the Bill permission to run a tramway—will it clash? It would be a very considerable competitor with the North Shore tramway.

76. That would be in case the Government erected a bridge afterwards? No; I mean in this way: The promoters of the Bill propose to run their tramway from a convenient point in Sydney across the harbour to the North Sydney Town Hall, or to some place above it—comparatively near the end of the first section of our tramway. Many of the people who now travel by boat, and then take the tramway up to the end of our first section, or to some point on the first section, would very likely take the promoters' tramway and go straight across, and would not use our tramway at all. No doubt the greatest competition would be with the ferry company, but to a considerable extent this proposed tramway would be a competitor with our cable tramway.

77. *Mr. Watson.*] Is it not a fact that a very large proportion of people go up as far as Walker-street by the cable tramway, and if this proposed tramway were constructed, it is likely they would go by it as far as this tramway went, and then walk the short distance to Walker-street? I think that on the average about one-fourth of the traffic on the North Shore cable tramway is on the first section only, and the traffic of that section would be largely affected by a through tramway from the city over the

H.
McLachlan.
24 Nov., 1898.

the bridge. That is where we would be affected by the construction of the bridge. Speaking of the tramway, there is a minor matter I may mention. I do not know whether the Committee would consider it a matter of importance. The Bill does not provide for the gauge of the tramway. The matter is important in this way only—that the Bill provides for the Government having power to resume the proposed line; it is usual to provide for the gauge. All the tramways we have have a gauge of 4 ft. 8½ in. I think the Commissioners should have power to deal with the question of gauge. I submit the matter for the consideration of the Committee. There are one or two matters of detail which I have noticed. For instance, clause 34 is a little indefinite about the charges. A parcel is charged for by us the same if carried for 10 miles as for 1 mile; we have a common rate now—I to 22 miles. But, perhaps, this matter would be regulated by another clause, referring to the by-laws. If the by-laws are to be approved of by the Government that might be sufficient. Perhaps clause 41 may sufficiently provide for it. But I do not think that I would leave the open door provided for in clause 42—that the by-laws shall be deemed to have been approved of if submitted to the Government one month and not disapproved of meanwhile. I would provide absolutely that they must have the approval of the Government. It would be safer to leave clause 42 out altogether. In regard to the resumption under clause 62, I prefer the provision that has been made in a number of other Bills,—that failing a satisfactory settlement being arrived at in regard to the compensation to be paid, the question shall be settled by arbitration, as provided for in the "Land for Public Purposes Acquisition Act," instead of providing merely for some supposed basis. The clause says that the Crown on resumption shall pay "the amount of the actual cost of acquisition, purchase, construction, erection, and maintenance of the bridge, tramway, premises, and works so purchased by the Crown." That provision as to the payment of the cost of maintenance would be an absurd thing to leave in the Bill. I think that the promoters of the Bill cannot be serious in putting that in, but that it has got in by mistake. Maintenance is really a charge on working expenses. The bridge might cost a lot for maintenance in thirty years, and it would be absurd to ask the Government to pay the actual cost of the maintenance. I think that the words "and maintenance" should be struck out.

78. *Mr. H. Chapman.*] What about the conveyance of goods by the proposed tramway? That would be covered by clause 41, and, of course, competition would, I think, prevent excessive charges; but, perhaps, a safer thing would be to leave out clause 34, because clause 41 provides for the matter. The matter might be provided for in the by-laws.

Richard Watkins Richards, City Surveyor, sworn and examined:—

R. W.
Richards.
24 Nov., 1898.

79. *Chairman.*] I understand that you desire to give some evidence on this Bill? Yes; I have been instructed by the City Council to appear here; but any views that I may express will not bind them as regards any judgment they may arrive at.

80. *Mr. H. Chapman.*] Have you read the Bill through? I have.

81. It is now before the City Council, but not dealt with? Not dealt with.

82. Have you furnished a report upon it yet? I have furnished a report, but not in full. I have examined the Bill, and the late City Solicitor also wrote a report, which, I think, I had better read. He says:—

Section 15 should, I think, provide for compensation for improvements. After the word "taken," in the eleventh line of such section, the following words added would meet the case:—"And in the case of streets in the city of Sydney the compensation payable to the Municipal Council of Sydney shall be calculated by adding to the freehold value of the land taken the cost of the improvements thereof."

83. *Mr. Watson.*] That is practically to provide for the amount you have expended on the street? Yes, in addition to the freehold value.

84. *Chairman.*] I think that this Bill does not give the promoters power to take any streets at all. Clause 11 provides—

It shall be lawful for the said William Kenwood and all persons acting under him to enter upon any lands being within a distance of not more than 100 yards from the nearest point of any works, and to occupy the same as long as may be necessary for the erection, construction, maintenance, reconstruction, repair, alteration, addition to, or extension of any works.

And under clause 20 the promoters of the Bill ask for power to enter upon streets.

85. You have some further evidence to give, have you not? Yes, a little. As regards the construction of a double line of tramway under clause 5, I do not think that power should be conferred upon any private person or company to construct tramways within the city of Sydney; but in the event of such a concession being granted, the company should pay to the City Council a rate upon the assessed value of such construction, and also a share of the profits derived therefrom. That is the practice in the cities of the United Kingdom. In regard to constructing the tramway to the general level of the street under clause 24, from my knowledge of the streets through which the tramway would go, I say that it would be necessary to alter the levels in some places, because one side of the street is higher than the other, and provision should be made for the cost of such alteration, to be borne by the promoters of the Bill, and they should be rendered liable for any compensation that might be claimed by citizens on account of such alterations affecting their property. I think that wherever the word "Minister" occurs in the Bill in regard to approval of construction, the words "Municipal Council of Sydney" should also be inserted, as regards the approval of such portion of the proposed work as would be situated within the City of Sydney. In some cases I noticed that that has been omitted. Clause 28 provides, among other things, that the promoters of the Bill "shall keep and maintain (on the bridge) such other lights thereon as the Metropolitan Transit Commissioners for the time being may consider necessary." The words "Municipal Council of Sydney" should be substituted for the words "Metropolitan Transit Commissioners." The lighting of the City is controlled by the City Council. In clause 59, after the words "Railway Commissioners," the words "and the Municipal Council of Sydney" should be added. In clause 60, after the word "Minister," the words "the Municipal Council of Sydney or its authorised officer" should be added. That is all I have to say in regard to the Bill, except that under clause 20 the term of maintenance of the restored surfaces should be at least six months.

86. *Mr. Watson.*] You were in England recently on behalf of the City Council? Yes.

87. You indicated in your remarks a little while ago that in the larger cities of the United Kingdom they have an arrangement for rents or royalties or some other form of payment to be made by the tramway company to the local Municipal Council? The trend is altogether in that direction. The City Council

of

of London assess all the under ground railways on the value of their construction. A rate is imposed accordingly, and the railways pay to the City Council of London those rates.

88. It is not construed as rent, but merely as a rate, in the same way as the rates on other properties? It is construed as a rent. I put the question distinctly to the Town Clerk in London, and I have a reply in writing to the effect I have just given.

89. Is it the same in the case of other cities, such as Manchester? The Manchester municipal authorities are exercising every possible effort now to obtain powers of control over everything in the city. They have the electric lighting and the gas, and I believe also a section of the tramways.

90. They themselves run a section, or own a section? Yes.

91. The section they do not own, do they charge any rental for? I cannot say in regard to Manchester.

92. Do you know instances where such a charge is made? Glasgow did make such a charge, and on 13th October this year Glasgow operated upon its powers and opened its first electric tramway, and expects next year to acquire the present system of tramways, which has been in operation the last twenty years.

93. But from the inception the Glasgow Municipal Authorities have been charging rent for the use of their streets? Yes; and throughout the cities of the United Kingdom every service that passes over, upon, or under a street, is charged for in some way—for instance, telephone wires.

94. The companies have to pay for the use of the street? Yes.

95. In the form of direct rent, or assessment? Direct rent.

96. Not assessment on capital value? No.

97. *Chairman.*] The same thing would apply, of course, to 'bus companies, or the owners of any vehicles using the street? I think so. A 'bus company, of course, has no permanent occupation of the road.

98. *Mr. H. Chapman.*] Do you know what arrangement there is in Melbourne between the Tramway Company and the City Council? I believe they are rated, but I cannot say from memory.

99. Is it a fact that the different tramways there are to revert to the Melbourne City Council? Yes; after a certain term.

100. There is a tramway trust there? Yes.

101. In which, I believe, each of the municipal bodies is interested? Yes.

102. It is virtually a concession to the Councils there in the shape of royalty? Yes; I think there is a rate upon the mileage and the value.

103. *Chairman.*] Of course, the same thing as would apply to this proposal in regard to rent in connection with a bridge and tramway would also apply to an underground railway? Yes; as far as it went through the city.

104. I suppose you have made a similar proposal in regard to that? In giving previous evidence some years ago I made the same proposal in regard to the proposed tunnel.

105. Not lately? No. At the time Mr. Sulman's scheme was before a Select Committee—I think in 1895 or 1896—I made the same statement in regard to rates, and I was questioned about the underground railways of London; and therefore when I was in London I took the opportunity of inquiring into the matter, and the information which I obtained I have given.

John Moore Smail, Chief Engineer, Water and Sewerage Board, sworn and examined:—

106. *Chairman.*] I understand that you desire to give some evidence? Yes. The matter which I now propose to bring under the notice of this Committee, I also brought under the notice of the North Shore Bridge Committee, and the Committee in regard to the tunnel proposal. I may read a minute which I addressed to the Board, which embodies practically what I wish to state. The matter was remitted to me for me to give a professional opinion as regards sewers and water-mains. The minute is as follows:—

With regard to sewerage works, it is not likely that a sewer—metal or otherwise—will ever be required to cross the bridge; so that provision in this respect is not necessary. It may, however, be necessary in the future to carry a water-main across the bridge, and provision should be made in the Bill to give the Board the right to do so. This could be done either outside the side members of the bridge or underneath, as might best work in with the design of the proposed work. I think, if the provisions were to include that suitable provision should be made for carrying water-mains across the bridge free of cost, and subject to the approval of the Board's engineer, the interests of the Board would be amply protected.

I may say that that suggestion was agreed to by the engineer representing the promoters of the other bridge, and it was arranged that their solicitor should draft a short clause, and submit it to the Board, which would cover that provision. It simply means that we shall have a right to lay a pipe across the bridge—of course at no expense to the bridge people.

107. *Mr. H. Chapman.*] The same as you would take possession of a street? Yes. The tunnel people have consented to give us a certain section of the area, and in the case of the bridge we could take the water-main through the lattice underneath.

108. *Chairman.*] In connection with bridge work generally, provisions of that character are made? Yes; we have water-mains across all bridges. We should simply want to lay a pipe not exceeding 18 inches, and that only for water purposes. There is no provision required for sewerage.

109. *Mr. H. Chapman.*] You think that otherwise the interests of the Water Supply and Sewerage Board are protected? Yes; they are amply protected.

110. You have, I suppose, read clause 21? We have had an amended clause prepared which covers everything.

William Kenwood recalled and further examined:—

111. *Mr. Watson.*] With regard to clause 62, would you have any objection, as the promoter of the Bill, to its containing a provision to the effect that the amount of purchase-money to be paid by the Crown in the event of resumption at the expiration of thirty years or subsequently, shall be settled by arbitration in the ordinary way in connection with the acquisition of land for public purposes, but with a maximum amount fixed; that course was adopted in respect to the tunnel Bill which has recently been before another Select Committee, and it was agreed to by the promoters of that measure? I do not think there is any objection to that.

1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

—
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

—
REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

MORT'S DOCK AND ENGINEERING COMPANY
(LIMITED) ENABLING BILL;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE,

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND

APPENDIX.

ORDERED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO BE PRINTED,
7 December, 1898.

SYDNEY: WILLIAM APPLIGATE GULLICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

—
1898.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

EXTRACTS FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VOTES No. 27. TUESDAY, 18 OCTOBER, 1898.

3. **MORT'S DOCK AND ENGINEERING COMPANY (LIMITED) ENABLING BILL**:—Mr. Hawthorne presented a Petition from Flora Rodger, wife of James Rodger, of Mort-street, Balmain, representing that she is the owner of property in Mort-street, Balmain, which is proposed to be closed by this Bill, and praying the House to reject the Bill, or so amend it that the Company should provide compensation for any loss incurred by the Petitioner; and also for leave to appear by counsel or attorney before the Select Committee now sitting on the Bill.
Petition received.

VOTES No. 39. THURSDAY, 17 NOVEMBER, 1898

8. **MORT'S DOCK AND ENGINEERING COMPANY (LIMITED) ENABLING BILL (Formal Motion)**:—Mr. Wilks moved, pursuant to Notice,—
(1.) That the Mort's Dock and Engineering Company (Limited) Enabling Bill be referred to a Select Committee for consideration and report.
(2.) That such Committee consist of Mr. Dick, Mr. Gormly, Mr. Nicholson, Mr. McGowen, Mr. Gillies, Mr. Law, Mr. Rigg, Mr. Hayes, Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick, and the Mover.
Question put and passed.

VOTES No. 40. TUESDAY, 22 NOVEMBER, 1898.

6. **MORT'S DOCK AND ENGINEERING COMPANY (LIMITED) ENABLING BILL**:—Mr. Wilks (*by consent*) moved, without Notice, That the Petition of Flora Rodger, praying for leave to appear by counsel or attorney before the Select Committee on "Mort's Dock and Engineering Company (Limited) Enabling Bill," be referred to the Select Committee now sitting on the said Bill.
Question put and passed.

VOTES No. 46. TUESDAY, 6 DECEMBER, 1898.

26. **MORT'S DOCK AND ENGINEERING COMPANY (LIMITED) ENABLING BILL**:—Mr. Wilks, as Chairman, brought up the Report from, and laid upon the Table the Minutes of Proceedings of, and Evidence taken before the Select Committee for whose consideration and Report this Bill was referred on 17th November, 1898, together with Appendix and a copy of the Bill as amended and agreed to by the Committee.
Ordered to be printed.
- * * * * *

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1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

MORT'S DOCK AND ENGINEERING COMPANY (LIMITED) ENABLING BILL.

REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, for whose consideration and report was referred on the 18th October, 1898, "*Mort's Dock and Engineering Company (Limited) Enabling Bill*," and to whom was referred on 22nd October, 1898, a *Petition from Flora Rodger*, "*praying for leave to appear by counsel or attorney before the said Committee*,"—beg to report to your Honorable House:—

That they have examined the witnesses named in the List* (whose * See List p. 5. evidence will be found appended hereto), and the Preamble having been satisfactorily proved to your Committee, they proceeded to consider the clauses and Schedules of the Bill, in which it was deemed necessary to make certain amendments.

Your Committee now beg to lay before your Honorable House the Bill as amended by them.

WILLIAM H. WILKS,
Chairman.

No. 2 Committee Room, Legislative Assembly,
6th December, 1898.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

WEDNESDAY, 23 NOVEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Gillics,		Mr. Gormly,
Mr. Hayes,		Mr. Law,
Mr. Nicholson,		Mr. Rigg,
	Mr. Wilks.	

Mr. Wilks called to the Chair.

Entries from Votes and Proceedings appointing the Committee, and referring the "Petition of Mrs. Flora Rodger, praying for leave to appear by Counsel or Attorney," read by the Clerk.
Printed copies of the Bill referred, together with original Petition to introduce same, also Petition of Mrs. Flora Rodger, before the Committee.

Parties called in.

Present:—G. E. Rich, Esq. (*Counsel for the Promoters*).F. Curtiss, Esq. (*Messrs. Curtiss and Barry, Solicitors for the Promoters*).A. J. Kelynack, Esq., and H. R. Curlewis, Esq. (*Counsel for Mrs. Flora Rodger*).H. Wolstenholme, Esq. (*Messrs. White and Wolstenholme, Solicitors for Mrs. Flora Rodger*).James Laidley Mort (*Chairman of Mort's Dock and Engineering Company, Limited*), called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness handed in plan showing portions of streets proposed to be closed, and proposed new wharf in the vicinity of Mort's Dock and Engineering Company's Works. [See Appendix.]

William Hilson Pigott (*Solicitor*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

James Peter Franki (*Manager of Mort's Dock and Engineering Company, Limited*) called in, sworn and examined.

Witness produced Memorandum of Agreement between Mort's Dock and Engineering Company (Limited) and the Borough of Balmain.

Witness withdrew.

George Dingwall (*Sailmaker*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

George Clubb (*Land Agent*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

William Moffatt Burns (*Land Agent*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

John Archibald James (*Ferry-boat Master*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

William Henry McLean (*Secretary to the Balmain Ferry Company*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

George Edward Young (*Returning Officer for Balmain North*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Frederic Curtiss (*Solicitor*), sworn, and examined.

Witness produced Certificate of Registration of Mort's Dock and Engineering Company (Limited).

James Macdonald (*Architect and Surveyor*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

[Adjourned till Wednesday next at Eleven o'clock.]

WEDNESDAY, 30 NOVEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Wilks in the Chair.

Mr. Law,		Mr. Nicholson,
	Mr. Rigg.	

Present:—G. E. Rich, Esq. (*Counsel for the Promoters*).F. Curtiss, Esq. (*Messrs. Curtiss and Barry, Solicitors for the Promoters*).A. J. Kelynack, Esq., and H. R. Curlewis, Esq. (*Counsel for Mrs. Flora Rodger*);H. Wolstenholme, Esq. (*Messrs. White and Wolstenholme, Solicitors for Mrs. Flora Rodger*).

William Hilson Pigott recalled and further examined.

Witness withdrew.

Gilbert Curtiss Murdoch (*Mayor of Balmain*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

John Campbell Hamilton (*Auctioneer and Land Valuer*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

John Yelverton Mills (*Land and Estate Agent and Valuer*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

George Bishton called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Samuel Patrick Boyd (*Plasterer*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Mrs. Flora Rodger (*wife of James Rodger, of Mort-street, Balmain*) sworn and examined.

Room cleared; Committee deliberated, and decided to hear addresses of Counsel.

Parties called in.

Mr. Kelynack addressed the Committee.

Mr. Rich addressed the Committee.

Mr. Kelynack replied.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next at Two o'clock.]

TUESDAY,

TUESDAY, 6 DECEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Wilks in the Chair.

Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Nicholson,

Mr. Hayes,
Mr. Rigg.

Present:— G. E. Rich, Esq. (*Counsel for the Promoters*).

F. Curtiss, Esq. (*Messrs Curtiss and Barry, Solicitors for the Promoters*).

H. R. Curlewis, Esq. (*Counsel for Mrs. Flora Rodger*).

H. Wolstenholme, Esq. (*Messrs. White and Wolstenholme, Solicitors for Mrs. Flora Rodger*).

Room cleared. Preamble considered.

Question,—“That this Preamble stand part of the Bill,”—put and passed.

Parties called in and informed.

Clauses 1 to 5 read and *agreed to*.

Schedules A and B read and *agreed to*.

New Clause to stand as Clause 5 read and *agreed to*.

New Clause to stand as Clause 6 read.

Mr. Rigg moved to leave out in line 6 the word “twelve” with a view to the insertion of the word “nine.”

Question put,—“That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.”

Committee divided.

Ayes.

Noes.

Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Hayes,
Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Wilks.

Mr. Rigg.

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

New Schedule to stand as Schedule C read and *agreed to*.

Title read and *agreed to*.

Chairman to report the Bill with amendments to the House.

SCHEDULE OF AMENDMENTS.

Page 4. Insert the following new clauses to stand as Clauses 5 and 6:—

5. The said indenture of 1 January, 1896, shall be read as altered in accordance with this Act, and shall for all purposes, until discharged, be held to be a valid security.

Indenture of 1
January, 1896,
to be a valid
security.

6. Notwithstanding anything in this Act contained it shall be lawful for Flora Rodger, wife of James Rodger, now of number seventy-two Mort-street, Balmain, near Sydney, in the Colony of New South Wales, engineer, her executors, administrators, and assigns, to sue the said Company for and recover from the said Company compensation for the injury or loss (if any) suffered by her or them in respect of her or their right, title, and interest, in or to the land described in Schedule C hereto by reason of the exercise by the said Company of any of the powers conferred by this Act, at any time within a period of “twelve” months from the exercise of the said power.

Power to Flora
Rodger to sue.

Page 4, insert the following new Schedule to stand as Schedule C.

SCHEDULE C.

All that parcel of land situate in the Borough of Balmain, Parish of Petersham, County of Cumberland, and Colony of New South Wales, being lot 3 of the subdivision of the southern portion of the 2 roods 35 perches block between Trouton-street (formerly known as John-street) and Mort Bay (formerly known as Waterview Bay), conveyed by the late Mr. T. S. Mort to Mort's Dock and Engineering Company, as shown on plan in possession of the said Company: Commencing on the southern side of the new made portion of Mort-street, at a point distant easterly 86 feet from Trouton-street, and bounded on the north by a portion of the said side of Mort-street bearing easterly 33 feet to lot 4; thence by the western side of that lot, bearing southerly 117 feet to a right-of-way 12 feet wide; thence by the north-western side of that right-of-way, bearing south-westerly 25 feet to Trouton-street; thence by a portion of the north-eastern side of that street, bearing north-westerly 22 feet 6 inches to lot 2; and from thence by the eastern side of that lot, bearing northerly 117 feet to the point of commencement, be the said several dimensions a little more or less.

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1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE

THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

MORT'S DOCK AND ENGINEERING COMPANY (LIMITED)
ENABLING BILL.

WEDNESDAY 23 NOVEMBER, 1898.

Present:—

MR. GILLIES,	|	MR. LAW,
MR. GORMLY,	|	MR. NICHOLSON,
MR. HAYES,	|	MR. RIGG.

W. H. WILKS, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. Rich, instructed by Messrs. Curtis and Barry, appeared for the promoters of the Bill.
Mr. Kelynack, with him Mr. Curlewis, instructed by Messrs. White and Wolstenholme, appeared for Mrs. Flora Rodger.

James Laidley Mort called in, sworn, and examined:—

1. *Chairman.*] What position do you occupy in connection with the Mort's Dock Co.? I am Chairman of Directors. J. L. Mort.
2. Will you explain to the Committee the object of the Bill? The object of the Bill is to give us a larger water-frontage for the purpose of our business. It is very desirable that we should have as much water-frontage as possible, and by moving the street as proposed we shall obtain a greater unbroken water-frontage for the purpose of laying ships alongside, without, at the same time, doing any injury to the public convenience. 23 Nov., 1898.
3. *Mr. Rich.*] I believe your company have agreed with the Council of Balmain as to certain works that are to be carried out—for instance, the erection of a new wharf as shown on the plan? Yes; a new wharf and a waiting-room.
4. *Chairman.*] Do you hand in a plan of the proposed works? Yes. [*Appendix A.*] The portion of Mort-street proposed to be closed is shown on the plan by a green colouring, and the deviation is shown in pink, which is also the colouring of the proposed new wharf at the end of the deviation.
5. The proposed new wharf will give better access to the ferry by land and by sea than the old wharf at the end of the portion coloured green on the map? I do not think the land access will be in any degree injured, and the sea access will certainly be better.
6. And your company has agreed with the Balmain Council to erect a new wharf and a new waiting-room at the end of the deviation marked pink on the plan? Yes; and we have also agreed to form the proposed new road.
7. To form the road and to construct a footpath and kerbstone and all accessories? Yes.
8. And the borough on their part consent to the portion at the foot of Mort-street being closed, and also the portion marked green on the plan, extending from Cameron-street further back? Yes.

- J. L. Mort.
23 Nov., 1898.
9. On the plan there is a long red line, beginning at Cameron-street and coming down to a point near the proposed new wharf; this is the new drain for sewerage matter to be constructed in lieu of the old method of allowing the drainage to run off into the bay; that has also been agreed to on behalf of the Council? Yes.
10. The property marked in blue lines on the plan is the Dock property? Yes.
11. And the two blocks of land marked yellow, extending from Mort-street to Trouton-street, are the property respectively of Mrs. Rodger and Mr. Dingwall? Yes; I believe Mrs. Rodger is the owner of the block near number "152" on the plan.
12. The whole of the land marked with blue lines belongs to the Mort's Dock Company, subject to a security to certain debenture-holders whose trustees are Mr. Kelso King and Mr. Knox? Yes; I believe that is so.
13. It would be a great advantage and a convenience to the company to have this extended facility for the purpose of dock work by closing up the portions of the roads shown on the plan? The unbroken frontage would be a great convenience without doubt.
14. *Mr. Kelynaack.*] The effect of this deviation will be to close the patch marked green at the water side? Yes.
15. And the wharf, which is now at that place, will be moved to the point, at which there is a boat coloured pink on the plan, at the foot of Thames-street? Yes.
16. Do you know the gradients of Mort-street and Thames-street? I do not.
17. I suppose Thames-street is not steeper than Mort-street? It is infinitely steeper than Mort-street. It is a steep hill. Mort-street lies in the valley, as it were, and Thames-street is on the side of a hill.
18. But both Mort-street and Thames-street lead up to the central part of Balmain? Of course, there is Balmain and Balmain; but nearly all the passengers by the boats go up Mort-street.
19. At present they do, because the terminus is at the foot of Mort-street? The people who want to go by way of Thames-street use a sufferance passage which we give them. The part marked yellow on the map is not a sufferance passage, but a right-of-way. Below that, on the Company's ground, there is a sufferance passage which leads the public up past the pointed end of Mrs. Rodger's land, and anybody wanting now to go by way of Thames-street goes up that passage.
20. Still Thames-street leads up to Balmain just as Mort-street does? I should prefer that you asked that question of a resident of Balmain, because I have very seldom been up Thames-street.

William Hilson Pigott called in, sworn, and examined:—

- W. H. Pigott.
23 Nov., 1898.
21. *Mr. Rich.*] You are a solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales? I am.
22. You are acting as solicitor for Messrs Kelso King and Mr. Knox as trustees for certain debenture-holders? Yes.
23. And these trustees or debenture-holders hold security over certain land belonging to the Dock Company? They do.
24. You have read the Bill and have seen the plan before you? Yes.
25. These trustees or debenture-holders have assented to the plan and the proposed scheme? Yes; on the understanding that a clause is inserted in the Bill to the following effect:—

The said indenture of 1st January, 1896, shall be read as altered in accordance with this Act, and shall, for all purposes, until discharged, be held to be a valid security.

The main object of that is so that the debenture holders can find no fault with the trustees.

26. That would come in at the end of line eight in the recital? I do not mind where it comes in. I thought it might come in as new clause 5. It would, perhaps, be better to include it in the enacting part of the Bill; but that could be arranged afterwards.

James Peter Franki called in, sworn, and examined:—

- J. P. Franki.
23 Nov., 1898.
27. *Mr. Rich.* You are manager of Mort's Dock Company? I am.
28. You have read the proposed Bill, and have seen the plan before you? Yes.
29. Will you explain to the Committee the convenience and advantage it will be to the company to extend their works to provide improved dock accommodation, and for that purpose to be enabled to close up certain portions of roads as marked on the plan? For the last four or five years it has been very troublesome indeed, and very inconvenient to deal with the number of ships that require the use of the dock and the establishment. The only way we saw of facilitating operations and of avoiding danger in the moving of one ship into the dock and moving another out, while other ships were lying in front of the works, was by getting permission to extend the wharfage accommodation from the entrance of the dock along to Thames-street, which would give us about 130 feet more wharf frontage, and by that means we could shift the ships 120 feet further towards Thames-street, and thus keep the entrance to the dock much clearer. Sometimes there are three and often four ships lying outside the wharf, and they almost block the entrance entirely. We cannot go further back on account of the ferry. The ferry is often interfered with when we have a vessel going on the slip and when ships are moving to and fro. At present, owing to the position of the wharf, the ferry-boats often have to take even a much greater curve than that shown on the plan in order to get to Snail's Bay wharf. It will be seen by the plan that by moving the ferry wharf to Thames-street, steamers will be able to go from there in a direct line to Snail's Bay wharf, and there will be no interference with vessels lying either in front of the wharf or going into dock or on to the slip. It is perfectly clear to all business men that the more accommodation we can give the more vessels will come to the establishment, and every vessel that comes there makes it all the better for the Balmain inhabitants. The more ships that go there the more people there are. They take a walk up Balmain, and, of course, they spend money; so that every ship that comes to the works is of benefit to the shopkeepers and the public generally who have trade in Balmain. I have stated briefly the advantages to the dock. The advantages to the public are these:— In the first place, the ferry-boats carrying the travelling public will not be interrupted by having to wait while the ships go on the slip, as they will be quite outside the operations of the dock, and will be able to go straight across to and from Snail's Bay. Consequently, business men will not be interfered with in their appointments, and time will be saved in getting to Sydney. If the Committee take evidence from
some

- some of the people who travel there, they will find that this place is very often blocked, but under the proposed scheme the ferry-boats will have a clear course. I understand there is opposition to the Bill, and a petition has been presented to Parliament on the ground that it will injure the property of Mrs. Rodger. If the directors of the company thought for one moment they were doing an injury to any person whatever they would be the very first to compensate that person. We object to any clause being inserted in the Bill giving a right to compensation. The company are already compensating the Council of Balmain. We have to pay the Council £1,200 cash for allowing us to close one street and open another. We give a strip of land to make the new street, equal in width to Mort-street. We have written two or three letters to Mrs. Rodger stating that the only compensation we intend to admit or allow to be paid is the £1,200 we have agreed to pay to the Council. Mrs. Rodger has two cottages on her property, one fronting Trouton-street and the other fronting a little blind lane down as far as Mr. Dingwall's property, which is next door. Mrs. Rodger claims that the passenger traffic will be diverted up Thames-street, but Thames-street has an inclination of 1 in 8. It is only a 30-foot street, and the footpath on that side is only about 4 feet wide; whereas Mort-street has only a very slight inclination from the bottom of Thames-street right up, and it has a footpath 9 feet wide, properly asphalted. The length to travel over is 129 feet shorter by going the proper way by Mort-street, instead of going up Thames-street and down Trouton-street. Under these circumstances is it reasonable that passengers landing at Thames-street will go out of their way to go up an incline of 1 in 8, and then go down Trouton-street, returning back into Mort-street? Is it reasonable to suppose they will make that detour? On the other hand, there is no doubt with regard to the vehicular traffic. No vehicle would ever go up Thames-street, with a grade of 1 in 8, when there is a beautiful 40-foot street to go along, with only a very slight incline. Mrs. Rodger's property is next to Mr. Dingwall's. We do not propose to alter that street at all, until after we pass Mr. Dingwall's; and by making that detour we get a lower grade than the present grade of the street by the fact of lengthening the distance over which you have to travel to get into Thames-street. This gives a very much easier grade. Mrs. Rodger claims that the whole of the traffic now going to Mort-street will be directed up Thames-street. That I leave to the Committee's own judgment. They will say if it is reasonable that any person will travel 477 feet up an incline of 1 in 8, when he can go 348 feet 4 inches, or 129 feet less, with a very easy incline. At the present moment the whole of Mrs. Rodger's frontage is on the lane and Trouton-street; so that she will have the same convenience as she always had, and if she wants to put up a building on the piece of land fronting Mort-street it will be exactly in the same position as it was, with the advantage that it will have a better approach. Vessels will be encouraged to come to Mort's Dock, owing to the extra accommodation; and if more vessels come to the dock, then, if Mrs. Rodger wishes to make that a business site, the value of her property will be enhanced by the extra business which ships will bring to the dock.
30. *Mr. Kelynaek.*] Looking at the plan, which shows the points of the compass, and taking south-east from Thames-street, is there not a large population in that direction? There are a few—not very many.
31. How many? I could not tell you; but not very many.
32. What do you call not very many? I cannot tell you the number.
33. Are there a thousand? I would not like to commit myself to numbers. The great bulk of the travelling public come down Mort-street.
34. But are there not a considerable number living to the south-east of Thames-street? Yes.
35. If those people land at Thames-street they will, I suppose, go up Thames-street? Naturally.
36. Whereas at present they go up Mort-street, and go past Mrs. Rodger's property? They do not go up Mort-street now; they go up the lane.
37. The ferry is at the foot of Mort-street, and the passengers go partly up Mort-street, and then past Mrs. Rodger's property? They go up the private right-of-way, past some cottages.
38. But still they go past Mrs. Rodger's property? Yes.
39. If they go up Thames-street they will not? The lane exists only on sufferance, and can be closed at any moment.
40. Then they would have to go in front of Mrs. Rodger's property if they did not go along the sufferance lane? They would still go in front of Mrs. Rodger's property.
41. The people living at the south-east of Thames-street you admit would go up Thames-street;—if the proposed alteration is made, and the ferry lands the people at the foot of Thames-street, all the persons who live south-east of Thames-street will go straight up that street? Yes. But the greater number of the people on that side go by the Stephens-street ferry. After you get to Waterview-street, the people go by the Stephens-street ferry.
42. Have you had Thames-street surveyed? Yes. It was surveyed for the levels when this plan was made.
43. Where does it say that Thames-street has a grade of 1 in 8? I know it is 1 in 8 from our surveyor, but you will get that in evidence from the surveyor who made the plan.
44. I believe you have property yourself in Thames-street? Yes; there is a little bit there—up Thames-street, away on the top of the hill.
45. Just near Trouton-street? No; right on the top of the hill.
46. Still, Thames-street leads directly up to your property? As it happens it does.
47. In regard to other property, the portions marked yellow on the plan, I suppose, are the only portions which are private property? Yes.
48. Take the piece next to Mrs. Rodger's;—that is occupied I believe by somebody of the name of Dingwall? Yes.
49. He is a sail-maker? Yes.
50. And employed by Mort's Dock Company? No; he has nothing to do with Mort's Dock Company.
51. Does he not work for you? No.
52. Does he not work for the ships that come to the Dock? He may work directly for the ships. He tenders himself for work on the ships.
53. So that he is interested in the work at the Dock? Well, it does not matter to him very much. He goes on board the ships and gets the tender from the people.
54. But he is dependent, I suppose, for his business on the ships, and partly dependent at any rate on the success of the Dock Company? No; not at all.
55. You say that he does not get any business from the ships that come to the Dock? He may get odd things. He may get some work, but generally he gets work from ships about the harbour. He does not confine himself to Mort's Dock. He is a big contractor.

J. P. Franki.
23 Nov., 1898.

- J. P. Franki. 56. To whom does the land marked yellow on the plan at the corner of Trouton-street and Thames-street belong? To different people. I do not know who they are.
- 23 Nov., 1898. 57. Do you remember Mort's Dock Company selling that piece of land that Mrs. Rodger now has to her? Yes.
58. Do you remember having any conversation yourself about it? No; I do not remember any conversation.
59. You will not swear you did not? I do not remember any conversation.
60. Will you swear you did not have a conversation with her? I cannot tell you. What sort of conversation?
61. Any conversation about the purchase by Mrs. Rodger of this land? No. I had nothing to do with the purchase; she bought it at auction.
62. Were you on the ground at the time she bought it? Yes; but I was not the auctioneer.
63. Did you hold the plan of sale during the time Mrs. Rodger was looking at it, at the time of the sale? I do not think so.
64. You do not remember? No. In fact, I am sure I was not acting as auctioneer's assistant.
65. I do not suggest that, but you are manager of Mort's Dock Company? It is not at all likely when the matter was in the hands of the auctioneer that I would go there and hold the plan out to the buyers.
66. You are the manager of Mort's Dock Company, are you not? Yes.
67. And Mort's Dock Company sold this property? Yes; they were not the auctioneers.
68. Did they sell the property? No; the auctioneers sold it for the Dock Company.
69. Did you suggest to Mrs. Rodger that she should buy this property for the purpose of a coffee palace? I do not remember.
70. *Mr. Rich.*] As a matter of fact, the people who live on the south-east side of Thames-street go by another ferry, do they not? Yes; nearly all, except a few from this side of Waterview-street. There are not many on the south-east side who travel by this ferry.
71. The bulk of them go by another ferry? Yes.
72. *Mr. Gillies.*] You referred to a grade of 1 in 8 in Thames-street;—do you not think the Council will make that a proper grade when they take over the street? No; they could not cut it down—that is, the general inclination of Thames-street, right up to the top.
73. You say you would compensate the Council, and that is the only party you would compensate? We have an agreement to pay them £1,200.
74. *Mr. Law.*] Do you know who owns the allotment next to Mrs. Rodger's? Mr. Dingwall.
75. Has he claimed any compensation? No.
76. What is the depth of these two allotments? I think about 80 or 90 feet.
77. And Mrs. Rodger's cottage is in Trouton-street? One is in Trouton-street, and one is in the lane.
78. With a depth of less than 100 feet it would be impossible to build on the other frontage also, as there would not be sufficient land? No; there is not sufficient land for a coffee palace, or any building of the sort.
79. When the proposed deviation is made there will be very little difference in going up to Darling-street? The distance will be 129 feet less going up Mort-street as compared with the distance going up Thames-street.
80. *Chairman.*] You hand in copy of the agreement between the Council of Balmain and the Mort's Dock Company with regard to the closing of Mort-street? Yes. It also includes the compensation the company pays for College-street. In addition to the payment of £1,200 the company have to make a road from Mort-street to the proposed new wharf; so that we estimate that the total cost of the proposed change, as far as the company are concerned, will be £2,000.
81. *Mr. Rigg.*] Are there any claims for compensation in respect to property to the south-east of Mrs. Rodger's property? No.
82. Reference has been made to Mr. Dingwall;—I suppose he would get the same orders from vessels visiting the Dock, irrespective of where he lived? Yes; he would get the same if he lived anywhere else.
83. The fact of his living there does not help him in regard to orders he gets from vessels that visit the Dock? Not a bit; he visits the ships before they come to the Dock.
84. He is not under the control or jurisdiction of the Dock Company? Not in the least. If a ship wants a tarpaulin or a sail it may go there to him for it; and, of course, if we want a sail made we naturally send to him and get a tender from him as well as from people in Sydney, and if he is the lowest tenderer he gets the work, but not otherwise.
85. It would not matter if he lived there or further away? No.
86. I understand you to say that the proposal that the ferry boats should take a course direct from the new wharf to Snail's Bay is in the interests of the people travelling between Balmain and Sydney? Yes.
87. That is, that the ferry traffic will not be likely to be congested or interfered with by vessels coming to the Dock for repairs? Exactly.
88. At present many stoppages take place in the course of the ferry boats from the Mort-street wharf to the Snail's Bay wharf? Yes; there are two slips, and vessels while they are going on and coming off have to lie in position for some time before we can get the cradle under them to take hold of them.
89. What other advantage would be given to the travelling public by the proposed change? After landing they would get a much easier grade owing to the extra distance. The incline would be much less to take vehicles up than it is now.
90. While they gain that advantage to the vehicular traffic, is there any complaint from the travelling public about having to go the greater distance? No; not the least. I am sure they would not object, because the road is made so easy.
91. You have said that for the closing of College-street and Mort-street you give the Balmain Council £1,200 and construct a new street? Yes.
92. Was it not another condition that the £1,200 was to be used to construct a sewer? That is what the Council intend the money for; but we have to pay £1,200 for that land.
93. But in your agreement you say, "The Directors are now willing to give the Council £1,200 payable in instalments after the passing by Parliament of an Act, and so on, as may be required as the work for making the sewer progresses—that is conditional." Certainly. The Council cannot spend the money in any way they like; they have to make the sewer.

94. The Council practically get £1,200, and give you two streets and construct a sewer? Yes; but they would have to construct the sewer, and otherwise they would have no money for the purpose. They would have to spend the money anyhow. J. P. Franki,
23 Nov., 1898.
95. You had a lot of trouble with the Council of Balmain over this very matter of the sewerage? Yes.
96. You would not allow the sewage to pass through your property, and the Council having to construct the sewer, this agreement was made? Yes. The sewerage goes down through the Dock now. As soon as the Bill is passed the Council have to commence to make the sewer. If the Bill does not pass they will have to make the sewer all the same, but they will get nothing from us.
97. But if the Bill does pass, they get £1,200 from you and you make the new street; you get from the Council two streets—College-street and the lower portion of Mort-street? Yes.
98. You take from them the bottom of Mort-street, and give them in return portion of property bordering on Thames-street and a roadway right through of 50 feet? Yes.
99. And you construct a new waiting-room? No; we shall not build a new waiting-room. We construct a new wharf and remove the old waiting-room.
100. The general public have not made any protest against having to go along this distance? Not the least. It will be an advantage to them, because what they lose by going a few extra feet they gain by the time saved by the steamer not being delayed.
101. There has been no claim for compensation except from Mrs. Rodger? None whatever.
102. The hotel-keeper at the corner has not complained? No.
103. Although they will lose the use of College-street as a back entrance they do not claim compensation? No.
104. Has Mrs. Rodger made any personal claim to you? Yes.
105. Privately, some time back? Since we commenced proceedings in connection with this Bill.
106. Did you give Mrs. Rodger any encouragement to believe that you would compensate her? I told her we would not give her anything. I said I did not see where any injury was done to her in any shape or form, and I considered it was a sort of attempt to levy blackmail upon us.
107. *Mr. Kelynaek.*] When did you say that? When she spoke to me about it.
108. Where did you see her? In the street.
109. You wrote to her, did you not? That was when she wrote to me.
110. You never said anything about blackmail in your letters? No, it was not likely; but I told her so.
111. *Mr. Curlewis.*] You say the Council has to make this sewer, anyhow? Yes.
112. Are the areas coloured green on the plan correctly given in the Schedule of the Bill where they are given as "1 rood and 12·6 perches" and "23·23 perches"? I did not survey the land; the surveyor will be able to answer that question.
113. In Schedule A the area given, namely "1 rood 6·50 perches," is, I suppose, correct? I did not survey it. As far as I know the areas given are correct, because we employed the surveyor to measure them.
114. These areas being correct, it appears that the Dock Company gets as much land as it gives? We give the Council more land than we take away. We give them the whole of the street right across.
115. How much more land do you give the Council than you take from them? You will see by the difference between the portion coloured pink and that coloured green at the bottom of Mort-street.
116. But there are two portions coloured green? The value of College-street was placed by itself, and then the width of Mort-street, 21 feet, had to be put on to Thames-street, and the balance we had to give.
117. Taking into consideration, the land coloured green, marked A and B, how much more land does the Council get than they give? They get £1,200.
118. But I mean in area? I could not tell you anything about the area. I am not a surveyor, and did not survey the land.
119. *Chairman.*] Is it a fact that your company are not so interested in passing this Bill as they were some twelve or eighteen months ago? That is so.
120. What is the reason that you are not so anxious to pass the Bill as you were before? When this matter was first mentioned we were going to put the new dock in a position in close proximity to the old dock. Our first application to the Council was with a view to construct another dock alongside the present one; but the Council, in their wisdom, did not consider it advisable to allow us to close College-street unless we made the sewer, and of course we objected. We offered them £1,000, and they wanted us to make the sewer as well, but we would not do that. Negotiation then dropped, and the company looked elsewhere for another site. That site having been purchased, the actual necessity of the case as regards College-street was done away with. The Council subsequently approached us to entertain the scheme again, and it was at their instance that negotiations were opened up afresh, the company being desirous of providing better egress and ingress for ships coming to the dock.
121. Did Mrs. Rodger in any conversation with you place a valuation on her property? Yes; she said something about £1,000, but it was perfectly ridiculous. I laughed at her.
122. Did Mr. Dingwall make any offer to sell his property to you? None whatever.
123. Did you ever attempt to purchase this land from either Mr. Dingwall or Mrs. Rodger? No; we did not want the land. We had no object in acquiring it. I told Mrs. Rodger at the time it was no object to us, and we did not want the land—that we had some there which we could sell her if she liked.
124. Then I understand the land belonging to the company, surrounding that belonging to Mrs. Rodger and Mr. Dingwall, is practically vacant land which the company do not use? We have no use for it, and would be glad to sell it at any time.
125. And with regard to the new street, have you given an undertaking to the Council that you will grade the street with a view to vehicular and passenger traffic—I refer to the new street from Thames-street to Mort-street? Yes, that will be graded. It is required to be done to the satisfaction of the Council's surveyor.
126. Is that provided in the agreement? I think so.
127. You say that the new street will be used more because the grade will be less than that of Thames-street? In consequence of the greater length the street will naturally be more level.
128. And the land through which portion of the street will pass will be reclaimed land? No; it does not pass through reclaimed land.
129. *Mr. Bigg.*] You say you would be prepared to sell the land surrounding the property of Mrs. Rodger and Mr. Dingwall;—what would you be prepared to sell it for per foot? I am not prepared to say. That would be a matter for the Directors.

- J. P. Frankl. 130. Thames-street you consider an additional advantage to the public? I do.
- 23 Nov., 1898. 131. They would have two roads instead of one as at present—they would get an additional street in Thames-street? Exactly. At present the people living to the south-east have to go up Mort-street and along Trouton-street.
132. At present they are confined to one roadway, and under the new scheme they will have two roadways? Yes; they will be able to go down Thames-street.
133. *Chairman.*] I suppose most of the travelling public to the south-east are served by the Stephen-street ferry? Yes.
134. You are not warranted in saying that a great number of people living in that vicinity would travel by the Mort's Dock ferry? Only those would do so who live this side of Waterview-street, and I do not suppose they number more than 200.
135. And this right-of-way you speak of, is that on sufferance only? That is all.
136. You might close it at any time? Yes.
137. And prevent the people going past Mr. Rodger's and Mr. Dingwall's property? Yes.
138. *Mr. Kelynaek.*] If you closed the right-of-way at present, instead of going past the back of her property they would pass the front of her property? No; Mrs. Rodger faces the lane.
139. She faces Mort-street as well? No; she does not face Mort-street—not the present entrance to her house.
140. But her land does? Yes.
141. *Mr. Rich.*] Do I understand from you that at present the Council, by permission of the Dock Company, drains the sewerage into the dock? Yes.
142. And under the new arrangement they will make the sewer as marked red on the plan, beginning at Cameron-street, and ending near the proposed new wharf? Yes; that is right.
143. And in any event, whether this Bill is passed or not, the Company will not allow them to carry the sewerage across their property into the bay? That is so.
144. As a matter of fact, the present sewerage silts up the bay? It silts the front of the dock up.
145. And the Council are obliged to go to great expense in dredging to get the silt away;—is that the case? At the present moment we have agreed to keep the front of the dock clear ourselves, and the Council have undertaken to clear the drain down to the dock head.
146. *Mr. Kelynaek.*] Which way does the sewer come now on the map? It comes down from the head of Cameron-street into the dock. It goes into the water by a drain at the side of the dock.
147. *Mr. Gornly.*] Will you explain where Mort-street terminates at present? It terminates at the portion coloured green, and marked "B" on the plan.
148. Is that a road of access now? Yes.
149. Where do the ferry boats land their passengers? At the portion coloured green, and marked "B."

George Dingwall called in, sworn, and examined:—

- G. Dingwall. 150. *Mr. Rich.*] You are a well-known sail-maker? Yes.
- 23 Nov., 1898. 151. Looking at the map you see two pieces of land coloured yellow, one belonging to Mrs. Rodger and the other belonging to you? Yes.
152. You have seen this plan, and know the proposed Bill? Yes.
153. Do you think your land is affected prejudicially by the proposed deviation of the road? I do not think so.
154. You are not claiming compensation in any shape or form from the company? No.
155. *Mr. Kelynaek.*] You are a sail-maker? Yes.
156. And, of course, it is convenient for you to be near to the water? It is.
157. I suppose you do not want to use your property for any other purpose than that for which you are now using it? At present I do not.
158. You get work through Mort's Dock Company, do you not? Very little.
159. You do get some? Yes; but very little.
160. You have got some now? I have not.
161. Did you tell Mrs. Rodger the other day you had? No.
162. You remember her coming to you about giving evidence for her, and you suggested she should not call you? I told her I should come here if I had to come, and I would state the truth; it did not matter whom I offended.
163. But did you not tell her not to call you? No, I did not.
164. That you had work from the Dock Company? No; I did not.
165. On last Monday;—was that the day you had the conversation with Mrs. Rodger? The last time I spoke to Mrs. Rodger was on Saturday, when I was going home to lunch.
166. Did not Mrs. Rodger ask you then to come and give evidence for her? She did not ask me to give evidence for her. She asked me if I was to give evidence for the Dock Company, and I said I was not. "But," I said, "if I have to give evidence I shall tell the truth." That is about all I said to her. As for telling her I had work, or was doing work for the Dock, that is not correct.
167. But you are doing work for the Dock? I am not doing work for the Dock. I have done work for the Dock.
168. And I suppose you do work also for the ships that are in the Dock? Yes; for ships all over the harbour.
169. But ships that are in the dock particularly—you get work from them? I do from ships all over the harbour, and sometimes they come to the Dock.
170. You get work from ships which come to Mort's Dock? Some of them.
171. It suits you, therefore, to be close to where these ships come to dock? It suits me in a way, but I get very little from vessels that come to the Dock. It is mostly deep-water ships that come to the Dock, and they all carry sail-makers of their own, and do not require much, unless in the case of a vessel coming in dismasted, which will very likely go to the Dock; but I have that work apart from the Dock altogether.
172. Still, it is convenient for you to be near the Dock? It is convenient for me to be near the water.
173. And the Dock too? No.

174. But if you were away from the Dock I suppose someone else would go there who is a sail-maker and get the work from the Dock that you now get? No; I do not think so.
175. Why not? Because they are just as handy to me in Sydney as in the Dock. It is only when the vessels go into the Dock that I find it handy.
176. But being at the Dock you find it handy? I do when I have work there.
177. *Chairman.*] Is your work by tender? It is mostly by tender. If it happens that a ship comes to the Dock it comes all the handier to me, but that is the only benefit I derive. The work I do for these ships is mostly by tender.
178. I suppose the bulk of your work is yachting work? At this time of the year it is principally yachting work; but, as it happens, I have work from deep-water ships, and they are all over the harbour at present, and it is not likely that any of these vessels that I am working for now will go to the Dock. If they did it would be very convenient for me, but I do not get any further advantage.
179. You were on the land when it was sold? Yes.
180. And saw Mrs. Rodger there? Yes.
181. Did you hear her have a conversation with Mr. Franki? I would not swear to that. Mr. Franki was there and Mrs. Rodger was there, but I was a stranger among them, and did not hear any conversation.
182. You saw them both there? Yes.
183. *Mr. Law.*] What do you value your land at? I do not suppose it is worth more than half of what I paid for it.
184. What do you value it at now? I think its value is about £5 or £5 10s. a foot.
185. It comes within the land tax exemption? Yes.
186. *Mr. Rigg.*] Do you consider that the proposed deviation will depreciate the value of your land in any way? No; I do not think so.
187. Do you think it would still retain its value if the proposed new street were constructed? I shall be much handier to the water when the street is formed as proposed.
188. *Mr. Kelyack.*] Why will you be handier? I shall be nearer the Dock then, if the shipping is any benefit to me; but I do not see it would make any difference either way. I do not see that it would benefit me in any way.
189. You would not be nearer the ferry? There will be very little difference if you take the two angles. I am on an angle to the ferry now. I suppose it would be about a few feet further from my place to the ferry than it is now.
190. What did you pay for your land? I think between £8 and £9 a foot.
191. Was it £8 10s.? Yes, it was all that, if not more.
192. *Mr. Law.*] How long ago was that? Sixteen years ago. It was in September, 1884.
193. *Chairman.*] Have you been urged at all to go for compensation against the Dock Company in regard to this matter? No; I would not be urged by anyone.
194. Has any one attempted to urge you? No.
195. Do you consider that Mrs. Rodger's property is injured by the proposed deviation? I would not like to say. That is for her to say herself; I would not like to interfere.
196. But what is your own opinion, after seeing the plan, and knowing the traffic, and so on? I would not say anything about it. I would only say it does not affect me in any way.
197. It would not affect you, and the adjoining property to you is Mrs. Rodger's? That is so. I have other property as well—other property not a stone's throw from this property—property more valuable than this.
198. Have any of the Dock people approached you in regard to this matter? No, never.
199. You have not been approached at all by anyone interested in this matter? No; they asked me if I would sell a piece of my land. They intended going a little higher up, and I agreed to sell them about 15 feet of my land further back from Mort-street.
200. Did you ask a good figure for that 15 feet? No, I consider I did not. I asked only £20, and it is worth far more than that.
201. You have no knowledge about Mrs. Rodger purchasing the land with the idea of erecting a coffee palace, or anything like that? She told me herself she thought a coffee palace would do very well there.
202. Did she tell you that recently, or some years ago? She told me that before I went home to England.
203. Before any Bill was mooted at all? That I could not say, because this Bill has been mooted for some time. I could not say to a month or two.
204. You have no interest in giving evidence in support of the Dock by reason of any trade you might get? I have no interest in the Dock. I could do without the little work I get from the Dock. I have more work than I can do independently of the Dock.
205. The work for the deep sea vessels is all open to contract? Yes.
206. And whether you were in Sydney or at Mort's Dock you would tender for it just the same? Yes; not only if it were in Sydney, but all over the Colony.
207. *Mr. Hayes.*] Did Mrs. Rodger buy her allotment of land at the same time that you bought yours? She did.
208. Do you remember the price she paid—was it the same price that you paid? No; she paid more than I paid, because I know it should have been my land, as the bid was mine. However, I did not want to raise any question, and I let Mrs. Rodger have it.
209. Do you consider her property has depreciated in value since the purchase to the same extent that yours has? That I could not say. Land has gone down considerably since that purchase.
210. You bought your land at £8 10s. a foot, and you now value it at about £5;—has Mrs. Rodger's property depreciated to the same extent? Her property is different from mine. She has dwelling-houses and I have merely a sail-loft.
211. I am speaking of the unimproved value? I should say it has depreciated to the same extent, because there has been a similar depreciation in the value of land of mine in other parts of Balmain.
212. *Chairman.*] Did you ever consider that the Dock Company would purchase your land as well as Mrs. Rodger's, and so complete their block there? No.
213. You have never wondered why they have not done that? No; I did not want them to. I would not care to part with my land.

- G. Dingwall. 214. *Mr. Gillies.*] Would it not be possible for this proposed alteration to enhance the value of your property by reason of your occupation, and yet reduce the value of Mrs. Rodger's property? I do not see that it would make any difference to me, except that I would be nearer the Dock.
- 23 Nov., 1898. 215. Consequently the value of your property would be enhanced? It would make very little difference.
216. *Mr. Curlewis.*] Where are these other properties of yours? They are in Clayton-street, about 20 or 30 feet from Mrs. Rodger's property across the road.
217. At the corner of Clayton and Trouton streets? Yes.
218. Have you any property to the south-east of Clayton-street? No; it is all on the south-west.
219. Are there many people living south-east of Thames-street? There are a good many people living south-east of Thames-street.
220. Do many of them travel by this ferry? That I could not say. A good many I know travel the other side, because they have an interest in the other ferry.
221. *Mr. Rigg.*] How far is that other ferry from this one? About five minutes' walk.
222. *Mr. Gillies.*] What is the distance? I could not tell the distance. I could do it in five minutes.

George Clubb called in sworn, and examined:—

- G. Clubb. 223. *Mr. Rich.*] You are living in Balmain? Yes.
- 23 Nov., 1898. 224. You are a land agent there? Yes.
225. You have had considerable experience in land values? I have.
226. Will you look at the plan before you; you will see two allotments of land, one belonging to Mrs. Rodger and the other belonging to Mr. Dingwall;—are you acquainted with those properties? Yes.
227. Have you seen the plan of the proposed deviation before? I saw the proposals up to October, 1896, when I resigned as an alderman. I think there has been some modification since then.
228. On the plan before you, you see the land that is proposed to be closed, consisting of two pieces marked "A" and "B" respectively, and coloured green; and then there is the proposed deviation, coloured pink, with the new wharf at the end—that is the plan you are acquainted with? Yes.
229. In your opinion, does the proposed deviation affect the value of the two pieces of land belonging respectively to Mrs. Rodger and Mr. Dingwall—I mean as to depreciation? In my opinion it does not.
230. *Mr. Gillies.*] Do you not think a deviation will depreciate the value of any property? It might in the case of business premises, but not in the case of a private dwelling. It would be rather looked upon as an advantage.
231. But what is your opinion regarding the site as a business one? I do not know that in this particular case the value of the land, even for business purposes, is affected detrimentally. I do not think it is.
232. *Mr. Law.*] What do you value the land at per foot? I suppose from £4 10s. to £5 would be a fair value for the land.
233. *Chairman.*] You are not at all interested in the Dock alterations and the deviations? Not at all.
234. You have no interest in the question of whether this land is taken, or whether it still remains idle for further sale, or anything of that sort? None, whatever.
235. You are simply here as an independent witness? Exactly. I may inform the Committee, having had a large local experience, that the project of the alteration of the wharf, as shown here, to the foot of Thames-street, has been looked upon favourably by the general public, inasmuch as former interruptions to the ferry traffic are not likely to occur under the altered arrangements.
236. Then, I am to understand that, as a public man, both in the position as alderman and as an Parliamentary representative, you have heard no complaint from the travelling public in regard to the proposed deviation? I have not.
237. *Mr. Rigg.*] You are an old resident and also an alderman of Balmain? I have had fifteen years' experience as an alderman and as Mayor.
238. Do you consider the proposed new street, called Thames-street, will be an additional convenience to the public of Balmain, as affording them two means of access to the ferry instead of one as at present;—do you think that will be a convenience to the public of Balmain generally? Undoubtedly, because people on the southern side of Thames-street will now have a nearer access to the ferry than they had formerly.

William Moffatt Burns called in, sworn, and examined:—

- W. M. Burns. 239. *Mr. Rich.*] You are a resident of Balmain? Yes.
- 23 Nov., 1898. 240. And you are a land agent, having had large experience in land values in Balmain and elsewhere? Yes.
241. Are you acquainted with the plan before you, and the proposed Bill? Yes.
242. You see Mort-street on the plan, and two pieces of land, one belonging to Mrs. Rodger and the other belonging to Mr. Dingwall; and you see the proposed deviation marked pink, and at the foot of that is the new wharf; you are acquainted with all those details? Yes. I may say that I have assessed the borough of Balmain for the Borough Council, and naturally this locality would come under my observation.
243. In your opinion, does the proposed deviation prejudicially affect the two pieces of land referred to—take Mrs. Rodger's? I should not think it did.
244. In your opinion it does not? No.
245. You have no interest whatever in the proposed deviation? None whatever.
246. *Mr. Rigg.*] What do you consider the allotment of land owned by Mrs. Rodger is worth? I should say from £3 10s. to £4 per foot.
247. *Mr. Kelynaek.*] You are a land agent? I am.
248. Have you any land for sale in the vicinity? I have.
249. In Mort-street? Yes.
250. Whereabouts in Mort-street—near Mrs. Rodger's? Yes, above Mrs. Rodger's.
251. What is the depth of it? I should say between 80 and 90 feet.
252. How much are you willing to place it under offer for? £4 a foot.
253. Is that near this particular piece of land? No; I have no property for sale near that.

254. *Chairman.*] The property you value at £4 a foot is nearer to the centre of the town? Yes.
255. *Mr. Kelynack.*] But much further away from the ferry? Yes; it is within five minutes of the ferry.
256. How far is Mrs. Rodger's land from the ferry? Within a minute.
257. *Chairman.*] I suppose you are aware that the question of the proposed deviation and alterations to Mort's Dock has interested the public of Balmain a good deal? It has.
258. Have you any recollection, some few months ago, of addressing a public meeting against the action of the Council in refusing to come to terms with the Dock Company? Yes.
259. Do you recollect that I, in my capacity as a public man, endorsed the action of the Council on that occasion as against the Dock Company? Yes.
260. And the present scheme was the result of further negotiations between the Dock Company and the Council? That is so.
261. You consider the Council are being well repaid for the closing of the streets by a sum of £1,200, and the construction of a new wharf and the sewer given in? I do.
262. You consider that the Council have not lost by the arrangement, and that the public of Balmain has not lost by it? I consider the Council have a very good bargain.
263. And the public, by a deviation of the traffic, are not put to any disadvantage? No; I do not think they are.
264. Do you consider that Mrs. Rodger is placed at any disadvantage by the action of the Dock Company? I do not think Mrs. Rodger will suffer in any way by the deviation. If anything, it will concentrate the traffic. In the event of Mrs. Rodger desiring to build on this frontage, she would have a better opportunity of letting her place. Apart from that, it will be a great convenience to the public as far as the steamer traffic is concerned. I do not often travel that way; but I have, unfortunately, done so when we have been blocked.
265. To the south-east of what is called Thames-street there is a fair population? Yes.
266. Do they travel by the Stephen-street ferry or the Mort's Dock ferry? They travel by the Stephen-street ferry, because they can get to Sydney quicker that way than by Mort's Dock, Stephen-street being the first stopping-place from Sydney, whilst Mort's Dock is the last. The bulk of the people, therefore, to the south of Thames-street would undoubtedly go to the Stephen-street ferry.
267. *Mr. Rigg.*] If this new scheme were carried out, would it be more convenient for a number of the people who at present travel by the Stephen-street ferry to come to Thames-street and take the Mort's Dock ferry? Yes, in a measure it would.
268. So that it would bring more traffic there? Yes.
269. And the fact of bringing more traffic there, you think, would increase the value of property in that immediate neighbourhood? Yes; it would be an advantage to the travelling public to embark at the foot of Thames-street instead of embarking at the foot of Mort-street.

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John Archibald James called in, sworn, and examined:—

270. *Mr. Rich.*] You are master of one of the ferry-boats running to Mort's Dock? Yes.
271. Have you seen the plan of the proposed deviation? No.
272. You know where the proposed new wharf is to be? Yes.
273. You see on the plan a piece of land marked "B," coloured green, with a boat shown. That is the present wharf. At the present time the ferry-boats are sometimes inconvenienced, and the traffic is congested, owing to the ships going into the dock and on to the slip;—is that so? Yes.
274. Do you think the new wharf will be an advantage to the travelling public and prevent this interference with the ferry traffic? Yes, I do. I believe it will take the ferry-boats clearer of the ships going on to the slip, and also into the dock.
275. You think the access by sea will be freer and more beneficial to the travelling public than is the case at present? Yes.
276. Are you a resident of Balmain? Yes.
277. From your knowledge as a resident, do you know that the Balmain public are anxious to have this proposed scheme carried out, and believe it will be advantageous? I have not considered that part of it at all.
278. You have not heard them speak about that? I have heard some say it will be an advantage, and I have heard some say they did not think it would be any advantage.
279. *Chairman.*] Have you heard any conversation on the boats to this effect: "The Mort's Dock people are getting an advantage, and the public are placed at a disadvantage";—have you heard any general talk about that on the boats? Yes; every day I hear somebody speaking about it one way or the other. The majority of the people seem to think it will be for the benefit of the residents of Balmain.
280. *Mr. Kelynack.*] What part of Balmain do you live in? Short-street.
281. Where is that? Barely ten-minutes' walk from the Mort's Dock wharf.
282. *Chairman.*] Do you know Mrs. Rodger's property in this particular locality? Yes.
283. How long has been your experience with the Balmain ferry? Altogether I have been there sixteen or seventeen years, but I have been away. I have been there about five years or more this last time.
284. Do a great number of the travelling public go along Trouton-street and through the by-way from the portion coloured green on the map? No; the traffic is not very great from the Mort-street wharf in that direction. It has not been for some time past.
285. You think most of the people will continue to go up Mort-street? Yes.
286. If the proposed alterations were carried out, would the bulk of the people come up the new street and along Mort-street? I am inclined to think the bulk of them would come up the new street.
287. Have you heard any public expression with regard to Mrs. Rodger being at a loss, or with regard to compensation? I have heard a lot about it, but it did not interest me much, so I did not take much notice of it.
288. *Mr. Rigg.*] You are in the habit of going into Mort's Bay daily at frequent intervals? Yes.
289. I believe an accident occurred there a short time ago, caused by one of the vessels sliding off the slip? Yes.
290. Going into the wharf your steamer will be at right-angles with the slip? Yes.

J. A. James.
23 Nov., 1898.

- J. A. James, 291. Do you consider the shifting of the ferry from the end of Mort-street to the end of Thames-street would conduce more to the safety of the public than if the boats continued to take the course followed at present; in the event of an accident occurring similar to that which happened some time ago, do you think it would be safer for the public if the boats went into Thames-street instead of continuing the present course to Mort-street? I think if a similar accident occurred again the further you were away from the slip the less danger there would be.
- 23 Nov., 1898. 291½. You consider that it would be more advantageous to go to Thames-street than to Mort-street? Yes; that is my opinion.
292. Do you consider that the construction of a wharf at the end of Thames-street would divert a portion of the traffic which at present goes to Stephen-street—would it be more convenient than going the other way? Yes; I believe it would.

William Henry McLean called in, sworn, and examined:—

- W. H. McLean, 293. *Mr. Rich.*] You are Secretary to the Ferry Company? Yes.
- 23 Nov., 1898. 294. Are you acquainted with the proposed Bill and the plan? I have seen the plan; I have not seen the Bill.
295. The Mort's Dock Company I believe has made an arrangement with your company to shift the wharf from its present position to Thames-street? I am not aware of any arrangement.
296. You are personally not aware? No.
297. But you know of this proposed arrangement? I understand it is proposed to move the wharf from the one point to the other.
298. In your opinion, will the proposed arrangements be beneficial to the travelling public? I think it will.
299. *Chairman.*] Did the liquidators of your company sell some property to the Mort's Dock Company some time back? Yes.
300. Will you explain the position of the property that the Mort's Dock Company purchased? A strip of land from the water frontage to Trouton-street.
301. Was a power of reclamation which the Dock Company exercised? Yes.
302. Have you heard anything in regard to compensation with respect to Mrs. Rodger's property? No.
303. Have you heard any objections on the part of the travelling public to travelling the further distance from Thames-street? I have not.
304. Practically you are not in touch with this question at all? Not personally.

George Edward Young called in, sworn, and examined:—

- G. E. Young, 305. *Mr. Rich.*] You are a resident of Balmain? Yes; I am the Returning Officer for Balmain North.
- 23 Nov., 1898. 306. Are you acquainted with the proposed scheme? I am.
307. You see on the plan the proposed deviation, and the new wharf and the old wharf? Yes.
308. You are one of the travelling public? I travel this route myself nearly every day.
309. In your opinion, is this proposed deviation beneficial to the travelling public and to the people of Balmain generally? Very much so.
310. Is that opinion shared by the great bulk of the travelling public? I think almost entirely, as regards those who use this particular ferry.
311. *Chairman.*] Have you any knowledge in regard to Mrs. Rodger's claim for compensation from the Dock Company? I have heard something about it.
312. You say you are a constant traveller on the route? Yes.
313. You see by the plan that the route will be deviated; at present the travelling public, by sufferance, pass the frontage of Mrs. Rodger's property to Trouton-street, and also *via* Mort-street? Yes.
314. What, in your opinion, will be the effect on Mrs. Rodger's property if the proposed alteration is made? I think it will be an advantage rather than otherwise.
315. You do not think it will be detrimental to the property or cause a depreciation of value? Not at all, because it is quite competent for the Dock Company at any time to close the right-of-way. I suppose not more than one in ten of those who travel by the steamer avail themselves of the passage.
316. The bulk of the people travel *via* Mort-street? Yes; and they will travel by the deviation, which will be a continuation of Mort-street.
317. You have no interest in the Mort's Dock Company? None whatever.

Frederic Curtiss called in, sworn, and examined:—

- F. Curtiss, 318. *Mr. Rich.*] You are a solicitor of the Supreme Court, and member of the firm of Curtiss and Barry? I am.
- 23 Nov., 1898. 319. And your firm are solicitors to the Mort's Dock Company? Yes.
320. The company is a registered company, carrying on business at Balmain? Yes. I hand in the certificate of registration.
321. The company is also seized in fee of certain land described in the Schedule of the Bill? Yes; the property of the company is shown on the plan in blue lines. The land included in the proposed deviation, marked pink on the plan, is also the property of the company. The land on both sides of College-street belongs to the company, and also the land above and below the deviation.
322. That is the whole of the land fronting or abutting on those portions of the roads or streets? Yes.
323. I understand you know of your own knowledge that the company has agreed with the Borough of Balmain to the closing of these portions of roads and streets and to the deviation as proposed in the Bill and shown on the plan? Yes, and a copy of the agreement has been handed in.
324. Do you travel by this ferry every day? Yes.
325. What is your opinion with regard to the convenience of the new scheme? As far as the ferry-boats are concerned there is no doubt it will be a very great advantage. The boats are frequently incommoded by the steamers about the wharfs, and it would be a great convenience if the wharf were removed as proposed. In regard to the interference with the traffic, I think that would be very small. Perhaps about

about eight or nine of us will make a change in our approach to and from the ferry. I live in Thames-street, at the top of the hill, and with some others, I always go through the small right-of-way in front of Mrs. Rodger's, and Mr. Dingwall's property. We never go round by way of Mort-street, because it is a long way round; but the bulk of the people in this locality, except those in Clayton-street, and a portion of Trouton and Thames streets, go by the other ferry. It is a quicker service. The difference in distance is very slight.

F. Curtiss.
23 Nov., 1898.

326. Do you know what is the gradient of Thames-street? I cannot go into figures; but I know it is very steep.

327. Whereas the gradient of the deviation will be comparatively flat? I imagine so, from the appearance of the land.

328. *Mr. Kelynaek.*] I suppose you will go up Thames-street? Yes, because it will be the nearer route.

329. *Mr. Rigg.*] And what would apply to you would apply to others in the immediate neighbourhood? Yes; but there are not a great number who go by that line.

330. *Chairman.*] Then we understand that if you would take that course all the people who now pass along this right-of-way would naturally take the same course from Thames-street? Yes; except those who go into Clayton-street.

331. *Mr. Kelynaek.*] Even those who go to Clayton-street would rather go by Thames-street? No; I think they would go round the deviation and up the right-of-way.

332. That is, if the right-of-way is going to be left open? Yes.

333. It can be closed at any time? Yes.

334. The Dock Company may cut it off at any moment? Yes; but I do not think they have the remotest idea of doing so.

James Macdonald called in, sworn, and examined:—

335. *Mr. Rich.*] You are an architect and surveyor? Yes.

J. Macdonald.
23 Nov., 1898.

336. You prepared the plan which you see before you? Yes.

337. Can you give the Committee the gradients of Thames-street? At the top part it is 1 in 8.

338. And what will be the grade of the deviation? The deviation, as it is continued from Mort-street to about the junction to Thames-street, is about level; then for some distance towards the wharf it is 1 in 17, and further on 1 in 20.4. That is a very easy grade.

339. You are a very old resident of Balmain? Yes; I have been there about forty-seven years.

340. *Chairman.*] You were an alderman for many years? Yes, for twenty-three years.

341. *Mr. Rich.*] You know the two pieces of land shown on the plan as the property of Mrs. Rodger and Mr. Dingwall respectively? Yes.

342. In your opinion, does the proposed deviation affect the value of those lands? I do not see where it does in the least.

WEDNESDAY, 30 NOVEMBER, 1898.

Present:—

MR. LAW,

MR. RIGG.

MR. NICHOLSON,

W. H. WILKS, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. Rich, instructed by Messrs. Curtiss and Barry, appeared for the promoters of the Bill.

Mr. Kelynaek, with him Mr. Curlewis, instructed by Messrs. White and Wolstenholme, appeared for Mrs. Flora Rodger.

William Hilson Pigott further examined:—

343. *Mr. Rich.*] I believe you wish to correct portion of the evidence you gave on the last occasion? All I wish to say is that Question and Answer No. 26 are not quite clear. It would appear from that as if I were content that the new clause should be inserted in the preamble of the Bill. What I desire is that the proposed new clause should be inserted in the enacting part of the Bill.

W. H. Pigott.
30 Nov., 1898.

Gilbert Curtiss Murdoch called in, sworn, and examined:—

344. *Mr. Rich.*] You are Mayor of Balmain? Yes.

G. C. Murdoch.
30 Nov., 1898.

345. You are acquainted with the Mort's Dock Enabling Bill? Yes.

346. And are familiar with the plan before you showing the proposed deviation? Yes.

347. The Mort's Dock Company and the Council of Balmain have come to an arrangement in writing for the closing of portions of certain streets, marked "A" and "B" on the plan and coloured green, and for the proposed deviation? Yes.

348. As Mayor of the Council you are satisfied with that arrangement—you think it is a good arrangement? Yes, so far as the Council is concerned.

349. It was the subject of long negotiations between the company and the Council, was it not? Yes.

350. And they resulted in this arrangement? Yes.

351. *Chairman.*] Was the Council unanimous with regard to the agreement? Yes, I think the Council were unanimous, as far as I can remember.

352. Have you any recollection of Mrs. Rodger, whose property is said to be affected by the deviation, appealing to the Council for assistance in the matter? There were some letters written to the Council by Mrs. Rodger, objecting.

353. Did the Council go into the matter at all? They did not consider Mrs. Rodger's objection. All they had to consider was the greatest good to the greatest number.

354. And, from your knowledge of the Borough of Balmain, these proposed alterations are not, in your opinion, to the disadvantage of the public? Not to the travelling public.

- G. C. Murdoch.
30 Nov., 1898.
355. And the agreement was practically the best bargain you could obtain under the circumstances? Yes.
356. As to the disputed matter of sewerage, the sum of £1,200 to be paid by the Dock Company is to be used in constructing a new sewer? Yes, entirely. It must be so used. It could not be used for any other purpose except to construct that sewer.
357. And the Dock Company obtain College-street and portion of Mort-street, in lieu of which they provide a new wharf similar to the present wharf, and a sum of £1,200, which is to be used in constructing a new sewer? Yes.
358. You found that it was imperative to construct a new sewer on the closing of the streets at your own cost? It was absolutely necessary to construct that sewer.
359. It was imperative upon the Council to construct it at its own cost—it had no legal outlet through the Dock premises? If College-street had not been closed, and we were compelled to construct the sewer at our own expense, we should have brought the sewer down College-street to the site of the present wharf at the end of Mort-street; but in consequence of the closing of College-street we have to take the sewer under the Dock property at the corner of Mort-street, and down Mort-street, and carry it all the way to Thames-street.
360. Have any objections been made to the Council officially in regard to this matter besides the objection by Mrs. Rodger? None that I am aware of.
361. The public of Balmain have not brought under the notice of the Council any disadvantage in which they are placed by the proposed alteration of the streets? We have not had a petition from any of the ratepayers.
362. As one of the travelling public, you are acquainted with the site of this ferry? I do not use it very much.
363. But you have travelled by it? Yes.
364. Is the Borough-Engineer satisfied with this proposal? Yes; he has to be satisfied, because the Council is satisfied.
365. But is he satisfied with regard to the engineering facilities? Yes.
366. He does not consider that there will be any drain upon the Council in the future, in regard to the matter of sewerage? No, none whatever.
367. *Mr. Nicholson.*] In your opinion, will the proposed deviation in any way injure Mrs. Rodger's property? That is a matter I have not to consider. I am not a valuator, and I could not tell you that.
368. If the property were your own, do you think the proposed deviation would injure it in any way? If I were speaking simply as a citizen, I should say that the deviation would not exactly interfere with Mrs. Rodger's property, but still it might make the route a little longer. It is shorter to go by Mrs. Rodger's property to the wharf at present than it will be to go to the wharf by Thames-street when the proposed alteration is made. I am not acquainted with land values in the locality, so that I could not tell you what depreciation there might be on that account; but so far as this increased distance is concerned, that is a consideration. Otherwise I could not form any idea.
369. Do you think it would in any way depreciate the value of that property? Well, she would still have the same street. I could not say one way or the other. I would not like to say.
370. *Mr. Rigg.*] Do you consider that the agreement you have made with the Mort's Dock Company is to the advantage of the public at Balmain? The travelling public.
371. Do you think the agreement you have made with the company will result in greater convenience to the public? There is no doubt that it will be a benefit to the ratepayers.
372. At present they conduct their sewerage from Cameron-street on sufferance, do they not? Yes.
373. And this other sewer, of course, will be a permanent work; it will be there for all time, the property of the ratepayers of Balmain? Yes; it will really be a storm-water sewer.
374. You consider that the bargain the Council have made on behalf of the public is a good bargain? Yes; so far as the Council are concerned.
375. *Mr. Rich.*] You spoke, just now, of its being shorter to go by Mrs. Rodger's property to the present wharf? Yes.
376. You referred to the lane to which Mrs. Rodger's land has a frontage, marked yellow on the plan? Yes.
377. That lane is continued through the Dock property marked with blue lines? Yes.
378. You are aware that people who pass through the right-of-way do so on sufferance only? I know that.
379. *Mr. Kelynack.*] You know that Mrs. Rodger's property at present extends to Mort-street? Yes, I believe it runs right back to Mort-street.
380. Whatever tenants she might have on that property, as the wharf is at present, would go down to the patch coloured green on the plan and marked "B"? Yes.
381. That would be down Mort-street. If the deviation is made they will have to go either round the road coloured pink, and marked "deviation," or along Trouton-street and down Thames-street? Exactly.
382. That is to say, in any case, whether the lane is blocked up or not, they will have a further distance to go? Yes. How far that would depreciate the value of the property I am not in a position to say.
383. *Mr. Rich.*] You do not know the actual distance they would have to travel? Only approximately.

John Campbell Hamilton called in, sworn, and examined:—

- J. C. Hamilton.
30 Nov., 1898.
384. *Mr. Kelynack.*] You are an auctioneer and land valuator? Yes.
385. You were a member of the firm of Garrard and Hamilton? Yes.
386. You are now carrying on business on your own account? Yes.
387. How long have you been in the land business? Fifteen or sixteen years.
388. When you were in the firm of Garrard and Hamilton I believe you had large experience with regard to property in Balmain, and knew the values of property? Quite so.
389. Looking at the plan before you, you see there are two pieces of property with a frontage on Mort-street, one belonging to Mrs. Rodger, have you seen that land? I have.
390. For the purposes of this case? Well, it was not at the time; but I have seen the property.
391. What would you say was the value of Mrs. Rodger's land under present conditions? About £6 per foot.

J. C.
Hamilton,
30 Nov., 1898.

392. If the proposed deviation is made, do you think it will have any effect upon the value of her property? Yes, I do.
393. In what way? I think it will reduce it from a business, and a possible improving business site, to an ordinary residence site.
394. I believe Mrs. Rodger's land is a little higher than the level of the road? Yes.
395. What would you reckon to be the depreciation in value of Mrs. Rodger's land if the deviation is carried out? About £99.
396. How do you arrive at that? I consider its present value is £6 per foot, and after the deviation its value would be only about £3 per foot. As it has a frontage of 33 feet, that would represent a total depreciation in value of £99.
397. You are acquainted with Thames-street? Yes.
398. Is that an unusually steep street for an approach to the wharf? It is a steep approach; but there are other approaches which I think are quite as steep—exits from the city.
399. Would you give examples? Considering the length of the approach to the railway station at Redfern, I do not think this is any more severe. I mean to walk the distance. It would be as much fatiguing to take the George-street route to the railway station, going up the hill, as it would be to take this route by Thames-street to the proposed wharf at the ferry.
400. And comparing it with Erskine-street? I think Erskine-street, as an approach to the city, would be more severe, although not so long as the approach to the railway station.
401. I believe you have not a large acquaintance yourself with the traffic which goes across this way? I do not know the amount of traffic which would take place, but viewing the matter as a valuer going to value property, and in that way having some idea of the amount of settlement round there, I should say it was thickly populated.
402. To the south-east of Thames-street is there a good population? Yes, there is a fair population there.
403. If the alterations were made it would be closer for those people to go down Thames-street to the wharf, or to go up Thames-street from the wharf, than to go *via* Mort-street? Yes, I think so. And it would be a better approach for the people generally than to go round by the dock works, which would be somewhat of a back way to the wharf. People usually take the most agreeable approach.
404. At present there is only one approach to and from the wharf? Yes.
405. And that is *via* Mort-street? Quite so.
406. And all persons who go by that ferry, must now go past Mrs. Rodger's property? Yes.
407. *Mr. Rich.*] How long ago is it since you saw this land? It was in September last.
408. Were you then in partnership with Mr. Garrard? No.
409. How long ago is it since you were in partnership with Mr. Garrard? Four years ago.
410. When you looked at the land did you look at the frontage and depth of Mrs. Rodger's property? I did.
411. What is the frontage? Thirty-three feet.
412. And the depth? 107 feet.
413. Was the land divided off in any way? Yes, a portion of it was built upon—at the Trouton-street corner and the right-of-way.
414. The portion facing Trouton-street and the lane was built on? Yes.
415. What was erected there? Two cottages.
416. What sort of cottages? Brick cottages. I did not value the cottages, and I did not go into them.
417. With regard to the back portion facing Mort-street, is that fenced off in any way? It is newly fenced.
418. It was newly fenced when you were there, you mean? Yes.
419. And that is not built on in any way? No.
420. What area, then, would there be available for building on? There would be a frontage of 33 feet to Mort-street.
421. And what depth? I think about 60 feet.
422. Have you any land for sale in Balmain? We have, in different parts.
423. In Mort-street? No, not in Mort-street.
424. Anywhere near that locality? No, not immediately in this vicinity.
425. Are there any shops or houses in Mort-street? There is a small shop at the ferry.
426. What sort of a shop? A small fruit shop; and beyond that there is a hotel.
427. The hotel is up at the junction of Trouton and Mort Streets? Yes.
428. There are two there, are there not? Yes.
429. But the only shop there is a little fruit shop? Yes.
430. *Chairman.*] You said that the deviation would convert Mrs. Rodger's property from a business site into a residential site? Yes.
431. Would you mind stating your reasons for thinking so? Simply because the traffic would be diverted up Thames-street.
432. I suppose you are aware that Mort-street is to be continued by the proposed deviation, as shown on the plan coloured pink? I do not say for a moment that Mort-street will not be used; but at the same time the greater portion of the traffic will be taken up Thames-street. The Mort-street route will go by the dock works, and people would naturally take the better road.
433. Then you consider that Thames-street, which you said was a steep street, is a better one than Mort-street, with an easy grade? I think, on the whole, the people would find Thames-street the most convenient thoroughfare, and the surroundings are better.
434. Does the bulk of the traffic lie to the east or the west of the ferry? I have seen the traffic going from the ferry, but I have not followed it up to see in what direction it went. What I wish to convey is that when the proposed alterations are made the traffic in Mort-street will not be anything like so great as it is at present, because Thames-street will then be a direct route right down to the wharf, and people will naturally go by the more direct route. There is no reason why they should turn off and go along Mort-street.
435. You think they will take the more direct route, and you consider Thames-street the more direct route? I think so.
436. *Mr. Law.*] You said that the value of Mrs. Rodger's land would be reduced by the deviation to the extent of 50 per cent. or from £6 to £3? I think so.

J. C.
Hamilton.
30 Nov., 1898.

437. There are a number of streets leading up from the various ferries in Balmain? Yes.
438. Can you give a parallel case where in any street in Balmain, 66 feet wide, property within two minutes from the ferry would be reduced in value by 50 per cent.? It is the deviation that will cause the alteration in value. The frontages in Thames-street would be correspondingly improved.
439. Can you get land anywhere in Balmain for £3 per foot in a 66 feet street, within two minutes of the ferry? When these improvements to Thames-street are completed it will be found that the depreciation which will have taken place in Mort-street will be more than put on to the properties in Thames-street within the same distance. The frontages in Thames-street along the portion coloured yellow on the plan at the corner of Trouton-street ought to be improved in a degree corresponding with the depreciation in Mort-street.
440. *Mr. Rigg.*] Have you made any sales in this particular locality? No, not lately; it has been very hard to make any sales at all.
441. Have you made any at any time? This land was originally sold by Mr. Garrard before I joined him.
442. Have you made any sales in this locality during your sixteen years' experience? Yes, we have had several sales.
443. Where has been the nearest sale to this particular property? I could not say without looking the matter up.
444. Then, in valuing this land at £6 a foot, on what do you base your valuation—sales made by other auctioneers in Balmain? I base the valuation on my experience generally as a valuer of real estate.
445. And you consider this property would be depreciated by the deviation of Mort-street to the extent of 50 per cent.? I think so.
446. What traffic is there at the present time to the foot of Mort-street from the south-east portion of this locality, which under the new scheme will be tapped by Thames-street;—is the traffic large from that particular part—I mean south-east from Mort-street wharf;—is there a large traffic from there, or are the people supplied by the Stevens-street ferry? I think most of the traffic comes right down Mort-street.
447. I am speaking of the south-east portion; at the present time people going from there to Mort-street have to go along Trouton-street and then into Mort-street? Yes; that is, the people within a certain area—between (say) Darling-street and Trouton-street. They might have to go that way. The others higher up would go along Darling-street down Mort-street.
448. The opening of Thames-street would give a more direct course for them to the Thames-street wharf? Yes.
449. Would the construction of the proposed new wharf at Thames-street bring any additional traffic to that ferry from the Stephens-street ferry—that is from the south-east portion? I do not know that it would.
450. The whole of the traffic from the wharf towards Cameron-street would still continue to go along Mort-street, would it not? Not necessarily.
451. Is it your opinion that it would go along Thames-street? I think that the immediate surroundings of the Mort-street approach to the ferry might, in some measure, interfere with that, being the regular route.
452. Would not the route indicated by the red line on the map be the nearest and most direct course? It would not be nearer than along Trouton-street.
453. *Chairman.*] If the traffic went along Trouton-street it would pass Mrs. Rodger's property? Yes.
454. Looking at the plan you will see that Trouton-street and Thames-street are at right angles, while Mort-street takes a curved line; do you not think the distance is shorter along that curved line than along Trouton-street and Thames-street? Yes; but it is very questionable whether people would prefer the Mort-street route. What they look at in most of these cases is the exertion necessary in travelling from one point to another.
455. But it is shorter along the curved route? It is by this plan.
456. With regard to the question of grade,—is not the grade by this curved line far easier to travel than the grade up Thames-street? I think if you took the whole grade you would find there was not such a great difference.
457. Do you know what the grade in Thames-street is? No, I do not.
458. Looking at it as a casual observer is it not very steep? It is steep.
459. And along the deviation marked pink is not the land very flat? Yes; I do not know whether you understand what I mean. If you are travelling a longer distance with a less grade, it will cost the same amount of exertion or fatigue to anyone who is regularly walking to and fro in that distance as it will for a shorter distance with a steeper grade.
460. Starting from the steamer and going up Thames-street, and then along Trouton-street to the corner of Mort-street, would not far greater exertion be required, going that way, than going along the curved line by the proposed deviation from the wharf to the same point in Mort-street? Of course you rise to the same level when you once go Cameron-street. Taking that as an illustration, the exertion required to go along Mort-street, including the deviation, might not certainly be as great as that required to go from Thames-street straight up to Cameron-street. Of course you could not well include that portion of Cameron-street.
461. For this purpose we do not want to go further than the corner of Mort-street and Trouton-street;—is it easier to go to that point by the curved line along Mort-street, than to go by Thames-street, and along Trouton-street to the same point? I do not think there would be very much difference in the distance to the junction of Mort and Trouton streets, between the route *via* Thames-street and that along the proposed deviation and up Mort-street. At the same time the former would probably be the more agreeable outlet.
462. Do you not think that for business purposes the bulk of the passenger traffic would still continue along Mort-street? I do not think so. People, as a rule, do not like regular traffic past works; if they can get a more agreeable route they will take it.
463. Are the works in this immediate neighbourhood;—is it reasonable to suppose that they would face Mort-street? A high fence runs right up to Mort-street now, and I see by this plan that the joiners' department comes right on to it.
464. *Mr. Rich.*] You see where the joiners' department is on the plan? Yes. 465.

465. The offices are next door? Yes; but the company would not allow the vacant piece of land there to lie idle. They would be sure to utilise a valuable water-frontage like that, and put something on it which would probably not be so agreeable.
466. With regard to the traffic, do you think the vehicular traffic would go up Thames-street? Of course there would not be a very great amount.
467. Suppose there is a vehicular traffic, which way would it go—up Thames-street or up Mort-street? I think it would depend to some extent, upon what part of Balmain it was going to. Unless in the case of any special traffic I think it would probably go the way that was handiest to them, because the grades are somewhat the same.
468. Do you know, as a matter of fact, that at present they do not go down Thames-street, they stop at the corner? Because they cannot go further. When I was there they could not go right down to where this street is proposed to be made.
469. They could not go right down to the foot of Thames-street? No.
470. Why not? Because the approach is not as good as that down to Mort-street; but that would be made good, I presume.
471. You are assuming that Thames-street would be made good? Yes.
472. With regard to the grade in Thames-street? If you take the short piece in Thames-street from Trouton-street to the junction with the proposed deviation and take the deviation into Mort-street there would not be much difference.
473. But you do not know as a matter of fact? No; only from having walked over it.
474. You do not know accurately? No.
475. *Mr. Kelynaek.*] As a matter of fact, what vehicular traffic goes down to the foot of Mort-street or Thames-street? Not much.
476. I suppose an odd cab or two? I do not think there is much reason for vehicles to go down there.

J. C.
Hamilton.
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John Yelverton Mills called in, sworn, and examined:—

477. *Mr. Kelynaek.*] You are a land and estate agent and valuer? Yes.
478. How many years experience have you had? Nearly thirty years.
479. You are the Mr. Mills who was a member of the firm of Mills and Pile, at one time? Yes.
480. You are acquainted, I suppose, with land values in Balmain? Generally, yes.
481. Looking at the plan before you you see a block of land marked yellow belonging to Mrs. Rodger? Yes.
482. I believe you have seen that land and valued it? Yes.
483. You will see a green patch on the plan marked "B," near the water, which represents the position of the present ferry? Yes.
484. And you know that it is proposed to close that ferry and make a deviation along the line marked pink to the foot of Thames-street? Yes.
485. Taking things as they are, with the wharf in its present position, what would you say was the value of Mrs. Rodger's property? I looked at the portion affected by the deviation of the street.
486. What part did you look at? I looked at the northern end fronting Mort-street.
487. With the wharf in its present position—what would you reckon would be the value of that? About £200 for the land.
488. If a deviation were made as shown on the plan, would it, in your opinion, depreciate the value of Mrs. Rodger's property? I think it would.
489. To what extent? I think about £100.
490. Would you explain your grounds for believing it would be thus depreciated in value? As a business site it would be reduced in value 50 per cent. by the deviation.
491. You consider, then, that it will cease to be a business site if the deviation is made? It will not be so good a one.
492. In your experience of traffic passing from a terminus, does it go, as a rule, by the more direct route, even though that might not be of so low a grade as another route? The whole tendency is to save time. People do not care so much about spending a little energy; if by a little more energy they can save time, they will go that way.
493. Are you of opinion then that the deviation will cause the traffic which now goes up Mort-street to go up Thames-street? Yes, a great portion of it. Of course, as regards all the traffic tending south-easterly, I do not think the people would go round Trouton-street.
494. All south and south-east of Thames-street? Yes.
495. All that traffic will then cease to go past Mrs. Rodger's land? Yes.
496. At present all that traffic must go past Mrs. Rodger's land either by the lane and the right-of-way over the Dock property—which may be closed at any time—or it must go round into Mort-street, and then pass the other frontage of Mrs. Rodger's property? Yes.
497. The traffic is compelled to go into Mort-street one way or the other? Yes.
498. *Mr. Rich.*] How long ago did you value this land? I have not the exact date in my memory, but I think some time within the last twelve months.
499. Did you see what was built on Mrs. Rodger's land facing Trouton-street;—was it built on at all? I think there was a cottage there.
500. One cottage? I think so.
501. The portion you valued was the frontage facing Mort-street? Yes.
502. What was the frontage and the depth? The depth was sufficient to allow of a building on the Mort-street frontage. I think it was 50 or 60 feet.
503. *Mr. Kelynaek.*] Could you refresh your memory if you referred to your valuation? Yes.
504. Is that the valuation you made on the 8th October, 1897 [*Document produced*]? Yes; it is as follows:—

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I have inspected the property of Mrs. Rodger, at Mort and Trouton Streets, Balmain, with a view to estimating the damage (if any) she will sustain by reason of the removal of the Ferry Wharf from its present position to the foot of Thames-street, for the benefit of Mort's Dock Company. I understand Mrs. Rodger bought her land, having 33 feet frontage to Mort-street, and 22 feet 6 inches to Trouton-street, and 25 feet to a side lane, from the Mort's Dock Company, because of its

J. Y. Mills. its position as a good prospective business site in regard to the Dock and Ferry Wharf. The proposal now is made by her original vendors, for their own benefit, to close the Ferry Wharf, and remove it to the foot of Thames-street, and make a cross street connecting Mort-street with Thames-street. This arrangement will shift the public traffic from its present only outlet along Mort-street, past Mrs. Rodger's property, to a position where quite half the traffic will go another way. In view of this I think Mrs. Rodger's property will be depreciated in value £100 (one hundred pounds).

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505. *Mr. Rich.*] Do you know, of your own knowledge, that the people living south-east of Thames-street use the Mort's Dock Ferry. I do not know from personal knowledge. I should only presume that those living near enough to it would do so. Balmain is surrounded with ferries.
506. Do you know a ferry called Stephen-street Ferry? Yes; I know there is a ferry called Stephen-street.
507. Have you any land for sale along Mort-street? No.
508. Have you effected any sales there recently? No.
509. Have you done so during the last ten years? That I could not say.
510. Do you know, of your own personal knowledge, what traffic goes along Mort-street—either passenger traffic or vehicular traffic—and the same along Thames-street? I could not say.
511. Did you look at Mort-street to see whether there were any other business places there—take the distance from the junction of Trouton-street and Mort-street, to the present wharf;—do you remember seeing any business houses? I do not remember.
512. Do you remember seeing where the hotels were, or if there were any? I did not see any hotels there.
513. Do you know anything at all about the difference between the gradients in Thames-street and along the proposed deviation;—did you notice which was the steeper? I think Thames-street is the steeper.
514. I understood you to say you are not acquainted with either the vehicular traffic or passenger traffic that goes along Mort-street or Thames-street? I never had an opportunity of standing there and watching it.
515. Do you know anything about the traffic? I only know in a general way that there is a good deal of traffic there.
516. How do you know that? I have been backward and forwards very frequently.
517. To Balmain? Yes.
518. You do not live at Balmain? I do not; but my business takes me everywhere.
519. But you have no accurate knowledge of the present traffic? I could not give you any statistical information.
520. What was the knowledge on which you based your report—you say:—
- This arrangement will shift the public traffic from its present only outlet along Mort-street past Mrs. Rodger's property to a position where quite half the traffic will go another way.
- There you have given some sort of statistics—you say half the traffic by this proposed deviation will go up Thames-street and be diverted from Mrs. Rodger's property? Yes, I believe that.
521. But you know nothing accurately about the place? I do not.
522. *Mr. Nicholson.*] I understand you to say you do not quite know the volume of traffic that will be diverted by the change of route? I can only form an idea in a general way.
523. I want to know by what method you arrived at the conclusion that the property would be depreciated in value by £100? If you give the public two outlets instead of one you will certainly take a lot of the traffic away.
524. And you fix the depreciation at 50 per cent.? Yes.
525. *Mr. Law.*] You will notice that Mort-street is 66 feet wide—you say that the 33 feet of frontage to Mort-street alone is worth £200 or a fraction over £6 per foot? Yes.
526. At what do you estimate the whole of the land? I did not go into that calculation. I merely went there to see what damage would be done to the part that could be built on facing Mort-street.
527. Do you not think that £3 a foot is an inordinately low value for property within two minutes of the ferry, in a street 66 feet wide? Balmain is blessed with very few wide streets, and where they exist land is more valuable.
528. Even after the proposed alterations the property will still be close to the ferry, and in a 66-foot street. The deviation will not alter the width of the street? No, it will not alter the width of the street.
529. Do you not think that £3 a foot is an inordinately low figure? I think Mrs. Rodger's property occupies a site that would do for a place where people could get their lunch, or have a cup of coffee or anything of that sort. It is not exactly a question of the width of the street, it is a question of taking the traffic away.
530. But down at the ferry there is a place where people can get coffee, and lollies, and cakes? Yes.
531. I want to know the method by which you arrive at the extraordinary reduction of 50 per cent;—do you say that land two minutes from the ferry in a 66-foot street will not be worth more than £3 a foot? Yes; I say that as a business site it will be reduced in value by one-half in consequence of the deviation.
532. You did not estimate the value of Mrs. Rodger's land as a whole? No, I did not go into that calculation.
533. Would you be surprised to hear that the whole of the land comes under the land tax exemption of £240, though you value only the portion fronting Mort-street at £200? I would not be surprised at anything in connection with the land tax.
534. *Chairman.*] Do I understand, that in dealing with this property of Mrs. Rodger's you have divided it and dealt only with the Mort-street frontage? Yes.
535. And you say that the diversion of the traffic by the proposed new road would cause a loss in the value of the property of something like £100? Yes, that is my estimate.
536. At the present time there are two outlets, one by Mort-street past the Mort-street frontage of Mrs. Rodger's property, and the other by a bye-lane past Mrs. Rodger's Trouton-street property? I did not reckon there was any right-of-way, because I did not take it that sufferance was a right.
537. But that is the only other way of exit from the wharf besides Mort-street? But the lane only goes half way.
538. But that is the only way they have to get out? I did not consider there was any right in a sufferance, and therefore I considered there was only one way out. I did not take it that a sufferance was a right. The right-of-way might be closed at any time.
539. After the proposed alteration, it is only natural that the population living in the south-east portion will come up Thames-street? Yes.

540. Then it is a matter of calculation whether the traffic that way is half the present traffic coming up Mort-street? I think at the time I looked generally at the plan of Balmain and saw what was the density of the population, and I took it it was about equal. Everything goes now for a saving of time, and people would not go round by one route if they could go straight by another. J. Y. Mills.
30 Nov., 1898.

541. And you base your estimate of the depreciation upon a calculation that half the population will travel in that direction? Yes.

542. And you say the site of Mrs. Rodger's property is now reduced from a business site to a residential one? Yes; at present there is only one outlet, and the people are compelled to go that way.

George Bishton called in, sworn, and examined:—

543. *Mr. Kelynaek.*] What is your occupation? Just now I am bringing out a patent. G. Bishton,
30 Nov., 1898.

544. You are a resident of Balmain? Yes.

545. And have been for some time? About fifteen months.

546. You know the property shown on the plan? Yes.

547. And you see the proposed deviation of the road? Yes.

548. If the approach to the present wharf is closed, and a deviation is taken down to the foot of Thames-street, what, in your opinion, will be the effect on Mrs. Rodger's property? A depreciation in value.

549. You are not a land valuer? No.

550. You do not pretend to give figures? No; I know nothing at all about Balmain as to the value of property.

551. Upon what ground do you base your opinion as to depreciation in value? Having a piece of land with a frontage on a main street, the whole of the traffic passing the door, if a deviation is made which turns the traffic at least 300 or 400 feet away, and gives access to the ferry by another street, the effect must be to depreciate the value of that property. At present there is only one access to the ferry—down Mort-street, past Mrs. Rodger's land.

552. *Mr. Law.*] Do you think there is a remote possibility of anybody getting a living off that land at the present time, as a business site? I do not know anything about the traffic there now. If I were purchasing that piece of land at the present time I should purchase it as a business site, with the traffic in front. If I were in a new country, looking upon that land as a business site, I should say that if the traffic were divided by a deviation of the road it would be no use for business purposes. That is the way I look upon it, because I know nothing about the traffic.

553. *Mr. Rigg.*] I presume you have seen this property? Yes.

554. Do you know this particular part from which it is proposed to form Thames-street? No, I do not.

555. Do you know Thames-street? No, I do not.

556. Do you know Mort-street? I only know Mort-street.

557. What kind of a grade is there there;—is there an easy access from the ferry right along? It is not at all a heavy grade.

558. An easy ascent? Yes.

559. What kind of a grade is there in Thames-street? I can only say from memory. I should think it was a steeper grade.

560. Do you think it would be suitable for vehicular traffic? I cannot say; I have not been along it to inspect it.

561. You have no knowledge as to the traffic coming down to this particular place? No.

562. Is there much vehicular traffic down to the wharf from Balmain? I could not say; I know nothing about it as far as that is concerned.

563. Do you live in this locality? No; I live in Beattie-street.

564. You very seldom travel down Mort-street? Very seldom. I only looked at the property as a stranger, and as to whether I should purchase it as a business site.

565. And you have not calculated whether the traffic would be diverted, and would go up Thames-street? I only know that if you close a street, and divert the traffic, you must deteriorate the value of the particular piece of land, because you shift the traffic away further.

566. The street is not closed? No; but the traffic is diverted 300 or 400 feet away.

567. You have no knowledge of the habits of the travelling public there? No.

Samuel Patrick Boyd called in, sworn, and examined:—

568. *Mr. Kelynaek.*] You are a plasterer by occupation, and you reside at Balmain? Yes, in College-street. S. P. Boyd.
30 Nov., 1898.

569. Looking at the plan, you see an allotment of land marked yellow, with the name of "Mrs. Rodger" upon it? Yes.

570. Do you know that piece of land? Yes.

571. Is there a good population to the south and south-east of Thames-street? There are lots of houses. I could not say exactly the population.

572. They are occupied? Yes. Going round that way, I generally see that they are let to people.

573. Then there will be a fair amount of traffic by the Mort's Dock Ferry, of persons who come from the south and south-east of Thames-street? Yes; I have noticed that myself.

574. At present, anybody wanting to approach this ferry from the south or south-east of Thames-street must go past Mrs. Rodger's property, either round Mort-street, or round the lane opening from Trouton-street? Yes.

575. If the proposed deviation were made, I suppose people would go direct down Thames-street, as it would be much nearer? Certainly; people would not go round by Mort-street if the ferry were shifted to Thames-street.

576. *Chairman.*] Are you well acquainted with the traffic landing at the present time at Mort-street? Yes.

577. You are an old Balmain resident? Yes.

578. In which direction does the bulk of the traffic now go? I could not say. A lot of the traffic goes up the lane, and down Trouton-street. I have not taken much notice.

S. P. Boyd. 579. Would the bulk of the traffic go by the lane or along Mort-street? I could not say.

580. Does the ferry serve the people more on the east side or the west side? It would be hard for me to say.

581. Are you aware whether a number of people on the east side travel by the Stephen-street Ferry? I could not say exactly how many; there may be a few. I know there are a lot who travel this way, because I have noticed them going round.

582. You could not give any statement as to the direction in which the bulk of the traffic goes? I could not say exactly. I know lots of people who come this way.

583. And if that were closed they could come up Thames-street? Yes.

584. But that would not interfere with the present traffic that comes down Mort-street? It would interfere with people coming from this direction.

585. Under the new conditions the travelling public would come down Thames-street, and Mrs. Rodger would lose the advantage of those people passing her property? Yes.

586. But you do not think it would affect the Mort-street traffic? I could not say. A lot of people might come this way, and a lot might come that way.

587. You recognise that a certain number of the travelling public would not pass this property, but would go up Thames-street? Yes. They would not come from the steamers, and then go up Mort-street, and down the lane.

Flora Rodger called in, sworn, and examined:—

F. Rodger. 588. *Mr. Kelynaek.*] You are the wife of James Rodger, of No. 72, Mort-street, Balmain, an engineer? Yes.

30 Nov., 1898. 589. You are owner in fee-simple of the land marked yellow on the plan, with your name on it? Yes.

590. When did you purchase that land? Fourteen or fifteen years ago.

591. From whom? From the Dock Company.

592. Will you inform the Committee of the circumstances under which you purchased that land? I had a piece of ground at the corner of College and Darling Streets, and I sold it for £700. The Dock Company had some property to sell, and Mr. Garrard sent me a plan, and I went over to the sale in Snail's Bay. Mr. Franki, manager of the Dock Company, said to me, "Mrs. Rodger, aren't you going to buy some here." I said, "No; there might be something down in Mort-street," and he said, "You buy No. 3 block; it will be a splendid site for a coffee palace, as the ships clear the galleys when they come into dock." Then Mr. Dingwall bought his first, and gave £8 10s. a foot for it. My husband was not willing for me to have any transactions with the Dock Company, because, he said, "If you do I will not work there." But Mr. Franki said he was very foolish; that it was such a good business place, and we would make more profit out of it than we did out of the other. My husband and Mr. Aikenhead, one of the shareholders in the Dock Company, I believe, were standing by, and Mr. Franki held this plan by one corner and I had the other, and he said, "Do not let it go, for it is a good business block." I bought the land for £9 5s. per foot.

593. Did Mr. Franki make any statement to you after you purchased it? He wanted me to buy the whole of these allotments in the angle piece. He proposed that if I bought them he would arrange with the directors to give me the title of one to enable me to build on it; but Mr. McDonald, the architect, told me not to buy them, because they were not profitable.

594. What is the depth of your land? 117 feet, and it has a frontage of 33 feet to Mort-street.

595. And you have, I believe, a couple of cottages at the Trouton-street frontage? Yes.

596. At present there is a lane by the side of your house and Mr. Dingwall's, and people come through the Dock property down to the present wharf? Yes; that lane was given for Mr. Dingwall's use and mine.

597. After you get to the end of the lane you come on the Dock property? The ground at that time belonged to the Ferry Company, but for the convenience of Mr. Franki and other gentlemen living handy, an arrangement was made with the Council to have a little lane down to the wharf.

598. If the deviation is made as proposed, and the present wharf at Mort-street is removed and taken to the end of Thames-street, do you believe the traffic will be diverted from Mort-street to Thames-street? Certainly; I believe the effect will be to improve Thames-street, and take the value off my property.

599. How long have you been living there? Twenty-seven years.

600. You know the traffic which comes across to the wharf? Yes.

601. Do many people come to the ferry from the south and south-east of Thames-street? Yes, a great many.

602. Do you live on the property? We have lived for twenty years in No. 27 Mort-street, further up.

603. You are constantly travelling to and fro? Continually.

604. I suppose you see people whether they come down Mort-street or whether they come from the direction of Thames-street? Most of the traffic comes down past our place.

605. Where you are residing in Mort-street? Yes.

606. Do you see people coming from the direction of Thames-street towards the ferry? They take the lane.

607. Are there a number of people who come that way? A great many. The better class of people live on that side.

608. If the ferry is brought to Thames-street from Mort-street these people will come up Thames-street instead of coming up Mort-street? I do not know that they will all come up Thames-street. I think some will come down Clayton-street.

609. And then come into Thames-street? Yes.

610. You had a conversation with Mr. Dingwall about this case? Yes.

611. And, about whether he would give evidence for you? He told me it would improve his place. He said the deviation from Mort-street would make his frontage.

612. That the deviation would come along the side of his land? Mr. Dingwall said it would depreciate the value of my property. In a conversation I had with Mr. Dingwall on Saturday, I said, "Mr. Dingwall, I might ask you to give evidence." He said, "Do not ask me, Mrs. Rodger, because the Dock and I are very friendly, and I do work for them occasionally"—which I know for a fact he does. I have known it on several occasions.

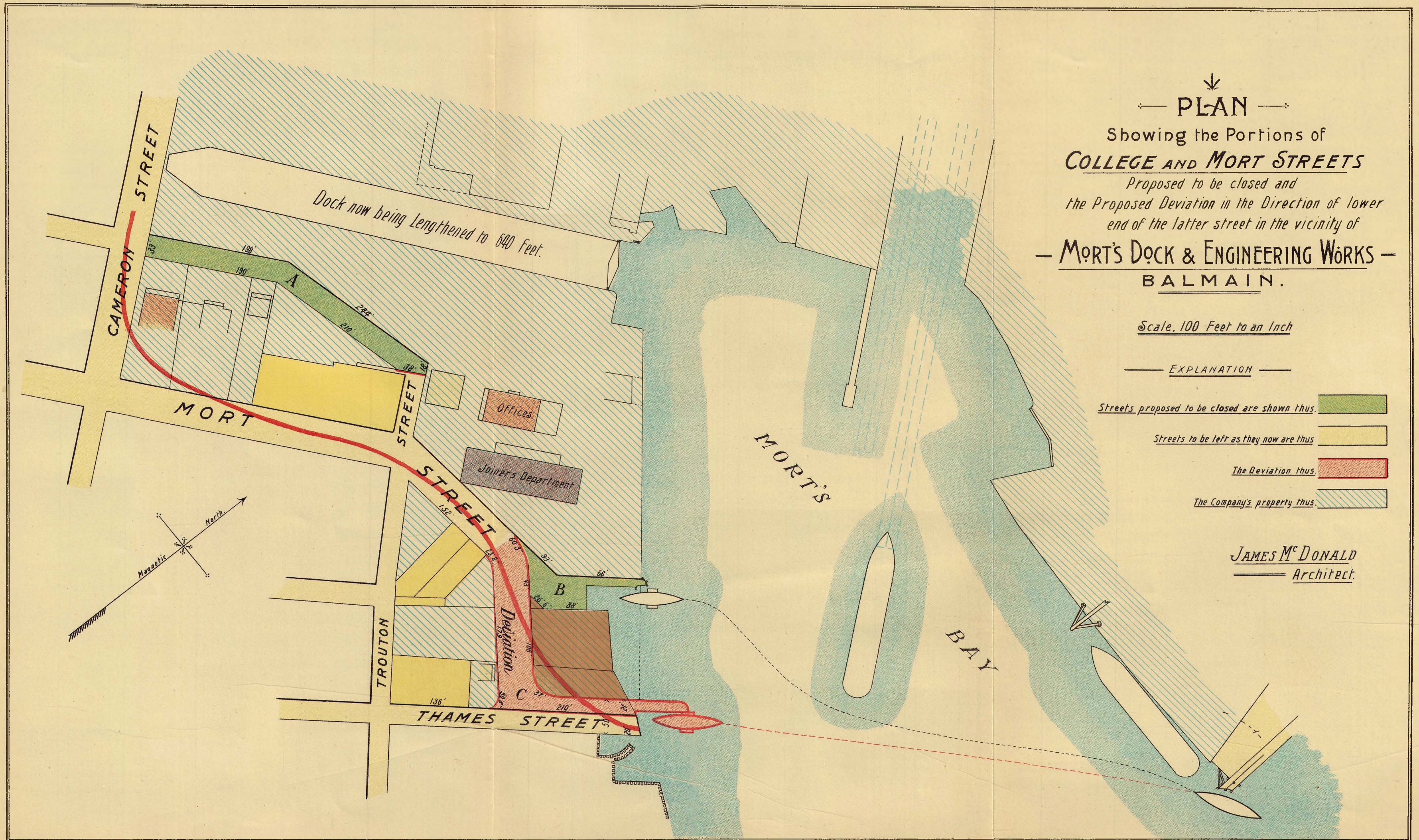
F. Rodger,
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613. There was another man you asked to come as a witness—a man named Chester? Yes.
614. He is engaged in the dock? Mr. Chester is working in the Dock. It is a very hard thing to get people to come and give evidence when they have work in the Dock. All the people in the street who work for the Dock are in favour of the street being kept open; but they dare not say so.
615. You have had a difficulty anyhow in getting witnesses, and one particular man who promised to come has since got work in the Dock, and he cannot come or does not care to come? Yes; that is Mr. Chester.
616. *Mr. Rich.*] I believe you have had this land for fourteen or fifteen years? Yes.
617. During that time what have you built on it; did you build those two cottages facing Trouton-street? Yes; I built those six months after I got the land.
618. Have you built anything on the land facing Mort-street during the whole of these fifteen years? No I could not, because I could not get the title.
619. Did you get the title to the piece facing Trouton-street? No; I built two cottages without a title—seven years before I got the title, and then they tried to keep it from me.
620. When did you get the title? Five or six years ago.
621. Since then you have built nothing on the land at all? No.
622. Never tried to build anything on it, I suppose? Oh, yes; I got it valued, and I got the money from Mr. Thomas Leader—£500—to build; and Mr. Franki told me he could not give me the title; that by the conditions of sale I could not get it until the expiration of seven years—that Sir Joseph Abbott had lent £100,000 on the property, and they could not give me a title.
623. One of the conditions of sale was that you were to pay by instalments? Yes.
624. And you got the title when you paid the instalments? I had a great deal of trouble to get the title.
625. One of the conditions of sale was that the purchase-money was payable by instalments; is that so? Yes.
626. When you completed the whole of these instalments did you get your title? No, not for about a month after.
627. So that, as soon as you paid your purchase-money, or about a month afterwards, you got your title, and from that day to this you built nothing on the piece of land facing Mort-street—either cottage or business premises? No.
628. *Mr. Kelynack.*] Will you give your reasons why you have not built? Because the Dock Company were applying for the last three years to get permission to close this street. I built the cottages with the balance of money from the property I sold in Darling-street; and I could not build unless I got the title. There were some shareholders who would not sign the deed of sale. I do not know why, but Mr. Dowling had a great deal of trouble; and then I asked Mr. Curtis about it, and he said there was a dispute about some of the shareholders not signing. For the last three years they have been talking about closing the street.
629. So that you have not known what to do? They have been making application to the Council for the last three years to close the street.
630. *Chairman.*] Have you made any request for compensation for damages to Mr. Franki or Mr. Curtis? No; I have written to them, and I have copies of all the letters. I said that in the event of their closing Mort-street it would depreciate the value of my property, and I would sue for compensation.
631. You made an application to the Municipal Council to protect you? Three times.
632. Did they give you any reply? No, they wrote to the Dock Company.
633. Did they give you any reply? No.
634. Neither written nor verbal? No; they made an acknowledgment of my letter.
635. But they passed no opinion? The Council thought I would suffer an injury, and that there would be trouble about it.
636. You heard Mr. Murdoch's evidence in regard to that matter when I asked him the question? Mr. Murdoch was not willing for the deviation of the street in the first instance. It was decided by a majority of the aldermen.
637. You heard Mr. Murdoch say the decision was unanimous? No; I did not quite hear what he said. Mr. Murdoch told me he thought it would depreciate the value, but he was not going to come here to give evidence.
638. Still, he made the statement privately that it would depreciate your property? He did not tell me privately; it was in Council business. I asked him why they were going to give away the rights in the street when my property was there.
639. Have you any recollection of paying me a visit on this matter? Yes.
640. Do you remember what I told you? Yes, I remember what you said.
641. Was this the substance of what I told you—that I would pass no opinion about the matter, as I was likely to be Chairman of the Committee, but that I would hear the evidence, and if you could prove your case I would fight for the substantiation of your claim and your obtaining damages? Well, a gentleman sent me to you; I do not think you were very well pleased at my calling on you. I had to go outside of Balmain to introduce my petition.
642. You heard Mr. Dingwall give evidence here the other day? I did.
643. When he denied the statement you made just now? Yes; but people deny statements, and tell falsehoods. Mr. Franki said here that he told me I tried to blackmail him. He never said such a thing.
644. *Mr. Rich.*] You are the owner of other property in Balmain? Yes.
645. You live in your own house? My husband has property in Mort-street.
646. *Mr. Nicholson.*] Did I understand you to say you borrowed money for the express purpose of building on the Mort-street site of your property? Yes, before I got the title. What money I had, £700, was sunk in this allotment of land. Mr. Arthur Dowling was very angry with me for doing it without consulting him, as he knew the debentures on the Dock property were for seven years. He said, "You have done a very foolish thing. You have laid out £600, and you have no security."
647. You were prevented from building owing to the action of the Mort's Dock and Engineering Company? Yes.
648. Have you ever been in business? No, but my husband goes to sea, and I have had to do all the business in the house, acting as his agent.

- F. Rodger.
30 Nov., 1898.
649. You are satisfied in your own mind that the deviation and the formation of a new street will depreciate the value of your property? I am quite sure of it. I appealed to the House to preserve my rights, and it is a proof that there is depreciation when my petition was granted.
650. *Mr. Rigg.*] Did you apply for your deed before you borrowed this £500? Mr. Franki told me he would give me the deeds if I bought the three.
651. You made no formal application? Mr. Dowling did.
652. Did Mr. Dowling make application for the deed? Yes.
653. Was he refused? Yes.
654. For what reason? They did not answer the letter to Mr. Dowling. Mr. Dowling said I had better go away and see if Mr. Franki could fulfil his promise. This was after Mr. Franki came out from England, and he said, "You built while I was in England." He said he could not do it. I said, "You know you promised," and he said, "We cannot do it; Mr. Dowling knows there are debentures over the property."
655. Is it not a fact that you bought under certain terms and conditions? Yes.
656. Certain instalments had to be paid within a given time? Yes.
657. Was the time up when you borrowed this £500? No; it was only a promise Mr. Franki had given me.
658. Does the bulk of the traffic at present go along Mort-street? Yes.
659. How many persons go along Trouton-street at the present time, as compared with the number of persons who go along Mort-street? I really could not say; but I know there are a great number. The better class of people live on that side.
660. In your opinion, do as many people go along Trouton-street at present as along Mort-street? No; that is only a little narrow lane.
661. Would there be half the number? I suppose there might be half the number. The greater portion of the public go up towards Curtis-road and Short-street.
662. Would that be up towards Cameron-street? It is higher up, just a little above the Dock.
663. *Chairman.*] You said just now you had to go outside Balmain to lodge your petition;—did you make any request to me to lodge the petition? No, I did not; but I was told you would not do it.
664. You were only told; you were not told by me? No.
665. You visited Mr. Brunker about this matter? I wrote to Mr. Brunker, and I wrote to the Colonial Treasurer too.
666. Are you aware that, in regard to this very petition, it was I who moved, as Member for the district, that you be heard? No.
667. *Mr. Rich.*] Did you actually borrow that money to build, or did a friend offer to lend it to you? It was all arranged.
668. But you had not actually borrowed the £500? I had borrowed the money.
669. Had you the money in the Bank then? Waiting for the deeds. Mr. Dowling was doing the business.
670. Money had not passed; there was no mortgage; merely someone had expressed their willingness to lend you the money? Yes, to build a coffee palace.
671. You knew the conditions of sale when you bought the land? Yes.
672. Was not one of the conditions of sale that the deed would pass to you as soon as you paid the purchase-money? No; there was trouble about that.
673. Was not one of the conditions of sale that the purchase-money should be payable in instalments? Yes.
674. And those instalments extended over some years? Seven years.
675. *Mr. Kelynack.*] Was this arrangement about borrowing the money before the agitation for the closing of the road? Yes, some four or five years ago.
676. That would be before the Mort's Dock people moved to have this deviation made? This present deviation—yes.
677. *Mr. Nicholson.*] What damage do you estimate you will suffer from the change of thoroughfare? I could not really tell you.
678. You have not arrived at any definite conclusion? No; all I know is that it will take the traffic quite another way; it will go along Thames-street.
679. *Mr. Rich.*] You did not name £1,000 to anybody as the amount you wanted? This property cost me £1,100.
680. Did you ask for £1,000 compensation? No, I never asked for any compensation. Mr. Arthur Dowling said to me —
681. He was your solicitor? He was until I found he was related to Mr. Mort, and I had to get someone else.
682. Did you name a sum which you thought was compensation you ought to receive? Not one farthing.
683. What sum do you think you are entitled to receive? I have no idea.

[One Plan.]

"A."
 (To Evidence of James Laidley Mort, Esq.)



— PLAN —
 Showing the Portions of
COLLEGE AND MORT STREETS
 Proposed to be closed and
 the Proposed Deviation in the Direction of lower
 end of the latter street in the vicinity of
— MORT'S DOCK & ENGINEERING WORKS —
BALMAIN.

Scale, 100 Feet to an Inch

— EXPLANATION —

- Streets proposed to be closed are shown thus.
- Streets to be left as they now are thus
- The Deviation thus.
- The Company's property thus.

JAMES M^c DONALD
 Architect.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

MORT'S DOCK AND ENGINEERING COMPANY (LIMITED) BILL.

(PETITION FROM FLORA RODGER, OF MORT-STREET, BALMAIN, AGAINST.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 18 October, 1898.

To the Honorable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of Flora Rodger, wife of James Rodger, of number seventy-two Mort-street, Balmain, near Sydney, in the Colony of New South Wales, engineer,—

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:—

1. That your Petitioner is the owner in fee-simple of a parcel of land situate at Balmain, near Sydney, in the Colony of New South Wales, which said land has a frontage of thirty-three feet to Mort-street in Balmain aforesaid, and is situated about fifty yards from the foot of Mort-street aforesaid, where the terminus wharf of the Balmain Steam Ferry Company, Limited (in liquidation), at Mort's Dock is situated.

2. That Mort-street aforesaid is the only street or thoroughfare in Balmain which leads to the said terminus wharf, and all passengers and traffic to and from the said terminus wharf pass the said land of your Petitioner, situate in Mort-street aforesaid.

3. That a Bill, intituled a Bill "to enable Mort's Dock and Engineering Company (Limited) to close portions of certain streets at Mort Bay, in the Borough of Balmain, being a portion of College-street and the north-east end of Mort-street, and to establish a new street in lieu thereof, and for other purposes in connection therewith," has been introduced into your Honorable House, which said Bill has been, or is about to be, read a first time, and has been, or is about to be, referred to a Select Committee of your Honorable House for consideration and report.

4. That the said Bill, if passed, would empower the Mort's Dock and Engineering Company (Limited) to close Mort-street aforesaid from a point between your Petitioner's land and the said terminus wharf to the said terminus wharf, and would empower the said company to prevent all persons whomsoever from using the said terminus wharf.

5. That the erection of a wharf and waiting-room at the foot of Thames-street in Balmain aforesaid in lieu of the wharf at Mort-street aforesaid, as provided by the said Bill, will cause almost all the traffic which now passes from the said terminus wharf at Mort-street aforesaid and past the said land of your Petitioner to be diverted and pass up Thames-street aforesaid and away from the said land of your Petitioner.

6. That the forming, making, and completion as a road or street of the piece or parcel of land described in Schedule A to the said Bill will not prevent the divergence of the traffic above-mentioned.

7. That by reason of the traffic which now passes from the said terminus wharf at Mort-street aforesaid, up Mort-street aforesaid, and past the said land of your Petitioner, the said land of your Petitioner has a value as a business site; and that if such traffic is diverted, as it will be if the said Bill is passed, the value of the said land of your Petitioner as a business site will be utterly destroyed and the value of the said land will be greatly depreciated.

8. That the said Bill makes no provision for compensating your Petitioner for the loss which she will incur if the said Bill is passed, and the powers and rights thereby conferred are exercised by the said Company; but that on the other hand the said Bill if passed would absolutely debar your Petitioner from obtaining compensation for any loss incurred by her in the event of the exercise of the said Company of the powers and rights thereby conferred on the said Company.

Your Petitioner therefore humbly prays,—

1. That your Honorable House will be pleased to reject the said Bill; or, in the alternative, that your Honorable House will amend the said Bill so as to provide for the compensation by the said Company of your Petitioner for any loss which may be incurred by your Petitioner in the event of the exercise by the said Company of the powers and rights conferred on the said Company by the said Bill.
2. That your Honorable House will not proceed with the said Bill until your Petitioner may be given leave to appear, and has appeared, by counsel or attorney before the Select Committee of your Honorable House appointed to consider and report upon the said Bill, for the purpose of tendering such evidence and calling such witnesses as may be desirable as your Petitioner may be advised.
3. That your Petitioner may have such further or other relief as the circumstances of the case may require, and as to your Honorable House may seem meet.

And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Dated the seventeenth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight.

FLORA RODGER.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

SPECIAL REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

ILLAWARRA HARBOUR AND LAND CORPORATION
ACT FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.

Printed under No. 15 Report from Printing Committee, 8 December, 1898.

SYDNEY: WILLIAM APPEGATE GULLICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1898.

1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

EXTRACTS FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VOTES No. 45. THURSDAY, 1 DECEMBER, 1898.

23. ILLAWARRA HARBOUR AND LAND CORPORATION ACT FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL:—The Order of the Day having been read,—Mr. Neild moved, That this Bill “be” now read a second time.
Debate ensued.
Mr. Ferguson moved, That the Question be amended by leaving out all the words after the word “be” and inserting the words “referred to a Select Committee for consideration and report.”
“(2.) That such Committee consist of Mr. Neild, Mr. Sleath, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Lyne, Mr. Wise, Mr. Haynes, Mr. Nicholson, Mr. Archibald Campbell, and the Mover.
“(3.) That such Committee have leave to sit during any adjournment of this House,”—instead thereof.
Question proposed,—That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question.
Debate continued.
Question,—That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question,—Put and negatived.
Question,—That the words proposed to be inserted in place of the words left out be so inserted,—put and passed.
Question then,—That this Bill be referred to a Select Committee for consideration and report.
(2.) That such committee consist of Mr. Neild, Mr. Sleath, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Lyne, Mr. Wise, Mr. Haynes, Mr. Nicholson, Mr. Archibald Campbell, and the Mover.
(3.) That such Committee have leave to sit during any adjournment of this House,—put and passed.

VOTES No. 46. TUESDAY, 6 DECEMBER, 1898.

11. ILLAWARRA HARBOUR AND LAND CORPORATION ACT FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL:—
(1.) Mr. Ferguson (*by consent*) moved, without Notice, That the Select Committee on this Bill have leave to bring up a Special Report.
Question put and passed.
(2.) Whereupon Mr. Ferguson, as Chairman, brought up a Special Report from the Committee, which was read by the Clerk, by direction of Mr. Deputy-Speaker, as follows:—
“The Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly, for whose consideration and report was “referred, on 2nd December, 1898, a.m., the ‘Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation Act Further Amendment Bill,’ and to whom was granted on the same date ‘leave to sit during any adjournment of this House,’ have the honor to report the following resolution:—
“That the Chairman report the question to the House as to whether Mr. Neild is eligible to sit on the Committee in accordance with Standing Order 348.

No. 1 Committee Room, Legislative Assembly,
5th December, 1898.

WM. J. FERGUSON,
Chairman.

Referred by Sessional Order to the Printing Committee.

* * * * *

1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

ILLAWARRA HARBOUR AND LAND CORPORATION ACT FURTHER
AMENDMENT BILL.

SPECIAL REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, for whose consideration and report was referred on 2nd December, 1898, A.M., the "*Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation Act Further Amendment Bill*," and to whom was granted on the same date, "*leave to sit during any adjournment of this House*," have the honor to report the following Resolution :—

"That the Chairman report the question to the House as to whether Mr. Neild is eligible to sit on the Committee in accordance with Standing Order 348."

WM. J. FERGUSON,
Chairman.

*No. 1 Committee Room,
Legislative Assembly,
5th December, 1898.*

1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

ILLAWARRA HARBOUR AND LAND CORPORATION
ACT FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL ;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

AND

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Printed under No. 16 Report from Printing Committee, 14 December, 1898, a.m.

SYDNEY: WILLIAM APPEGATE GULLICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1898.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

EXTRACTS FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VOTES No. 45. THURSDAY, 1 DECEMBER, 1898.

23. ILLAWARRA HARBOUR AND LAND CORPORATION ACT FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL:—The Order of the Day having been read,—Mr. Neild moved, That this Bill “be” now read a second time. Debate ensued.
- Mr. Ferguson moved, That the Question be amended by leaving out all the words after the word “be” and inserting the words “referred to a Select Committee for consideration and report.
- “(2.) That such Committee consist of Mr. Neild, Mr. Sleath, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Lyne, Mr. Wise, Mr. Haynes, Mr. Nicholson, Mr. Archibald Campbell, and the Mover.
- “(3.) That such Committee have leave to sit during any adjournment of this House,”—instead thereof.
- Question proposed,—That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question. Debate continued.
- Question,—That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question,—put and negatived.
- Question,—That the words proposed to be inserted in place of the words left out be so inserted,—put and passed.
- Question then,—That this Bill be referred to a Select Committee for consideration and report.
- (2.) That such Committee consist of Mr. Neild, Mr. Sleath, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Lyne, Mr. Wise, Mr. Haynes, Mr. Nicholson, Mr. Archibald Campbell, and the Mover.
- (3.) That such Committee have leave to sit during any adjournment of this House,—put and passed.

VOTES No. 46. TUESDAY, 6 DECEMBER, 1898.

6. ILLAWARRA HARBOUR AND LAND CORPORATION ACT FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL:—Mr. Donaldson presented a Petition from A. Armstrong, Managing Director of the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation (Limited), stating that on the 20th December, 1890, the said Corporation was empowered by Act of Parliament to form and maintain an entrance and passage between the South Pacific Ocean and the waters of Lake Illawarra, and to construct, maintain, and in certain respects control a harbour within the waters of the said lake, to make, establish, and control wharfage and shipping accommodation therewith, and to construct and work a line of railway to connect with the said harbour, and to reclaim, purchase, take, and occupy, and otherwise acquire land on certain terms, provided that the said harbour and channel should be commenced within two years, and be made and completed for the admission of certain vessels within the term of seven years from the passing of the Act referred to; that, by the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation Act Amendment Act of 1895, the time mentioned in the Principal Act for the completion of the harbour and entrance was extended for a further period of one year from the 20th December, 1897; that the Corporation has already expended £44,312 16s. 9d., under the provisions of the Statute, upon surveys, plans, and works in connection with the construction of the said harbour, and in a line of railway connecting the said lake with the Ocean Colliery; that the said Corporation has introduced a Bill before your Honorable House to further extend the time for the completion of the works, which Bill has been before a Select Committee of the Legislative Council, which has taken evidence and carefully deliberated thereon; that such Bill has been referred to a Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly; and praying that leave may be granted to the Corporation aforesaid to be represented by its legal advisers at and during the sittings of such Committee, and also that the said Corporation may be represented before the Bar of this Honorable Assembly during further discussion upon the Bill.
- Petition received.

11. ILLAWARRA HARBOUR AND LAND CORPORATION ACT FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL:—
- (1.) Mr. Ferguson (*by consent*) moved, without Notice, That the Select Committee on this Bill have leave to bring up a Special Report.
- Question put and passed.
- (2.) Whereupon Mr. Ferguson, as Chairman, brought up a Special Report from the Committee, which was read by the Clerk, by direction of Mr. Deputy-Speaker, as follows:—
- The Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly, for whose consideration and report was referred, on 2nd December, 1898, a.m., the “Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation Act Further Amendment Bill,” and to whom was granted on the same date “leave to sit during any adjournment of this House,” have the honor to report the following resolution:—
- “That the Chairman report the question to the House as to whether Mr. Neild is eligible to sit on “the Committee in accordance with Standing Order 348.”
- No. 1 Committee Room, Legislative Assembly,
5th December, 1898.

WM. J. FERGUSON,
Chairman.

Referred by Sessional Order to the Printing Committee.

- (3.) Mr. Neild, as a matter of *Privilege*, moved, That Mr. Neild, the Honorable Member for Paddington, be discharged from further attendance upon the Select Committee sitting upon the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation Act Further Amendment Bill.
Debate ensued.
Question put and passed.
- (4.) Mr. Ferguson (*by consent*) moved, without Notice, That Mr. Wise and Mr. Lyne be discharged from attendance upon the said Committee.
Question put and passed.
- (5.) Mr. Ferguson (*by consent*) moved, without Notice, That Mr. Cohen, Mr. Cann, Mr. Ashton, and Mr. Waddell be added to the said Committee.
Question put and passed.

VOTES NO. 47. WEDNESDAY, 7 DECEMBER, 1898.

- G. ILLAWARRA HARBOUR AND LAND CORPORATION ACT FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL (*Formal Motion*):—
Mr. Donaldson moved, pursuant to Notice, That the prayer of the Petition of the Managing Director of the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation (Limited), presented to this House on the 6th December, 1898, for leave to be represented before the Select Committee and at the Bar of the House during the proceedings on the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation Act Further Amendment Bill, be granted.
Question put, and voices given,—Mr. Deputy-Speaker stated his opinion that the *Ayes* had it.
Whereupon Division called for, and Mr. Deputy-Speaker having, in accordance with Standing Order No. 213, directed the members to take their seats to the right and left of the Chair respectively, declared the determination of the House to be in the *affirmative*, as there were only four Members in the minority who had challenged his decision.
The following are the names of the Members in the minority, viz.:—Mr. Pyers, Mr. Macdonald, Mr. Edden, and Mr. Thomas Brown.

VOTES NO. 49. TUESDAY, 13 DECEMBER, 1898.

12. ILLAWARRA HARBOUR AND LAND CORPORATION ACT FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL:—Mr. Ferguson, as Chairman, brought up the Report from, and laid upon the Table the Minutes of Proceedings of, and Evidence taken before the Select Committee for whose consideration and report this Bill was referred on 1st December, 1898; together with a copy of the Bill as agreed to by the Committee.
Referred by Sessional Order to the Printing Committee.
Mr. Ferguson then moved, That the Bill be read a second time To-morrow.
Question put passed.

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1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

ILLAWARRA HARBOUR AND LAND CORPORATION ACT FURTHER
AMENDMENT BILL.

REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, to whom was referred on 2nd December, 1898, a.m., for consideration and report, the "*Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation Act Further Amendment Bill*," and to whom was granted on the same date "*leave to sit during any adjournment of this House*," and on 6th December, 1898, "*leave to bring up a Special Report*," and to whom was referred on 7th December, 1898, a *Petition from Andrew Armstrong, Managing Director of the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation (Limited), praying for leave to be represented by its legal advisers at, and during the sittings of the Committee*,—beg to report to your Honorable House :—

That they have examined the witnesses named in the List* (whose * See List p. 1 evidence will be found appended hereto), and considered the Bill referred, in which it was not deemed necessary to make any amendment.

Your Committee now beg to lay before your Honorable House the Bill without amendment.

WM. J. FERGUSON,
Chairman.

No. 1 Committee Room, Legislative Assembly,
13th December, 1898.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

MONDAY, 5 DECEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Archibald Campbell,	Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Ferguson,	Mr. Haynes,
Mr. Lyne,	Mr. Neild,
Mr. Sleath,	Mr. Wise.

Entry from Votes and Proceedings appointing the Committee, and granting leave to sit during any adjournment of this House, *read* by the Clerk.

Mr. Sleath moved,—“That Mr. Ferguson be Chairman of this Committee.”

Mr. Neild moved,—“That Mr. Wise be Chairman of this Committee.”

Question proposed by Mr. Sleath,—“That Mr. Ferguson be Chairman of this Committee. Committee divided.

Ayes.	No.
Mr. Sleath,	Mr. Neild.
Mr. Archibald Campbell,	
Mr. Carroll,	
Mr. Haynes.	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative (Messrs. Wise and Ferguson not voting).

Mr. Neild moved,—“That the Press be admitted to the sittings of the Committee.”

The Chairman ruled the motion out of order.

Mr. Neild having moved,—“That, under Standing Order No. 364, strangers be admitted to the sittings of the Committee,”—

Mr. Sleath referred to Standing Order No. 348, and called attention to Mr. Neild's presence on the Committee, and contended that he was personally interested in the inquiry.

Mr. Neild contended that the House, having appointed him with a knowledge of the facts as to his personal interest, it was not competent for this Committee to order his withdrawal; and therefore he intended to remain.

Mr. Sleath moved,—“That this Committee adjourn till Wednesday morning at 11 a.m., and that the Chairman report the question to the House as to whether Mr. Neild is eligible to sit on the Committee in accordance with Standing Order 348.”

Mr. Neild intimated that, with a view to facilitate the inquiry, he would take no part in the proceedings pending the settlement of the questions raised.

Mr. Sleath pressing his motion,—

Question put,—

Committee divided.

Ayes.	Noes.
Mr. Archibald Campbell,	Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Haynes,	Mr. Wise.
Mr. Sleath.	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

[Committee adjourned accordingly until Wednesday next at *Eleven o'clock*.]

WEDNESDAY, 7 DECEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Ferguson in the Chair.

Mr. Cann,	Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Cohen,	Mr. Archibald Campbell,
Mr. Nicholson,	Mr. Sleath.

Entries from Votes and Proceedings in reference to the discharge of Messrs. Neild, Lyne, and Wise from attendance upon, and the appointment of Messrs. Cohen, Cann, Ashton, and Waddell to the Committee, *read* by the Clerk.

[Adjourned till To-morrow at *Eleven o'clock*.]

THURSDAY, 8 DECEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Ferguson in the Chair.

Mr. Ashton,	Mr. Archibald Campbell,
Mr. Cann,	Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Cohen,	Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Sleath,	Mr. Waddell.

Entry from Votes and Proceedings, referring the Petition of Andrew Armstrong, the Managing Director of the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation (Limited) to the Committee,—*read* by the Clerk.

Messrs. E. P. Simpson and W. H. Moseley (*Solicitors*) appeared on behalf of the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation (Limited).

Robert

Robert Matteson Vaughn (*Civil Engineer*) called in, sworn, and examined.
 Witness produced conveyance, W. R. Styles and others and R. M. Vaughn to T. A. de Wolf.
 Witness withdrew.
 Thomas Andrew de Wolf (*a Director of the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation, Limited*)
 called in, sworn, and examined.
 Witness withdrew.

[Adjourned till To-morrow at *Eleven* o'clock.]

FRIDAY, 9 DECEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Ferguson in the Chair.
 Mr. Ashton, | Mr. Archibald Campbell,
 Mr. Cann, | Mr. Carroll,
 Mr. Nicholson. | Mr. Sleath,
 Mr. Waddell.

Messrs. E. P. Simpson and W. H. Moseley (*Solicitors*) appeared on behalf of the Illawarra
 Harbour and Land Corporation (Limited).
 Ernest Ludwig Adolph Weinberg (*General Manager of the Smelting Company of Australia*) called
 in, sworn, and examined.
 Witness withdrew.

[Adjourned till Monday next, at *Eleven* o'clock.]

MONDAY, 12 DECEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Ferguson in the Chair.
 Mr. Ashton, | Mr. Archibald Campbell,
 Mr. Cann, | Mr. Cohen,
 Mr. Carroll, | Mr. Sleath,
 Mr. Waddell.

Messrs. E. P. Simpson and W. H. Moseley (*Solicitors*) appeared on behalf of the Illawarra
 Harbour and Land Corporation (Limited).
 Thomas Andrew de Wolf recalled and further examined.
 Witness withdrew.
 Walter Andrew Harper (*Civil Engineer*) called in, sworn, and examined.
 Witness withdrew.
 Andrew Armstrong (*Managing Director of the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation, Limited*)
 called in, sworn, and examined.
 Witness withdrew.
 John Randall Carey called in, sworn, and examined.
 Witness withdrew.

[Adjourned till Tomorrow at *Eleven* o'clock.]

TUESDAY, 13 DECEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Ferguson in the Chair.
 Mr. Ashton, | Mr. Archibald Campbell,
 Mr. Cann, | Mr. Carroll,
 Mr. Cohen, | Mr. Haynes,
 Mr. Nicholson, | Mr. Sleath.

Messrs. E. P. Simpson and W. H. Moseley (*Solicitors*) appeared on behalf of the Illawarra
 Harbour and Land Corporation (Limited).
 Alfred Hugh Beresford Conroy called in, sworn, and examined.
 Witness withdrew.
 William Robert Styles called in, sworn, and examined.
 Witness withdrew.
 Thomas Andrew de Wolf recalled and further examined.
 Witness withdrew.
 Bill considered.
 Clauses 1 to 5 read and *agreed* to.
 Preamble read and *agreed* to.
 Title read and *agreed* to.
 Chairman to report the Bill without amendment to the House.

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1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE

THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

ILLAWARRA HARBOUR AND LAND CORPORATION ACT
FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.

THURSDAY, 8 DECEMBER, 1898.

Present:—

Mr. ASHTON,
Mr. ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL,
Mr. CANN,
Mr. CARROLL,Mr. COHEN,
Mr. NICHOLSON,
Mr. SLEATH,
Mr. WADDELL.

W. J. FERGUSON, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. E. P. Simpson (of Messrs. Johnson, Minter, Simpson, & Co.) and Mr. W. H. Mosley appeared on behalf of the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation.

Robert Matteson Vaughn sworn and examined:—

1. *Mr. Simpson.*] What is your occupation? Civil engineer.
2. I believe that, with Mr. Styles, you were the owner of some land which formed the subject of a sale to the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation? Yes.
3. What interest had Mr. Styles in that land and how were you associated with him in the matter? In the first place, Mr. Styles informed me casually that he owned some land at Lake Illawarra, or in the mountains at the back of Lake Illawarra. I thought something could be done with it. I took up two blocks at the back of that coal land, with the view, at the time, of forming a company. I endeavoured to get the Government to make a harbour at Lake Illawarra, or at Kembla—I did not care which—but I was not successful. They declined to spend any money whatever there. Then I heard afterwards that a syndicate owned this land at Lake Illawarra, and I put myself into communication with them, and it resulted in my selling this land to the syndicate.
4. At what price? £8,160.
5. Was there not other land, and was not the total price £25,000? £25,000 for the whole.
6. I asked you to refer to the whole of the land? I made a mistake—it was £25,000.
7. Is this document [*produced*] a conveyance from yourself and Mr. Styles? It was from myself. Mr. Styles was not in it. I made the sale to Mr. de Wolf myself.
8. Is not the purchase money in this deed mentioned as £25,000? Yes. I put in the conveyance.
9. You mention the price as £25,000; but, in addition, were not shares in the company allotted to yourself and Mr. Styles? There were four syndicate shares of £4,000 each allotted to us.
10. What did the land actually cost you? About £8,500.
11. So that the difference between £8,500 and £25,000 represented profit? Yes.
12. Did Mr. Styles participate in that profit? He did.

R. M. Vaughn.
8 Dec., 1898.

- R.M. Vaughn. 13. To what extent? Equally with myself.
 14. So that Mr. Styles in reality made a handsome profit by the transaction? He did.
 8 Dec., 1898. 15. Did Mr. Styles himself put anything into the purchase? Not a shilling.
 16. Can you tell me whether or not he was in a position to have done so at that time? I am sure that he was not, from this fact: that I lent him £50 before there was anything said about selling the land or joining the syndicate. I lent it to him on his promissory note, and I have it now. I subsequently lent him other sums.
 17. Having nothing, he risked nothing, and made a handsome profit out of the transaction? Yes; that is the fact.
 18. *Chairman.*] I believe you are a partner of Mr. Styles? In some things I was—in some coal lands at Illawarra. We took some of the coal lands up together—that is, at the back of the range.
 19. I mean the property which was sold to Mr. de Wolf;—were you partners in that property? No, we were not. I bought that myself, and I am the only one responsible for dealing with it. I sold it personally to de Wolf, and for bringing the property under my notice I gave Styles two syndicate shares—the same as myself.
 20. You say that both of you were partners in this land—that you took it up together? Yes; there was freehold and some leasehold land. Two blocks were taken in his name and one in my own. I purchased personally the 400 odd acres of freehold land, and transferred it to the company.
 21. Was not Mr. Styles interested in that as well as yourself? Yes.
 22. Did you not sell it afterwards to de Wolf with Styles' consent? I did not.
 23. This document shows a sale from you to de Wolf;—must not Styles have been a part-owner, or he would not have given you power of attorney? No; Styles was a partner among the original holders—some six or seven of them—from whom I purchased it, and Styles was not in it at all. But afterwards I transferred two syndicate shares to him. That was the whole transaction from the beginning to the end. He received his shares in the company when it was formed, and I suppose he has them yet, if he has not disposed of them. He had the same number of shares as I had.
 24. Did not Styles sell to de Wolf the two coal properties? No; I sold them.
 25. Is that what they call the Ocean Colliery? Yes; I sold them. Styles would have to transfer his 640 acres, of course, it being in his name; but all the balance was in my name. It was my own transaction with de Wolf. I was legally responsible for anything that occurred, and Styles was not.
 26. Was Styles aware of this sale between you and de Wolf? Yes.
 27. Did you do it with his consent? Yes; he did not make any objection.
 28. Did he know about it? Certainly; he knew every step of it.
 29. *Mr. Simpson.*] Did you distribute a share of the profit on the transaction with Styles? Yes.
 30. Part of it was in cash, and the other part was in shares? Yes.
 31. *Chairman.*] The balance of the purchase money was by mortgage? Yes.
 32. Has that ever been paid? Yes.
 33. Did Styles receive it? Styles was not the mortgagee; he had nothing to do with it. He received his share of it.
 34. Did he receive his share of the mortgage? He received as much as I did.
 35. Were not these shares of Styles' afterwards forfeited? I do not know; I believe a call was made of £10 a share, but what was done with regard to Styles' shares I do not know. I was a director for some time; but at this time, when the call was made, I had left the company. I was not a director any more, so I could not tell. I do not know what transactions took place between Styles and the company after I was director.
 36. You say the balance of the purchase money has been paid? Yes.
 37. To you? And to Styles, too; he received it. I do not understand what allegations Styles has made.
 38. I am not talking about any allegations he has made; I am only asking you the question; he has not been here? Styles has been fully paid his share of the transaction.
 39. By you? Yes.
 40. And the full amount, the balance of the purchase money, has been all paid? Yes.
 41. *Mr. Cohen.*] Is this a conveyance purporting to be made by Styles and others on the one part, and you on the other part, and Mr. de Wolf as purchaser;—you had agreed to purchase this property from Styles and other people for £8,160? Yes.
 42. You had not completed that agreement;—de Wolf, after he purchased, paid Styles and the other people £8,160? That was to save expense; that is correct.
 43. That £8,160 was paid to Styles, Hughes, Cope, Gallagher, and Hitchcock? Yes; they were the original holders.
 44. When was the £16,840 paid? At various dates.
 45. It was paid subsequently? Yes.
 46. That was paid to you? Yes.
 47. Who participated in that £16,840 besides yourself? Styles received his share.
 48. Did Styles receive half of this? Yes; it only amounted to £12,000.
 49. There was £25,000 in all; what became of the balance? I was not expecting to be called here to give evidence when I left home, and I have not brought accounts with me; I am only speaking from memory. There were four syndicate shares of £4,000, and that would make £16,000.
 50. Then you got no cash? No cash; but these shares.
 51. You got £12,480 and four shares? Yes. Styles had two of those shares and £6,000.
 52. *Chairman.*] Styles owned some land there before you took up the two blocks? Yes.
 53. You took up two blocks, and the whole lot—Styles' and your own—were sold to the company? Yes.
 54. What was the land you bought from these people? Some farming land on the face of the cliff where the coal crops out.
 55. That includes the original property Styles had down there? Yes; that is the property. It was a dairy farm originally.
 56. Then Styles got £8,000, and you only got £6,000? About that. I cannot state the exact amount without referring to my books.
 57. The shares were £4,000 each, paid up to £1,000? Yes.

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58. *Mr. Campbell.*] How much cash passed between you and Styles? I could not explain that without my books.
59. *Mr. Simpson.*] Was it all cash excepting these shares? Yes
60. You spoke of the company;—did you mean Mr. de Wolf? The Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation.
61. And when you speak of Mr. de Wolf, do you mean that company? Yes.
62. According to your showing, Mr. Styles made a profit? Yes; a big profit too.
63. The syndicate shares were £1,000 each? £4,000 each, but paid up to £1,000.
64. *Chairman.*] Are you on the Board of Directors of this company now? No.
65. Have you any connection with it? Only as a shareholder.
66. Do you know anything about this Lake Illawarra scheme, bar being a shareholder? I know a great deal about it for the last thirty-five years. I know the district well.
67. Do you know the whole of the transactions of this company from the start? Yes.
68. In whose name is the first deed? What deed do you refer to?
69. The first transactions with this as a company at all? Transactions with me?
70. Not necessarily;—you said you sold to de Wolf? I sold through Mr. Armstrong, who was a land agent at that time.
71. There was an agreement with Thompson, Armstrong, Newton, and others? They were all connected with it in some way; I cannot explain it.
72. You do not know all the transfers? No; if I knew them I would be glad to state them, but I do not.
73. *Mr. Cohen.*] Are you interested in the smelting works? No; I am interested indirectly.
74. *Chairman.*] Do you think it necessary for the Smelting Company to have this harbour in order to carry on their operations successfully? I think so.
75. Have they not carried them on so far without it? It would make a great difference to the cost of treating ores if they had the harbour with a railway running up to the smelting works.
76. Do you think the Harbour Company would make any profit out of this harbour if they had it? I can scarcely say. I do not think it would be a very large profit. I do not know much about maritime matters.
77. You do not know whether it would be of any use to them if it were constructed? It would be to the Smelting Company.
78. But that is not the company asking for it—it is the Harbour Company which is asking for it? I think a trade would be made there.
79. In what way? In the way of bringing in ores or merchandise, and sending away coal.
80. Do you not think that the Port Kembla scheme would be just as good as this one, as far as sending away coal is concerned? I do not know that my opinion would be worth much in comparing the two.
81. Do you think that if they had the Port Kembla scheme, looking at it from the Smelting Company's point of view, there would be any necessity for having the other scheme? I think there would be a necessity for opening the lake.
82. What for? For traffic.
83. I mean if the Port Kembla scheme were carried out, would not the Smelting Company have their outlet there? They have an outlet now by Wollongong or Sydney, but you must remember the cost.
84. But the Kembla scheme is different;—if it were constructed, would it not be as useful to the company as the other scheme? I think not.
85. Why? Because in the Illawarra scheme they propose to make a railway, so that the ores could be unloaded from the trucks and carried right up into the works for treatment. That is only a short distance, but the other would be a long, round-about way from Port Kembla, and would of necessity be more expensive.
86. When this company was originally formed did they anticipate that they were going to make a profit out of the Illawarra harbour works? Undoubtedly.
87. From the harbour itself, I mean? Yes.
88. That was to be a source of profit? Yes.
89. But Mr. de Wolf says no? I always understood it was so. To my mind it was.
90. *Mr. Carroll.*] Do you still hold two shares in the original company? Yes.
91. Do you hold any other interest in the Lake Illawarra Company? No.
92. Have any calls been made upon them? There was a call of £10 made, but I do not know much about it.
93. Did you pay the calls? No.
94. Are your shares still good in the company? Yes.
95. Did not the original company go into liquidation, or go broke? No.
96. The original company is still good? Yes. It is the only company, I think, that has held its own and paid everybody 20s. in the £ since the financial crisis.
97. *Chairman.*] You say you still hold shares on which a call has been made, and which you have not yet paid, and that the shares still hold good? Yes.
98. And that other shares upon which a call was made were forfeited for non-payment? I do not know of any.
99. Were you a director when that call was made? Yes; but I left just immediately afterwards.
100. You were a director when the call was made? Yes.
101. And the call was made on shares which you held, and which you did not pay, but they still hold good? Yes. I may mention that Mr. Styles held his shares as well.
102. *Mr. Cohen.*] How many original shares were in it? Sixty.
103. *Chairman.*] But were not Mr. Styles' shares forfeited? Not that I am aware of.
104. But you were a director? But I have explained that I left the company immediately after the call was made. I do not know what was done afterwards.
105. Who were the directors at the time the call was made? Armstrong, de Wolf, and myself. There were so many changes made that I cannot tell exactly who the others were.
106. You do not know whether Styles' shares were forfeited or not? Not to my knowledge.
107. Do you know whether Carey's shares were forfeited for calls,—do you? I do not know.
108. You do not know anything about any of them? No; not since I left the directorate.

- R.M. Vaughn. 109. *Mr. Campbell.*] Was there a call made all round on the shareholders? Yes; the call was made on all the shares.
- 8 Dec., 1898. 110. Do you know the locality well? Yes.
111. Do you know the position of the smelting works? Yes.
112. Do you know the way by tramway that you get from the smelting works to the lake? Yes.
113. What is the distance from the smelting works by that tramway to the edge of the lake? I should think about 2 miles.
114. What is the distance across the lake, and out into the deep water of the ocean? About 5 miles.
115. That would be 7 miles altogether? Yes.
116. So that in reality at present the smelting works are situated 2 miles from the lake? Yes; but I presume the railway would be made across to connect the two lines, and so shorten the distance to about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the lake.
117. Still the smelting works is that distance from the lake, even if it were made a harbour? They would be that distance from the water.
118. So that in any case, even assuming the harbour were made, the ore would have to be conveyed 2 miles or $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile? One and a half mile.
119. What is the distance across the lake to meet the channel, and into deep water in the ocean? Seven miles altogether.
120. What is the distance by a railway between the smelting works and Port Kembla—that is, by a direct line of railway that could be made? I cannot answer that question, because I never looked at it. I do not think that it would be much shorter, if any, than the present line. I think it is about 13 miles from Port Kembla.
121. No, I was assuming that the channel is made through the lake, and out into the ocean for vessels, it would be between 6 and 7 miles between the smelting works and the deep water in the ocean? Yes.
122. From your knowledge of the locality, do you not think it is just about the same distance by railway or tramway that could be made along the edge of the lake between the smelting works and Port Kembla? I cannot tell the distance. No doubt a line could be made there, but I do not know the distance.
123. *Mr. Carroll.*] Were your shares such that calls could be made on them, or were they fully paid up? No; calls could be made on the shares.

Thomas Andrew de Wolf sworn and examined:—

- T.A. de Wolf. 124. *Mr. Simpson.*] I propose to ask you to give a short history of this Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation right from the formation of the syndicate; this Committee will then have before them a full knowledge of all the circumstances relating to the scheme and all the events which have happened subsequently? I shall be very pleased to give any information. I told the Select Committee of the Upper House that anything they wanted to know I would tell them, but there were certain things which I considered not judicious to publish; I did not want to have them published in the Parliamentary papers. This business was started by me in the year 1888. The Lakelands property was brought under my notice with the idea of purchase for subdivision into farms.
- 8 Dec., 1898. 125. You mean the freehold estate of Mr. P. H. Osborne? Yes, of 2,920 acres. I then formed the idea of making a harbour down on the South Coast in connection with the coal trade. I decided to buy that property, and at the same time a property was submitted to me known as the Ocean Coal Property, consisting of 265 acres of freehold, and I think there were two permits attached to it belonging to Mr. Vaughn. I decided to buy this, and I paid a deposit. It is a long time ago, but I think it was £1,000 I paid on the one, and £500 on the other. However, I am not quite certain. I then went down to Melbourne, and I met Mr. Fink, of the Mercantile Finance Company, who was operating very largely on landed properties at the time, and I put the scheme before him. I had made some previous inquiries as to the feasibility of a harbour being made there. I had sent engineers down at my own expense, and was satisfied that we could make a harbour there. I put the business before Mr. Fink, and told him what I was doing. He agreed to join me in the purchase of properties, which he did. Mr. Armstrong was also connected with us in the purchase of the properties. We three then became responsible for the purchase money of these properties; that was £90,000.
126. *Chairman.*] What year was that in? In 1888, about June.
127. *Mr. Simpson.*] Will you explain how that purchase money was paid? I think it would be best to let me say how the things occurred. When I was down in Melbourne at that time I met Mr. John Newton. He was one of the owners of the Lakelands Estate, and I told him that I intended to form this syndicate, and that by making a harbour the property would become more valuable. I told him I had agreed to purchase the property, and had paid my deposit. He then said he would take up a share in the syndicate. That was a syndicate of £240,000 of sixty shares of £4,000 each, of which £3,000 was paid up, and the other £1,000 was to remain uncalled for a time. Mr. Newton took his share. On my return to Sydney I found that Mr. Armstrong had sold a portion of one of his shares to Mr. Friend, a personal friend of his. I think the price paid for it was £1,000, on the same basis. That was all the money that was paid into this thing originally for the purchase of these properties, outside of Fink, Armstrong, and de Wolf.
128. I think you have not explained that at that time Osborne had sold the property to a syndicate? Yes.
129. And you were really negotiating with the syndicate who had purchased the property from Osborne? If I mentioned Osborne's name it was a mistake. It was a syndicate with which I had no connection which had purchased the property some years previously from Osborne.
130. And who owed Osborne a certain amount on the purchase? As far as we were concerned, we took it over with a mortgage of £30,000 to Mr. P. H. Osborne. Then the members of the syndicate decided—of course, they could not carry on their business as a syndicate—that they would register themselves into a company, and at that time people's ideas of the values of properties and lands were very large. Mr. Fink, of Melbourne, was the principal shareholder in this syndicate, and he fixed the figures at the price at which we formed the company. We agreed, of course, to this. It was, perhaps, a mistake to make the capital so large, but in those times we had a great idea of the value of the property, and properties were rising in value. But nobody came into this company, nor ever put one shilling into it. We simply formed ourselves into a company; we took payment in shares, £500,000 paid up in shares with a liability of £500,000.

131. *Mr. Cohen.*] What was the capital of the company then? The nominal capital was £1,600,000; £1,000,000 of shares were issued to the members of the syndicate, paid up to £50 a share, the idea then being that we should take upon ourselves a further liability of £500,000. Whoever would hold those would have to take that liability as a security to the debenture holders—that is to say, whatever money we put into the properties would be security together with our personal securities. T. A. de Wolf.
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132. *Mr. Simpson.*] Do I understand that the company took over the liabilities of the syndicate as well? They took them over as well. The company was liable to the syndicate for £100,000, which represented the price paid for the property and the expenses, which I will show you presently.

133. So the company really owed the syndicate £100,000? Yes; for which they were to have possession of all the land, and all the work done up to that time.

134. *Chairman.*] The syndicate at that time were yourself and Fink? And Armstrong, Friend, and Newton, and afterwards Vaughn and Stiles. That brings us up to the registration of the company. I may mention now that for all the expenditure that has been made in connection with this company, nobody connected with the company that I know of, has ever received one shilling from the sale of a share, or in any way whatever, except that Mr. Stiles borrowed money on his share. But no other person connected with the company has done anything but pay out the whole time. There have been no receipts of money in any way—that is, for ten years. The company owed the syndicate £100,000. They were not in a position to pay that money, although the company practically consisted of the syndicate and their friends, and the thing was allowed to run along. No calls were made on the company for some years. The whole of the expenses of the company were found either by Fink, Armstrong, or myself from time to time. Interest on mortgages, the expenses of the office, surveys, and other very heavy expenses had to be incurred. In regard to the transfer of the property, I may say that up to that time the contract for the purchase of the property was between the original vendors and myself, I buying in the first instance, and taking the risk of the purchase. The company not having been in a position to pay me off, the property still remained in my name. It was necessary then at that time to find some more money for the company; and Mr. Fink and the Mercantile Finance Company, who were then financing the company, and finding a good deal of money for the company, requested that the property should be put in Fink's name instead of my name, as I held it as trustee for the company. I agreed, and the property was transferred to Fink as trustee for the company for the sum of 10s.—a nominal consideration.

135. But before you got to that, before the transfer from you to Fink, there was another transfer, was there not? No.

136. Was there not one to Champion, Armstrong, and Newton? No; they were the trustees for the syndicate. We had trustees for the syndicate, and trustees for the company.

137. There were two or three agreements, one after the other—there was another one in 1890? They were only agreements. Well, during all that time we were finding that our expenses were very heavy. We had spent a great deal of money, and this money at last was being found by the Mercantile Finance Company, and they insisted that we should make a start with the harbour works, which we did. We let a contract to Brand and Dryborough, but we had the power to determine the contract. The Mercantile Company at that time were very strong, and stated that they were prepared to carry out the whole of the works. We had offers at that time to the effect that if we would give up to them a portion of our interest in the company, they would find the whole of the money. It was some time early in 1894 that the Mercantile Finance Company suspended payment, and they left the company then with a considerable amount of indebtedness, and with this contract to Brand and Dryborough on hand; and they were unable to pay anything. Everybody knows, I think, the awful smash-up that occurred at that time, and the company that was supposed to be worth millions was absolutely unable to pay anything at all. We were, therefore, left in that position of having to carry on the thing ourselves.

138. You got to the point of the transfer from yourself to Fink,—do you know anything of a transfer from Fink to Wallach Bros? It was a little previous to that.

139. You got to 1894, but this was before 1894? Fink arranged with Wallach Bros., who were really Fink himself, to advance certain moneys for expenses and so on. He gave them a lien on the property.

140. That was done the same day as the transfer to Fink? About that time.

141. Then there was a conveyance in 1894 to the A.J.S. Bank? It was through the Joint Stock Bank that Fink obtained this money from Wallach Bros.

142. *Mr. Simpson.*] You might explain how the estate got back to the company? I decided then to go to England, as I found the Mercantile Finance Company had gone smash, and to raise money in England to put the company in a sound position, and bring in fresh blood. I arranged with Mr. Osborne, who was anxious to get the land put under Torrens' title, that he should give me, I think, six months to pay off the mortgages, so that the property would return to the company. It never had been in the company's name up to that time. Mr. Osborne, who is a personal friend of mine, said he would give me I think it was six months. I went to England, and I remitted promptly portion of the mortgage money, and finally remitted him the balance, and the property was clear of all encumbrances.

143. The conveyance was made from the Bank to Osborne? Yes.

144. For £300? Well, that was only the equity.

145. When you went to England, that was the position? There was a heavy mortgage on the property, and for a nominal sum the A.J.S. Bank transferred the security which Fink had given to Wallach Bros.

146. And then the mortgage of discharge came back in the company's name? In the company's name. In fact that was the first time it had ever got into the company's name.

147. You have not mentioned the actual purchase money which passed between the purchasers—that is to say, the syndicate—and the syndicate who bought from Mr. Osborne;—what was the total amount of the purchase money? I purchased the Lakelands property for £65,000. That money has all been paid. In addition to that, there has been a very large amount of money paid in Bank charges, interest, legal charges, and other expenses. The whole of that £65,000 has been paid in cash, and the deeds are here to show that that has been paid, and paid in cash. As to the other property, the Ocean Coal property, the deeds show that we paid £25,000; but out of that Vaughn and Styles received £12,000 in syndicate shares the same as we received. So that made £13,000 in cash which I paid to Vaughn, and £65,000 which I paid for the Lakeland Estate. That is £78,000 I have paid off in hard cash besides expenses.

T. A. de Wolf. At this stage, Mr. Chairman, I propose to put in an abstract of the deeds which relate to these transactions, and which show the considerations. The deeds themselves are here, but as they are original documents, I hope the Committee will be content with the abstract. Abstract of deeds put in as follows:—

8 Dec., 1898.

Abstract of the Title of the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation (Ltd.) to land at Dapto, known as the Lakelands Estate.

11 September, 1888.

By indenture of conveyance of this date, made between Edward Percy Simpson and James Thomas Atchison of the first part, the Illawarra Lakeland Company (Ltd.) of the second part, and Thos. Andrew de Wolf of the third part.

Reciting mortgage to P. H. Osborne, dated 12th May, 1888, registered 707, Book 341, in the sum of £35,000; and reciting payment of the sum of £5,000 of the principal of the said mortgage on the 1st May, 1887.

And reciting that E. P. Simpson and A. J. Atchison were trustees for the Illawarra Lakeland Company (Ltd.); and reciting agreement for sale for the sum of £35,000, subject to the said mortgage of P. H. Osborne.

It was witnessed that in consideration of the sum of £35,000 paid, &c., the receipt, &c., they, the said E. P. Simpson and J. T. Atchison did grant, bargain, sell, release, and convey unto the said T. A. de Wolf and his heirs.

All the land described in the schedule thereto, together with all houses, &c., and all the estate.

To have and to hold the same with the appurtenances unto, and to the use of the said T. A. de Wolf, his heirs and assigns for ever, subject to the said indenture of mortgage.

Usual covenants from vendors.

Schedule.

All the Lakelands Estate as therein described, containing 2,920 acres or thereabouts; duly executed and attested; receipt for consideration moneys signed and witnessed; registered No. 725, Book 3999.

By indenture of mortgage of this date made between the said T. A. de Wolf of the one part, and the Illawarra Lakeland Company (Ltd.) of the other part.

Reciting the payment of £1,000.

It was witnessed that in consideration of the sum of £25,000 paid, &c., the receipt, &c., he, the said T. A. de Wolf did grant, bargain, sell, alien, release, and convey unto the said mortgagee and its assigns.

All the land described in the lastly abstracted indenture; together with all houses, &c., and all the estate.

To have and to hold the same with the appurtenances unto and to the use of the said mortgagee, subject to redemption as therein mentioned.

Proviso for redemption: Usual mortgage covenants.

Duly executed and attested; receipt for consideration money signed and witnessed; registered No. 725, Book 399.

27 August, 1888.

By indenture of reconveyance of this date, endorsed on the hereinbefore abstracted indenture of mortgage, all the lands mentioned therein were reconveyed unto, and to the use of the said T. A. de Wolf, his heirs, and assigns, for ever.

Duly executed and attested; receipt for consideration money signed and witnessed; registered.

29 July, 1892.

By indenture of conveyance of this date, made between the said T. A. de Wolf of the one part and Benjamin Josman Fink of the other part.

Reciting sundry dealings between the said T. A. de Wolf and A. Armstrong, and the mortgagees.

It was witnessed that in consideration of 10s. by the said B. J. Fink, paid, &c., the receipt, &c., he, the said T. A. de Wolf, did grant, bargain, sell, alien, release, and convey unto the said B. J. Fink and his heirs, all the lands described in the hereinbefore abstracted indenture, together with all houses, &c.; and all the estate, &c.

29 July, 1892.

By indenture of mortgage of this date, made between the said B. J. Fink of the one part, and Wallach Bros., therein called mortgagees, of the other part; reciting that a certain promissory note had been made by Messrs. T. A. de Wolf and A. Armstrong, dated on the 9th April, 1890, in the sum of £8,920, due four months after date in favour of the said B. J. Fink, and by him endorsed to Wallach Bros., and by them discounted at the A. J. S. Bank at the request of the said B. J. Fink, and on his undertaking to give a mortgage over the Lakelands property to secure the payment of the same; and reciting that the said promissory note had not been paid, and with discounts, now amounted to £12,663 10s. 11d.

It was witnessed that in consideration of the said sum of £12,663 10s. 11d., and of £5,160 paid, &c., the receipt, &c., he, the said B. J. Fink, did grant, bargain, sell, alien, release, and convey unto the said Wallach Bros., and their assigns, all the land described in the hereinbefore abstracted indentures, together with all houses, &c.; and all the estate, &c.

To have and to hold the same with the appurtenances unto, and to the use of the said Wallach Bros. and their assigns, subject to the proviso for redemption therein contained.

Usual mortgage covenants; powers of sale in case of default, &c.

Duly executed and attested; receipt for consideration money signed and witnessed; registered 5th August, 1892, No. 777, Book 495.

29 July, 1892.

By indenture of mortgage of this date, made between the said Wallach Bros. (Ltd.) of the one part, and the A. J. S. Bank of the other part; reciting that the said Bank had commenced proceedings against the said T. A. de Wolf and A. Armstrong, in respect of the said promissory note, but had agreed to stay the same at the request of the said Wallach Bros.; and also to advance a sum of £5,160, to be paid to P. H. Osborne, in reduction of the principal and interest due under the hereinbefore recited mortgage of the 12th May, 1886.

It was witnessed that the said Wallach Bros. (Ltd.), did in consideration of the premise, assign unto the said A. J. S. Bank, all that the principal sum of £17,823 10s. 6d., and all interest, &c.; and it was further witnessed that in consideration, &c., the said Wallach Bros. (Ltd.), did grant, bargain, sell, alien, release, and confirm the said A. J. S. Bank and its assigns; all the land described in the hereinbefore abstracted indentures, together with all houses, &c.; and all the estate, &c.

To have and to hold the same with the appurtenances unto, and to the use of the said bank and its assigns, subject to the proviso for redemption therein contained.

Usual mortgage covenants, with full powers of sale in case of default, &c.

Duly executed and attested; receipt for consideration money signed and witnessed; registered, 5th August, 1892; No. 778, Book 495.

4 April, 1894.

By indenture of conveyance of this date made between the said A.J.S. Bank of the first part, Francis Adams of the second part, the A.J.S. Bank (Ltd.) of the third part, and Henry Osborne of the fourth part.

Reciting conveyance of the 1st May, 1886, from P. H. Osborne of the first part, Jas. Thos. Atchison of the second part, Ed. Percy Simpson of the third part, J. T. Atchison of the fourth part, and Sydney A. Want (therein called trustee) of the fourth part.

And reciting mortgage, dated the 12th May, 1886, the said E. P. Simpson and J. T. Atchison of the one part and P. H. Osborne of the other part; and reciting conveyance, dated 11th September, 1888, between the said E. P. Simpson and J. T. Atchison of the first part, the Illawarra Lakeland Company (Ltd.) of the second part, and the said T. A. de Wolf of the third part; and reciting mortgage, dated 11th September, 1888, the said T. A. de Wolf of the first part and the Illawarra Lakeland Company (Ltd.) of the other part; and reciting discharge of the said mortgage, dated 27th August, 1889; and reciting conveyance hereinbefore abstracted, dated 29th July, 1892; and reciting mortgage hereinbefore abstracted, dated July, 1892; and reciting mortgage hereinbefore abstracted, dated 29th July, 1892. (Wallach Bros., Ltd. to the A.J.S. Bank).

And reciting order of the Supreme Court in Equity, dated the 15th June, 1893, for winding up the said A.J.S. Bank, and the appointment of the said F. Adams to be the Official Liquidator thereof; and reciting an agreement made between the said F. Adams, as Official Liquidator of the said A.J.S. Bank, of the first part, the said A.J.S. Bank of the second part, and the A.J.S. Bank (Ltd.) of the third part, that all the assets of the A.J.S. Bank should become in Equity vested in the A.J.S. Bank (Ltd.).

And

And reciting that a demand had been made upon B. J. Fink, personally, on the 20th August, 1893. And reciting that a demand had been made upon Wallach Bros. (Ltd.) on the 21st August, 1893; and reciting that the principal sum and interest was now due and owing; and reciting agreement between the said A.J.S. Bank (Ltd.) and H. Osborne for the sale to him of the equity of redemption for £300, subject to the mortgage of 12th May, 1886. T. A. de Wolf. 8 Dec., 1898.

It was witnessed that in pursuance, &c., and in consideration of the sum of £300 paid cash, the receipt, &c., the A.J.S. Bank, by direction of F. Adams, as Official Liquidator, and at the request of the A.J.S. Bank (Ltd.), did grant, bargain, sell, and alien, release, and convey, and the said A.J.S. Bank (Ltd.) did grant and confirm unto the said H. Osborne and his heirs all the land described in the hereinbefore abstracted indenture, together with all houses, &c., and all the estate, &c.; to have and to hold the same with the appurtenances unto and to the use of the said H. Osborne, his heirs, and assigns for ever, subject to the thereinbefore recited indenture of mortgage of 12th May, 1886; covenants by the A.J.S. Bank (Ltd.) and F. Adams, that they had not encumbered.

Duly executed and attested; receipt for consideration money signed and witnessed; registered, 18th April, 1894; No. 73, Book 535.

The property was brought under the provision of the Real Property Act, and certificated title issued to H. Osborne, No. 1,159, fol. 101. The following endorsements appear on this certificate of title:—14th July, 1894, mortgage H. Osborne to P. H. Osborne; 3rd July, 1895, transfer H. Osborne to the Camden Syndicate of 500 acres; 3rd July, 1895, transfer H. Osborne to the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation, 2,410 acres; 3rd July, 1895, transfer H. Osborne to P. H. Osborne of 10 acres, promised to the Dapto Agricultural Society.

Certificate of title to the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation (Ltd.) of 2,410 acres as transferees from H. Osborne, vol. 1,117, fol. 87. Endorsements thereon:—2nd July, 1895, mortgage, the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation to P. H. Osborne; 28th March, 1896, discharge of above mortgage; 27th December, 1895, mortgage to R. A. Moss; 28th March, 1896, discharge of above mortgage.

Certificate of a title to the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation (Ltd.), 2,399 acres 1 rood 39 perches. Endorsements thereon:—18th December, 1896, caveat; 27th May, 1897, withdrawal of caveat; 2nd July, 1895, mortgage to P. H. Osborne; 23rd December, 1896, discharge of above mortgage; 27th December, 1895, mortgage to R. Amos; 23rd December, 1896, discharge of above mortgage; 23rd December, 1896, mortgage to R. Amos; 18th October, 1896, transfer of above mortgage from Amos to Union Bank (Ltd.); 8th June, 1898, mortgage to the Smelting Company of Australia (Ltd.) and to the Camden Exploration Company (Ltd.).

Note that the promissory note referred to in the hereinbefore abstracted indentures of 29th July, 1892, was duly taken up and paid by Messrs. de Wolf and Armstrong on 18th April, 1896.

148-9. *Chairman.*] Well, you went to England? Yes.

150. For the company? For the company. I remitted them sufficient money to relieve the company from all responsibilities at that time. They owned the properties without any encumbrance whatever. After that we decided to construct a railway.

151. *Mr. Simpson.*] Before you go on to that, was the contract cancelled which was originally let, on the strength of the Mercantile Finance Co. finding the money? Yes; we cancelled that, and paid the contractors. While I was in England we arranged with Robert Amos to construct this railway in anticipation of our floating debentures. I refer now to the audited balance-sheet of the company, a copy of which I can put in if necessary. I would like to emphasise this—that we have expended on harbour construction £3,503 15s. These accounts have from time to time been audited; I think it is by Christie and Murray, the company's auditors here. They have had vouchers during these years for all the different forms of expenditure.

152. Is that Mr. Christie the municipal auditor? I think so. I think he has always been the auditor of the company. We expended on the railway £41,008 5s. 1d., and we have paid £10,000 to the Government.

153. That is as a deposit? As a deposit in connection with this harbour scheme. We have paid out in legal expenses £4,279 18s. 10d. That would cover stamp duties and other expenses of that kind. We have paid on debentures—London charges, £3,101 6s. 9d.; on surveys, £516; general expenses, engineering, salaries, &c., for the ten years, £13,485. These amounts, including the actual cash which we have paid for our land, amount to £154,350. In addition to that, our interest and bank charges have amounted to £49,229. £78,000 in actual cash I put for the land, with no share business about it. The total of those two sums amounts to £203,579. That is the position of the company.

154. *Chairman.*] Those are the expenses of the company? That is the cash expenditure in connection with the syndicate and the company.

155. From the purchase of the land right down to now? Yes.

156. *Mr. Campbell.*] Does that include the branch line to the smelting works? No.

157. *Mr. Simpson.*] Now the Committee would like to know the circumstances relating to the formation of the company in London—of the two companies? When I arrived in London and met financial people there they absolutely refused to lend any money whatever to a company solely managed in Sydney; and, on the advice of my friends in London, I registered this company in London, with a London directory.

158. You cannot get a quotation for shares in the market unless it is so? They want to have some control over the debenture money. They are tired of lending debenture moneys to companies out here. They will have their trustees appointed in London, who will have the money absolutely under their control.

159. *Mr. Sleath.*] Was it an entirely new company that you floated in London, or were you simply establishing the head office in London? Well, you know the Sydney company, of course, is the head company, because it holds the concession and it holds the land. No cash passed between them, and no sales of shares were made whatever until afterwards, when I got some of my friends to take up preference shares in the company; but the company was registered in London, to enable us to issue debentures to finance the Sydney company; and to do that the Sydney shareholders received shares in the London company. No money passed in any way. The only money which passed was £1,000, which it cost me to register the company.

160. *Chairman.*] Practically, the London company was made up of friends of yours you had given shares to? No; they were men who paid their cash.

161. *Mr. Simpson.*] To what extent did the shareholders in the London company pay actual cash for their shares? They paid £20,000. I will be glad to give you, if you like, the names of some of the men who are preference shareholders there, because it has been stated that we have no men of standing. It cannot be denied that we started this company with great hopes and expectations, and trusted a great deal to Melbourne at the time we formed the company; but we were left on our own resources when the Mercantile Finance Co. and all the Melbourne people failed, and we have had to carry the burden on our own shoulders; but we have done so, and we are in a perfectly sound position. The whole of our indebtedness

is

- T. A. de Wolf. is represented by a portion of the cost of the railway. We owe nothing on our lands; we have them all free. We have our colliery free, and our railways are bringing us in now, although we are only using a portion of the line, a nice revenue, which is growing every year. These are the names of some of the shareholders who have found the £20,000 of preference shares:—Mr. Keswick, of Jardine, Matheson, & Co.; Mr. Arthur Wilson, of Wilson & Co. of Hull; Mr. Walter Saville, of Shaw, Saville, & Co.; Mr. John Fleming, of Robertson, Fleming, & Co.; the Smelting Company of Australia; the Camden Exploration Company; the Calderwood Syndicate; Mr. George Inglis; Mr. T. H. Haynes; and Mr. George Bush. These are all men of very high standing in London.
- 8 Dec., 1898.
162. *Chairman.*] Did these men buy their shares? They bought them.
163. The whole of them? The whole of them. Yes. I made an issue of £20,000 preference shares to be taken up at par.
164. *Mr. Simpson.*] And the cash so contributed for these shares was remitted to this company, and applied by this company in liquidating its debts? Yes.
165. *Mr. Sleath.*] I have not quite got the hang of this London company yet;—were these 20,000 shares issued in London—did they constitute the whole of the London company? Oh, no; the London company took over 9,970 shares, paid up to £60 each.
166. The company sold 9,970 shares, and they received in return for that the same number of shares in the London company? Yes.
167. What were they paid up to, and what was the actual cash paid? £10 shares, paid up to £10.
168. *Mr. Simpson.*] They became fully paid up when the cash was paid? Yes.
169. *Chairman.*] And there are 9,970 shares issued there? No; the shares issued are £600,000. There are 598,270 £1 shares issued in London paid up to that. They took over 598,200 £1 shares in the Sydney company—an equivalent amount, except £70 in shares which were taken by the seven subscribers of £10 each who had to take shares.
170. How many shares are there altogether now in the London company? 59,827 and 2,000 preference shares.
171. And the Sydney company? It is a different nominal amount, paid to £60. The others are £10 shares, but the sterling amount is the same, with the exception of the preference shares which have been issued.
172. There are 10,000 shares in the Sydney company? There were 10,000 shares. Thirty shares are kept here, because, according to the law, you must have about thirty shares to keep your company alive.
173. So, practically, you only transferred these shares to London? To the London register; that is all.
174. It is only like forming a London office for your company? That is all.
175. It is not practically another company? It is the same.
176. It was a company of 10,000 shares, and you transferred 9,970 to London? Yes.
177. Just with a difference in the amount of face value? Yes. At the same time, this company has £75,000 of preference shares to issue, of which they have issued £20,000; so they still have £55,000 of preference shares to issue in case we want any money.
178. *Mr. Sleath.*] And that is what I have never been able to understand:—as a matter of fact, the London company was simply formed for the purpose of taking over a portion of the shares of the Sydney company, just to enable you to register in London? And to obtain our debenture money.
179. *Mr. Ashton.*] Due to the fact that the Act precluded the alienation of your rights? We could not transfer the right to an English company.
180. All you could do was to transfer shares? Yes.
181. *Mr. Cohen.*] You had to form another company, practically? To get on the London register. We had no idea of doing this until we met with the refusal of the people to lend debenture money.
182. *Mr. Sleath.*] To all intents and purposes; they are one and the same company? Yes.
183. Each holding shares, only that thirty shares of the Sydney company have been kept here to practically keep the company alive;—had it not been necessary to do that, no doubt you would have transferred the lot? We would have transferred the lot.
184. And made a new issue? Yes; and the old company would have been wiped out. The business of the company here now is not, as a matter of fact, controlled by any directors in Sydney. It is controlled by the London Board.
185. The directors here are merely nominal directors? That is all.
186. *Chairman.*] And who are the representatives in Sydney? There are Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Neild, and Mr. Chippendall.
187. *Mr. Sleath.*] Who represents the London company here—those gentlemen too? Yes; for the present. We have practically done nothing. We have paid off our debts, and have got ourselves into a position to offer security for the issue of debentures. When that is done the London company take charge of the expenditure of the money, and of course the money is placed in the hands of trustees in London, who see to the proper administration of it.
188. *Mr. Campbell.*] The difference between the £60 shares in this country and the £10 shares in England, is that £50 is considered paid up in this Colony, without any cash at all, and £10 makes it £60? I do not quite understand the question.
189. I understood you to explain it this way: In this country you reckon that £50 is paid up and £10 in cash; that made £60; well, there has been no cash paid up for the £50—it is only considered paid; it is the £10 added to the £50 that makes the £60; that makes the corresponding £10 in England? The Sydney company have a nominal amount of £598,000 paid up.
190. But I am speaking about the amount of shares—the £60 and the £10 shares; you say the English shares are £10 each; £10 added to the £50 makes its £60; so it is practically that £10 without the £50 in England? Oh, no.
191. *Mr. Sleath.*] The shares were increased in number when the London company was formed? Yes.
192. Instead of having 10,000 shares, you really have 100,000, and the difference is that each share held in Sydney represents ten of the shares held in London? As a matter of fact, the position shortly is this: If this work is gone on with the company here must let its works, and be responsible for them. Now, under this arrangement, they have power to call on the London company to find £400,000.
193. *Mr. Simpson.*] It is practically calling on the same shareholders? Yes. This company here, if it incurs debts, has the power to call on the London company up to £400,000 on its uncalled share capital. This has been well thought out as security for the debenture-holders.
- 194.

194. Some doubt has arisen as to whether the deposit in this matter has been paid in cash to the Crown? T. A. de Wolf.
All I know is that we sent it out in cash.
195. Are you a director of the Smelting Company? Yes.
196. When the site for the Smelting Company was selected, was it selected having regard to the fact that this harbour would probably be constructed? Certainly. They had all the plans placed before them, and they had copies of our Bill.
197. Then, can I take it that the Smelting Company would never have been located in the present position if they thought the harbour scheme would not be carried through? It certainly would not. I was instrumental in forming the Smelting Company, and I can certainly say that we would never have dreamed of putting up the works if it had not been so.
198. *Chairman.*] The Smelting Company was an off-shoot from this syndicate? No; it was always perfectly independent.
199. But after the syndicate purchased this land, you sold portion of it to the Smelting Company? Yes.
200. What price did they give for it, if it is a fair question? £20,000; but I can hardly say that, because it was not sold direct to the Smelting Company. There were a great many other things that were included, a lot of other things that I put in. We put down the land nominally at £20,000.
201. Were you a director of the Smelting Company at the time of the sale? No. We did not sell to the Smelting Company, we sold to the Camden Exploration Company.
202. Were you a director of that company? Well, it was part of the formation of the company.
203. Was it the Camden Exploration Company; how does it come into this;—was it a separate company? A separate company. I formed this company when I went to London. It was formed for many purposes. We bought mines in this Colony and worked them.
204. They are on the London directory of this Lake scheme? Yes; they are shareholders. They are a finance company, with a capital of £200,000.
205. Did not this Camden syndicate buy some land from you people? They bought 500 acres.
206. This is the land that you disposed of to Fluk, and that he disposed of to Osborne? It is the same land, which always belonged to the company.
207. The Camden company was before the Smelting Company? Yes.
208. How much did they pay for it? We put it down at £20,000; but there were other things that were connected with it.
- 208½. *Mr. Simpson.*] Were there not a number of patent rights? Yes.
209. *Chairman.*] The 500 acres was part of this original land? Yes.
210. Well, that really belonged to the Illawarra scheme, did it not? Yes.
211. And you were a director of the Illawarra scheme? Yes.
212. And you sold it to the Camden syndicate? Yes; the Illawarra Harbour Company, of course, receiving the purchase-money.
213. And you, as director of the Illawarra company, allowed that company to pay £2,000 for land which they had already paid you for? I do not quite understand.
214. This company had paid you for the land, had they not;—you were one of the original vendors to the Illawarra Harbour Company? Yes.
215. Then you sold it to the Camden syndicate? Sold 500 acres of it—yes, on account of the Illawarra Harbour Company, not on my own account.
216. *Mr. Cohen.*] But you did not receive any of that yourself? No.
217. *Mr. Sleath.*] Then the Smelting Company bought from the Camden Exploration Company? They bought 300 acres of land.
218. Do you know what they gave for that? There was no particular price for that. There were a number of things sold to them. A number of other things were included in the one purchase.
219. *Mr. Carrill.*] What were the other things? There were patent rights; but I really do not think I should be asked to tell. Anything about my own business I do not mind telling, but I do not think I should be asked to tell other people's business.
220. *Mr. Sleath.*] 500 acres were sold to the Camden company, for which they nominally paid £20,000; did they pay that £20,000 in cash? They did.
221. There were 300 acres sold by the Camden company to the Smelting Company? Yes.
222. Now, if there were a million and one things included in a sale of that sort, the 300 acres of land would certainly be put down as representing a certain portion of the money to be paid for the whole. I do not want anything outside the land; only the land? Well, I really cannot tell you. I would tell you, but I really cannot call to mind whether that was included in a certain series. In fact, I am pretty sure it was. There was a sale to the Smelting Company of a series of things, including agreements and other things, for a lump sum. As far as I can remember, it was one lump sum for the lot.
223. *Mr. Simpson.*] The colliery was included? The lease of the Ocean Colliery, agreements for purchase of coal, the Lewis Ponds Mines and several other mines, and some rights in respect of one of the islands in the Mediterranean.
224. *Mr. Sleath.*] Did they pay for those 300 acres in cash, or in shares? They paid for them in shares. As far as the Illawarra company is concerned, I made an out-and-out sale of certain things. I should have received the cash myself, but I said, "I want money for the Illawarra Harbour, so put down the land at £20,000." I gave the Illawarra Harbour Company the benefit of the deal. All the money I got they got. I took shares for the other things I sold. We know that £20,000 for this land is a very big price. The Illawarra company did not actually receive that amount, but because I have been largely interested in this company, I said, "I will sell you so much; I want £20,000 cash, and that shall go to the Illawarra company. I will take shares in your company for the other things that you will get from me," and that was done.
225. *Chairman.*] When you went home to England this land was mortgaged to Osborne? Yes.
226. You financed the mortgage in London, and paid him back? Yes, for the company.
227. Do you know whether Amos the contractor paid this mortgage? No, he did not.
228. Did your people pay it? Yes; to Osborne. This balance-sheet shows that the only mortgage that Mr. Amos has is for £34,402 15s.
229. What was that for? That was on account of the railway, which cost us £41,000.

- T. A. de Wolf. 230. *Mr. Sleath.*] So you paid for the railway principally with debentures? No; we owe Amos £34,000; that is all we owe.
- 8 Dec., 1898. 231. Then he held debentures for that? No; he holds a charge on the property.
232. *Chairman.*] Is not the whole of that property mortgaged to Amos to secure his advance? The railway and one of the properties are.
233. And is not that assigned to the Union Bank? We only know Amos in the matter.
234. Well, he holds the first mortgage? Yes; but you must understand that that represents £7,000 less than the cost of the railway.
235. Still his mortgage is over it all? Yes; it is only a nominal thing.
236. *Mr. Cohen.*] You bought the property from Mr. Vaughn for £25,000? Yes.
237. You paid £8,160 to Styles and three other people? We paid £13,000 cash as far as I know. According to the deeds, as far as I have seen them, the original purchase money for this land was £5,000.
238. Here is a conveyance from Styles and three other people of the one part, Robert Vaughn of the other part, and yourself of another part. That recites an agreement between these people to sell to Vaughn certain property for £8,160, and it is contracted by you to purchase for £25,000. You pay £8,160 of that down, and instead of Vaughn paying to these people, you take over Vaughn's interest and pay it to these four people, and they receive that money? I do not know how it was done. I know I paid £13,000.
239. I understood Mr. Vaughn to say that he had got from you £12,840 cash; and that the four shares were £4,000 cash, of which £1,000 was paid up? No; he must have meant £1,000 liability.
240. The £12,000 paid up on the shares, plus the £13,000, made the £25,000? Yes. Mr. Mosely has deeds showing that originally they bought that land for £5,000, and they stuck us for £13,000 cash.
241. You paid £8,160 at the time of the conveyance? I do not know how it was paid, but I know we paid £13,000. If I am asked any question about Styles I want it understood that they bought this land for a small sum of money—I understand £400 cash with a mortgage. They represented they owned this land, and I agreed to buy it for £13,000 cash and £12,000 in syndicate shares. Out of that they made a profit of £8,000 cash and 12,000 syndicate shares.
242. *Chairman.*] Was the guarantee put up by the Harbour Company or the Smelting Company? Which guarantee?
243. Which is placed at the Bank? The London company arranged with the Smelting Company and the Camden company to guarantee an overdraft of £10,000, which was done.
244. Does the Smelting Company hold any other interests in this Harbour Company bar that? Yes; they own 30,000 shares.
245. Does the Camden syndicate hold any shares in it? Yes; I could not tell you exactly how much, but I think they have £2,000.
246. *Mr. Sleath.*] How were they paid for? They took a certain amount of preference shares, and I gave a bonus of ordinary shares.
247. *Chairman.*] Did not the Smelting Company advance the money to build the railway? They built their own branch railway. There is a small branch line which does not come under our Act.
248. Did they not advance this £20,000 to pay off the mortgage to Osborne? No.
249. Have not the Smelting Company got a second mortgage on this estate? Only for the £10,000. We owe nothing whatever except the amount to Amos and the £10,000 which we have deposited with the Government.
250. They have a second mortgage for the £10,000, and Amos has a first mortgage over the whole of it? No; only over Lakelands.
251. That was the original estate? We have our coal property as well, which we paid Styles and Vaughn for.
252. But as to Lakelands Estate, Amos practically holds the first mortgage? He has a mortgage for £34,000, and our expenditure on the railway has been £41,000.
253. The Smelting Company has a second mortgage for this £10,000? Yes.
254. What use is their second mortgage if the harbour is not constructed? We think our land is good, and that our railway is good. If the harbour is not constructed I suppose we will sell the land.
255. *Mr. Simpson.*] The land they have a security over, subject to Amos' mortgage, the land which was originally purchased for £65,000, the land which was purchased from Styles for £25,000, and also the railway that cost £41,000? Yes.
256. *Chairman.*] Practically, Amos owns the lot? Oh, no. I told Mr. Amos only a little while ago that if he liked to have his money paid off, and did not want to carry on the contract, I would pay him off at a fortnight's notice, but he would not take it.
257. *Mr. Simpson.*] At the present time I suppose there are a very large number of hands employed in the Smelting Company? Yes, a large number.
258. Running to over a 100? I think nearly 300.
259. Is there any contract now existing between the Smelting Company and the Broken Hill Company with reference to Broken Hill ores? Yes; we have a contract with the Broken Hill Junction Company for 16,500 tons a year of concentrates. That is, or was till lately, the whole of their output. I am Chairman of the Broken Hill Junction Company in London, and I made the contract myself.
260. One company made the contract with the other? Yes. The Smelting Company is taking 300 tons a week of their concentrates.
261. For what term? Twelve months.
262. *Mr. Carroll.*] When will it be up? I think somewhere about the beginning of next year.
263. *Mr. Simpson.*] Have these ores to come to Sydney? They are brought to Sydney from Port Pirie.
264. And then by train to Illawarra? Yes.
265. If this harbour scheme were constructed, what saving would that effect to the Smelting Company? The charges now are equivalent to from 8s. to 10s. per ton of the ore. I could explain that perhaps. It costs approximately about 4s. per ton of ore, and then 10s. per ton of lead to get it back from the works to the ship. The ores go over 60 per cent. of lead, so the total charge is equivalent to about 8s. or 10s. per ton of ore.
266. That is to say, you are handicapped to the extent of 8s. or 10s.? If we had direct shipment we would save that. On all lead ores there is a very small profit.

267. Are negotiations pending between the Smelting Company and any organisation in Noumea with reference to the transmission of ores from Noumea to the Smelting Company; if so, will you kindly explain those negotiations? It is with London companies carrying on business in Noumea. T. A. de Wolf.
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268. What kind of ores? Copper ores and nickel ores. My reason for coming out to Australia was that we had negotiations with these companies in London as to the treatment of their ores in Australia. At the present time they are shipping these ores to Europe, and the freight is about 35s. per ton. On inquiry we found they could get these ores down here for some 7s. or 8s. per ton, and in consequence of negotiations entered between the Smelting Company and the International companies in London I came out, and I have been to New Caledonia with Mr. Weinberg, the General Manager of the Smelting Company, to investigate their properties. The London companies are perfectly satisfied with our properties. They have had them reported on, and the facilities we have for treating their ores. When I left Noumea about a fortnight ago we had made arrangements up to a certain point, which we will have to determine in London, and the general manager is leaving Noumea by the next French boat to join me here, and to go with me to England to conclude our negotiations. I have a cable from him this week stating that he leaves by the next French boat.

269. *Mr. Sleath.*] But no contract has been entered into? No; that was said in mistake. I noticed that in the House the other night. No contract has been entered into, but we consider that the business will be settled. I may state definitely that one of the conditions made is that we have the power to make this harbour. I am not stating that with any idea of inducing the Committee to consider the thing any better, but as a matter of absolute fact. Mr. Higginson will be here in a fortnight's time, and will go on with me to England. When I left for Australia I had a cable to say the Bill had passed the second reading in the Upper House, and we all considered we would get our rights to an extension.

270. *Mr. Carroll.*] You are Chairman of the Broken Hill Junction Company? In London.

271. And you arranged that they would get this great quantity of ore to smelt? I arranged for it, but the contract was concluded in Adelaide by the Head Board.

272. Will you say that you are smelting that 300 tons a week at a profit? That is a matter of the business of the Smelting Company, which I do not think I am at liberty to disclose.

273. *Mr. Simpson.*] I think it is hardly fair to ask Mr. de Wolf for details with regard to the cost of working these ores, because there are other companies which are carrying on similar operations, and it would give them a clue to the details of the working of this company.

274. *Mr. Carroll.*] You are one of the directors, and this is a big contract that you have got;—you are just as much interested in the smelting works as you are in the Illawarra works, or in other companies, and you do not say whether you are smelting it at a profit or at a loss? Well, I have a pretty good idea.

275. You will not say—you do not care to answer? Not as far as the Smelting Company is concerned.

276. Have you sublet any of that 16,000 tons of ore? We have lately sold 4,000 tons.

277. To whom? Well, that is a question I should not like to answer. I do not think you should ask any questions connected with the business of the Smelting Company. I am not here as a director of the Smelting Company.

278. *Mr. Simpson.*] What amount of money has the Smelting Company expended on the work? Something over £200,000, besides, of course, a large working capital.

279. But as far as plant on the ground is concerned? About £200,000.

280. *Mr. Ashton.*] Would you mind saying what the determining considerations were with this Smelting Company in the choice of a site at Lake Illawarra? There were two points—one was the cheapness of coal, and the other was that they expected to get water-carriage for low-grade ores from the different colonies.

281. That was contingent on the construction of the harbour? Yes.

282. And if the harbour were not to be made, any other site inland would have suited the company as well, so long as the site was close to the sea by rail as at present? I could hardly say that, but those were the two material points, the cheapness of coal, and the advantage of having water-carriage for low-grade ores.

283. *Mr. Waddell.*] Water-carriage right to the point where the smelting would take place? Yes; the competition of these ores with Europe and with South Australian smelting works is very keen, and the profits are gauged by a very small margin per ton.

284. *Chairman.*] But in order to carry out smelting of that kind it is necessary to have lead ores? Yes; I think you must have lead.

285. *Mr. Cohen.*] Is there not sufficient lead in the ores themselves? The New South Wales ores are very deficient in lead.

286. *Mr. Campbell.*] Being a director of the Smelting Company you could explain how it was that when the company was selecting a site which would be convenient for water-carriage they did not have it immediately beside the Lake? They own the land there. The site was chosen by Mr. Howell when he came there, and it was open to him to put his works anywhere.

287. It is some distance from Tilawarra Point? There are a great many considerations in choosing a site, and one is elevation. They chose the most elevated site.

288. *Chairman.*] Did you recommend making the contract for the Junction ore? Yes.

289. I suppose you do not know anything about this Junction ore at all;—I suppose Mr. Weinberg would be the man to tell us? I am a large shareholder in the company.

290. Do you think it would pay to buy Junction ore? Well, there is nothing much in it at present.

291. *Mr. Simpson.*] I suppose it is used for fluxing with other ores? They use it for running down gold ores, but these are technical questions about which Mr. Weinberg can give information.

292. *Chairman.*] It has been represented that the harbour should be constructed for the benefit of the Smelting Company, but the Smelting Company is not asking for it? I think I can safely say, as a director of the Smelting Company, that if they do not have a harbour they will not spend any more money there.

293. But the only ores you have been getting are the Junction ores? But there are many other ores we can get if we have direct water-carriage.

294. *Mr. Waddell.*] If you do get a harbour, will the works be enlarged? I have no doubt of it.

295. *Chairman.*] You only rely on this harbour for the carriage of ore? And the shipment of bullion, lead and copper, and the general enlargement of trade. The whole London Board are convinced that with a harbour made there we shall increase these works to four or five times their present capacity.

T. A. de Wolf. 296. When Mr. Howell says that it does not much matter to the Smelting Company whether they have a harbour or not, how do you reconcile your statement with his? There are many statements of Mr. Howell which I would not like to explain.
8 Dec., 1898.

297. Mr. Howell said that before the Select Committee? I have not seen the evidence, but it is possible he may have said so.

298. That is the evidence Mr. Howell gave us at the time that he started these works;—he was the original manager of the Smelting Company's Works? Yes; I employed him to come out.

299. Well, he stated before the Select Committee that it would make no difference to the Smelting Company whether they had the harbour or not? I do not remember any evidence such as that.

300. At the time you asked for the extension of time for the completion of this work, it was stated that you had ample time to complete it with this last twelve months' extension? We asked for two years. I was in London, and all the information I got was that we were cut down to one year, and I considered that a great stumbling block in getting to work.

301. *Mr. Sleath.*] But your request was that you did not want any extension of time to complete the work, but that the only reason you asked for that extension was the fear of damage by storm or a visitation of Providence? Well, those were the reasons given out here. I suppose the people out here did not quite understand the reasons which actuated the people at Home, but as a matter of fact, the shortness of time did interfere with us very materially in starting the works. And there was another thing which interfered with us, and that was that at that time the Smelting Company had been expected to start their operations long before they did. There was a long delay in starting the operations of the Smelting Company, and there was actually no trade. It is only since the Smelting Company has been in operation that we have built up a trade.

302. But those were the representations put before the House here, and those were the representations upon which the extension was granted. So you see the House could not be held responsible if the people here who acted for you made really false representations? Well, I know they expected we would have plenty of time, but when we came to make arrangements for money, exception was taken to the shortness of time we had for completing the work.

303. *The Chairman.*] Mr. Henderson in his report says: "The railway is to be completed by 13th December next";—do you think the condition will be complied with? Most certainly.

304. Mr. Henderson in his evidence says:

The last work is to be completed by the 30th November, 1897.

Is there any earlier date for the completion of any other part of the work? Yes; the railway is to be completed by the 13th December next.

Do you think it likely that that condition will be complied with? Most certainly.

Will the works be completed within the time you ask? Yes; barring accidents, such as a spell of rough weather.

But in your opinion there is nothing but bad weather that will prevent the completion of the work by the 13th December? Nothing.

I believe we could complete the works, but you cannot induce financial people to take those risks. They say if the works are not completed within the time, the Government can take everything

305. Yes, but this was on the 13th November, 1897. Now you are asking for two years longer. You said if you had that extension the works would be completed by that time? No doubt if we had raised the money, then the works might have been completed within the time. But we explained that owing in the first place to the smelting works not having been started, and there being no trade to show people in England that there would be a revenue, and then again because of the shortness of time, we were unable to conclude our negotiations for raising money.

306. Well, you see it was on the evidence of this Select Committee that you got that extension of time, and the evidence shows that if you had that extension for twelve months the works would certainly be completed; now you are no further ahead than you were then? Oh, yes; we have a trade there now. We have our smelting works in full swing.

307. I mean as far as the construction of the harbour is concerned? Since that time we have done two things: we have completed our railway, which has taken some time, and we have also put up £10,000 deposit. By putting up that deposit we have shown our intention to proceed with these works. I have no doubt we will get the money we require, but if we fail we forfeit our £10,000, and I do not see that anybody is much the worse. That is the view I take of it.

308. In your earlier evidence you said, that, practically, the Smelting Company put up the money? But we owe it; we have to pay it.

309. But this harbour is practically for their benefit, and not for yours? We hope not.

310. Do you expect to make any profit out of it as a company? We have a large area of land. We went into this business in order to make this land valuable by starting industries. We have several industries we wish to start there. We hope to build up a township there. As far as the harbour is concerned, I would not give 2d. for it. If anybody else will make the harbour we will give the right. We do not wish to make it. We want to develop the district. If we can find employment for a large number of men, we expect to cut up our land into township lots and sell them. We will make a town there if we can. We have certainly been a long time over it, but we have put our own money into it and we have not had money out of anybody else. We have put up our deposit and we are willing still to make this harbour.

311. When you say "we" you mean the harbour people? Yes. In America if we went to the Government with a proposal of this kind they would give us a subsidy, but we have never asked the Government here for a subsidy.

312. *Mr. Ashton.*] When the last twelve months' extension was granted, and the statement was made by Mr. Henderson that the work would be completed within twelve months, I suppose if the money had been forthcoming the work would have been done? Yes.

313. But the financial people considered the time did not afford them sufficient security, and consequently they did not subscribe the money? The first objection that was raised was that the Smelting Company had not started working.

314. That is to say, the twelve months' extension did not afford them sufficient security? That is so.

315. And you position now is that if you get another two years it will afford them sufficient security and the money will be forthcoming? I have no doubt about it.

316. That is really the position on which you ground your application for extension and your explanation of the non-completion of the works during the last twelve months' extension? Yes. 317.

317. *Mr. Sleath.*] Some time in 1888 the four gentlemen composing the syndicate purchased this Lake-lands Estate of 2,940 acres? Yes. T. A. de Wolf.
318. You paid £35,000 for it? Yes, subject to a mortgage of £30,000. 8 Dec., 1898.
319. You bought it from P. H. Osborne? No, we did not buy it from P. H. Osborne; we bought from the Lakelands syndicate subject to a mortgage.
320. Were any of you interested? No.
321. Was that £35,000 paid in cash? It was paid during the twelve months, part cash, part in six months, and part in twelve months.
322. Was that £30,000 paid by you and your partners? Yes.
323. Not raised by shares? No; no shares have ever been sold.
324. And afterwards the mortgage was paid off? Yes.
325. Then in the same year you floated it into the Illawarra Harbour and Land Syndicate? Yes.
326. With a capital of £240,000? Yes.
327. When you floated it into this syndicate did you increase the number of shareholders? No; it was floated from the original syndicate shareholders. They called it £240,000 with £180,000 paid-up.
328. Nominally it was the same men that held it? Yes.
329. But did you not increase the number of shareholders? Only nominally; no money passed.
330. Was that the time when Mr. Barton became a shareholder? No.
331. What about Mr. Styles and Mr. Newton? They had syndicate shares, and these syndicate shares were turned into shares of the company with a liability. 12,000 shares was the profit made by Vaughn and Styles on the sale of the land.
332. So their interest in the syndicate was shares to the value of £12,000? Yes, four shares of £3,000 each.
333. Besides cash? Yes, they had £13,000 in actual cash.
334. With £12,000 value in shares? Four shares of £4,000 paid to £3,000, with a liability of £1,000.
335. Then, still in the same year, 1888, did the syndicate sell to the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation? Yes.
336. And the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation increased the nominal capital to £600,000? Yes.
337. Did any fresh shareholders come in then? No cash shareholders came in.
338. Was it cut up in this way—10,000 shares at £50 each? £100 each, paid to £50.
339. And £100,000 cash? Yes, that representing the cost of the properties.
340. So, you the original syndicate, that was really selling to this company were to receive £100,000 cash, and what share interest? Shares paid-up to £500,000, with a liability of £500,000.
341. So, for the property that you had given £90,000 for, you were then getting £100,000 cash and £500,000 worth of shares? Yes; as a matter of fact we never did get the cash.
342. That was what you were supposed to get? Yes.
343. If you transferred that property to Fink as trustee for the company to hand over, presumably, to the company, whenever the company was prepared to meet its obligations to the syndicate, how comes it that Fink, as trustee, mortgages this property, for which he was trustee, for nearly £9,000? At that time the company owed £100,000 on the property, and this sum of £9,000 was very much less, including the previous charges on the property, than the amount of £100,000.
344. That is so; but it seems to me strange that Mr. Fink, trading, presumably, under the name of Wallach Brothers, could mortgage this property for which he is only trustee for somewhere about £9,000? At that time, the company could not get possession of the property until they had paid £100,000. At that time they had paid nothing, and Fink was quite within his rights in raising money on it, so long as he did not exceed £100,000.
345. Fink endorsed this bill that he made in his own favour? Yes.
346. And Fink discounted it? Yes.
347. And gave some mortgaged land, is that so? Yes, I believe so.
348. That was somewhere in 1892; if we come to 1894, did the Bank then sell the land to Osborne for £300? They sold the equity.
349. And did Osborne redeem the land? Osborne was the mortgagee. I subsequently redeemed the land. He was always mortgagee for the £30,000.
350. In reality the £35,000 was paid in cash, but the other £30,000 still remained as a mortgage, is that so? Yes, the mortgage had two or three years to run.
351. The mortgagee had still the mortgage over that £30,000, and he bought the equity for £300, so in 1894 he became the owner of the land again? Well, he was the mortgagee in possession.
352. Osborne held the first mortgage, the Bank held a second mortgage, and they sold the second mortgage to Osborne for £300, then he became the final mortgagee of the lot? Well, he was only the mortgagee still. I think I am right in stating that the company agreed to that security being given to the Bank.
353. Could you tell me when Mr. Carey joined the company;—have you the share-register, first of the syndicate and then of this company? There was no share-register of the syndicate; the syndicate was not registered.
354. There was only nominally the four of you? Yes.
355. Have you the share-register of the Illawarra Land and Harbour Corporation? I think it is here. [*Articles of association produced.*]
356. If Mr. Carey signed the articles of association he must have joined the syndicate? These are the articles of the company. He was one of the first directors.
357. Did he join on the formation of the company? On the formation of the company. The company was registered on the 29th October, 1888.
358. What share interest did he hold, do you remember? Thirty shares.
359. With a face value of £100, paid up to £50? That is so.
360. Did he put in the £50 a share? He never paid a shilling.
361. Did he give any consideration for his shares? Nothing.
362. Was he holding these shares entirely in his own right, or in the interest of anyone else? Entirely in his own right.

- T. A. de Wolf. 363. I notice in these articles there is a gentleman of the name of Frederick Orr;—did he join the company at the same time as Mr. Carey? Yes, he was one of the original shareholders.
- 8 Dec., 1888. 364. What interest did he hold? He had 140 shares.
365. £100 shares paid up to £50, with a liability of £50 per share? Yes. These did not belong to him; they were my shares.
366. He was holding them for you? For me.
367. I want to see the share-register of the company when it was formed;—how many shareholders were there? I think you will find it in this list. [*Produced.*]
368. Newton is down here for twenty-six shares;—did he pay any money into the company? He was a syndicate shareholder.
369. He got shares from the first small syndicate;—there were four of you when you made it into a larger syndicate, and Newton came in and got shares then? Yes.
370. Was Cubitt in the same position? He was a partner of Mr. Newton's.
371. Wood? No; I think he was secretary, he had a few shares given to him.
372. "J. R. Carey, contractor, George-street, thirty shares";—did he join the company then? He signed the articles there, I think.
373. Did he pay any money? No.
374. What consideration did he give for his shares? He did not pay anything for them, he was made a present of them.
375. *Mr. Simpson.*] Was that in order to get him to take a seat on the Board? I suppose it must have been to qualify him.
376. *Mr. Sleath.*] "The Hon. Edmund Barton, thirty shares." Did he pay anything for them? No; Mr. Barton did not pay any cash, but he agreed to be a director and take no fees. According to the articles of association the fees were £500 per year, and it was agreed that the directors would take their fees in shares.
377. Was this book written up at the time? Certainly, that is the registered document, the signed articles of the association which must be signed at the time of the registration of the company.
378. And was Mr. Barton then a Member of the Legislative Council? He was a Member of one House, I do not know which one. The date on the certificate to the articles of association is 29th October, 1888. He is down in this book as a Member of the Legislative Council.
379. Did not Mr. Barton have charge of the first Bill? No. It was Mr. Sutherland, who had been a Minister, and who died shortly afterwards. Mr. Chapman put the Bill through.
380. Did Mr. Sutherland have any shares? No; Mr. Chapman took the matter up for Mr. Sutherland. He was a son-in-law of Mr. Sutherland, and, when Mr. Sutherland was taken ill, he carried the Bill through for us.
381. Did Mr. Chapman have any shares? No; he never had any interest.
382. "C. A. M. Billyard, thirty shares." Did he pay anything for these? No.
383. "John Black, Melbourne." Did he pay cash? No.
384. Did these gentlemen hold these entirely on their own? Some of these people had shares given to them in some cross business transactions. I do not know what they were exactly. It was simply asked that these people should have shares allotted to them.
385. As to the whole of these shares that appear on the share list, no actual cash was paid to the company for them? Not to the company.
386. Therefore when this company was floated with a capital of £600,000 the 500,000 shares were really distributed amongst the members of the syndicate? The syndicate and their friends, but those shares carried a corresponding liability. It would not be the same as getting fully paid-up shares, because a man who takes a heavy liability like that takes a big risk.
387. That being so, and as it was not intended that any money should be paid into the company, where was it expected the £100,000 should come from that you were to get in cash? From the working of the company. We intended to leave it for some time. We thought we would get to work and that our land would become valuable. It was the time of the land boom, and we expected to cut up our land and sell it at once, but we were a little bit mistaken about it. The land boom burst, and we could not do anything with the land.
388. Vaughn holds 140 shares;—does he hold them in his own right? He got them from his syndicate shares.
389. Moseley, 140 shares;—does he hold them in his own right or for any one else? He holds them for me.
390. Harper, seventy shares;—are they in his own right? No; I think he holds them for me.
391. Styles, 140 shares;—does he hold them in his own right? He got them from his syndicate shares.
392. John M'Allister Howdon, 150 shares;—did he hold those in his own right? He was a partner of Fink's. Fink had a large number of men in Melbourne who were interested with him in his syndicate shares.

FRIDAY, 9 DECEMBER, 1898.

Present:—

MR. ASHTON,
MR. CARROLL,
MR. SLEATH,

MR. WADDELL,
MR. ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL,
MR. NICHOLSON,

MR. CANN.

W. J. FERGUSON, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

E. P. Simpson, Esq., and W. H. Moseley, Esq., Solicitors, appeared on behalf of the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation.

Ernest Ludwig Adolph Weinberg, called in, sworn and examined:—

- E. L. A. Weinberg. 393. *Mr. Simpson.*] You are general manager of the Smelting Company? I am.
394. Will you tell us the amount of money the Smelting Company have expended upon their works, and which they have in their operations at the present time? Roughly speaking about £300,000.
- 9 Dec., 1898. 395. Including land, the improvements on the land, ores purchased and in transit? Yes.
396. What number of men do they employ in their works? About 200 now. 397.

397. Will you tell the Committee whether the works would have been erected upon their present site if this harbour scheme had not been contemplated? I do not think so. I understood that was the principal reason inducing the company to build the works where they are.

398. The construction of the harbour will be an important element in the future prosperity of the company? Certainly.

399. I understand that the company have now a contract for ore from Broken Hill? Yes.

400. To what extent? We have a twelve months' contract with the Junction Company for 15,600 tons.

401. How does that ore now come to your works? It is landed at Darling Harbour, trans-shipped to railway cars there, and comes down to our works by the line.

402. Supposing the harbour were constructed what saving would it effect for the company upon a contract of that kind? The ores vary; the Broken Hill concentrates are heavy lead; they contain from 60 to 65 per cent. of lead. We pay first of all 3s. 4½d. for railage. Then we pay 11d. for wharfage charges, checking, and supervision of loading. Then we have to ship the lead back again; upon the assumption that there is about 65 of lead in the ore we pay freight on a little over half. The railway freight to Sydney is now 10s. per ton on the lead. If we had a harbour I daresay we should effect a saving of about 8s. a ton.

403. So that upon this one contract alone of about 16,000 tons there would be a saving in round figures of £6,500? Yes.

404. I believe some negotiations are in progress with reference to the treatment of ore from New Caledonia? Yes. I have just returned from Noumea.

405. The construction of the harbour would form an important feature in that scheme? A very important one indeed.

406. Is it possible that that scheme might fall through in the event of the harbour not being constructed? I am afraid it would.

407. Are the company contemplating an extension of their works? Yes, some extensions are in hand now, we are building additional roasting furnaces which will be in operation in the middle of January. These furnaces will give employment to about forty-two more men.

408. Is it possible that the construction of this harbour would lead to a further extension? Yes, I am almost sure it would.

409. *Mr. Nicholson.*] Have you special rates from the Railway Commissioners for the conveyance of your ores? We do not pay the rates except upon contract ore in large quantities. Our clients pay the rates upon small parcels of ores which come to the works. We all enjoy the same privilege—that is one half-penny per ton per mile. That is the rate paid by everyone who ships ore by rail.

410. How do you reconcile that with the statement of the late manager that he had made such arrangements with the Railway Commissioners that he did not care whether the harbour were built or not? I do not think Mr. Howell realised the true position of affairs when he made that statement. The works were not then in operation. That statement was made by Mr. Howell, as far as I know, before they had purchased 1 lb. of ore at the works.

411. *Mr. Ashton.*] The fact is this—that the ores which come to your works, either from another part of the Colony or another country, could be landed at the smelting works at Illawarra cheaper if they could come all the way by sea instead of being landed in Sydney and then brought round to your works by rail? Yes.

412. In regard to the prospective Noumea contract, what you fear is that if you could not bring the ore all the way by sea you could not give enough for it to enable you to compete successfully? Yes. You must remember this, that the ore from New Caledonia will not be bagged. All the Broken Hill ore is bagged in order to prevent loss. The bulk of the New Caledonian ore is shipped in bulk, and you can understand that if this ore has to go to Darling Harbour and to be trans-shipped there, especially in a dry season like this, and then railed in other trucks down to Lake Illawarra there would be an enormous loss of weight in transit. I do not think our clients could stand it.

413. The gist of your evidence is that you could land the ore cheaper if it came all the way by sea than if the journey were broken and the ore trans-shipped at Sydney? Yes.

414. *Chairman.*] You hold a power of attorney for the company? Yes.

415. The company have so far made no contract with New Caledonia? Not yet, but Mr. Higginson will be over in about a fortnight's time to confer with me further on the subject.

416. What are the names of the persons who are urging on this contract with the smelting company for treatment of nickel ore? I am the person principally interested in it as the representative of the Smelting Company.

417. But on the other side? The company's represented by Mr. Higginson are the International companies, which are an off-shoot from the London Globe Finance Company. I suppose you know that they are greatly interested in some of the West Australian mines.

418. Have you ever had experience in the treatment of nickel ores? No practical experience.

419. At present you have no plant adapted for the treatment of those ores? No; but their treatment is so simple that any metallurgist with fair knowledge and some experience can treat them.

420. Do you, as a metallurgist, think that this contract would pay your company? Yes.

421. Are not the ores very silicious? Yes.

422. Would you refine the nickel at Dapto if you started work there? I could not say. It would depend entirely upon the development of the trade whether it would pay us to refine nickel. The refining of nickel matt. is not a very great problem.

423. You do not know the percentage of nickel in the ore? Yes, it varies from 6 to 7 per cent. The present contract with Europe for the New Caledonian nickel ore is based upon 7 per cent. They pay at present a freight of 31s. 6d. to 32s. 6d. from New Caledonia.

424. What would be the freight here? I should say that if we could bring the ores over direct in suitable steamers carrying from 2,000 to 3,000 tons of ore we could charter those steamers to bring the ore over for about 6s. a ton.

425. What is the value of nickel ore of the grade you have named in London? At present they are paying to the producers in New Caledonia 75 centimes per kilo. The purchaser has to pay the freight. As to the value in London, I should have to calculate it.

426. You still consider that ore of that grade from New Caledonia could be smelted at Dapto at a profit to you and to the producers? Certainly, at a very great profit indeed.

427.

E. L. A.
Weinberg.
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E. L. A.
Weinberg.
9 Dec., 1898.

427. *Mr. Ashton.*] The difference in freight as between Australia and Europe would give you a very great advantage? Yes; at the present time they pay to get 7 per cent. nickel ore home 31s. 6d. If they can get the same grade of ore over here for 6s., you can understand what an enormous saving there would be even if we concentrated here to a 50 per cent. nickel matt.

428. *Chairman.*] But your smelting charges at Dapto would be higher than at home? Not very much.

429. The balance-sheets from all the smelting works of Australia show that its costs more here. Take the one item of labour alone, there is a great difference there, then, also, as regards quantity, there is a difference? The statement you make applies principally to ores which contain heavy metal, lead ore and heavy copper ores. We have no market for these metals. We have to depend upon the home market for them, and also for the nickel; but you have to bear in mind that 7 per cent. nickel does not represent a large bulk, even if we run it only into 50 per cent. nickel matt.

430. But your contention is that the difference between the freight from New Caledonia to Dapto, and that from New Caledonia to the old country, would give you a profit? Yes.

431. As against that, you would have the extra charges for smelting and the subsequent carriage of the nickel to the Old Country for a market? Yes.

432. *Mr. Simpson.*] It is contemplated, is it not, that the ships which bring over nickel-ore to the smelting works would have a return freight in coal, which would be suitable for the treatment of some of the ore at New Caledonia? Yes. We should not charter any boats, unless they were provided with water-tanks for water ballast.

433. *Chairman.*] There will be a return freight of coal to New Caledonia? Yes. They pay at present on 7 tons 7 per cent. nickel ore—that is to get it home—£11 4s. If it came over here we should pay £2 9s. Take 7 tons of nickel ore, we could turn it into 1 ton of nickel matt. To get that home we should have to pay 25s. There would be the difference, therefore, between £3 14s. and £11 4s., namely, £7 10s., to cover profit and working charges. We do not pay any more than other people would pay for the nickel, and they must make a profit on the price paid.

434. You are presuming that the stuff will be carried at the price for which it is now carried? Yes. The freight I have named would be that arranged for a big contract.

435. How many tons of ore could you treat at the works? 4,000 tons a month to start with.

436. But you have no appliances there? That is of no consequence. If we got a contract, I would undertake to put up in six months a plant which would treat 4,000 tons monthly.

437. You calculate that you will get a shipping company to contract to bring the ore over for 6s. or 7s. a ton? I am certain of it.

438. You spoke just now of steamers carrying 2,000 or 3,000 tons, could a steamer of that size get into the harbour? I think so if there were 20 ft. of water.

439. You know that the Bill only asks for 15 ft.? Yes; I took exception to that. Fifteen feet would not do. They are going to provide more.

440. With a depth of 15 ft. of water, and with the silting up which would be likely to take place, you could not rely upon getting in boats of the size you have named? Unless that could be done it would be of no use building the harbour there, but I do not see any difficulty in it.

441. You have a contract, you say, with the Junction Company? Yes.

442. It has been in existence for some time? Yes.

443. It is for lead concentrates? Yes.

444. Lead is a necessity in smelting operations? Yes.

445. Whether it pays you to smelt or not, you would have to have lead? Not always; you can use copper.

446. For silver-smelting? For silver-smelting.

447. Did you ever do any silver smelting without a lead flux? Yes; I have done silver smelting with copper.

448. In bulk? Yes.

449. Does it pay you as well as lead? It depends entirely on the circumstances.

450. Is it not always the practice to have lead ore if it is possible to get it? I have been connected with work in which they never had 1 lb. of lead ore, and they did an enormous business in silver, copper, and gold.

451. Do you smelt the whole of the Junction contract to which you have referred? No; we resold 4,000 tons, pending the erection of twelve furnaces. That work is in hand now.

452. That is the reason you disposed of part of the contract? Yes.

453. With suitable roasting furnaces, would it still pay you to buy Junction concentrates? Yes.

454. At the price it now costs you to smelt? Yes.

455. Would you buy lead concentrates from Broken Hill if you could get them from Tasmania at the same price? I am not prepared to answer that question. I do not think you should expect me to expose our whole business.

456. But if you could get carbonates of lead from Tasmania at the same price, would you not take them? It is a matter of freight. The whole smelting business in Australia depends entirely upon freight.

457. If you could get carbonates of lead from Tasmania at the same price, would you still buy Junction concentrates? It is rather doubtful.

458. Does the ore most profitable for smelting come from Broken Hill? No, I do not think it does.

459. Where does it come from chiefly? From other sources.

460. Would you mention some? We buy all over the Australian colonies.

461. But you must know where your principal supplies come from now? From New South Wales and Queensland. Some parcels come from Tasmania.

462. Where do you get your limestone and ironstone from? New South Wales.

463. If a harbour were opened at Lake Illawarra would you be able to get them any cheaper? I think very likely that we should.

464. Where do you anticipate getting them from? I must decline to answer that question. You must see that there are certain matters in connection with our business about which I could not speak.

465. Would a harbour be of any use to you in getting limestone or ironstone? Yes.

466. Surely you can say where you think you could get them from? I know that we could get from Tasmania better ironstone than we are using at present.

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467. What about the limestone? I could not say. I have not investigated the matter thoroughly yet.
468. You would have to pay harbour dues, remember? That is quite true.
469. Making allowance for harbour dues, freight, and all that sort of thing, do you think that if a harbour were opened you would be able to get your flux any cheaper? I think we could.
470. You think you could get it more cheaply from Tasmania? Ironstone, but not limestone.
471. Would it be as good as the stuff you are getting now in Australia? We are getting excellent limestone but the ironstone might be better.
472. How much do you use here yearly, roughly speaking? With the prospects that are before us for next year, for instance, we should use, speaking roughly, from 15,000 to 16,000 tons of limestone, and from 10,000 to 12,000 tons of ironstone.
473. Would your coke come in through the harbour? No.
474. Would your coal come in that way? No.
475. How much coal do you use yearly, roughly speaking? We shall be using during next year, unless larger contracts come in, about 15,000 tons. We use from 15,000 to 17,000 tons of coke.
476. None of that would come through the harbour? No; it would all come by rail.
477. How much ore do you smelt yearly, speaking roughly? With our present contracts and supplies, going from 70,000 to 80,000 tons.
478. How much ore, besides the Junction contract ore, would come to your works through the harbour if it were there now? A good deal of our ore comes along the coast. I should say, speaking roughly, that about half of the ore would come coastways.
479. Over half of what you are smelting now? Yes.
480. Where would it come from? From Queensland and West Australia.
481. Out of the ore you are already treating, how much would come by rail? I could not define the exact quantity unless I went into the different localities.
482. You are arguing that if your works are to be carried on successfully it is necessary you should have a harbour;—I want to know how much ore you would get through the harbour? More than half.
483. Where would you get it from? We buy all over the Australian Colonies.
484. That is a very general statement;—where would you get the bulk of the ore likely to come through this harbour? We get some from Broken Hill, Tasmania, Queensland, and West Australia.
485. What ore from Queensland have you been smelting? We have been smelting the Ravenswood ore.
486. *Mr. Sleath.*] What sort of ore is that? Refractory gold ore. We get a good deal of copper ore from Queensland also.
487. From what mines? From the North at the back of Cairns, and also some from the Mount Perry district.
488. They would not be large quantities? No; they are small parcels, but in the year they count up.
489. Have your company any mines of their own? Only one at present. Webb's mine, at Emmaville.
490. The White Rock is a separate company? Yes.
491. Do you receive any ore from Lewis Ponds? No.
492. You do not expect any? No.
493. How much do you get weekly from Webb's mine? About 30 tons a week.
494. Both Webb's mine and Lewis Ponds belong to the Smelting Company? Yes. At Webb's we are going to put up a plant capable of crushing about 100 tons a day.
495. Do you get any quantity of ore from the Camden Exploration Company? No; not at present.
496. Do you know any of the mines owned by them? I know some of them by name; but I have never visited them.
497. You will remember that Mr. Armstrong said that your principal supply of smelting material came from the Camden Exploration Company? Yes. May I point out that Mr. Armstrong possibly meant from mines in which the Camden syndicate are interested. For instance, the Camden syndicate is greatly interested in the Junction mine.
498. Mr. de Wolf is interested in the Junction mine, but he is not the Camden syndicate? Still I know that the Camden syndicate hold a large interest in the Junction mine.
499. Have a sulphuric acid plant at Dapto? Yes.
500. Have you established a coke industry there? No; we buy our coke.
501. How long has the sulphuric acid plant been put up? It is just completed. Some little things are still wanting.
502. Mr. de Wolf said you had established a coke industry down there; that was his evidence before the Select Committee? We have no coke industry there. No doubt we are the largest consumers of coke, as far as that is concerned.
503. The Illawarra Harbour and Railway Company is a distinct company from the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation? Yes.
504. There is no connection between them except that arising from monetary assistance? Their interests are identical as far as the harbour is concerned; that is all.
505. Did not the Smelting Company pay money to avoid Mr. Osborne foreclosing upon his mortgage? I could not tell you. I am not well versed in the initial operations of the concern. I only took charge of the works during the year.
506. If that railway line had been foreclosed upon and anyone had got hold of it, your operations would have been practically at a standstill? I do not know; but I do not think the mortgagee could step in and prevent our using the line.
507. Supposing he did do so, it would, of course, have put your company in a bad way? Yes.
508. Who owns the land over which the railway passes? It belongs to the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation.
509. Do you know the area of land owned by the Corporation? I could not tell you the exact acreage.
510. Could the corporation sell land without your company's permission? I could not say.
511. You are an engineer;—could you tell us how much money has been expended upon the harbour works? I have never seen them. When I say that I do not mean it to be inferred that I have a lack of interest in the matter. The fact is that I am a very busy man, and if I were to look at the works it would mean going down to the mouth of the lake and making a careful examination.

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512. Who paid for the railway line which connects with the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation's land? I could not make a positive statement on the subject; but as far I know the Smelting Company advanced the money.

513. They paid for the line? I think so. I can tell you what our interest is, but I do not know anything about the earlier transactions. I know from my books and balance-sheets the interest we have in the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation, as far as pounds shillings and pence are concerned, but otherwise I am not acquainted with the earlier history of the concern.

514. *Mr. Simpson.*] What interest in money value have the Smelting Company in the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation? £25,000, made up of £10,000 in cash, £5,000 of guarantee in connection with the Camden syndicate, and the paid-up £10 shares. We received 1,000 ordinary shares, and 1,000 preferential shares, and we gave a guarantee with the Camden syndicate for the deposit with the Treasury of the £10,000.

515. Did the Smelting Company pay £20,000 to Mr. Osborne to get rid of his mortgage? I could not say. I know there was a cash transaction. We gave them £10,000; in what way that has been applied by the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation, I could not say.

516. Was not the first mortgage held by Mr. Amos, railway contractor? I cannot say. All these things are in the hands of the company's solicitor. When I have to look into the matter I get out the papers, but I am not versed in the earlier transactions of the concern. I really have had no time to look into these things.

517. As to the depth of water in the channel, you think 15 feet would be of no use? No.

518. No sailing vessels would come in? Not unless they were towed.

519. You will have to use steamers? Yes. In regard to the harbour matter, our contention is simply this: We are of opinion that with a harbour we can establish a large trade. That is our principal contention. If we do not get a harbour the smelting works will remain as they are. They will never be any larger.

520. But the whole of the ore you say that would come by sea would be practically the Junction ore? No; we should receive ore from Queensland and West Australia.

521. Of the ore you are already treating the bulk is Junction ore? Yes; but you can understand that if we had the harbour it would give us a very big pull indeed. You have been connected to a certain extent with mining as far as I know, and you know that the profits of smelting works are very small—in fact, the figures are often on the wrong side. Now-a-days if a smelting company makes a few shillings of profit they do very well. In heavy lead ores our profit is not counted by pounds, but by a few shillings.

522. *Mr. Simpson.*] That would point to the necessity for a large volume of business? Yes.

523. *Chairman.*] The only ore of that which you are now treating which would come through the harbour would be the Junction ore? That would be the principal ore, but we should receive other ore coastways.

524. *Mr. Ashton.*] You have stated that more than half the quantity of ore you treat comes seawards? Yes.

525. That would be about 40,000 tons a year? Yes.

526. Of which about 16,000 tons would be Junction ore? Yes.

527. Leaving a balance of from 18,000 to 24,000 tons to come also seawards? Yes. At present it comes to Darling Harbour, and has to be railed across from Sydney.

528. It would reach you through a harbour if one was there? Yes.

529. *Chairman.*] Outside of the quantity you receive from the Junction mine, you say that from 18,000 to 24,000 tons would reach your works through the harbour? Yes.

530. *Mr. Sleath.*] How would the ore from Mount Perry reach you if you had a harbour? That comes in very small parcels now.

531. And it always will? You cannot tell. There is a new district being opened at Canindie. I know the district fairly well.

532. But the district has been opened up for many years? Yes.

533. I take it that if you had a dozen harbours the small parcels of ore you receive from Mount Perry would not reach you through any one of them, because it would not pay large steamers to come there with the ore? Quite so.

534. In what quantities does Mount Perry ore reach you at the present time? In parcels of from 10 to 20 tons.

535. If you had a harbour at Lake Illawarra you would not have steamers bringing there such small parcels of ore as that? Not unless there were intercolonial boats making special trips, or boats taking coal away from the district.

536. But boats would not go to Lake Illawarra for coal, would they? I could not tell exactly.

537. The parcels of Ravenswood ore would be about the same in quantity as the Mount Perry ore? No; we receive larger parcels from Ravenswood.

538. The West Australian ore would also arrive in about the same parcels? I do not think so. We have received larger parcels from West Australia.

539. What has been the largest? We received 500 tons at one time.

540. *Mr. Waddell.*] I suppose you expect your trade to grow as your works become better known over Australia? Yes.

541. *Mr. Sleath.*] But with small exceptions even if there were a harbour at Lake Illawarra a lot of the stuff you treat would still come to Sydney and reach you by rail? It would depend entirely upon the development of the trade. Speaking of to-day you are quite right. A great deal of the ore comes in small parcels, and even if there were a harbour there some of those parcels would not reach us through it; but with the development of trade the channel and quantity supplied will change.

542. *Mr. Ashton.*] Putting your case in a nutshell, if you could save 3s. it would pay you,—that would be the difference in cost, according to your former evidence? That was a calculation upon lead-ore with the lead freight back.

543. Do lead ores form a large proportion of the ores you treat? Yes.

544. Suppose you spread the saving over the whole of the ores you treat, what would it amount to on the average—I mean the saving effected by taking sea-borne ores straight to Lake Illawarra? It would depend upon the amount of back freight you had to get rid of. Unless I went into figures it would be hard for me to make an estimate of that kind, but I should say that the saving would be between 3s. and 5s.

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545. Your case is this: That if you can save the cost of transshipment and the railage from Darling Harbour to your works, there would be the possibility of great development in your company's operations? Yes.

546. *Mr. Archibald Campbell.*] What you mean is that the ships by which you obtain ore, instead of going to Darling Harbour, would go to the Lake? Yes.

547. If you got those ships within 5 or 6 miles of your works, would it not answer the same purpose? We have a railway system there now, and, as far as I know, the wharfs will be in close proximity to our works.

548. Assuming that instead of your vessels going to Darling Harbour they went to Talawera Point, what would be the distance to your works? Not quite 2 miles. I think it is the same distance from Talawera Point as from the works to Dapto Station.

549. But it would mean two handlings, the same as at Darling Harbour? It would be a different handling altogether. I have already pointed out that the great bulk of the ore we expect to treat at Dapto will be shipped to us. It will not be bagged ore, and there is a difference between the carrying of such ore from Sydney to the works instead of only a distance of 2 miles.

550. But in either case there would be trainage? Yes.

551. And there would be two handlings? That is absolutely necessary in any case, because you would have to distribute your ore.

552. The reason I put these questions is that it was to be inferred from your evidence that the ore would be tipped out of the ship into your smelters? That is a matter for after consideration. If our people said they wanted special landing facilities for the ore, I suppose the Corporation would be quite willing to give them those facilities. At present the idea is to bring the ore right into the works in trucks.

553. If you had shipping facilities 6 miles from your works, instead of at Darling Harbour, would that be of great advantage to you? It would be of advantage if there were a railway connection.

554. If a ship came to you from New Caledonia and were within 6 miles of your works, how much of the 8s. of saving of which you have spoken would be retained,—I am speaking now of the difference between a point 6 miles from your works and Darling Harbour? It would depend upon how much we had to pay for railage over the 6 miles.

555. Assuming that the railway were your own? There would be a distinct saving in that case. The Government has a limit, and, even if we conveyed the ore only 5 or 6 miles, we should have to pay the same to the Government as if it were conveyed 15 miles.

556. *Mr. Simpson.*] The railage rates you have fixed with the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation are considerably below the Government rates? Yes; I can make that statement with confidence, because some time ago we approached the Government to take over the haulage from the Dapto Station to the smelting works, but they quoted me a figure I could not entertain.

557. *Mr. Archibald Campbell.*] Let me put an illustrative case: Suppose there were a ship lying at Port Kembla with 6,000 tons of nickel ore from New Caledonia, and suppose that nickel ore came into your works, which would be 6 miles away, what would the profit be, taking the average? I could not say.

558. It would affect the 8s. of saving which you have already quoted very much? Yes.

559. Is there any restriction to the effect that your company cannot contract with the Government railways, or with any other lines than those running through the Harbour and Land Corporation's property? No.

560. *Chairman.*] Your operations at Dapto, you say, would be increased, providing you had there a harbour by which you could receive ore from West Australia, Queensland, Tasmania, and other places? Yes; I think we could expect an increase of trade, but our principal object now is to get the New Caledonian trade for our works.

561. You have no contract signed yet? No.

562. You are only in negotiation? Yes.

563. The negotiations have been in progress for twelve months or more? They are dependent a good deal upon the opinion I may form as to the possibilities of such a trade. I could only form that opinion from paying a visit to New Caledonia. I did not know of the proposed combination with the Caledonian business until shortly before Mr. de Wolf came out from England, when I was instructed by the Home Board to make a full report upon the Caledonian matter.

564. Has your report been before the Board? No; I returned from New Caledonia only a fortnight ago.

565. Have you any reasonable expectation that they will go on with the contract, judging from your report? I think so.

566. Do you think the other parties would be willing to go on with it at your price? As the matter is not yet settled, I am not at liberty to express an opinion. The question is *sub judice*.

567. Your principal contention is, that this harbour is going to benefit your works, and the only reasonable ground for that contention is that this contract will be entered into? No. During the time I have had charge of the Smelting Company's affairs, I have not pushed our trade. I have directed my attention to the provision of facilities; but I am certain that if we got the harbour, and got the benefit of the few shillings of saving which we would derive from it so far as the ore is concerned, we should be in a position to extend our Broken Hill trade. I should try to do so.

568. You admit that the harbour cannot possibly be of any benefit to you so far as small parcels of ore are concerned? No; the benefit will arise from big parcels.

569. You have no reasonable hope of trade through the harbour except that arising from your trade with New Caledonia? I would not like to say that. If our trade were to be confined to the New Caledonia trade we might as well shut up now.

570. The West Australian ores will be treated at Fremantle in a short time? The Fremantle smelting works are shut down.

571. But they are not constructed? They started and were shut down.

572. So far as your West Australian trade is concerned, is it likely that your clients will pay freight all the way to Lake Illawarra when they have smelting works at Fremantle? You underestimate the advantage we have in the shape of cheap fuel. You are aware that the western smelters have to pay a fairly high price for fuel, and that gives us an enormous pull over them. Our steamers from Fremantle would bring ore here for a few shillings.

573. Because they have back loading? Yes.

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574. But do you not see that the ships which bring coal to Fremantle will have back loading in the shape of bullion? But not sufficient.
575. *Mr. Simpson.*] There is more coal than bullion? Yes.
576. *Mr. Waddell.*] On the average, how many tons of coke does it take to smelt a ton of ore? In coke smelting in large furnaces we use, roughly, about 4 tons of ore to 1 ton of coke.
577. With 1 ton of coke you can reduce 4 tons of ore? Yes.
578. Is that all the fuel you use? Some ores have to be roasted, and a certain amount of coal is used in roasting preparatory to smelting.
579. *Mr. Cann.*] With your method of roasting, could you give the Committee any idea of the quantity of coal used as compared with the ore roasted;—what quantity of coal, for instance, would you use to roast a ton of ore? It is impossible to say exactly. We have a new furnace building which we estimate to consume 1½ ton in the roasting of 5 or 6 tons of ore, but we have furnaces which put much more ore through in proportion to the fuel consumed.
580. An estimate giving 3 or 4 tons of coal for the reduction of 1 ton of ore you would regard as an absurd estimate? Yes.
581. *Chairman.*] Your position, narrowed down, is this: That the only advantage the harbour would be to your company would be the facilitating of the transit of big quantities of ore? Yes.
582. If you had fifteen or twenty harbours small parcels of 20 or 30 tons would still reach you through Sydney? Yes.
583. Your contract with the Junction Company expires next year? Yes, next May.
584. It has not paid you to treat the ore? I am not prepared to say that.
585. The only other source from which you anticipate getting ore is New Caledonia;—you have not yet completed a contract with the mines there, and you do not know whether your terms will be accepted? The probability is that they will be.
586. Suppose your terms are not accepted, and the Illawarra harbour is constructed, what trading advantages will it give you as far as you can see now? It will give us a very great advantage; we have never yet pushed our business.
587. There are other smelting companies with whom you have to compete; these companies are just now getting into full swing; when your works were mooted they were not in existence? Quite so.
588. You get your coke in the Colony? Yes.
589. Could you not get better coke in Germany than you could get here? No.
590. Then how do you account for the Broken Hill mines using German coke? I will tell you the reason. The coke that is made here as far as ash is concerned is not considered a good coke. The ash contents of all our southern coke may be put down at an average of 15 per cent. German and English coke is supposed to contain 7 per cent. You pay freight on 8 per cent., and you put 8 per cent. of material in your furnaces which requires so many units of carbon to be fluxed off again. If you are using coke for smelting purposes it pays you to buy the best coke you can get. It is a matter of freight. I suppose the persons to whom you refer at Broken Hill can practically bring out coke for the same amount which it would cost them for Newcastle coke.
591. *Mr. Sleath.*] You do not make coke yourselves? No.
592. Coke made in the colonies is generally very small? The coke we are getting now is, I consider, a fair furnace coke. It is a coke which stands a good burden.
593. *Mr. Carroll.*] Have you made any sulphuric acid yet? No.
594. *Mr. Sleath.*] How far are your works from where this harbour will be when completed? I think about 2 miles.
595. What would be the difference in cost between carting the ore 2 miles and 6 miles? In the case of the Government line there will be no difference, because both distances would be within the 15-mile limit.
596. But supposing you were using your own line? It depends entirely in the capital invested in the line, but the difference in the two distances would not amount to much.
597. Up to the present time you have no line constructed from your works to where the harbour will be? There is a line down to the place where the harbour will be already.
598. The ore you are expecting from New Caledonia will arrive in full shipments? Yes.
599. You would require a fair depth of water in the harbour to allow the ships to come in? That is right.
600. You have already explained that you have not been able to notice the harbour works? That is right.
601. Have your company considered the time which must elapse before the works can be constructed? Yes.
602. So that if you enter into this nickel contract you will have to arrange for the ore to be taken to your works by some means other than through the harbour? Yes; at the beginning very likely we should.
603. And for a number of years? Not for a number of years.
604. I mean judging from the rate at which the work has hitherto proceeded? I hope they will proceed a little quicker. Our friends in New Caledonia are bound down to Europe for another year. The nickel would not come here right away.
605. Then it might be another year before your nickel contract started? Yes; they are tied to European smelters for about a year.
606. As to the money your company has paid for their interest in the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation, your company bought 1,000 preferential shares at £10? Yes, and we hold 1,000 ordinary shares.
607. You have paid to the company £10,000 in cash? Yes, that is all we have in the concern.
608. In return for that you got 1,000 preferential shares and 1,000 ordinary shares all fully paid-up? Yes. On our taking up 1,000 preferential shares they gave us 1,000 ordinary shares. That was part of the bargain.
609. Does your company hold a mortgage for the £5,000 guaranteed? Yes, we have security.
610. The amount you have named is the only money you have had to advance? Yes.
611. *Mr. Carroll.*] Have your company entered into negotiations for an extension of their Broken Hill contract upon the same conditions? I have entered into negotiations for an extension of the contract under conditions more favourable to the company.
612. At present nothing is settled? Nothing.

613. One-third of the contract is sublet to a Melbourne firm? Yes; we are not prepared to renew the contract with the Junction people at the same figure. It is almost certain that they will fall in with my ideas. I had nothing to do with the making of the contract in the first instance; 4,000 tons were resold, because we ourselves had not roasting facilities for the ore. You all know that freights have set in very high, and if we had to pay a premium on re-selling it has been brought about simply by the conditions of freight.

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614. If the Government constructed a harbour at Port Kembla you would regard it as being better than no harbour at all? Yes; provided we obtained railway facilities.

615. Carriage would come to a little more, but the harbour would be of great advantage to you? Yes.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1898.

Present:—

MR. ASHTON,
MR. ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL,
MR. CANN,

MR. CARROLL,
MR. COHEN,
MR. SLEATH,

MR. WADDELL.

W. J. FERGUSON, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. E. P. Simpson and Mr. Mosely, appeared for the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation.

Thomas Andrew de Wolf recalled and further examined:—

616. *Mr. Sleath.*] On the share register appears the name of the Hon. Edmund Barton as the holder of thirty shares? Yes.

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617. I think you stated that he never paid anything for those shares, and that he received them in consideration for going on the Board, or something of that sort? In lieu of directors' fees. According to the articles a sum was set on one side to be paid in cash, and the directors decided they would accept payment in shares.

618. Is Mr. Barton still on the registered share list? He is on the London register.

619. For how many shares? £3,000.

620. I think you said that in January, 1894, there was a call made on the original thirty shares? Yes.

621. A call of £10 per share? Yes.

622. Did he pay that call? No. I am not certain whether he transferred his shares before that or not. He paid no call on them.

623. If he had transferred his shares previously, his name would not have appeared on the London register? Yes, because it was arranged that on transferring these shares they were to have the same number of shares in the London company.

624. Whether the call was paid or not? Yes. Well in this case it was arranged, and in several others.

625. Did Mr. Carey also hold shares to the same amount? Yes.

626. When the call was made, did he pay the call? No; he paid a portion of it—£250.

627. Is he still a shareholder in the company? No; he refused at that time to take the liability. As I explained before there were very heavy liabilities on the company at the time he refused to share his shares with the liability he requested me to take a transfer of the shares.

628. What is the liability on the £3,000 worth of shares of Mr. Barton in London? No liability.

629. So that if Mr. Carey had taken the same interest in the London company as Mr. Barton, there would have been no liability? No; I may explain that at that time the debts of the company were heavy, and it was a question whether I would be successful in my efforts in London to finance the company. If I had not been the company would have had to be wound up, and people would have had to pay up.

630. *Mr. Simpson.*] Had the Smelting Company been formed at that time? No.

631. *Mr. Sleath.*] Were there 10,000 shares in the company when the call was made? Yes.

632. And a call of £10 per share was made? Yes.

633. How many shares paid up that call? All the shares that remained were paid up.

634. That would mean, then, that £100,000 was paid? I explained before that the company owed £100,000, representing the amount due to the syndicate for the purchase of the properties.

635. So that when the call of £10 was made, is it a fact that a good deal of that call was paid up merely as a question of book-keeping? Yes; to settle the debts of the company. There were cross entries.

636. For instance, the syndicate representing a number of shares in the company, and having £100,000 due to them by the company, they simply squared the two things by cross entries? Yes. It was rather a complicated account, because there were accounts between the syndicate and the original purchasers of the land.

637. So that the calls on Barton's shares, for instance, would be paid in that way? Yes; I took a transfer of the shares and I paid up the call.

638. Then were they transferred back to Mr. Barton? The shares in the London company were allotted to him.

639. Did he pay anything for them? No.

640. When did Mr. Neild first become a shareholder? I cannot vouch for the exact time. The date of the acceptance of the shares in the London company was in 1896.

641. Do you know when he first came on to the list of shareholders in the Sydney company;—when did he first become a shareholder in the original syndicate, or whatever it was? I have no knowledge. I received instructions from Mr. Armstrong when I was in London to allot 100 shares to Mr. Neild. That took place when I was away for four or five years.

642. But Mr. Neild is still a shareholder in the Sydney company;—do you know when Mr. Neild became a shareholder in the Sydney company? Yes; the date of the transfer of one share is the 28th July, 1897.

643. Previous to your being instructed by Mr. Armstrong in 1896, when you were in London, you knew nothing of Mr. Neild in connection with the company? Not in connection with the company. 644.

- T. A. de Wolf. 644. We had a good deal of information about Styles and Vaughn's transactions the other day;—you explained to the Committee that you bought this Ocean Colliery Company from Styles and Vaughn, who were partners? I bought it from Vaughn.
 12 Dec., 1898.
645. For £25,000? Yes.
646. Did you understand at that time that Styles was a partner? No; I only knew Vaughn in the transaction.
647. £12,000 of that was paid in cash? £13,000.
648. And £12,000 in fully paid-up shares? No; the shares had £1,000 liability. There were four syndicate shares, £3,000 paid-up and £1,000 liability.
649. So you did not know anything of the business between Vaughn and Styles? I ascertained afterwards that they were jointly interested, but all my dealings were with Mr. Vaughn with the exception that I was asked to put two of the syndicate shares in the name of Styles, which was done.
650. *Mr Cann.*] At whose request? Vaughn's.
651. *Mr Sleath.*] In July, 1894, were Styles' shares forfeited? Yes.
652. Did he pay the call? He never paid a shilling from the commencement of the company to the expense of the company.
653. So that, in 1894, his shares were forfeited? Yes. Most of his shares had passed out of his possession entirely at that time. He had borrowed money on them from the Mercantile Finance Company, who were also large shareholders. He borrowed money from Mr. Dyring, a storekeeper up country, and also from a money-lender here, named, I think, Phillips.
654. So that his interest in the shares was not what it might appear? No. Actions had been taken by these people to force him to pay this money back. That was some two years prior to the forfeiture of his shares.
655. Were all his shares forfeited? Yes.
656. What did the company do with those forfeited shares? They were open to anyone to take up who would pay the balance of the call.
657. As a matter of fact, you took up Styles' shares? Yes.
658. We were told something about the probable amount of money which you had expended for the purchase of the property; I would like to go over the figures very briefly again? There was £35,000 payment for the property, then £30,000, and £13,000.
659. Was that the total cash payment made for the property? Yes; for the purchase of the property, besides expenses. The total payment in cash for that purpose was £78,000. That does not include any legal or other expenses incurred.
660. The money that the company has received has been how much;—was not £20,000 from London the first amount? Yes, and a further £20,000.
661. And of course this £10,000 deposit is a liability? Yes.
662. You have received £40,000 in the company;—what are your liabilities, and I am not talking about the £10,000 deposit? I will give you the exact amount. This is the last balance-sheet dated 28th February, 1898. There is £34,402 due to Amos.
663. As against that you have spent, in railway construction, practically, £40,000? £41,465.
664. And in harbour works? £3,503, that is within a few pounds of £45,000.
665. In 1889 your first Bill went through? In December, 1890.
666. That is practically eight years ago? Yes.
667. During the whole of those eight years you have only expended in harbour works £3,503? Yes.
668. Did you give any instructions to Mr. Neild in October, 1895, when the previous extension was asked for? No.
669. Who would have represented the company then and given instructions? Mr. Armstrong.
670. Do you think that two years would be of any use to construct these works? Yes.
671. Do you think it would be possible to complete anything like harbour works there? Do you mean 15 feet?
672. Yes, even 15 feet? Yes; but our engineer here can give you these particulars better than I can. I can only give you what he tells me. I understand that it is a cheap and easy business to make a depth of 15 feet, but we shall probably try to make it deeper. We must make it deeper afterwards.
673. A good deal of the Smelting Company's affairs have crept into this evidence. Do you know how far the smelting works will be from the harbour when constructed? A very short distance.
674. I think Mr. Weinberg in his evidence on Friday said it would be 2 miles? It is just about 2 miles from where the ores would be unloaded; it is a trifle under.
675. Of course, all the same, handling of the ores must take place, as if the distance was 20 miles? It has to be handled.
676. So that the difference between the cost would be simply the cost of the haulage as between 2 miles and 20 miles? There are many other things. The difference of haulage, I suppose would be that.
677. *Mr Cann.*] What amount of money do you anticipate it will take to complete all these works as you intend to do them? About £150,000. We have a contract let to Amos—the balance amounts to £150,000.
678. What are your prospects of being able to raise that amount of money? I have not the slightest doubt that we shall get the money at once, as soon as I get to England.
679. Are you negotiating, pending the passing of this Bill? Yes. When I left England we had matters pretty well settled, unless something unforeseen happened. People will not bind themselves for twelve months to take up any business, but unless something unforeseen happens, these people are prepared to find the money.
680. *Mr Cohen.*] Do you feel fairly confident yourself that the money will be available? I sent £10,000 from London on my responsibility, and I would not have sent it out unless I felt that I could carry out the business. We have nothing to sell. All we have to do is to make the harbour, and make the land valuable.
681. *Mr Sleath.*] It was stated over and over again that the capital of this company is £1,600,000? That was a nominal amount for which the company was registered originally. The original Sydney company was registered for that.
682. You will see that Mr. Neild over and over again repeats that? That is the registered capital. We might have registered for £10,000,000; it would not have made the company any different; only we should have had to pay more stamp duty.

683. There would be no actual difference in the capital of the company if it were put down at £1,600,000 or £600,000? No. T. A. de Wolf.
684. What is the total indebtedness of the company at present? £45,000, including the £10,000 deposit. 12 Dec., 1898.
685. What is the balance due from the company to the syndicate? That is all settled.
686. That £100,000 is practically settled? Yes, in the way I have explained. We made the call, and settled it.
687. So that there is no money due to the syndicate now? No; the £10,000 deposit lodged comes back to us.
688. It is only a cross entry? Our total liability is £35,000, which is a great deal less than the cost of our railway.
689. *Chairman.*] Do you mean the liabilities of your present company? Both companies; there are no liabilities in London.
690. You mean the liabilities of the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation, and you do not include the Smelting Company? No; the Smelting Company is quite a different matter.
691. *Mr. Sleath.*] So that the London company took shares for their £20,000 cash? Yes.
692. So that is no liability? No.
693. If any firms were to undertake underwriting this, what would they want out of it? They get the usual commission.
694. Of 100 per cent.? No, not with us; we do not do business in that way.
695. *Chairman.*] Is it not often done by taking shares? Yes.
696. For instance, if they do not get the cash, you give them double the amount in shares? We very often give 2½ per cent. in cash and a commission in shares.
697. *Mr. Sleath.*] You actually did give them 100 per cent. They took up 20,000 shares, and you gave them another 20,000? We gave them a certain amount in shares.
698. Did you not give them £20,000 in shares? We are quite prepared to make the thing palatable to the English investor. He usually wants to have some interest in the company as well. We are quite prepared to do all that is necessary to see that we have the money this time, and make no mistake about it.
699. *Chairman.*] When Mr. Carey, Mr. Styles, and Mr. Newton were shareholders, I suppose they knew the whole of the transaction up to the disposal of part of your property to the Smelting Company? They had ceased to be shareholders before I went to England.
700. *Mr. Sleath.*] The call knocked them out? No, it was not the call; it was the fear of the liabilities.
701. *Mr. Simpson.*] Was it not on account of the Mercantile Finance Company? I arranged for a time to pay off the liabilities, but other people would not take the risk.
702. *Chairman.*] Did they know of the disposal of the property to Fink by you? Yes; that was ratified by the company.
703. Did these shareholders know it? Yes; they had notice of it.
704. Then Styles and Newton must have been shareholders up to the time of the formation of the Smelting Company? No; the transfer of the property to Fink occurred some years before; it was a nominal one.
705. They were shareholders at the time, and knew it? Yes, and subsequently.
706. Were they shareholders at the time you formed this company? Yes, they were the first shareholders.
707. At the time you formed the Smelting Company? No, they were out long before that.
708. The call on the shares put them out? As far as Carey and Newton were concerned, they refused to accept any further liability, they were liable for £40 a share, and they refused to hold them. Styles never paid one shilling.
709. Still they had their shares, and you disposed of the property to Fink? That was years before. I did not dispose of the property to Fink. It was in my name; I was only one shareholder. Mr. Fink or the Mercantile Finance Corporation would not agree to become security for further advances from the bank unless the property were put in their name instead of mine. They simply held it as trustees.
710. They were shareholders at that time? Yes.
711. When the call was made, practically Fink owned the property? No.
712. Was it not handed over to him? No; he took the same position as I did. I was trustee before.
713. *Mr. Sleath.*] When did Mr. Lyne become a shareholder? I cannot tell you. I got instructions from Mr. Armstrong to allot some shares to Mr. Lyne, but I understand that Mr. Lyne never accepted them.
714. *Chairman.*] You transferred this property from your name to Fink's, and the same day Fink discounted this bill? Yes; he got an advance.
715. To Wallach Brothers? Yes.
716. You say he discounted this bill when the property was transferred from your name to his, and he discounted it to Wallach Brothers? He got the money from the Bank.
717. They signed the mortgage to the A.J.S. Bank? Yes. I think when I gave my story of the company I explained all that as clearly as I possibly could. I pointed out that the company owed the syndicate a large sum of money, which they had not paid off, and Mr. Fink was quite within his rights in obtaining further advances for the company from the Bank, and giving security.
718. You and Mr. Armstrong own practically the whole of those 10,000 shares? No.
719. How many? We hold a pretty good number. I explained that we hold them to assist us in financing in London.
720. You do not know the exact number of the 10,000 in your name? I can tell you how many in my name.
721. *Mr. Sleath.*] Do you hold shares that are really not in your name? Yes.
722. *Chairman.*] How much do you calculate these harbour works will cost you? Mr. Harper can give you the exact figures of the contract. We have let a contract to Amos, and £35,000 of that has been spent. The railway has been finished.
723. The £150,000 would be outside the £34,000? Yes; we estimate the amount of the harbour and railway at £200,000. These are all done by schedule rates, and we may have to increase or decrease the amount. More stone may be required in the breakwaters and walls. The people in London estimate that we would require on the contracts about £250,000, to pay interest during construction, and so on.
724. *Mr. Sleath.*] Have you any estimate of the trade likely to be done when the harbour works are completed? No; we are satisfied that the Smelting Company's business will be sufficient to pay us interest on the cost.

- T. A. de Wolf. 725. *Mr. Carroll.*] What is the cost of the railway in Amos's contract? The cost of the railway was altogether £41,008.
- 12 Dec., 1898. 726. Has Mr. Amos been paid? He still holds £34,000.
727. And he holds a mortgage over the railway? Yes, and Lakelands Estate. This amount of Amos's is less a good deal than the cost of the railway. I sent out £6,000 worth of rails from London.
728. *Mr. Cohen.*] Did I understand you to say that you were prepared to pay off Amos at once if he wants it? I offered it to him, but he does not want it. If we do not get our Bill through, we will pay him off at once.
729. *Mr. Carroll.*] Have you any money in the bank—I mean the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation? We have a revenue of about £4,000 a year coming in. As we get the money in we pay our expenses, and we pay off Mr. Amos. We pay him off a little now and then.
730. Has the Illawarra Harbour and Land Company held monthly or quarterly meetings lately? No; they have not had a meeting for some little time. I have been away for some time.
731. Is it a fact that they have been two years without holding a meeting? I do not think so.
732. Have they been very nearly two years? I do not think so. Do you mean a meeting of shareholders?
733. No, a meeting of any sort? Yes; there have been meetings. The former secretary has gone to London—he could give the information.
734. Who can give us the information that the secretary ought to give? We can produce our minute-book. There is very little business to do.
735. *Mr. Simpson.*] Would not the meetings in London be sufficient to meet the requirements of the law? Yes.
736. *Mr. Carroll.*] Are all the shares held in London except thirty? Yes.
737. *Mr. Sleath.*] Are those thirty shares different from the shares in London? Yes, they are original shares.
738. Is one share of those thirty 1,600,000th part of the company? It is a 10,000th part; it is a £100 share paid up to £60. Nobody would care to hold a share of that description with £40 liability.
739. *Mr. Carroll.*] Are you aware that the Government have now passed a Bill with a view to constructing a harbour at Port Kembla? Yes.
740. What effect will that have on your scheme? We are quite independent, I think.
741. Will it not have a bad effect on the public at Home who may go in for speculation? I do not think so, because we have a trade of our own. I do not think we will be very much afraid of competition.
742. What trade have you got? We have the trade of the Smelting Company.
743. It is stated to be very little? We would not have put these works there unless we expected to do a very much larger business than they do now.
744. You have no contract with New Caledonia? No, we will not, unless we have a harbour made. If we have a harbour made, I think it is absolutely certain we will have that contract, and a very large one.
745. You do not wish to state whether the contract with Broken Hill is payable or not? I could not answer that question. We have European and Australian smelters competing with us, and if we said that we were making money, we might be charged more.
746. What is the reason for letting one-third of the contract to a Melbourne company? I do not know the business of the Smelting Company; but I do know that the reason for that was that we were short of roasting appliances. We are now putting up twelve roasting furnaces extra.
747. You said that you were going to have other works there;—have you any works for sulphuric acid? Yes.
748. Have you made any? No; sulphuric acid is a by-product, and would probably be used for superphosphate, but we cannot afford to bring that down to Sydney by the Illawarra line. You cannot make a chemical industry there without water-carrage.
749. It was stated eight years ago that if you got the Bill the first work you would construct would be the harbour;—how is it that that has been hung up so long? I have explained that.
750. How is it that you were able to start the Illawarra Smelting Works and not the harbour? It is a different thing entirely. I used my efforts with my friends to get them to put up the works, in order to create a trade for the harbour. I am largely interested in the harbour, and it was my business to try to establish a trade there. People might say that they would go into the Smelting Company when they would not go into the Harbour Company. They might put in £500,000 into that company, when they would not go into a harbour company.
751. *Chairman.*] You say the company has an income of £4,000 a year;—what is that from? From agistment and rentals and traffic on the railways.
752. How many acres of land now belong to the company? Originally there were 2,900 acres; 500 acres have been taken off, leaving 2,410 acres.
753. What do you think that is worth? I think it is worth a lot of money. If the harbour is made it will be worth very much.
754. What is the ordinary value of it now? For 2,900 acres I paid £65,000 ten years ago. We have 4 miles of water-frontage to the lake. We went into the thing intending to make the land valuable, and at the same time put up big works.
755. Would the harbour increase the value of this land considerably? Naturally it would—the harbour and works.
756. *Mr. Simpson.*] Have not the smelting works also increased the value of the land? Yes.
757. Do you think the Smelting Company's works would give a value to agricultural land? Yes; if you employ a lot of men about there the land becomes more valuable.
758. *Mr. Sleath.*] Have you sold any of the land in small blocks? Yes; but not much.
759. What price have you been getting for it? About £1 a foot.
760. About £300 an acre? Yes.
761. *Chairman.*] This company owes you practically £100,000? No, nothing.
762. They did not pay you any cash? The debts were owing, and we owed the debts. We had to write them off. Money was owing to us.
763. It was a system of book-keeping? The money was owing to us, and should have been paid.
764. *Mr. Carroll.*] Do you say there is no secretary now? Yes, there is a secretary, but he only joined during the last three weeks.

765. Who is the secretary? Neild.

766. Is he a relative of Mr. Neild? Yes.

767. *Mr. Simpson.*] Was Mr. Jarvis the secretary for a number of years? Yes, for five or six years.

768. *Mr. Carroll.*] It is reported that the sleepers in the railway line are rotting, and that the Government refuse to allow their engines to work on it;—is that true? Certainly not. I cannot help reports being spread about.

T. A. de Wolf.

12 Dec., 1898.

Walter Andrew Harper sworn and examined:—

769. *Chairman.*] Did you give evidence before the Committee in 1895? No; I was away.

770. *Mr. Simpson.*] I understand that under the Act the Government have power to appoint a consulting engineer? Yes.

W. A. Harper.

12 Dec., 1898.

771. In pursuance of that power, did they appoint Mr. Darley? Yes; as soon as the plans of the scheme were prepared, it was considered important that Mr. Darley should approve of them at that stage, because after the works were going on he might come and alter them. So we submitted the plans to him before entering into any contract.

772. What was done by Mr. Darley? He made a very small alteration in the entrance to the works. The width of the channel was altered 100 feet, or something of that sort.

773. With that exception, were the plans approved of by him as consulting engineer? Yes. There was a little difference in the construction of the breakwaters—a difference in the height and width of them, and also in the channel.

774. Are there any engineering difficulties in the way? No. I produce a plan which accompanied the Port Kembla evidence, as it was approved of by Mr. Darley. It is the official plan of the Illawarra entrance.

775. *Mr. Sleath.*] What was the width before? 200 feet at the entrance.

776. And you changed that to 430 feet? Yes.

777. *Mr. Simpson.*] Was your firm engineers for the Illawarra Corporation, and did they prepare the plans in connection with the scheme? Yes. I think the Committee will see by these plans that now that the tie-bank has been constructed there is practically a southern breakwater from Windang Island to the mainland, so that the breakwaters are really under the lee of the island.

778. *Mr. Cohen.*] Will that protection facilitate operations under the contract? Yes. It is made of light rubble, and is constructed to convey the stone to the breakwater, but it has stood very well, although the stones are only about 1 foot in diameter.

779. *Mr. Simpson.*] How long will it take to complete the harbour? The contract provides that it shall be done within two years.

780. Is that the present contract with Amos? Yes; it depends a great deal on the dredging power. Under the contract, the contractor will have to supply dredges, but I think the company will also supply a dredge of their own.

781. Have they the option of doing that? They have the refusal of a very large steam-pump belonging to Dr. Hay of Coolangatta. If they buy that, it would complete the work very much quicker. The contractor puts himself under a penalty to complete the work in two years.

782. You have no doubt that if two years' extension were given, it could be completed? No; it is very light work—it will only take £140,000 to complete it.

783. Is there much blasting to be done? No; none except to get stone out of the quarry. Soundings and borings have been taken by the contractors. We provided a clause in the contract that although the depths were given by us the contractor had to bore himself, and had to take the responsibility.

784. Has he done that? Yes.

785. Is there little or no blasting to do in connection with the excavation? There is no blasting at all in connection with the harbour works. There is at the quarry. There is nothing of that kind in connection with scouring out—it is sand-pump work; it is exactly similar to the Gippsland Lakes entrance, with the exception that we have this island. At the Gippsland Lakes it has been a perfect success with timber and breakwaters, and it is exposed to the whole Pacific Ocean; there is no shelter.

786. *Mr. Sleath.*] Can you tell us the length of the southern breakwater? The breakwater, as shown on the plan, is really divided into two. The latter portions of the breakwater are called training-banks from the tiebank towards the lake, and from there to the sea, breakwaters. The length of the southern training-wall is 1,650 feet.

787. And the breakwater? 1,815 feet.

788. I suppose the breakwaters are to be of stone;—what depth will you have to go to get something like a bottom, or will you put them on the shifting sand? The sand is quite solid, but the channel will be dredged—say to 20 feet. It will be lined with stone to that depth. The stone will be allowed to find its own bottom; it may sink to 15 or 20 feet; we have to put in whatever stone is necessary. My experience is that it sinks 5 or 6 feet, and beds itself in the sand. It is exactly like the Suez Canal—through the Bitter Lakes, where they have lined it with pitching. It has not gone below the bottom level of the canal. The stones are sunk a foot or two in the sand.

789. What is the size of the training-wall? Ten feet on the top with a batter of $1\frac{1}{4}$ to 1.

790. Will the breakwater be larger than the training-wall? The southern breakwater is very large. The width at the top is 15 feet; at high-water mark, 51 feet; at low-water mark, 66 feet, with a batter of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 with 10-ton blocks.

791. What about the northern breakwater and training-wall? It is practically the same, it is a little shorter.

792. The distance from the mouth of the breakwater to the finish of the training-wall would be 3,465 feet? Yes.

793. What is the length of the canal channel? A little over 3 miles.

794. Do you intend to have a training-wall up both sides? No; it would be simply deepened just like an ordinary canal.

795. Do you think that will stand? Yes. Very much wider slopes are provided than are necessary. The Suez Canal slopes stand at 1 in 1. We provide 1 in 5, so that it is almost like a saucer.

796. This channel is only 100 feet wide? That is at the bottom.

797.

- W. A. Harper. 797. *Mr. Cohen.*] What is the height of the tide there? There is scarcely any in the lake. There would be about 2 feet when the work is completed.
- 12 Dec., 1893. 798. *Mr. Sleath.*] What will be the width at the top of this dredging? If you carry the slopes to water-level the width will be 330 feet.
799. With a batter of 5 to 1? There are 115 feet on each side of the central piece at 23 feet. I am taking that depth because I think it is really intended to take it to that depth. In the northern breakwater there is 139,000 tons—that is, the whole thing. In the southern breakwater there is 153,000 tons. The total cost is £52,924.
800. That does not include the training-walls and the channel? No. The cost of the total dredging, 3,600,000 yards, is £81,000—a lump sum contract. The contractor is responsible for dredging that, and at the completion of his maintenance time he hands over the channel at the theoretical slope.
801. Do the training-walls come under that estimate? No. There are 167,000 tons in the training-walls, and the cost approximately is £18,000.
802. As the engineer, and having made yourself thoroughly conversant with the whole surroundings, have you considered the possibility of silting up when the breakwaters are completed? Yes, fully. The last part of the breakwater, for about 50 yards from the end, is on solid rock. There is no sand shifting at the ends of the breakwater. Before any silting up could possibly occur it would be necessary for the whole of the area of the bight to reclaim to the eastern cape of Winding Island. That would take centuries. Before any sand could get round at all it would be necessary to do that.
803. But from the other side? There is no trend from there. The whole force is from the south, and the only sand which comes is in a heavy southerly. There is a little drift along the shore, but the breakwater is sufficiently large to keep all that; and there are fascine banks running parallel for half a mile south of the breakwaters, to trap any little travelling dry sand. The banks come to a very small sum. They are only to hold dredgings. They only amount to about £2,000 altogether.
804. What is the depth of water at high and low water marks at the eastern end of the breakwater? Twenty-six feet at low water.
805. With a hard rocky bottom? Yes.
806. What would be the corresponding depth between the breakwater and the training-walls? At the present time it varies according to the state of the lake. Sometimes there is a deep channel there, and sometimes there is no channel at all. Until these walls were built there was nothing to guide the channel or maintain it in any direction.
807. *Mr. Cann.*] When you make an opening into the channel, will not the level of the lake go down to dead low water? It will be dredged.
808. Will you not alter the level of the lake? No; when it is dammed up the lake rises sometimes several feet, but it never goes below low-water mark. All our calculations are to low-water mark.
809. *Mr. Sleath.*] What depth do you intend to dredge it right through from the eastern end? Twenty feet at low water.
810. *Mr. Cohen.*] Do you say that there will be a rise of about 2 feet? Less than 2 feet.
811. But there must be a rise of 4 or 5 feet outside? Yes; 5 feet at the entrance.
812. *Mr. Simpson.*] Has Mr. Darley seen these plans? Yes.
813. *Mr. Sleath.*] You say the width of the channel will be 430 feet;—do you see that Mr. Darley says that the width ought not to be less than 500 feet? He has altered his view since the plan was made. That is his document. I do not agree with him on that, and I should not give way any further. My opinion was that it might have been less. I am backed up in that by Sir John Coode, but at the same time I did not wish to fight on details with him, and I gave way to the extent of 430 feet, which we agreed upon.
814. He says that the entrance to the Amsterdam Ship Canal, a parallel case, is 800 feet wide, and that it is not so exposed? You can get plenty of instances the other way. It all depends on the current. I am certain that is ample.
815. Do you know the width of the entrance to the Tyne? No; but it is a very wide entrance, and then there is the river Tyne.
816. Mr. Darley gives the entrance to the Tyne at 1,100 feet, and the Tees 2,000 feet? You cannot compare these works. This is a lake; it is all still water, and the only scour we have is the tidal range. If we make them too wide we shall have too little scour, and if we make them too narrow we shall have too much.
817. *Mr. Cann.*] If you have a lot of wet weather, will you not have a great deal of scour? Not very much.
818. *Mr. Sleath.*] Do you know any work of this kind in the world with as narrow an entrance? I do not know any one exactly similar, but the plans that Sir John Coode made for Lake Macquarie provide for an entrance of 200 feet. That is the nearest case to this that I can imagine. On that point the Committee should be quite satisfied, because anything we do there will be done under Mr. Darley. If he insists on the width being greater the company will have to do it.
819. You say that Sir John Coode recommended an entrance of 200 feet to Lake Macquarie;—do you know that Mr. Moriarty increased that width very much? I think he widened it to 500 feet.
820. To 1,300 feet? I knew he altered it.
821. How long have you been engineer for this company? Since its inception, about eight years ago.
822. Have you done much work in connection with the harbour? No; only the tie-bank. We constructed the railways on shore.
823. Supposing this extension is granted, have you any arrangements made as engineer for the company to proceed with the work? We called for tenders for the harbour, and let a contract for that to Mr. Amos. He will carry it out. There will have to be certain alterations in his contract with regard to the depth. His contract is for £140,000 approximately; it was £200,000 including the railway.
824. How long is it since this contract has been entered upon? About three years.
825. So that three years ago you were exactly in the same position to proceed with the work as you are now? I do not think so.
826. I mean the contract was made the same as it is now? Yes.
827. What has been expended on harbour construction in the three years? About £4,000—between £3,000 and £4,000.

828. We had a witness here the other day who said he could not observe any harbour works? Then he has not been there. The tie-bank is shown in that plan as complete. One of the witnesses in the Upper House said he had ridden across the lake. W. A. Harper.
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829. *Chairman.*] What did you say was the total cost of this work? £140,000.
830. Is that without the railway? Yes.
831. In 1898, in giving evidence before the other Committee, you put it down as what? £170,000.
832. No, without the railway you said it would cost £250,000? That was our original estimate. We modified that very considerably as regards the works themselves, and prices have gone down very considerably.
833. Then, in September, 1898, a couple of months ago, you said it would cost £200,000? I said the contract was let for £200,000, and £40,000 of railway was done, which left it at £150,000.
834. No, in 1889 the harbour itself, without the railway, was estimated to cost £250,000; now, in 1898, at page 17, you put down the cost at £200,000? That is not quite right. The actual facts are that the contract for the harbour works and railways was let for £200,000, of which £40,000 has been spent on railways, leaving £160,000 for the harbour.
835. In your evidence in 1889 you put it down at £250,000 without the railway? It has never been altered; it was £200,000 including the railway.
836. *Mr. Simpson.*] Was that before the contract was let? Yes.
837. *Chairman.*] In 1889 you put it down at £250,000 without the railway; a couple of months ago, in September, 1898, you put down the cost at £200,000? We let the contract for £50,000 less than the estimates. That would have been more correct if it had said inclusive of the railway.
838. Do you think that if we wait for another two years it will come down to £80,000? No; where we come down between our contract and the estimate is in the work itself. Our ideas were very large as to the size of the work. We modified those and reduced the contract to £200,000.
839. *Mr. Cohen.*] Does that contract hold good? Yes; I think it is a fair contract.
840. *Mr. Sleath.*] Have you gone into the question as to the probabilities of the work paying, or are you merely as an engineer carrying out the work? Our official capacity is only that of engineers, but I am quite satisfied about its paying. I am so satisfied with the company that I have a very large share in it.
841. Is it not sometimes customary, in a case of this sort, for a practical engineer to give a report? I am satisfied myself that the Smelting Company's trade alone will pay interest on the debentures, and I do not care for anything else but the debentures.
842. *Chairman.*] Do you know the total amount of stuff that the company is dealing with at present? No. I know that they expect to deal with a very large quantity when the harbour is made, but I do not think my evidence on that point would be as good as Mr. Weinberg's.
843. You hold that opinion, but still it is only an opinion? The amount required to pay interest on £200,000 at 5 per cent. is £10,000. It is clear that the dues from the Smelting Company alone will come to that—that is, treating 200,000 tons a year.
844. That is for over-sea stuff? Yes.
845. You think the Smelting Company can treat 200,000 tons a year at their present works? Certainly not; but I am satisfied that if this Bill is granted, the New Caledonia business alone will be sufficient, even supposing they do not make larger contracts with Broken Hill, to pay interest on the whole affair.
846. But the New Caledonia contract is in the air; for instance, they could not make it for at least twelve months? Yes; they have large stacks of copper ore already.
847. Do you not know that the New Caledonia company is under contract with some English companies to take their stuff, which does not expire for twelve months? Not for copper—only for nickel.
848. *Mr. Sleath.*] But there is no proposed contract for copper with New Caledonia? Yes.
849. Mr. Weinberg does not say so? My evidence is only hearsay.
850. *Chairman.*] Is Mr. Henderson a member of your firm? Yes.
851. I suppose you have drawn all of these plans in your office? The one before the Committee is Mr. Darley's; the rest were done by us.
852. Do you think there is any danger of this harbour silting up after being constructed on this plan? Not the slightest. There is no movement in the lake; it is dead water.
853. Will it be after the channel is made? Yes, except between the walls.
854. Do you mean to say that with the sweep of the Pacific Ocean into this channel you will have no silting? Where the channel is confined within stone walls, if there was any silting it would take it away; but there is no reason to suppose that there will be any sand difficulty. I am perfectly clear on that point.
855. Do you think the harbour works on that plan can be constructed for the sum you mention? Yes, easily.
856. *Mr. Sleath.*] You say that this work would be constructed easily in two years? Yes.
857. To the depth specified? Yes.
858. You seem to differ somewhat from Mr. Henderson; would you be surprised to learn that he does not think it would be? I do not know that he ever gave that evidence.
859. Would you be surprised if he gave this evidence:—The company could not go to the public in London and get money now for carrying out a 20 feet channel in two years, because the time is too short? That is quite right. What he means is this: If you apply to a man for debenture money, he is not going to take contractor's risks, that the work will be done to a day in two years; it would be unfair to ask him. You must have at least a fair margin of time. A contractor will take the risk of doing a work within a certain time under a penalty of £500 a week, but if a debenture-holder lends his money, and the work is not done, he loses the lot. All that we have had to deal with in the other evidence is the 15 feet channel. That would be completed in two years.
860. Are you a large shareholder of this company? I have no shares in the Sydney company; I have in the London company.
861. Mr. Harper appears as a director of the London company? Yes, I am a director.
862. You are still a director? Yes.
863. I suppose you know the Sydney and the London company are practically the same? I do not know that.
864. Is it not all money raised to carry on the same work? The London company is undoubtedly the financing body of the Sydney company.

- W. A. Harper. 865. You are a director of the London company, and you ought to know ;—is it not a fact that the Sydney company has practically ceased to exist? No ; it cannot have ceased to exist.
- 12 Dec., 1898. 866. I do not mean legally, but practically ;—how many shares are held by the Sydney company? I cannot tell you.
867. Do you know how many are held by the London company? Yes ; nearly all the shares.
868. Do you know how many the London company have got out of the original 10,000? I cannot say.
869. Would you be surprised to learn that they took up 9,970? No ; because I know they have nearly all.
870. If they have 9,970 out of 10,000, is it not a fact that they are practically the company? They are the largest shareholders undoubtedly. It is rather an academic question. I can tell you that there are some first-class people in the London company. I will not be a director when the works start.
871. Did you undertake the survey and preparation of plans for this work at the request of the Illawarra Corporation? Yes.
872. Did they make a contract with you to do it? No ; they simply employed us professionally in the ordinary way. They pay us a fee on the work as carried out.
873. Supposing the work is not carried out, how do you stand for fees then? We do not get any.
874. Do they pay you in shares or in cash? In cash.
875. That is, if it is gone on with? In any case.
876. Did you buy the shares which appear in your name in London? No.
877. Were they given to you for some consideration? I do not think I should go into that. I devoted considerable time in London to this business, and Mr. de Wolf gave me the shares himself personally. I did not ask him for them ; they have nothing to do with my firm or business.
878. *Mr. Simpson.*] I presume your firm have been paid cash for their plans? The work has been carried out by my partners, and their payment has been the ordinary engineering commission.
879. And paid in cash? Yes.
880. *Mr. Sleath.*] Your interest as a shareholder is purely a personal interest, and it has nothing to do with the firm? Yes.
881. There is something in connection with Amos's contract that I want to ask. Mr. Amos says that the contract was verbally accepted. I suppose there is nothing really binding between you? There is a proper contract prepared by Allen and Allen, acting for Mr. Amos.
882. The reason why I asked the question was because Mr. Amos in his evidence said that there was only a verbal contract? I can explain that. The original contract was a binding contract, but subsequently there have been some alterations in the work. When those alterations were made he submitted a tender that will have to be embodied in a contract when the work starts. The first contract has been modified.
883. No. In the evidence it is stated that he produced the tender dated 22nd April, 1897. He was asked if it had been accepted, and he said it had been verbally accepted? I am not going to commit myself as to whether it is or not. As soon as we start the works we will have that contract embodied in a legal form.
884. But Mr. Amos may not be prepared to proceed? Yes, he is.
885. But you have nothing here binding him? We do not care much. The contract has been let, but there has been an alteration, and he submitted a fresh tender. There is no object in the company doing anything more with that tender until the work is started. Then it will be put in the contract that the solicitors will prepare.
886. *Chairman.*] That is made an affair contingent on this scheme being accepted by Parliament? Yes ; we are morally bound to Amos. He has done the work well ; he has got the contract ; and the delay has not been his fault.
887. I mean there is nothing binding whatever. He cannot hold you responsible ; you cannot hold him responsible ; but you are morally bound to him? I think he can hold the company responsible ; and if they do not conclude the contract with him they will have to pay a penalty.
888. You think that if the company does not finally arrange the contract they will have to pay a penalty? Yes.
889. *Mr. Moseley.*] At the bottom of page 27 you will see Question 637, "But there has been another contract—the terms and conditions are identical"? Yes.
890. *Mr. Sleath.*] But does it not say in that question that the company will have to pay 90 per cent. monthly on the work done? The contract is binding. If the corporation do not carry out that contract they have to pay Mr. Amos a certain penalty. I do not remember what it is. The schedule of prices which is embodied in the contract has been subsequently amended. That second schedule has not been embodied in the second contract.
891. *Mr. Cann.*] Was that contingent on the giving of notice to go on with the work? Yes ; or paying the penalty.
892. There is this reservation that you have to give notice to go on with the work—then he is liable, and you are liable if the notice has been given? Yes.
893. Then there is nothing in existence until that notice has been given? Yes.
894. *Mr. Sleath.*] Mr. Amos, in giving his evidence, was asked by Mr. Trickett, "You say that within two years of getting notice to proceed you will have the work done in accordance with the Principal Act"? He answered, "Yes, to a depth of 15 feet." Then he explains that Mr. Armstrong, the managing director, made a verbal contract? I think that is pretty nearly correct.
895. *Mr. Cohen.*] Were the detail plans submitted to Mr. Darley? Yes, every detail.
896. And he signed his approval? He returned the plans with this modification of the breakwater. We then adopted it, and resubmitted it.
897. Did he sign it? He never signed our plans ; we got his report approving of it.

Andrew Armstrong called in, sworn and examined :—

- A. Armstrong. 898. *Mr. Simpson.*] What is your connection with the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation? I am Managing Director of the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation in the Colony.
- 12 Dec., 1898. 899. *Mr. Sleath.*] You are Managing Director of the Sydney company? Yes.
900. Who are your co-directors? At present, Mr. A. B. Chippendall and Lieutenant-Colonel Neild.
901. How long has Mr. Chippendall been upon the Board? About three years, I think ; I could not give you the exact date.
- 902.

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902. How long has Lieutenant-Colonel Neild been upon the Board? About two years.
903. When did Mr. Chippendall first become interested in the Company as a shareholder? He had some shares in the Illawarra and Land Corporation in the Colony before the London company was formed. He now holds one share in the local company.
904. How many in the London company? £500 worth.
905. How did Mr. Chippendall become a shareholder in the first place? He is my brother-in-law, and I gave him shares immediately the company was formed—in its early days. I divide many of my interests among several of my relatives and my children.
906. So that Mr. Chippendall did not pay anything into the company for his share interest? Nothing whatever.
907. When did Lieutenant-Colonel Neild first become interested in the company as a shareholder? By direct allotment by the London company after it was formed. Lieutenant-Colonel Neild was promised by me an interest in the syndicate when it was formed. I think in 1838. In pursuance of that promise, under my direction in London, certain shares were allotted to him after the formation of the company there. All the Colonial shares had heavy liabilities, and Lieutenant-Colonel Neild being a friend when the company was formed in London, I directed the allotment to him of a certain number of shares without liability. The shares were allotted to him without his knowledge, leaving it to him to accept them or not, as he pleased. He accepted them. The company was formed in November, 1895, but we had no knowledge of the formation of the company until February, 1896, and it was about May, 1896, before Lieutenant-Colonel Neild had any knowledge of any shares being allotted to him.
908. When did Lieutenant-Colonel Neild become a shareholder in the Sydney company? I had merely told him on the conclusion of some old things in which we were interested that I would put him into the company. He never had anything more tangible than that until the shares were allotted to him in May, 1896.
909. So that, although you had made this promise to him, he had no legal interest until May, 1896? That is so.
910. You remember that sometime in 1895 you were asking for an extension of your original right under the Act? Yes. We got a second Bill through in October, 1895.
911. Was Mr. Neild then in charge of that Bill? Yes.
912. Had he any interest in the company then? Nothing more than the promise I had given him long, long before that, that I would put him into something in consideration of the various losses we had had together.
913. *Mr. Ashton.*] He did not know that that promise applied to this particular company;—he did not know it at that time? I do not think he could have known it. His share had taken no tangible form. He was not, directly or indirectly, a shareholder.
914. Your statement is, that he did not know he was a shareholder? Quite so.
915. *Mr. Sleath.*] You say that he did not know that at the date you applied for your second Bill? I do not think he could possibly have known it.
916. *Mr. Ashton.*] He did not know that you were going to fulfil your promise by giving him shares in this particular company? No. He did not know anything about the fulfilment of my promise until I advised him that certain shares were allotted to him in the London company. That was about the end of February, and it was early in May, 1896, I think, when the shares were allotted. We had no knowledge at all that the company would be formed until late in December, 1895.
917. *Mr. Sleath.*] When did Mr. Neild become possessed of his shares in the Sydney company? I cannot fix the date exactly, but I should think it would be about April, 1896.
918. Do you remember giving evidence on the 11th October of this year before the Select Committee of the Legislative Council? Yes.
919. Do you remember stating that Mr. J. C. Neild had been interested in the company from the very start? Yes.
920. Can you explain now to this Committee, in your own way, the difference between the two statements;—you say to-day that up to April, 1896, Mr. Neild had no interest in the company? He was a registered shareholder at a certain date, and I recognised him as a shareholder at another date. I distinctly told him that I would put him into the first large thing I formed, and in my own mind he was a shareholder. On looking at the date, since I gave the evidence to which you have referred, I find that nothing occurred to put him in the position of a tangible or legal shareholder until May, 1896.
921. Do you not think, then, that the evidence you gave before the Select Committee of the Legislative Council is somewhat misleading? It may be misleading, but I think you will agree with me that it was in accord with my own mind in the matter—nothing more than that. I gave the evidence without the slightest intention to mislead.
922. But on reading the evidence now, does it not appear to you that it is slightly misleading? It is calculated to mislead, and I should regret very much having misled any select committee of Parliament. What I had in my mind was the distinct understanding that I would put him into something I mentioned to him in the early days, that when I was forming a large thing I would not forget our old losses together.
923. You have had a large experience in the formation of companies? Fairly large.
924. In those matters, is there not always the possibility of a change of directors from a variety of causes? Of course, the directors may resign or may retire in rotation.
925. So that if you wanted to put anyone into a particular concern you would put him down in the registered list of shareholders? That is rather a wide question. I do not wish to shirk any question, but I scarcely understand the full meaning of what you ask.
926. Suppose you were going to give me an interest in a company, you would put me down on the share register and transfer certain shares to me? As a rule, companies are formed by seven persons uniting and agreeing to the formation of a company. There must be seven. They generally put themselves down for one share and arrange the details afterwards. The directorate is afterwards formed according to circumstances. In some cases those forming the company are not competent to form the directorate, and in that case the directorate is formed of other persons.
927. What I mean is this: If you are going to give anyone an interest for a consideration—it does not matter what—it is done, as a rule, immediately after the company has been formed? It can be done at any time. We can transfer the shares to any particular person, but it is generally done as you suggest.

- A. Armstrong. 928. Mr. Neild is supposed to have obtained his share in settlement of many little transactions, as you put it? Yes; but they were transactions which left nothing binding against myself.
- 12 Dec., 1898. 929. Let me refer you to your evidence before the Select Committee of the Legislative Council; in reply to question 809, referring to Mr. Neild's interest in the concern, you said, "I agreed to put him into it, and I did put him into it in about the year of our starting the concern";—do you remember saying that? I said something like it, I perfectly remember. I have explained, as far as I can possibly explain up to the present, my meaning in giving that evidence. It was only in reality a continuation of the same line of evidence.
930. What you mean to say then is that you gave Mr. Neild an interest in 1888, and that he did not include that interest in his asset at the time of his insolvency? I was asked a number of questions at the meeting of the Select Committee of the Legislative Council which had reference more or less to Mr. Neild's insolvency, and portions of the answers were excised by the direction of the Chairman from the official record. Portions of my answers were purposely withheld.
931. *Mr. Ashton.*] Is that your explanation of this misleading statement? To a very great extent.
932. What you mean is that you fenced the questions? I do not mean that, but I was asked questions which were entirely beyond my position as managing director of the company. Matters entirely beyond my control or knowledge.
933. You admit that the answers you gave to questions asked you in the previous inquiry were calculated to mislead? Yes.
934. Is the reason you gave the answers which have been quoted in the particular form in which they appear that you wanted to shield Mr. Neild? No.
935. Let me refer you again to your answer to question 809;—the question was, "Was this arrangement between you and Mr. Neild giving him his interest in the concern in writing"? The answer was "I do not think it was." That is to say you were not sure whether it was in writing or not. Now you say that Mr. Neild did not know anything about it until 1895 or 1896? Exactly. I was not sure at that date whether the arrangement was in writing or not.
936. Had you any doubt in your mind whether Mr. Neild knew anything about the matter before 1896? I know that he was aware that I had told him that I would put him into the first big thing I was in.
937. The company might be so good that you might not deem fit to put him in? All all events that is all the knowledge he ever had. Yet in my mind I looked upon him as a shareholder in the company, and from the start my evidence I think conveys that impression.
938. He was a shareholder in your mind only? Exactly.
939. *Mr. Cohen.*] When you put Mr. Neild into the company did you not tell him that you would put him into a certain company, naming it? I think not. I wrote to him at the end of February, 1896, informing him that, following upon my old promise to him, I had recommended the allotment of certain shares to him in the London company.
940. You did not mention to him the name of the original company he was in? No. I said I think that it would be a company he could be put into without liability.
941. You say now that in 1896 you told Mr. Neild that, in consequence of your promise, you were giving him certain shares in this company? No; I told him that as far back as 1890, I think.
942. You told him then that you would put him into something? Yes.
943. And in 1896 you told him that you had recommended the allotment to him of 1,000 shares in a company formed in London to continue the operations of a company which had been formed in Sydney? Yes.
944. In May, 1896, Mr. Neild knew the exact interest he held in this company? Yes.
945. He knew the company and everything about it? Yes.
946. Prior to that year he was ignorant, you think, of what he was in? That is exactly what I mean to convey.
947. *Mr. Ashton.*] On page 31, in reply to question 747, referring to Mr. Chippendall's interest, you were asked, "How were the shares acquired"? and you said, "I do not know that I could tell you"; you were afterwards asked how Lieut.-Colonel Neild's shares were acquired, and you answered, "In the same way";—can you throw any light upon those two answers? I do not think they are at all anomalous. Mr. Chippendall was my brother-in-law, and I promised him a small portion of one of my syndicate shares.
948. Then, according to your answer now, you did know how Mr. Neild's shares were acquired? I knew that there was an allotment of shares to Mr. Neild by the London company. As far as I can recollect the question was put to me in such a form in the first instance that it could not be easily answered.
949. Could you not have very simply answered the question "How were the shares acquired"? That is explained fully in the answers which followed. The questions which were put at first developed other questions.
950. What I want to get at is the development of the answers? My answer as to Mr. Chippendall was that I had given him an interest in a portion of my syndicate share.
951. There is nothing in the evidence to show how Mr. Chippendall acquired his interest; in fact there is your direct statement that you do not know that you could tell the Committee? That question is developed in succeeding questions.
952. You say now that Mr. Chippendall had a small portion of your syndicate share; but listen to your answer to question 748:—The question is, "You do not know how?" and the answer you gave was "I know that he had a very small interest in the formation of the first syndicate and in the allotment or settlement of shares afterwards in the colonial company—all was transferred to Mr. de Wolf for the purpose of enabling him to finance in London." Mr. Chippendall got certain shares by virtue of a certain interest. The point is how did he acquire that interest; what was the basis of his share allotment. In answer to question 747 you said that you did not know that you could tell; then in the succeeding question with regard to Mr. Neild's interest you said that it was acquired in the same way as Mr. Chippendall's? Yes.
953. *Mr. Cohen.*] As Mr. Ashton has pointed out, you said in the first instance that you could tell how the shares were acquired; when you were asked questions upon this point to-day you said that he was your brother-in-law, and that he was given a small interest in your syndicate share;—from the form in which

which your answer was previously given when you said, "I know that he had a very small interest in the formation of the first syndicate," no one would assume that it was part of your interest? I admit that the answer to Question 748 is to some extent misleading.

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954. *Mr. Ashton.*] You confess that, before the Select Committee of the Legislative Council, you said you were ignorant of how Mr. Chippendall acquired his shares, when you knew that you had given them to him? I think it is hardly fair to put it in that way.

955. Can you put any other construction upon it? The answers afterwards developed show that Mr. Chippendall came in as holding part of my interest.

956. I do not think the answers show that he held part of your interest? No questions were put to me by the Committee which permitted of my making the explanation in precise terms that Mr. Chippendall held part of my interest.

957. Why did you not tell the Committee at once that Mr. Chippendall held part of your interest instead of saying that you did not know that you could tell them how he acquired his shares? I had no intention of misleading the Committee.

958. *Mr. Cohen.*] Another point is this—you were asked how Mr. Neild acquired his shares, and you said in the same way as Mr. Chippendall? Yes.

959. Then are we to assume that Mr. Neild also had a small interest in the concern from the first? No.

960. *Mr. Ashton.*] There is nothing in the evidence which you gave before the Select Committee of the Legislative Council to show that Mr. Chippendall's share was a part of your interest? I did not feel at all clear that the question as put to me left me an opportunity of stating so. I certainly had no desire to suppress the fact that Mr. Chippendall acquired his shares through my syndicate interest.

961. *Mr. Carroll.*] Is Dr. Storer a resident of this Colony? No.

962. He has twenty shares, I understand? Yes.

963. *Mr. Cohen.*] Let me refer you to Question 801. In reference to Mr. Neild's interest you were asked—"How did he acquire that interest?" and you answered, "I really cannot tell you; but I may say at once that even if I could remember, I should decline to answer the question. Mr. Neild and I had many private and friendly transactions. We were in adjoining offices years and years ago. As a matter of fact, I do not remember the exact particulars. Even if I did, I would not go into them";—how do you reconcile that answer with your statement to-day? I can only continue my explanation by saying that this answer was given to badgering questions concerning Mr. Neild's insolvency. A great deal of the evidence has been purposely excised. What you see does not give a fair resumé of the questions as actually put.

964. Take your answer to Question 806; you were asked: "Was that arrangement, whereby Mr. Neild took an interest to the extent of £1,000, by virtue of the arrangement made between you and him in 1888?" your answer was, "Yes; by virtue of interest or rights in the company springing out of his transactions with me in 1888";—now, you say he did not know anything about the matter until 1896? Excepting my verbal promise in 1888 or 1890.

965. Referring to no particular company? Quite so.

966. *Mr. Sleath.*] Mr. Neild did not know that he had any interest at all in this company, or in any particular company, until May, 1896? No.

967. *Mr. Ashton.*] You must admit that the answers you have given to-day, side by side with the answers you have given to a previous Committee, are unsatisfactory; the explanation is, I take it, that you did have an arrangement with Mr. Neild in 1888 in regard to an interest in this company, and that Mr. Neild, probably because he looked upon the thing as nebulous, did not include the interest in his list of assets at the time of his insolvency? No arrangement was made then. I have endeavoured to explain to you that that arrangement was made entirely in my own mind. I intended to put Mr. Neild into the first big thing. The matter was entirely in my own mind.

968. *Mr. Waddell.*] You could scarcely call that an arrangement? There is no other arrangement, and, as I have said, Mr. Neild had no knowledge of it until 1896.

969. You adhere positively to that? Yes. When these questions were asked me, I did not know that I had written to him at all on the subject; but I have searched my letter-book, and I find that I wrote to him in May, 1896, informing him that he had been allotted a thousand shares in the company formed in London.

970. *Mr. Ashton.*] His first interest was in the company duly registered in London? Yes.

971. He did not hold any interest in the syndicate before he held these shares in the London company? No; there was nothing beyond my promise.

972. Then your statement that he had a small interest in the formation of the first syndicate refers only to the arrangement to which you have referred as being your own mind? There was merely the indefinite promise that I would put him into something. It is quite possible that in some way or other I may have mentioned this matter to him when I first began to form the syndicate in 1888.

973. *Mr. Cohen.*] Was it in 1888 or 1890 that you wrote to Mr. Neild that in pursuance of your former promise he had been allotted shares in this company? No; I wrote nothing to him on the subject until 1896.

974. *Mr. Sleath.*] How did Mr. Neild acquire his shares in the Sydney company? By being a large shareholder in the London company. Requiring a director, I suggested the matter to him, and I told him that he would have to be a shareholder in the Colonial company. He acquired one share by purchase. I am not cognisant of the circumstances. It is possible that he bought it for a trifle.

975. Will you refer to your answer to Question 811 on page 34. You have sworn that Mr. Neild acquired his share in the Sydney company by purchasing from someone, and that you had no knowledge of the transaction. In reply to Question 811, you said, "The share in the Sydney company means that he had a share in the company which was settled by the allotment in the London company. One of the shares he still holds here"? Yes.

976. Now will you refer to the following question and answer—"Has he held it long"? Ever since the date of the allotment to him under the old arrangement in 1888, to which I have referred? Yes, that is quite consistent with what I now say.

977. But you say now, that after acquiring these shares in the London company, he afterwards, outside of those shares altogether, and quite independently of you, acquired another share in the Sydney company;—will you explain the inconsistency? That is clearly an error.

978-9.

- A. Armstrong. 978-9. *Mr. Cohen.*] Which is the error—your former statement, or your explanation to-day? I do not think it is fair to put me in this position.
- 12 Dec., 1898. 980. *Mr. Ashton.*] But the Committee ought to know, surely, which statement is true? The evidence is contradictory. I clearly made an error in giving my evidence before the Select Committee of the Legislative Council.
981. The printed evidence you say is wrong? Yes.
982. *Mr. Sleath.*] You say that it is absolutely wrong? I am sure that Mr. Neild's interest in the local company was not acquired until long after he had held 100 shares in the London company. He obtained his share by transfer outside of my transaction altogether, simply in order that he might be elected to a seat on the Board.
983. You say now that your answers to questions 811 and 812 in the Legislative Council's Select Committee were absolutely wrong? Yes.
984. Question 813 is as follows:—"Is it a *bonâ fide* claim which he has in this company?"—and you answered, "It is a *bonâ fide* claim against me, settled by my putting him into the earlier syndicate"? That related to my promise; there was only my promise.
985. Did you promise to put him into the earlier syndicate? I promised to put him into the first good thing I had. I believe I advised him in 1890 that I had put him into the company. If I had said that by way of answer it probably arose from the belief in my mind that I had made the promise to him. That is what I had in my mind when I gave the answer to question 813.
986. You said in reply to question 813 that you had put him into the earlier syndicate; now I want you to answer this question: Did you or did you not put him into that syndicate? I only put him into it by my promise.
987. Did you put him into that syndicate, or did you not? I did not.
988. Although, on the 11th October, you swore that you did? My statements are a continuation of the same evidence.
989. *Mr. Cohen.*] You say now that you never put him into the earlier syndicate? Except as I have already explained, that there was my promise to him that he should be put into the first big thing I had.
990. *Mr. Archibald Campbell.*] Did you read the printed copy of the evidence taken before the Select Committee of the Legislative Council before it took its present form—the form in which it appears before this Committee? Yes; many alterations were required in consequence of portions being excised having reference to Mr. Neild's insolvency. The Committee determined that these portions should be excised, and the context was not clear.
991. You passed the evidence in the form in which it now appears? I presume so.
992. *Mr. Cohen.*] Were you present in the House a few nights ago when Mr. Neild explained how he became possessed of these shares? I was.
993. You heard his statement? Yes.
994. You heard Mr. Neild make a statement similar to that which you are making to us now? Yes.
995. That was subsequent to your giving the evidence from which quotations have been made? Yes.
996. *Mr. Sleath.*] We do not want to have any other Select Committee inquiring into your answers; I want you to clearly understand this question, therefore, before you answer it: How long have you been in Mr. Neild's company since the discussion in the House upon this question a fortnight ago? Three or four times for a few minutes.
997. For a few minutes only? Perhaps for an hour on one occasion.
998. Did you discuss this question at all? Certainly not.
999. You never mentioned it? No.
1000. You are positive about that? Quite positive.
1001. You quite understand that you are on your oath, and that your oath here is just as sacred and binding as it would be in any court of the Colony; I will give you an opportunity to correct your evidence if you choose to do so;—will you positively swear that you never in any way mentioned the affairs of this company to Mr. Neild on the three or four occasions you mentioned when you were speaking to him? We may have mentioned the affairs of the company, but to no point referring to his interest or to his share. I had occasion to meet him in reference to the affairs of the company.
1002. Did you not say just now that you had never mentioned the matter? Not matters arising out of my evidence.
1003. My question applied to the affairs of the company since the discussion in the House; you have, then, discussed with Mr. Neild some of the company's affairs? Yes.
1004. The question of the extension of time? No; most certainly not.
1005. You have not mentioned to him the probability or otherwise of the Bill passing the House? No; neither directly nor indirectly.
1006. Had you any reason for not doing so? I thought it was not proper to do so.
1007. Why? There was no occasion to do so. I thought it was not right under the circumstances to make any allusion to any subject of the kind.
1008. *Mr. Ashton.*] Would you have seen any impropriety in doing so? I should have thought it improper, in view of the fact that Mr. Neild was a member of the Select Committee.
1009. *Mr. Sleath.*] Have you had any conversation with Mr. Neild since the day when he practically resigned his seat from this Committee; you remember the day to which I refer? I do not think I have. If I had it was only for a few moments behind the Chair. I have not seen him otherwise.
1010. Is your memory fairly good? Yes.
1011. Did you not meet Mr. Neild in the passage here? I saw him there.
1012. Were you not conversing with him in the passage? No; I had no talk with him at all, either directly or indirectly, upon any matter connected with this inquiry.
1013. Is it not a fact that you are a strong personal friend of Mr. Neild? Yes; we have known one another for many, many years.
1014. You are very friendly? Yes.
1015. You are both interested in the passing of the Bill which has been referred to this Committee? I am interested in it. I do not know what interest Mr. Neild may feel in it.
1016. You know that he is a shareholder in both companies? Yes.

1017. Both of you being interested in both companies, and you being close personal friends, you swear that the affairs of the company were never mentioned between you on the three or four occasions to which you refer? We never mentioned the matter the Committee is now inquiring into. A. Armstrong.
12 Dec., 1898.
1018. The Committee is now inquiring into the Bill;—did you not mention the Bill to him? We have never discussed the Bill since his speech in the House.
1019. *Mr. Waddell.*] Although you have seen him several times? Yes.
1020. *Mr. Ashton.*] You say you revised the evidence you gave before the Select Committee of the Legislative Council? Yes.
1021. And the evidence as printed is as you revised it? Yes.
1022. You admit that in many particulars the evidence you gave before the Select Committee of the Legislative Council was incorrect? Yes.
1023. What has led you to alter your evidence? On what particular points?
1024. On the points on which you admit it to be incorrect? I fully believed that I had written to Mr. Neild to the effect that he should have an interest in the company. I quite believed that when I gave my former evidence.
1025. Why do you hold a different opinion now? I have since looked at my letter-book, and I find that I first wrote to Mr. Neild on the subject in 1896.
1026. Is your change of view or alteration of statement in this particular due to the fact that you heard Mr. Neild give a different version of the affair in the House? I do not think his statement influenced me a single bit. I simply looked up my correspondence.
1027. Why did you do that; you had revised your evidence; what suggested any doubt to your mind that you had given correct evidence;—what led you to suppose that you had given misleading or untrue evidence? Principally the statements which were made in the House.
1028. You said just now that it was not Mr. Neild's statement that induced you to alter your own statement? It was the statements generally in the House which led to this Bill going before the present Committee that induced me to look at the correspondence.
1029. That is to say, it was owing to the proceedings in the House that you made further investigation and found out that your former evidence was incorrect? That there were slight errors in my previous evidence.
1030. Was not the only statement which could have thrown any doubt upon the accuracy of your previous evidence made by Mr. Neild himself—that is to say, he gave a different version of the affair than that which you yourself gave before the Select Committee of the Legislative Council? I think he did.
1031. Is the version you have given to-day substantially in accord with the version given by Mr. Neild? That I could not say. I only heard it once.
1032. Will you admit that the version given by Mr. Neild in the House was a very different one from that given by you before the Select Committee of the Legislative Council as to the acquisition of Mr. Neild's interest? Yes; there were certain inaccuracies in that evidence. I think they were very unimportant, but they were inaccuracies.
1033. Mr. Neild, speaking in the Legislative Assembly on the 1st December, said, "Mr. Armstrong, over and over again, said to me—as long ago at least as 1884, I suppose—'Well Neild you have lost your money through my proposals, and I will take care that when I have something good you shall stand in with me, and it shall not cost you anything'; that was, it seems to me, a straightforward act, and it was stated by Mr. Armstrong to me often enough that I was to have an interest in this Illawarra matter";—is that a correct statement? I do not think it is. I do not remember telling Mr. Neild that.
1034. He also says, "Year after year passed by, and sometimes it would be mentioned when we met, but, as I say, it was chiefly forgotten";—is that correct? I have no recollection of mentioning the matter to him between 1890 and 1896.
1035. In what year did Mr. de Wolf go to London? In 1894.
1036. When was the London company formed? In November, 1895.
1037. *Mr. Archibald Campbell.*] A month after your Extending Bill was granted? Yes.
1038. *Mr. Cohen.*] When was the scrip forwarded to Mr. Neild? About May or June, 1896. You refer, I presume, to the scrip in the London company?
1039. Mr. Neild also stated in the House on the 1st December, "After Mr. de Wolf went to London and the London company was formed, I received one day from London, without any previous intimation, a notification to this effect: that 100 shares of the nominal value of £10 each in the company in London had been transferred into my name, and that the scrip could be obtained at the office of the Sydney company";—is that correct? Yes.
1040. He also said, "I say that the promise was made as far back as 1884, probably earlier, and I suppose it was towards the end of 1894 that the scrip was forwarded to me"? That is a mistake. There was no scrip in the London company until about January, 1896.
1041. *Mr. Ashton.*] You stated before the Select Committee of the Legislative Council, you may remember, that Mr. Neild had an interest in the thing from the commencement? Yes.
1042. I asked you here to-day how you came to make that statement, and your reply was that you had an impression that you had intimated to Mr. Neild, prior to 1896, that you had given him an interest in the company, but that on looking up your letter-book you found that it was not so? I found that the first letter I wrote to him on the subject was dated May, 1896.
1043. When you gave your evidence before the Legislative Council you thought otherwise? I thought I had intimated to him that I had given him a portion of my syndicate interest in the company, but I can find nothing to support the opinion I then had.
1044. Then, Mr. Neild also stated in the House that at various times subsequent to 1888 you did mention to him that you had put him into the syndicate? I have no recollection of having spoken to him about the matter during that time.
1045. Yet at the time you gave your evidence before the Legislative Council your recollection was that you had done so? There appears to be a discrepancy there.
1046. Mr. Neild recollects the same thing; now you say, although you recollected the circumstance when giving your evidence before the Select Committee of the Legislative Council, and although Mr. Neild himself recollected it when speaking in the Legislative Assembly, that you have no recollection of anything of the kind? The point seems to me to be merely a question of whether he held an interest under

- A. Armstrong. under the promise from me at that date or later. I do not remember making a communication to him between the dates you have named.
- 12 Dec., 1898. 1047. *Mr. Waddell.*] Who found the £10,000 which was deposited with the Treasury? Our attorney in London Mr. de Wolf.
1048. Did any of the original shareholders pay anything towards it? No.
1049. *Mr. Cohen.*] Was it not contributed by the Camden Exploration Company and by the Australian Smelting Company? These are matters about which you could get information a good deal more readily from Mr. de Wolf. I am merely managing director of matters at this end. I know nothing of the details of the matters to which you are referring.
1050. Was it from this end that the money was found? No; it was remitted from London.
1051. *Mr. Ashton.*] How much hard cash did you put into this enterprise? I can produce my cheque book showing that I paid £13,000. My account-book shows other charges amounting to a total of £18,000.
1052. What interest did that give you in the syndicate? Approximately one-sixth.
1053. You have not your cheque books with you? No.
1054. How were the local directors appointed;—were they elected at a meeting of shareholders? Yes.
1055. *Mr. Cohen.*] There are only three? There are only three at present. Until the harbour is started there is only the management of the landed estate required at this end.
1056. *Mr. Sleath.*] I was asking you if you had any conversation with Mr. Neild in regard to the affairs of the company since this Bill was referred to this Committee by the Legislative Assembly, and you said you had not;—is not that so? Yes; I had not.
1057. You are positive about that? Very positive.
1058. Although you had been in conversation with Mr. Neild three or four times, the conversation in one instance extending to an hour, you have not in any one instance discussed with him the affairs of the company? Not the affairs of the company as regards the matter being before Parliament, but I certainly had some company matters to discuss with him. For instance, I had to submit cheques for the payment of railway accounts and other things.
1059. Is it not a most important question for your company now whether or not you get this Bill? Undoubtedly it is.
1060. Is it not a most important question for the company? Yes.
1061. You are managing director, are you not? Yes.
1062. Mr. Neild holds what position? He is Chairman of the Board.
1063. Yet you say that on the occasions to which I have referred you never discussed with him the affairs of the company? No. We have had no meetings for the purpose. I have only met him in a casual way. For instance, I met him the other day at the door of this room. We did not then go into company matters, and we have had no meeting of directors since.
1064. What is your interest in the company? £100,000 worth of shares, one-sixth of the share issue.
1065. The shares are paid up to £10? Yes.
1066. With a liability of £50? With no liability; they are shares in London company.
1067. At the formation of the company only 10,000 shares were issued, paid up to £50? Yes.
1068. The payment of calls is a separate matter altogether? It is separate in some ways. Your question has rather a wide meaning.
1069. I will put it in this way—Your company was floated with 10,000 shares of £100 each? Yes.
1070. You were to get one-sixth? I was in the syndicate who formed the company.
1071. What was your interest? I took one-sixth interest in the whole concern.
1072. How much money did you put in? My cheque-books show that I paid £13,000, but my account-book shows that I paid altogether into the concern £18,000.
1073. *Chairman.*] That was for the purchase of the land originally? Yes.
1074. Did Mr. de Wolf pay part of that amount? No; no part of that. I am speaking now of my own payments.
1075. That £13,000 was paid by you for the purchase of the land? Yes.
1076. How much was paid altogether? £90,000. £65,000 for the Lakelands Estate, and £25,000 for the coal properties.
1077. Was that all in cash? No. The coal properties were purchased for half cash, and the balance of purchase money was in syndicate shares.
1078. That was purchased from Styles? No, we purchased nothing from Styles. The Lakelands Estate was purchased from a syndicate who had purchased from the Osborne family. The price paid was £65,000.
1079. How was that £65,000 paid? We bought from a syndicate. We did not purchase from the Osbornes direct, but we kept the terms.
1080. *Mr. Cohen.*] You were one of the syndicate which sold to your syndicate? No; I came into the syndicate after the syndicate was formed. I purchased a share in it.
1081. *Mr. Ashton.*] You were not in the selling syndicate? No, I purchased a share after the syndicate was formed.
1082. Were you in the syndicate which purchased from Osborne;—did you buy into the syndicate? No. I was not. I had nothing to do with that.
1083. *Chairman.*] It was Styles and Vaughn who purchased from Osborne? No. That was a different matter altogether.
1084. Who was it who owned the land in the first place? The Lakelands Estate syndicate was the syndicate which purchased from Osborne.
1085. Were you not in that? No; I never had any connection with that. I sold the land on their account to a syndicate formed in Melbourne by Mr. de Wolf.
1086. Were you in the syndicate who purchased? I bought into that syndicate afterwards.
1087. After the sale? Yes.
1088. That syndicate was yourself and Mr. de Wolf? Yes.
1089. Anyone else? Mr. Vaughn came into that syndicate as the holder of shares in part payment. He bought his syndicate share in part payment of the balance of his purchase money. He acquired his interest in the settlement of the property. He sold the property for £25,000—half cash and half shares.
1090. To whom did he sell the property? To Mr. de Wolf. 1091.

1091. Was that previous to the purchase of the Lakelands Estate by Mr. de Wolf? I think it was a A. Armstrong.
month or two afterwards.
1092. Whom did the syndicate consist of when they bought the Lakelands Estate—Mr. de Wolf and ^{12 Dec., 1898.}
whom else? Mr. Fink, of Melbourne.
1093. You are sure about that? Yes.
1094. Mr. de Wolf and Mr. Fink were the original syndicate which purchased the Lakelands Estate from
another syndicate which had purchased from Osborne? Yes; and I was the agent who sold.
1095. Whom else was in the syndicate with Mr. de Wolf and Mr. Fink? I think only Mr. Fink and his
brother-in-law, Mr. Howden. Mr. Newton bought into it in Sydney.
1096. Did Mr. Newton buy into the syndicate when the land was sold? No; the property was sold to
Mr. de Wolf, who formed the syndicate.
1097. He afterwards formed the syndicate? Yes. The syndicate was not formed until after the sale of
the land to Mr. de Wolf.
1098. So that you sold direct to Mr. de Wolf? Yes.
1099. You were the agent? I was the agent for the syndicate who sold.
1100. Who were they? I could not say; I was instructed by Mr. Atcheson.
1101. The agreement for the sale was with Mr. Thompson, and yourself, and Mr. Newton and Mr. Orr?
No; a syndicate was formed to acquire from Mr. de Wolf, purchasing in the name of trustees on behalf
of the syndicate formed by him.
1102. Was there not an agreement in 1889 between Mr. Thompson and yourself, and Mr. Newton and
Mr. Orr? There was one in 1888; the second agreement in 1889 was a modified agreement to the same
effect.
1103. The next was dated 24th April, 1890, between J. Thompson and Andrew Armstrong with the
Illawarra Harbour Land Corporation;—is that so? Yes.
1104. When you sold to the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation did you part with the whole of
your right in connection with the property? Yes.
1105. Do you know anything of an agreement between Mr. de Wolf on the one part and Mr. Fink on the
other for the transfer of the property from Mr. de Wolf to Mr. Fink? Yes. I think Mr. Fink, as the
preponderating shareholder, tried to pinch out the other shareholders, and to get possession of the whole
thing himself.
1106. Why did Mr. de Wolf try to transfer to Mr. Fink;—what were his reasons? I presume to allow
money to be raised to meet one of the terms of our payment. Mr. Fink had undertaken the whole of the
financing.
1107. What consideration was Mr. Fink given to undertake all this financing? The interest described in
either of the agreements you have mentioned, or some other registered agreement under which he came in.
I really cannot remember how he was to be paid for financing the matter. He was to take it home to
London through his being the managing director of the Mercantile Finance Company.
1108. When this property was transferred to Mr. Fink by Mr. de Wolf, did Mr. Fink have any power
over it by the transfer? Yes; it gave him very considerable power.
1109. Could he have sold it if he liked? Yes; the equity of redemption.
1110. Did he not mortgage it on the same day to Wallach Bros.? Yes.
1111. To meet one of the payments due to the syndicate? I think it was to meet a payment of £8,000
due at that time.
1112. *Mr. Sleath.*] Was not the payment on a promissory-note of your own and de Wolf's? To a certain
extent it was, although we had met all our payments in the syndicate and he had not. He induced us to
give a promissory-note to enable him to meet a certain payment due to the syndicate. We had to take
up that note afterwards to meet payments on the land.
1113. *Mr. Cohen.*] There was a little bit of cross financing among yourselves? Yes. Mr. Mosely was
the attorney for us all and kept a record. I daresay he could produce the abstract of title embodying the
whole of the particulars.

John Randall Carey called in, sworn, and examined:—

1114. *Mr. Sleath.*] When did you first become associated with the Illawarra Harbour and Land J. R. Carey.
Corporation? In October, 1888.
1115. You then became the holder of how many shares? I should explain that Mr. de Wolf asked me ^{12 Dec., 1898.}
to join the Board, and I demurred a little at first. He said I was a large contractor—that I was in a large
way of railway contracting—and that I would be of advantage to them considering, the work likely to be
carried out, and that he would be very glad if I joined the Board. After a little persuasion, he said,
“Sooner than that you should not do so I will make you a present of thirty shares, to which I am entitled
as one of the vendors.”
1116. *Chairman.*] Thirty shares of £100 paid up to £50, with a liability of £50? Yes.
1117. *Mr. Sleath.*] How long did you hold those shares? I had attended a few meetings before the
shares were allotted. I cannot absolutely state at this moment when the allotment took place, but the
minutes will show whether I attended any meetings after the allotment or not. I declined to take shares.
After attending the first few meetings, and seeing the position of the company, I declined to remain on
the Board or to have anything more to do with it. I said I would not take the shares, and I was told
that the shares were allotted to me on the 28th March, 1889.
1118. *Mr. Ashton.*] Was that after you had vacated your seat on the Board? That I cannot say. I
have not the necessary papers. I endeavoured to obtain them from my solicitor, but he has mislaid them.
1119. Was the allotment made to you after you had intimated that you did not want any shares?
That is the very point I want to get at. I cannot absolutely tell you. My solicitor had the papers,
but he has unfortunately mislaid them. The register shows that there were thirty shares allotted to me
on the 28th March, 1889. That date was found to be illegal by some means; I do not remember how.
In consequence of that I thought there would be no trouble about striking my name off the register, but
they altered the date on the register from the 28th March to the 16th April, without any minute on
the book authorising it, and without any re-allotment of shares.
1120. The shares were still left standing in your name? Yes.
1121. Notwithstanding that you had retired? Yes. I had an opportunity afterwards to search the
minutes right through. I obtained the books from the secretary, and took copious notes from the
minutes.

J. R. Carey.
12 Dec., 1898. minutes. I am speaking now from the notes that I have taken. There was some dispute a year afterwards between the Fink party and the de Wolf and Armstrong party. While the Fink party had possession of the books they allowed me to go through the minutes, and, as I have explained, I took copious notes of them. There was another allotment of shares posted in the register on the 25th April, 1889. No reference to that is made in the minutes. You will understand that I am speaking now of a fresh allotment of shares quite distinct from the first allotment. I made repeated application to have my name struck off the register on the ground that the allotment of shares was illegal, and that I had declined to accept any shares in the company. I had already declined, you will remember, to accept the thirty shares offered me by Mr. de Wolf.

1122. *Mr. Cohen.*] Why did you refuse to accept the shares? In the first place, I was not satisfied with the position of the company, and I did not want to have anything to do with it. I was dissatisfied with everything connected with the company, and I did not want to be connected with it. I was unsuccessful in my application to have my name struck off the register. As a further claim to have my name taken off the register, I may mention that the following gentlemen got their names struck off; Mr. W. H. Moseley, 139 shares; E. H. Crossman, seventy shares; J. A. Thompson, thirty shares. These were all solicitors, and their names were struck off on the 14th July, 1892.

1123. Were they struck off by the directors themselves or on application to the Court? That I cannot say. Their names were off the register when I saw it.

1124. Did you ask the Court to strike your name off the register? No.

1125. You made application only to the directors? Yes. My argument was that I was never properly on the register.

1126. You were kept on without your consent? Yes. Matters went on, and I never heard much more of them until March 23rd, 1892, when a call of £10 per share was made payable on the 12th April, 1892, by a Board consisting of the following directors present:—Mr. Howden, Mr. Vaughn, Mr. Amos, and Mr. de Wolf—Mr. de Wolf dissenting from the call. That is an extract from the minutes. Of that call I got notice. On the 12th April, 1892, the minutes disclose the following circumstances:—The Board resolved to issue a writ against de Wolf for all calls overdue upon shares in his name; and as regards the other shareholders, it was resolved that the solicitor should draw the necessary notices of forfeiture, and that the secretary should forward them. That entry is dated the 12th April, 1892.

1127. *Mr. Sleath.*] They were going to sue Mr. de Wolf for his calls, and to let others off? I do not know about that. But they were going to forfeit all the other shares. From what I gathered from the secretary at the time, there was a dispute between Mr. de Wolf and Mr. Fink. The minutes further disclose the fact that the calls of Mr. Aaron, Mr. Amos, Mr. Fink, Mr. Norton, Mr. Williams, Mr. Pickford, Mr. Masey, and Mr. Botchard, were paid by an order on the Illawarra Harbour Syndicate, amounting in all to a certain sum which I did not extract from the minute-book. But there is a minute, from which it appears that there was a threatened sale of part of the company's property by Mr. R. M. Vaughn. The following resolution appears to have been carried—"That the secretary take whatever steps may be necessary to protect that portion of the company's property should the necessity arise." We come now to the 18th April, 1892. I then received notice that unless the call was paid by the 4th May, 1892, my shares would be liable to forfeiture. I then made inquiries from the secretary about the position of the company, and I was allowed to go through all the minutes of the directors' and general meetings, from which I took copious extracts upon all subjects which might probably bear upon my position, which I intended to fight to the last. The secretary at that time advised me not to pay the call or to take any further notice of it until I heard again from him. The secretary, I think, was Mr. Barker. The books at one time were taken out of the hands of the Armstrong and de Wolf crowd and were taken over to the Fink crowd, and while they had this dispute between themselves I obtained all this information. On the 2nd May, 1892, Mr. de Wolf also told me not to pay the calls, as he never intended that I and others should have to pay any calls, and that he would see that that intention was carried out, or he would burst up the company.

1128. *Mr. Ashton.*] It was the Fink crowd, to use your own phrase, who were making the call? Yes. Mr. de Wolf objected to it. Mr. de Wolf then offered also on several occasions to take a transfer from me of the shares standing in my name, but I would not risk the liability I should be under for any calls which might be made upon Mr. de Wolf during the first twelve months. I was not satisfied that he was financially good enough to pay them, and I preferred to stand upon my contention that I was not legally a shareholder, although my name appeared upon the register. On the 5th April, 1893, I received notice of a general meeting at which a resolution was to be proposed to authorise Mr. J. M. Howden to proceed to London to arrange for the issue of debentures to the amount of £750,000, on such prices and terms as he might consider best for the company. On the 12th April, 1893, the secretary wrote to me asking if I still adhered to my demand that my name should be struck off the register, and if so, whether I would attend a Board meeting to be held on the 14th April, 1893, when the directors would consider my application. On the 13th April I replied to the secretary to the effect that if my name were still on the register I again demanded that it should be forthwith struck off. On the 14th April I attended the Board meeting, as requested, but there was no quorum, and therefore no business was transacted. On the 9th May, 1893, Messrs. Creagh and Williams, who were acting for me, received a letter from Mr. E. H. Crossman, who was acting for the company, asking whether I would consent to a conversion of my present shares into fully paid-up shares and deferred debentures, so as to get rid of my liability. There were various letters, particulars of which I need not give you, which passed, and on the 29th November, 1893, the Board consisting of Mr. de Wolf, Mr. Armstrong, and Mr. Vaughn, made a call of £10 per share, Mr. Vaughn dissenting,—the call to be payable on the 22nd December, 1893. Again on 10th January, 1894, Mr. Howden's seat was declared vacant through non-attendance by a Board consisting of Mr. de Wolf and Mr. Armstrong.

1129. *Mr. Cohen.*] I gather from what you say that different directors made the two calls? Yes. I should explain that one call they did not persevere in. I have the rough substance of a minute to this effect: that there was a claim upon Armstrong and Thompson, trustees for the vendors, for £54,000. The details of the claim were given, but I have not them with me.

1130. *Mr. Archibald Campbell.*] How many formed a quorum? The quorum was altered once or twice. It was fixed first at two, then at three, and I think it was afterwards fixed back at two. The minutes show in reference to Mr. de Wolf's extra claim that he asked that his calls should be carried to the credit of his claim, and also the calls of Mrs. Hamilton and Mr. E. Barton; and the same in reference

to

to Mr. Armstrong's calls, and those of sundry other persons who were named—Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Wood, Mr. Turnbull, Mr. Chippendall, Mr. Liddell, and Mr. A. G. Friend (seventy-three shares), representing a total of £12,210. On February 7th, 1894, it was resolved that steps be taken for the recovery of calls. I do not know who the parties could be. All the others were out of it, and there were left, I think, only Mr. Styles and myself. However, upon that point I am not quite clear. There was the further entry that Mr. Crossman should be removed from the position of solicitor of the company, and that arrangements should be made with another solicitor to act for them. Then in April, 1894, I was advised that it would be better for me to pay the £300 call, in order to get out of the difficulty, instead of fighting them and possibly having to pay my own costs.

1130. *Mr. Cohen.*] Did you pay that £300? Yes; I have a receipt for it.

1131. You are sure it was not £250? I have not the means at this moment of seeing what my cheque was, but I have a receipt for £300. The effect of that payment was to relieve me of all responsibility for twelve months. Then there was an agreement between Mr. Friend, Mr. Armstrong, Mr. de Wolf, and myself, Mr. Friend and myself being on the one side, and Mr. Armstrong and de Wolf on the other.

1132. The shares were paid up to £50, with a liability for another £50? Yes.

1133. They called up £10 before they entered into an agreement with you, under which they placed to your credit a certain sum to protect you against further calls during the twelve months of your liability under the Act? Yes.

1134. To whom were your shares then transferred? I could not say whether they were transferred to Mr. de Wolf or to Mr. Armstrong, but I think to Mr. de Wolf. I would not admit, of course, that the shares were mine at all. I signed the transfer to get rid of the whole thing.

1135. *Mr. Waddell.*] That ended your connection with the company? Yes.

1136. That was in 1894? Yes.

1137. *Mr. Sleath.*] Have you any further information you could give the Committee? Yes; I find that the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation was registered on the 29th October, 1889. Amongst the first directors were Mr. Edmund Barton, Mr. Goodchap, Mr. Billyard, Mr. J. Newton, Mr. T. A. de Wolf, and myself. Properties were sold to the company for £600,000 by a syndicate. The amount was paid by the issue to syndicate members and nominees of 10,000 shares of £100 each, paid up to £50, the balance—£100,000 cash—being payable at a later date. Five of the directors I have named held thirty shares each, Mr. de Wolf holding 768. The Act giving the harbour concession was granted in December, 1890. That speaks for itself. In 1892 there was a conveyance by Mr. de Wolf to Mr. B. J. Fink, of the Lakelands Estate—book 495,711, consideration 10s.

1138. Can you give us some explanation of that? What follows, I think, will satisfy you on the subject. It was simply a question of financing. I find that on the 29th July, 1892, on the very same date, according to book 495,777, there was a mortgage from Fink to Wallach Bros. of the same land, subject to the existing mortgage to Osborne in order to secure a promissory-note for £8,920 by de Wolf and Armstrong in favour of Fink, and by him endorsed to Wallach Bros.

1139. Who was the man who conveyed to Fink? De Wolf.

1140. Was not Fink trustee for the company? He could not be a trustee for the company, as the minute-book did not show any such appointment. It was a question of financing the company's property. On the same day, that is on the 29th July, 1892, according to book 495,778, there was a sub-mortgage by Wallach to the A.J.S. Bank against the discount of the promissory-note I have just mentioned.

1141. *Chairman.*] Whose promissory-note was that? It was a note by de Wolf and Armstrong in favour of Fink, and by him endorsed to Wallach Bros. It was a piece of financing with the company's property.

1142. *Mr. Sleath.*] They were financing their private affairs with the company's property? I can hardly say that, because I take it that the whole property was sold to the company originally.

1143. They were financing with the company's property in order to meet their own promissory-notes? I take it that that is so.

1144. *Mr. Simpson.*] Do you say that the proceeds of this financing were applied not to the benefit of the company, but to the benefit of private individuals? I do not say that. There is no proof that that is so. I take it that the land was sold to the company in the first instance, and that no right was given to mortgage it to anyone.

1145. *Mr. Cann.*] Were these persons in these transactions acting on behalf of the company? The records do not show that to be the case. On April the 3rd, 1894, the A.J.S. Bank sold the property subject to the existing mortgage to Osborne for £30,000—to Henry Osborne, his son, for £300. On about April 26th, 1894, the call of £10 per share on 10,000 shares was made. That is one of my troubles in the matter—that the call was made after the property was parted with altogether. The first mortgage was to Osborne, and the next mortgage was to the A.J.S. Bank, who sold their right under the second mortgage to Henry Osborne. The consequence was that the company did not possess the land at all. The first and second mortgagees took it out of their hands. I maintain, therefore, that the call had no right to be made under any circumstances. I think I explained in a previous part of my evidence that several of the calls were paid by Mr. de Wolf, Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Barton, and a number of others by book-keeping manipulations, leaving only a few of us upon which to make calls.

1146. *Mr. Simpson.*] Will you explain in what sense you use the word manipulations? I cannot tell you particularly how they manipulated the matter, but there was a certain amount claimed to be due to these gentlemen, and that amount was transferred from the one thing to the other.

1147. You mean that there were cross-entries? Yes.

1148. *Mr. Cann.*] No cash was paid? No.

1149. *Mr. Archibald Campbell.*] You did not get out of it so easily yourself? No; there were only three of us who had to pay. There were only Mr. Newton, Mr. A. G. Friend, and myself who ever paid in a shilling, except the amount put in in the first instance in connection with the purchase of the land. I do not know that I can say anything further, except from information I have gained. I can make no further statement as to the company's affairs from my personal knowledge.

1150. *Mr. Sleath.*] Do you know anything about Mr. Styles? No. I know his name is on the books for a few shares, and I know from the minutes that he was one of the vendors of portion of the land in the first instance. I also know from the minutes that his shares were forfeited. Mr. Friend, I find, is supposed to have rejoined the company.

1151.

- J. R. Carey.
12 Dec., 1898.
1151. Have they made any proposals for you to rejoin the company;—has anyone hinted at such a thing? Such a thing has been mentioned to me, but I said I would not have anything to do with the company in any shape or form.
1152. *Mr. Ashton.*] You say that when the Fink crowd made a call the de Wolf crowd made an offer to accept a transfer of shares from you? Yes. On more than one occasion Mr. de Wolf said he would take back the shares.
1153. But later on he was a party to making the call which you had to pay? Yes.
1154. How do you explain his changed attitude? I suppose it was a case of necessity,—when needs must the devil drives. They wanted money, and they were determined to get it where they could.
1155. *Mr. Cohen.*] After they had made this call of £10, did he say that he would take over your shares? No; it was prior to that.
1156. *Mr. Cann.*] Has there been any other dispute between you and the Board in reference to any other matter apart from the affairs of this company;—if anyone has said, for instance, that you were trying to blackmail the company, would there be any truth in the statement? No.
1157. Did you demand the £300 back again from the company? No; I said I would take it back if they would give it. I do not know even now that I will not sue them for it, because I think the money was illegally taken.
1158. I suppose your claim to this £300 is the blackmailing to which they referred? Probably. I do not know of anything else to which the statement can have reference.
1159. *Mr. Cohen.*] Did you ever sit at any of the Board meetings? I did at a few in the first instance. I cannot say now whether they were Board meetings or general meetings. I know that I sat a few preliminary meetings.
1160. *Mr. Steath.*] Have you had any other financial transaction with this company? No.
1161. In no way at all? None whatever.
1162. You never had any transaction with them outside the share transaction? Not in any shape or form.
1163. Therefore, the statement that you are attempting to blackmail the company can apply only to the transaction which you have explained this afternoon? Yes, and to nothing else.
1164. You are confident of that? Yes.
1165. *Chairman.*] From your knowledge of the company, and from your connection with it, were you satisfied that it was a *bonâ fide* company? I was satisfied that it was advisable for me to get out of it as soon as possible.
1166. *Mr. Ashton.*] That might apply to an enterprise the prospects of which you did not think were good? Yes.
1167. *Mr. Carroll.*] When you paid the amount you have named to get out of the company was there any understanding that in the event of the company being floated and getting on they would refund you the money? No. It was not put in that way. Mr. de Wolf promised that he would eventually pay back the £300.
1168. He regarded it as a debt of honor? I presume so, inasmuch as he had said on several occasions that I should not have to pay anything.
1169. *Mr. Simpson.*] I understand that you complain that the Board made the call after they had parted with the assets of the company;—as a matter of fact, have they ever parted with their concession? I did not mention the concession. I was referring to the property of the company. I do not call the concession property in that sense.
1170. You meant to except that? Yes; I was referring to freehold property.
1171. Are you not aware that the license from the Crown to construct was then in force, and that the company was formed, as a matter of fact, to construct a harbour? Yes.
1172. When you went into the company you knew that one of its objects was to construct a harbour? Yes; but there was ground attached to it, and without the ground the scheme was of no value.
1173. *Mr. Ashton.*] The ground was the only tangible asset? Yes.
1174. *Mr. Simpson.*] You are not sure how it was transferred to Mr. Fink, and for what purpose? I only know that there was a transfer.
1175. *Mr. Archibald Campbell.*] When you refer to the property of the company, you mean the land held by them? Yes.
1176. *Mr. Simpson.*] The information you have given to the Committee is derived from documents put before you without your having any knowledge of the transaction between Fink and the Mercantile Finance Co.? Except so far as the minute-book is concerned, and there is nothing in the minute-book to show that. If the Board endeavoured to do anything of that kind it should appear on the minutes.
1177. You do not know, except from what you have gathered from the deeds, anything of the circumstances under which the property was transferred to Fink? Only from that and the absence of minutes.
1178. You do not know, as a matter of fact, that Mr. Fink was closely allied with the Mercantile Finance Company? Yes.
1179. And that he was financing the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation to a large extent? I knew that he was connected with the corporation.
1180. Was he not finding the money the corporation had? I have heard so many accounts of the thing passed from one person to another that it would puzzle a Philadelphia lawyer to arrive at the true state of affairs.
1181. But, as a matter of fact, you heard that Mr. Fink was financing the corporation? No.
1182. Did you not know that there was a contract in existence to construct a harbour? I did not know that there was any contract in existence in 1889. All I knew was what I gathered from the minutes after I left the company, and I left the company early in 1889.
1183. What is the date of the receipt for the £300 to which you have referred? The date of the settlement between myself and Mr. Friend on the one side, and Mr. de Wolf and Mr. Armstrong on the other side, is the 26th April, 1894.
1184. You went upon the Board in 1889, and the shares were not transferred out of your name until 1894? That is so, I believe.
1185. I also understand that during 1889 and 1890 you attended several meetings of the Board? I do not think I sat upon the Board at all in 1890.

1186. Would it surprise you to see your name down in the minute-book as having attended a meeting of the Board in 1890? It would surprise me to see my name appearing in connection with any meeting in 1890. I could give you the definite information if I had all my papers with me. J. R. Currey.
12 Dec., 1898.
1187. Your resignation was accepted in April, 1890? I believe it was.
1188. When you attended the meetings you must have known that you attended them having a certain qualification? Yes.
1189. Do I understand that you now take up the position that you were never a shareholder? I say that the original allotment was illegal.
1190. How can you reconcile your attitude in attending meetings of the Board with your denial that you were a shareholder; to be qualified to sit upon the Board you must have held a certain number of shares, and your statement is that you should not have been upon the list at all? I was not then aware of the illegality of the original allotment. When I became aware of it I wanted to get out of the concern.
1191. In what respect was the original allotment illegal? I cannot say without looking at the papers. It was so illegal that the Board without authority altered the date in the register by way of making the allotment legal.
1192. You say now that you were under the impression that you were qualified? At that time I was.
1193. You must also admit that if you were qualified, a certain number of shares had been allotted to you? The first allotment was incorrect.
1194. In what respect was it incorrect? I cannot answer that question now. My solicitor might be able to answer it.
1195. As a matter of fact, does it not amount to this, that at a certain juncture you thought the company's prospects were not as bright as you had thought them in the first instance, and that in consequence of that, and not in consequence of the illegality of the allotment, you asked Mr. de Wolf to relieve you of your liabilities? I did not ask him to relieve me of my liabilities. He offered to relieve me, but I did not accept his offer because I did not think he was financially good enough to carry it out.
1196. Did you not afterwards accept the offer? In consideration of certain amount of debt being put to the credit of Mr. Friend and myself.
1197. Is it not a fact, that in consequence of the prospects of the company, so far as you were concerned, appearing not so bright as they appeared in the first instance, when you agreed to accept shares, you asked to be relieved of your interest in the company? No.
1198. On what grounds then did you seek to be relieved of it? I knew nothing about the company when I went into it. As time went on, I gained information as to the company, and I thought it was good enough to get out of it.
1199. Mr. de Wolf swears that Mr. Fink, at about this time, had got into difficulties, and that it was impossible to finance affairs without his aid? I knew nothing of those facts.
1200. Did you not, immediately you took your seat on the Board, make inquiries as to the position of the company? I did, and then I wanted to get out of it.
1201. You were sitting on the Board for a period of twelve months? Yes.
1202. The company was formed in October, 1888? Yes.
1203. You will see from the minutes that you attended a meeting on the 17th December, 1889? I think the 9th April, 1889 is the date of the last meeting I attended.
1204. Will you undertake then to say that these minutes are false? In that respect I should think they would be.
1205. *Mr. Sleath.*] Do you recollect being present at the meeting to which Mr. Simpson refers? No; besides that was a general meeting of the company—it was not a meeting of the Board. I cannot see any meeting of directors recorded at which I attended after April, 1889.
1206. *Mr. Simpson.*] You say you joined the company in October, 1888? Yes.
1207. And you attended either directors' or general meetings up to December, 1889? I do not say that.
1208. But the minutes show it? Yes, apparently.
1209. After looking at the minute-book, and seeing that your name appears there as having attended a meeting in December, 1889, will you say whether you did or did not attend that meeting? I do not see my name down as having attended a directors' meeting after April, 1889. That is the date, as far as my memory goes, of the last meeting I attended. You show me my name recorded as having attended a general meeting in December, 1889. I really cannot say whether I was there or not.
1210. *Mr. Ashton.*] You resigned in January, 1890? I resigned some time before I sent in a written resignation.
1211. Is it probable that you resigned about a month after the general meeting you attended;—is it likely that anything transpired at that general meeting which caused you to resign? No.
1212. *Mr. Cohen.*] Is it likely that your name would be recorded in the minute-book as having attended a general meeting if you were not present? No; I should think not.
1213. You see your name is recorded in the minute-book as having been present at the general meeting;—would you undertake to say that you were not present? I certainly would not say I was not present.
1214. *Mr. Sleath.*] Have you any recollection of being present? I have not.
1215. *Mr. Simpson.*] You say you were not present at any directors' meeting after April, 1889? I said that you had not shown me from the minutes that I was present at any director's meeting after that date.
1216. I will ask you to look at the minute-book, under date of 11th December, 1889;—you will see that you there took the chair at a meeting of the Board, at which the report of the company was actually adopted or approved by the directors present? I see that that is recorded.
1217. Will you say whether or not these minutes are correct? I take it that they are correct.
1218. So that on the 11th December, 1889, you actually approved of the report of the company? I was present at the meeting.
1219. So that although you thought in April, 1889, after some five or six months' experience of the company, that it was not a company in which you would like to remain, you attended a meeting in December of that year, at which you, as a director, expressed approval of the report to be submitted to the shareholders? I do not say anything of the kind. I have already stated that I could not say exactly when I left the Board. It was, I thought, in 1889. When I had been upon the Board long enough to gain certain information with regard to the company, I thought it good enough for me to get out of it.

- J. R. Carey. 1220. Did this information, upon which you came to the conclusion that the company was not one with which you ought to be identified, come suddenly to you? No; it came by degrees.
- 12 Dec., 1898. 1221. What was the information? First and foremost I got information as to how the property was bought and sold, and all connected with it; and when I came to consider the amount raised upon it, I thought it was good enough to get out of the concern.
1222. Still, in December, 1889, you actually approved of the report to be submitted to the shareholders? I do not say that I approved of it. It is not to be inferred merely because the report was approved by the meeting that I approved of it.
1223. But according to the minutes you were present at the meeting? I do not deny that.
1224. I presume the report and balance-sheet of the company would show the exact cost of the company? It would not show details, but it would show the total cost.
1225. So that any information you gained would have reached you between the meeting in December and the meeting in January? No; between October, 1888, and December, 1889.
1226. Is it true that you have said that unless this amount of £300, which you now say may have been £250, were repaid to you, you would stop this Bill from going through the House? Who says that I said that?
1227. I am asking the question of you;—did you say it? I never said such a thing.
1228. You are sure of that? Yes.
1229. Or anything like it? Or anything like it. I told one of the gentlemen that if they did not pay me back the £300 they had swindled me out of I would know the reason why—that is to say, that I thought I would sue them, and he said I could do my best.
1230. Although, acting on the advice of the solicitor, you came to an agreement under which you were relieved of responsibility in connection with the company on payment of £250, you now say that you are going to sue them for £300? Yes. In the first place, I was not then aware of the transactions to which I have referred. I did not know that the company's property had been disposed of, and that the first and second mortgagees had taken possession. If I had known when I paid the £300 what I know now, the amount would never have been paid. It was long after that that I found out the true circumstances of the case—that is to say, that the property had been taken out of the hands of the company for a considerable period.

TUESDAY, 13 DECEMBER, 1898.

Present:—

MR. ASHTON,	MR. CARROLL,
MR. ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL,	MR. SLEATH,
MR. NICHOLSON,	MR. CANN,
MR. CHAYNES,	MR. COHEN.

W. J. FERGUSON, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. E. P. Simpson (of the firm of Johnson, Minter, and Simpson), and Mr. W. H. Moseley, appeared on behalf of the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation (Limited).

Alfred Hugh Beresford Conroy sworn and examined:—

- A. H. B. Conroy. 1231. *Mr. Simpson.*] Do you remember a conversation that took place somewhat recently between Mr. Carey, Mr. de Wolf, Mr. Harper, and yourself, with reference to the Illawarra Harbour scheme? Not with Mr. de Wolf; Mr. Harper, Mr. Carey, and myself, were present.
- 13 Dec., 1898. 1232. Was it with reference to the Illawarra Harbour scheme? Yes; Mr. Harper and I were coming up the street, and when we were going into the "Hotel Australia" we met Mr. Carey coming down the steps. Mr. Harper stopped and spoke to him. He said to Mr. Carey that he was going about telling tales against the company, saying that he had been done out of money or something. I may say that, at that time I knew nothing of any transactions which had passed. It was all new to me, and the conversation that I heard was only fragmentary. He spoke to Mr. Carey about it and said, "You were perfectly satisfied with the arrangement at the time. You thought it a fair thing." Then I heard Mr. Carey say, "Well, I will have my £300." The conversation began to get a little stormy between them, and Mr. Harper asked what he considered unfair. He said, "Having given up his shares." Of course you will understand that when I heard this, I did not know anything that had taken place before, and it was entirely new to me. Mr. Harper again repeated, "You were perfectly satisfied at that time." Mr. Carey said, "Yes, that was so, but I will have that money or something else."
1233. Did he say subsequently what he meant by "something else," or did he intimate that he would stop the Bill? Just then he stopped, and my attention was drawn to somebody else for a moment. I was away for a minute when I rejoined them. Mr. Carey said, "Well, if I do not get it I will block your Bill in the House, and I can do it there, and even if I fail there I will stop you at Home—I will stop you issuing at Home."
1234. Did he make any reference to the *Daily Telegraph*? He did. He said, "You know I have the paper behind me, and you know what I can do; so look out."
1235. Did the conversation end then? No; Mr. Harper got into a temper and said, "This is damned blackmail." He repeated that.
1236. *Mr. Cann.*] I understand you knew nothing about the transaction then? Nothing whatever.
1237. *Mr. Simpson.*] Are you interested in the scheme in any way whatever? No; not beyond the fact that I have friends interested in the Smelting Company.
1238. *Mr. Cann.*] But they have not got any interest in the Illawarra Company? No.
1239. No pecuniary interest? No. This occurred about a fortnight ago—last Wednesday or Thursday week. I think it was in the afternoon.

William

William Robert Styles sworn and examined :—

W. R. Styles.
13 Dec., 1898.

1240. *Chairman.*] Are you one of the original syndicate which held the Lakelands Estate? Yes.
1241. Do you mind telling the Committee how you became possessed of that in the first instance? A syndicate was formed. First of all I sold, partly with Mr. Vaughn, the Ocean Colliery.
1242. Were you partners? I took him as a partner. He came in on velvet. It cost him nothing.
1243. Did you and Mr. Vaughn purchase this Ocean Colliery? I bought it first (265 acres), and then I took up 640 acres at the back of it—which consisted of Crown lands—on permit.
1244. Were you and Mr. Vaughn the owners of this Ocean Colliery? I formed it into a syndicate after I opened up eight seams of coal, iron ore, and kerosene shale. I put in a few years' work there. I had to pay my part. I had one-third interest in the concern. This syndicate wanted to sell. They put it into my hands, and I took Vaughn in at the time.
1245. *Mr. Ashton.*] You and he did not own the property? There were twelve shares. I had four out of twelve. At that time Mr. Vaughn came in.
1246. On what terms? He paid nothing; but it was intended that we should sell this property for a further sum.
1247. That was, he was going to manage the business? Of course, along with me in a way. We sold this property to de Wolf and Armstrong. Vaughn made the sale when I was in Melbourne.
1248. Did he hold a power of attorney from you? Yes.
1249. *Chairman.*] Did you sell the Ocean Colliery to de Wolf for £25,000? Yes.
1250. Was a portion of that sum paid in cash? Yes, about £11,000 altogether.
1251. And was the balance taken out in syndicate shares? After the contract was made and signed, and for some months after they bought the Lakelands Estate, they wanted us to take two shares each. I would not consent for a long time. They wanted me and Vaughn to take two shares each. After refusing to consent for some time I did take them. Afterwards I believe they said they had £180,000 to the credit of the syndicate, but I believe only a few shares were sold. They have taken part of the other shares and put them in their own pockets without paying anything. They represented that the shares had been all taken up and paid for up to £180,000.
1252. Was the balance of your purchase money payable by mortgage? Yes, in instalments.
1253. Has it ever been paid? No.
1254. Was there not some arrangement made between de Wolf and Vaughn, he holding your power of attorney? He might have done something without my consent. He turned round with them, and I could not get any information for years.
1255. Mr. Vaughn held a power of attorney from you, and with this power of attorney he disposed of the property to Mr. de Wolf—that was with your consent? Of course, with my consent at the time; but after I came back from Melbourne to Sydney, and had been here for a length of time, the power of attorney was revoked.
1256. At the time he disposed of the property the power of attorney was in force? Yes.
1257. Did Mr. de Wolf write any letters to you on this matter? Yes, several.
1258. *Mr. Ashton.*] What were the precise terms on which the property was sold? £25,000—£11,000 in cash, and the other was taken out in syndicate shares.
1259. Was that in accordance with the agreement? No.
1260. What was the agreement? £13,000 in cash. We took syndicate shares. £11,000 was what they were supposed to have paid in cash.
1261. Was the agreement £13,000 in cash and £12,000 in shares in a syndicate? Yes.
1262. How much cash did you get? They paid £11,000 in cash. When they paid that there was £6,000 to be paid besides.
1263. What do you mean by that? Because when they were paying instalments we were paying for our shares in instalments; we were paying £1,000 at a time on each share; so they failed to pay the last instalment; but Mr. Vaughn has made some arrangement to make up for that.
1264. They paid you £11,000 out of the £13,000;—they still owe you £2,000 out of the £13,000? Yes.
1265. Did they give you any security? No; they simply owe the £2,000.
1266. *Chairman.*] Did they not give you a mortgage? They gave it to Mr. Vaughn.
1267. Was that for the £2,000? Yes.
1268. Was the mortgage over the whole property? Over the freehold.
1269. Does that mortgage stand at the present time? I do not think so. It was transferred to Mr. Fink in Melbourne afterwards.
1270. Did Mr. Fink pay it off? He paid it off. He borrowed money from the bank, and the bank got it.
1271. Did Mr. Vaughn accept the mortgage under your power of attorney? No, because I revoked the power of attorney years before that.
1272. £13,000 was the amount you were to receive in cash;—you received £11,000, and the other £2,000 was secured by mortgage, which you agreed to? I was agreeable to take my shares—that means £6,000.
1273. Were you agreeable that the remainder of the purchase money, £2,000, should remain on mortgage? No; I was all the time asking for the money.
1274. Was it not secured by mortgage to Mr. Vaughn, and you agreed to it? I did not agree to it.
1275. He had two of the shares, as well as yourself? Yes.
1276. The amount in dispute between Mr. de Wolf and you is this sum of £2,000? Yes, and the shares.
1277. Do you say that you agreed to accept £12,000 in shares, in addition to £13,000 cash? I found out that the other shareholders had not paid for them the same as I did. Of course, I did not accept.
1278. *Mr. Ashton.*] You accepted them on certain conditions? Yes.
1279. *Chairman.*] You said you had some letters from Mr. de Wolf to you on this matter;—have you got them with you? Yes, I produce them.
1280. *Mr. Ashton.*] Is the position this, so far as the sale of the property is concerned: You agreed to accept £13,000 in cash and £12,000 in shares? Yes.
1281. That undertaking was satisfied by the purchasers with the exception that they still owe you £2,000 cash? Yes, and interest; and the profits, of course, in the syndicate. I was supposed to get a profit from the syndicate as well. The syndicate, of which I was one, sold the property and made £100,000 profit. I found they were deceiving me. They told me that all the syndicate shares—60 at £3,000 each—

W. R. Styles. each—had been paid for; but I found after a length of time that only a few shares had been sold, and they pocketed all of them themselves.

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1282. *Chairman.*] All the letters which you have handed in so far are requests by de Wolf that you should do certain things which you refused to do; is there anything more definite;—is there anything which you did do finally? No, I did not sign anything they asked. I could see that they wanted to get me in and to get me out at the same time.

1283. Did they get you out by making a call on the shares which you refused to pay? Yes.

1284. Did you receive notice of the call? Yes, after a length of time.

1285. Those shares were paid up to £50, and were liable to a call of £10 to be made at any time by the board? Of course, there was no board at the time.

1286. But they were liable to that call if the board made it? On the face of them they were liable, but I was objecting all the time that there was fraud at the commencement; that those in the syndicate never paid for the shares as I did. My shares were paid up.

1287. Were not the shares part of the purchase money? No; we were paying for them the same as other people. Though they were paying instalments we were paying for them. We were paying for the syndicate shares in instalments.

1288. *Mr. Carroll.*] Out of your own money? Yes.

1289. *Chairman.*] You had shares paid up to £50, and they were liable to a call of £10? They made a £10 call.

1290. Did you refuse to pay that, and did they forfeit your shares? Yes.

1291. Is that the position now? Yes.

1292. Your ground of complaint against the syndicate is practically that they forfeited your shares, and you say they had not power to do so? Yes.

1293. And that they have not yet paid the £2,000, the balance of the purchase money? Yes.

1294. And the profits accruing thereon? Yes.

1295. Are those the grounds of your Equity Suit? Yes.

1296. *Mr. Cann.*] I understand Mr. Vaughn had a power of attorney to act for you while you were away? Yes.

1297. I will now read a passage to you from a conveyance between W. R. Styles and others of the first part; R. M. Vaughn, Esq., of the second part; and T. A. de Wolfe, Esq., of the third part; and I will ask you to give an explanation of the matter. The passage is as follows:—

And whereas the said Robert Matteson Vaughn has since agreed with the said purchaser for the absolute sale to him of (*inter alia*) the lands, hereditaments, and premises hereafter described and intended to be hereby assured, and the inheritance thereof in fee simple in possession, free from encumbrances, at the price of twenty-five thousand pounds. Now this Indenture witnesseth that, in pursuance of the said agreement, and in consideration of the sum of eight thousand one hundred and sixty pounds to the said vendors, paid by the purchaser at or before the execution of these presents, and of the sum of sixteen thousand eight hundred and forty pounds at or before the execution of these presents, paid by the said purchaser to the said Robert Matteson Vaughn (the receipt of which said several sums of eight thousand one hundred and sixty pounds and sixteen thousand eight hundred and forty pounds, making together the sum of twenty-five thousand pounds, the said vendors and the said Robert Matteson Vaughn respectively do hereby acknowledge); and from the same do and each and every one of them doth hereby release the said purchaser, his heirs, executors, and administrators. They, the said vendors, at the request and by the direction of the said Robert Matteson Vaughn, testified by his being a party to and executing these presents, do and each of them doth hereby grant, bargain, sell, alien, release, and convey; and the said Robert Matteson Vaughn doth hereby release and confirm under the said purchaser and his heirs all those, the lands, hereditaments, and premises set out and particularly described in the schedule hereto.

Can you explain that? That £8,000 was the price of the first syndicate. I was one of them. Without them I had 640 acres at the back of the freehold. I had it from the syndicate, and I took Vaughn in to sell it, and we sold it to de Wolf—at least Vaughn did. I could have sold it in Ballarat and Melbourne at the same time for the same figure, and I could have got cash down.

1298. That accounts for £8,130. How do you account for £16,840. This is a receipt from Mr. Vaughn for that amount? The two together make up the £25,000. Before the deed was handed over, the £8,130 was paid for the 265 acres in the first syndicate. That money was not paid altogether at first.

1299. *Chairman.*] You say that this action of theirs has rendered you comparatively a poor man;—are you living in Queensland? I am going backwards and forwards temporarily.

1300. What is your business? Mining.

1301. Did they not pay you this sum in cash? Some of it in cash.

1302. Were you a poor man at that time? No.

1303. Are you a poor man now? Yes; I have lost all.

1304. If that is so, how is it that you can come all the way down here from Queensland, and that you are going to proceed with an Equity case against this company;—do you find the money for all that? Certainly.

1305. Then you cannot be very poor? I am, comparatively.

1306. Are you sure your case has not been taken up by some solicitors for nothing? No; I am sure enough of that. I do not believe that solicitors, as a rule, work for nothing. They want cash in hand.

1307. Can you give us any information about this company other than what is involved in this Equity Suit? I can explain with regard to the commencement of it until now, so far as what they have been doing and what they ought to have done when they got the Bill through.

1308. *Mr. Nicholson.*] Do you know of your own knowledge whether the syndicate have paid for the land which they have purchased or resumed for railway purposes? No.

Thomas Andrew de Wolf recalled and further examined:—

T. A. de Wolf. 1309. *Mr. Ashton.*] Mr. Carey in giving his evidence yesterday dealing with those mortgage transactions, in which Mr. Fink so largely figured, expressed the opinion that the company's property had been used for the purpose of private financing, and he said the history of the dealing in the matter seemed to him to bear that complexion;—can you give us a short and succinct statement of the mortgaging of those properties, the transfer from you to Mr. Fink, and the matter of that now notorious half-sovereign? I think I can do so, and I have already done so.

13 Dec., 1898.

1310. Will you give us a statement of the acquisition of the land from the syndicate? Under the agreement between the syndicate and the company, the company were to pay £100,000 in cash—that is to say, before they could get possession of that property they had to pay to the syndicate, who were the vendors, £100,000 and shares.

1311.

T. A. de Wolf.

13 Dec., 1893.

1311. What were the shares? £500,000—10,000 shares paid up to £50.

1312. That was the consideration given by the company to the vending syndicate? Yes, the company, as a matter of fact, did not pay anything. They had not paid any cash at all. It was necessary to pay off further instalments on the property, and the Mercantile Finance Company, who were then providing funds for the company through Mr. Fink, agreed to find a further sum of money. The property had never been transferred to the company. It was held by me until the company paid the money. In the meantime the vendors had paid large sums of money on account of these properties.

1313. It was necessary to find more money, and the Mercantile Finance Company agreed to advance a certain sum;—that is to say, the vendors to the company had not completed their arrangements with the sellers? It was either that or debts of the company—I do not know which. Money was wanted for the company; the Mercantile Finance Company then insisted that the property, instead of being held in my own individual name as one of the vendors, should be put into Mr. Fink's name, who was also one of the vendors.

1314. *Mr. Nicholson.*] Fink's name jointly with yours? No; it was solely in my name originally until the company had fulfilled its obligation to pay £100,000 in cash, which they never did until we made the £10 call. In the meantime we were finding the money for the purchase of the properties. In order to obtain further funds we arranged to get this advance from the Australian Joint Stock Bank through the Mercantile Finance Company.

1315. *Mr. Ashton.*] What was the amount? I think £8,900.

1316. It was then transferred to Fink? The property was held by Fink in the same way as it was held by me as trustee until the company had fulfilled its obligation.

1317. Did Fink enter into any agreement or undertaking as to defining the conditions on which he held that property, or was the transfer an absolute one. For instance, Mr. Carey suggested yesterday that that was an improper transfer to Fink, by reason of the fact that he could have done anything he liked with the property after that transfer? I think the deeds showed it, but I am not certain. The transfer to Mr. Fink was sanctioned by the shareholders.

1318. Was that practically an absolute transfer, and is Mr. Carey's statement correct that after that transfer was effected Mr. Fink might have done anything he pleased? Most certainly not; he held it just as I held it. The property was vested in my name previously as one of the vendors. It was only transferred to Mr. Fink in exactly the same position as I held it.

1319. Taking your own position;—were you legally the absolute owner of that property, or were your powers restricted by any undertaking which you gave to your co-owners? We had our contracts to the company, which were registered against the land. We had no right to part with or dispose of the land.

1320. Except for an express purpose? Yes.

1321. *Mr. Cann.*] Have you put in any of these deeds as evidence? No.

1322. *Mr. Ashton.*] As I understand the matter, it is somewhat in this form: I am aware that when a property has been taken home to London for sale the man who has the offer made to him requires that an absolute transfer shall be made to him, in order that it may be readily disposed of; and he, in turn, enters into a contract with the vendors proper agreeing that he shall do certain things with the property; but the fact remains, as I understand, that although he might, as the result of that transfer, do whatever he pleased with that property, yet, under another agreement, he would be liable by law for specific performance of the contract;—was that the position here? No; I understand that the contracts were registered as against the land, and the land could not be dealt with until those contracts were satisfied.

1323. Suppose Fink had the land transferred to him, as he had for half a sovereign, and he sold it to somebody and pocketed the money, what recourse would the other members of the company or the syndicate have against Fink? First of all, I suppose, they would put him in gaol.

1324. What for? For selling property that belonged to him nominally, but which belonged to other people.

1325. Did it not belong to him when it was transferred? Certainly not.

1326. What detracted from his absolute ownership legally? That is a legal point. I know the thing was done under the advice of our solicitors at the time, and I cannot tell what deeds were entered into. It did not make any difference to the company whether the property was held by me or Fink; but, as a matter of fact, we got the consent of the company and all the shareholders to the transfer to Fink.

1327. Would this represent the state of things that the land was transferred to Mr. Fink, who entered into a contract to take over your agreement to the Board that, on certain things being done by the company, it would be retransferred to the company? Yes.

1328. That was the restriction on Fink's right to deal with the property as he pleased? Yes.

1329. I want to know what legal restriction there was on Fink to prevent him doing anything whatsoever he pleased with the land? He could not deal with it any more than I could.

1330. *Mr. Cann.*] Was there any time limit during which that restriction was to remain? I really cannot say.

1331. You could understand a man entering into an agreement that something should be done, but surely there would be some specified time? This property was absolutely sold to the company, and deeds were registered against the land. When I held this property in my own name I could not deal with it for my own benefit without giving the company the right to redeem that property when they paid the price they agreed to pay.

1332. What time had the company to pay the £100,000? I cannot remember.

1333. *Mr. Ashton.*] Mr. Carey made a statement here yesterday to the effect that there was nothing in the minutes by way of authorisation of this mortgage transaction. Here is the minute-book. Do you find there any authorisation of the transfer of the property from yourself to Mr. Fink? Yes.

1334. Do you produce the minute-book containing a minute of the proceedings of a special general meeting of shareholders dated 29th July, 1892, authorising the transfer of the property from yourself to Mr. Fink? Yes; it is as follows:—

Reported that, in connection with the rearrangement of the liabilities upon the company's property, that T. A. de Wolf, in whose name the title is, should transfer it to Mr. B. J. Fink, a request from the members of the vendors' syndicate to consent to the transfer of the same was read. Resolved that such consent should be given.

1335. That does not say anything about any former obligation on your part that should devolve on Mr. Fink? I say that Mr. Fink took this over with the knowledge of the shareholders and with their consent. I simply transferred to him what I had.

1336.

- T. A. de Wolf. 1336. On the same conditions that you held it? I could not do anything else. It was certainly on the same conditions as I held it.
- 13 Dec., 1898. 1337. *Mr. Ashton.*] Had that transfer to Fink for its ultimate object an advance from the A. J. S. Bank? Yes.
1338. What steps were taken in order to secure that advance;—do you know the exact steps by which Wallach Bros. came into the proceedings? We simply received a cheque for the money.
1339. From whom? I think from Wallach Bros.
1340. You cannot give any explanation as to how Wallach Bros. came into the matter, except that you know that Mr. Fink was a partner of Wallach Bros.? Fink was practically Wallach Bros.
1341. It was probably more convenient on account of the business connection with Wallach Bros. that it should come in that way? The A.J.S. Bank made the advance to Wallach Bros., who were largely interested with Fink in this syndicate.
1342. *Mr. Cann.*] When this advance of money was made was the property mortgaged to the party who advanced the money? Yes, a mortgage was given.
1343. Was there not a time limit in the mortgage as to when you should pay back this money, and otherwise would not the property go completely out of your hands? I cannot tell. The property could not go out of our hands. We had the equity of redemption.
1344. In ordinary mortgages there is a time limit. You must pay the mortgage within a certain time;—what were the conditions attached to this mortgage? I cannot tell you, it was left to the lawyers to settle. A man might have a mortgage on his property, but the property belongs to him if he pays off the mortgage.
1345. *Mr. Ashton.*] After this transaction with the A.J.S. Bank, what was the next financial transaction;—I want to find out how Fink got out of it himself? I do not know.
1346. Was the Bank paid off? The Bank assigned this mortgage to Osborne.
1347. What are the obligations on the property now? Only the debt to Amos, £34,000.
1348. And the cost of the railway itself was £41,000? Yes; all these things have been settled up. Everything is cleared off. That is the end of all the financial transactions in connection with the mortgage and the company. A mortgage now rests on it of £34,000 to Amos, which was given to him, I think, as part payment for the construction of the railway pending the issue of our debentures.
1349. What connection, if any, has Mr. Fink with the company now? None at all.
1350. How did he cut his connection with it? At the time of the failure of the Mercantile Finance Company Mr. Fink owed me a good deal of money, and also the Mercantile Finance Company, under contracts. They were not prepared to carry on the business any longer, and we made a settlement with them by which they went out of it.
1351. Would you have any objection to tell the Committee the names of those who are interested in the company at the present time;—the object of the question is this—one of the main points in connection with this inquiry is, of course, the probability of something being done if this extension is granted. That largely depends on the *bona fides* and financial status of the persons interested in the company? I have already given that. I gave the names of our principal shareholders—the London shareholders. The Australian shareholders are not all strong financial men.
1352. What proportion of the shares are held in London? The bulk of them. I think four-fifths—hardly so much perhaps.
1353. Would it be possible to enumerate precisely the interest held by different people in the company? I have not got the list of share holdings, but I have a list of the principal shareholders.
1354. Is that information not on this side? I gave all the names to the Upper House Committee that I could remember, and I gave the names here of the principal men.
1355. Do you say that four-fifths of the shares are held in London and that the list of shareholders in London comprises men of the highest standing and of great financial strength? Yes; there are a number of shares which we are holding to assist us in the flotation of our debentures which probably we would have to give to the debenture holders. There are people who are not very keen about advancing money on debentures unless they get an interest in the company as well. We have a number of shares in reserve, which will be used probably to assist in getting debenture money.
1356. The company has an equity suit pending with Mr. Styles. Mr. Style's account of the sale of the coal property, which I think substantially agrees with yours, is that the consideration, was £13,000 cash and £12,000 in shares? Yes.
1357. He says that £11,000 out of the £13,000 was paid, and that the balance of £2,000 was left due and remains due at the present time? That is not true.
1358. Do you maintain that the whole of the purchase money was paid? Yes; in fact there was more.
1359. *Mr. Moseley.*] By that, do you mean that some portion of it was paid in shares? Not of the £13,000. There was more than £13,000, because I had to take up an advance which they had got from a bank of £1,000, and that did not come into the £13,000. £13,000 was paid in cash, and I had to pay something extra in cash.
1360. What is the nature of this equity suit? Mr. Styles claims that his shares were not properly forfeited. We claim that he never paid a shilling towards the expenses of the company, that he never contributed in any way. When we made a call he refused to pay, and we forfeited his shares.
1361. *Chairman.*] Is he practically in the same position as Carey on that point? No; Carey insisted upon getting rid of his liability. He paid off something on account of the call, but Mr. Styles never paid a shilling. We have spent £78,000 in the expenses of the company, but Mr. Styles has never paid anything.
1362. *Mr. Simpson.*] Is not Mr. Styles' case exactly the converse of Mr. Carey's;—does he not want to get shares in the company, while Mr. Carey wants to get out of the company? Yes.
1363. *Mr. Cann.*] At which particular time did you give the names of the London shareholders? I gave the principal names to this Committee.
1364. I understand the directors of the Smelting Company have nothing to do with the directors of this company? No; except that I am a director of both companies.
1365. To-day you stated that you had given them before the Upper House? Yes; as far as I could remember them.

1366. *Mr. Ashton.*] You gave here a list of those who were interested in the Illawarra Company? Yes, T. A. de Wolf, of the men who had found the £20,000. I have the paper outside, and I can get it if it is wanted.
1367. There have been a number of suggestions made by various witnesses that the affairs of this company have been manipulated in the instance of certain individuals;—have you made any profit out of the company? No; I have not made a shilling out of it. I have put money in every year for ten years.
1368. And you are actually out of pocket? I am out of pocket between £20,000 and £30,000;—nearer £30,000 than £20,000.
1369. *Mr. Nicholson.*] As a matter of fact no profits have yet accrued from the venture? No one has made a shilling; the only man is Styles, who got advances on his shares.
1370. *Mr. Campbell.*] Did the Lakelands property at any time revert from the company back to Osborne? An arrangement was made by which the property should be put under Torrens title, and when I went to England we arranged with Mr. Osborne that that should be done, and he gave me then six months to pay off his mortgage, which I did.
1371. It was in a state of suspension for six months, as it were? In the meantime they put the land under Torrens title.
1372. I suppose that was the time when Mr. Osborne gave the Dapto Showground out of the estate? Yes.
1373. The company consented to that? Yes.
1374. *Mr. Ashton.*] What interest does Mr. Armstrong hold in this company? He holds shares in the London company of the nominal value of £100,000.
1375. Is there any liability on those shares? No.
1376. The personnel of the company has very radically changed during the last two or three years since these London men came on? Yes, very much. We consider ourselves to be in a stronger position now.
1377. You consider that the change in the personnel of the company betters the prospects of the company—that is, of the work being carried out to a successful conclusion, as compared with the time when you were previously before Parliament? Naturally, because these men who have already put the money into the company are very wealthy men, and are very anxious to have this work carried out. They will support us in every way in financing the business in London.
1378. What is the amount of money which these men have put in? £20,000. The interests of the Smelting Company, too, are very much mixed up with the interests of the Harbour Company. It is very necessary that they should have this harbour.
1379. And the periodic delays which have taken place—the absolute non-fulfilment of the company to carry out its undertaking in regard to the harbour works;—do you say that that is due to the evil times financially which the company fell upon through being connected with such a man as Mr. Fink and the Mercantile Finance Co.? For the first few years it certainly was.
1380. If the Mercantile Finance Co. had continued they certainly would have found the money to carry out the harbour works? They were quite able to do so. When they failed we were left to our own resources with a heavy debt, which we have had to liquidate since.
1381. *Mr. Simpson.*] Is it not a fact that it is also due to the Smelting Company not having started its operations? When we applied for the last extension of time we applied for a two years' extension, but we were only granted a one year's extension. We were then under the impression that the smelting works would be in operation in nine months. Mr. Howell gave evidence before a Select Committee that they would be in operation in nine months, but, as a matter of fact, it was over two years. When I got to a certain point with the people in London about the financing, they all said you had better wait till the smelting works gets started; the business would go so much better then.
1382. *Mr. Ashton.*] That is to say, the cutting down of the extension from two years to one year really lessened the security in the minds of those who might have found the money? Yes; in the first place we lost time, because the smelting works had not started,—instead of being started in nine months, they were not started for two years. Then the time got very short, and when we found that we got only one year's extension, the people refused to go on. If we had got that other year, I am quite convinced that there would have been no occasion to ask for this extension.
1383. That is to say, the money would have been forthcoming? Yes; if we had got the extra year. I do not think that there would be the slightest occasion to ask for an extension under this Bill.
1384. *Mr. Campbell.*] How do you account for your people out here stating definitely before the Select Committee that that extension of time was only being asked for in case of a contingency, such as bad weather—that everything was in readiness? I was not here; I was in London at the time.
1385. *Mr. Nicholson.*] Since you have been down there has it ever been your opinion that the Port Kembla Harbour scheme and the Illawarra Lake scheme are rival schemes? I used to consider that they would be to a certain extent, but I do not see that there should be very much rivalry between them now. In any case, we want a harbour for the smelting works.
1386. In any case, you can see from the situation of the Lake that you can never expect to have much coal shipped from there? We do expect to ship coal from there, whether Port Kembla Harbour is built or not, because we will have vessels coming with ore which will take back a cargo of coal. We shall be large buyers of coal for shipment.
1387. For the benefit of your own particular industry? Yes.
1388. At the same time you can never expect ocean-going steamers to go near Lake Illawarra for a load of coal? We often hope things.
1389. *Mr. Campbell.*] Are Mr. Barton and Lieutenant-Colonel Neild the only Members of this Parliament who are members of your company? I think so. I explained that. I got instructions in London to allot some shares to Mr. Lyne; but when I arrived here I found that Mr. Lyne has never accepted them, and that therefore he was not a shareholder.
1390. Did his name appear on the London share list? Yes; but you cannot allot shares to a man unless he accepts them; otherwise we might all get presents.

1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

ILLAWARRA HARBOUR AND LAND CORPORATION ACT
FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.

(PETITION FROM A. ARMSTRONG, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE ILLAWARRA HARBOUR AND LAND CORPORATION (LIMITED), PRAYING FOR LEAVE TO BE REPRESENTED BEFORE THE SELECT COMMITTEE AND AT THE BAR OF THE HOUSE DURING THE PROCEEDINGS ON.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 6 December, 1898.

To the Honorable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in
Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the Managing Director of the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation
(Limited),—

SHOWETH AS FOLLOWS:—

1. By a private Act assented to on 20th December, 1890, the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation (Limited) were empowered to form and maintain an entrance and passage between the South Pacific Ocean and the waters of Lake Illawarra, in the county of Camden, and to construct, use, and maintain, and, in certain respects, control and regulate, a harbour within the waters of the said lake and of Windang Bay, in the said county of Camden, and to make, establish, maintain, and control wharfage and shipping accommodation in connection therewith, and to construct, work, use, and maintain a line or lines of railway to connect with the said harbour all or any coal-bearing lands situate between the Ocean Colliery on the north and the Macquarie River on the south, and to reclaim, purchase, take, occupy, and otherwise acquire land on certain terms, provided that the said harbour and entrance thereto and channel should be commenced within two years, and be made and completed in accordance with the provisions of the Act, and opened throughout for the admission of vessels of a draft of 15 feet within the term of seven years from the passing of the Act, failing which all rights and privileges acquired under the Act should be null and void, and all reclaimed lands should revert to the Crown, excepting certain lands in the said Act mentioned.

2. By the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation Act Amendment Act of 1895 the time mentioned in the Principal Act for the completion of the harbour and entrance thereto and channel was extended for a further period of one year from the 20th day of December, 1897.

3. The corporation have already expended a sum of £44,312 16s. 9d. under the provisions of the statute upon surveys, plans, and works at the entrance of the said Lake Illawarra, and in constructing a line of railway connecting the said lake with the Ocean Colliery, and also connecting same with the smelting works and the State line of railway.

4. The corporation has introduced a Bill before your Honorable Parliament with the following preamble:—

Whereas the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation (Limited) (being a joint stock company duly incorporated and registered under the Companies Acts of 1874 and 1888, and hereinafter called the corporation) obtained on December twentieth, one thousand eight hundred and ninety, legislative authority to form and maintain an entrance and passage between the South Pacific Ocean and the waters of Lake Illawarra, in the county of Camden: And to construct, use, maintain, and in certain respects control and regulate, a harbour within the waters of the said lake and of Windang Bay, in the said county of Camden: And to make, establish, maintain, and control wharfage and shipping accommodation in connection therewith, and to construct, work, use, and maintain line or lines of railway to connect with the said harbour all or any coal-bearing lands situate between the South Coast Colliery on the north and the Macquarie River on the south: And to reclaim, purchase, take, occupy, and otherwise acquire land in certain cases, and on certain terms as to acquisition, compensation, payment, rent, investiture, and otherwise: And to levy, receive, and recover rates, tolls, and dues for the use of the said entrance, harbour, and accommodation, and for towage, and fares, freights, and other charges for the use of the said railways, and to confer and impose upon the said corporation certain

powers, rights, duties, and liabilities: And to extend the rights of owners of the foreshores of the said lake: And for other purposes: And whereas the Act authorising such work was by an Act amended on December twelfth, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five: And whereas in connection with the rights, powers, and privileges granted important industries have been established: And whereas the corporation have expended large sums, totalling forty-four thousand pounds, under the provisions granted: And whereas undertakings which have arisen out of the operations of the corporation have necessitated the construction of a branch line of railway not specifically included within the Principal Act: And whereas the construction of such branch line over a parish road received the full authority of the Central Illawarra Municipal Council, and it is advisable that such branch line and sanction should receive legislative approval: And whereas it is advisable that provision should be made for adding further branch lines within the lands owned by the corporation: And whereas the rights of transit-charges and other matters should be more clearly defined by enactment: And whereas under the provisions of the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation Act Amendment Act of 1895 the corporation have lodged with the Colonial Treasurer the sum of ten thousand pounds: And whereas the corporation requires still further time to carry out the remainder of its objects: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows,—

Which Bill has by the Honorable Legislative Council been referred to a Select Committee, who have taken evidence and carefully deliberated thereon, and have, by the unanimous action of the Committee, declared such preamble proved:

And the Bill is now before your Honorable Assembly for concurrence.

And upon motion for its second reading such Bill was referred to a Select Committee of your Honorable House.

The corporation believes that this action on the part of this Honorable Branch of the Legislature places the Bill under those Standing Orders which have direct reference to Public Bills, and thus bars the right of the corporation to be represented by counsel learned in law or other legal adviser at or during the sittings of such Select Committee.

Your Petitioner, therefore, humbly prays that leave may be granted to the corporation to be represented by their legal advisers at and during the sittings of such Committee; and also that they may be represented before the Bar of the Honorable Assembly during further discussion upon the Bill.

And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

A. ARMSTRONG,
Managing Director of the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation (Limited).

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

BOROUGH OF LITHGOW VALIDATING BILL ;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

AND

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

ORDERED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO BE PRINTED,
8 *December*, 1898.

SYDNEY : WILLIAM APPLIGATE GULLICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1898.

1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

EXTRACTS FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VOTES No. 45. THURSDAY, 1 DECEMBER, 1898.

- 6. BOROUGH OF LITHGOW VALIDATING BILL (*Formal Motion*):—Mr. E. M. Clark moved, pursuant to Notice,—
 - (1.) That the Borough of Lithgow Validating Bill be referred to a Select Committee for consideration and and report.
 - (2.) That such Committee consist of Mr. Brunner, Mr. Rigg, Mr. Thomas Clarke, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Richards, Mr. Ferris, Mr. Spruson, Mr. Ashton, Mr. Perry, and the Mover.
 - (3.) That the Report, Minutes of Proceedings, and Evidence of the Select Committee of 1896 be referred to such Committee.
 Question put and passed.

VOTES No. 46. TUESDAY, 6 DECEMBER, 1898.

- 3. BOROUGH OF LITHGOW VALIDATING BILL:—Mr. Wright presented a Petition from William Briggs, Thomas Saywell, Thomas Wilton, and William Bragg, representing that a Bill had been introduced into this House to validate certain assessments and rates made by the Municipal Council of the Borough of Lithgow; that such Bill had been referred to a Select Committee; that Petitioners were largely interested in the questions to be considered by such Committee; and praying that they may be granted permission to appear before the said Committee in person, or by solicitor or counsel, and to examine and cross-examine witnesses before such Committee.
Petition received.

VOTES No. 48. THURSDAY, 8 DECEMBER, 1898.

- 7. BOROUGH OF LITHGOW VALIDATING BILL:—Mr. E. M. Clark, as Chairman, brought up the Report from, and laid upon the Table the Minutes of Proceedings of, and Evidence taken before the Select Committee for whose consideration and report this Bill was referred on 1st December, 1898, together with a copy of the Bill as agreed to by the Committee.
Ordered to be printed.

* * * * *

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1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

BOROUGH OF LITHGOW VALIDATING BILL.

REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, for whose consideration and report was referred, on 1st December, 1898, the "*Borough of Lithgow Validating Bill*," and to whom was referred on the same date, "*the Report, Minutes of Proceedings, and Evidence of the Select Committee of 1896*," and to whom was also referred, on 6th December, 1898, "*a Petition from William Briggs, Thomas Saywell, Thomas Wilton, and William Bragg, praying for leave to appear in person, or by Solicitor or Counsel, before the said Committee*,"—beg to report to your Honorable House:—

That they have examined the witness named in the margin* (whose evidence will be found appended hereto), and the Preamble having been satisfactorily proved to your Committee, they proceeded to consider the Bill, in which it was not deemed necessary to make any amendment.

* J. W.
Spooner.

Your Committee now beg to lay before your Honorable House the Bill, without amendment.

EDWARD M. CLARK,
Chairman.

No. 1 Committee Room,
Legislative Assembly,
8th December, 1898.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

WEDNESDAY, 7 DECEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. E. M. Clark,
Mr. Perry,

Mr. Thomas Clarke,
Mr. Rigg.

Mr. E. M. Clark called to the Chair.

Entries from Votes and Proceedings, appointing the Committee, and referring the Report, Minutes of Proceedings, and Evidence of the Select Committee of Session 1896, and also in reference to the Petition of William Briggs, Thomas Saywell, Thomas Wilton, and William Bragg, praying for leave to appear in person, or by solicitor or counsel, before the Committee, read by the Clerk.

George Wallace, Esq. (*Solicitor*), appeared on behalf of Messrs. Briggs, Saywell, Wilton, and Bragg.

John William Spooner (*Mayor of Lithgow*) called in, sworn, and examined.
Witness withdrew.

[Adjourned till to-morrow at *Two o'clock*.]

THURSDAY, 8 DECEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. E. M. Clark in the Chair.

Mr. Thomas Clarke,

Mr. Hughes.

Mr. Ferris,

George Wallace, Esq. (*Solicitor*), appeared on behalf of Messrs. Briggs, Saywell, Wilton, and Bragg.

Mr. Wallace intimated that he did not propose to call evidence.

Room cleared.

Preamble considered.

Question,—“That this Preamble stand part of the Bill,”—put and passed.

Clauses 1 and 2 read and agreed to.

Title read and agreed to.

Chairman to report the Bill without amendment to the House.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE

THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

BOROUGH OF LITHGOW VALIDATING BILL.

WEDNESDAY, 7 DECEMBER, 1898.

Present:—

MR. E. M. CLARK,	MR. THOMAS CLARKE,
MR. RIGG,	MR. PERRY.

E. M. CLARK, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. G. Wallace, Solicitor, appeared on behalf of Messrs. William Briggs, Thomas Saywell, Thomas Wilton, and William Bragg.

John William Spooner, Mayor of Lithgow, called in, sworn, and examined:—

1. *Chairman.*] Have you anything to add to the evidence given by the Select Committee which inquired into this Bill in October, 1898? Nothing whatever.
2. The Council is still desirous of proceeding with the Bill? Yes.
3. Have very many of the ratepayers, whose assessments you desire to legalise, not paid their rates? No; there is only £274 4s. 9d. owing now.
4. These ratepayers represent certain collieries? Yes. The following statement will show the outstanding rates:—

J. W.
Spooner.
7 Dec., 1898.

LITHGOW BOROUGH COUNCIL.

STATEMENT of Outstanding Rates for the Municipal year 1894-5. General rate, 1s. in the £; Lighting rate, 4d. in the £.

Ward.		General.	Lighting.	Total.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Lithgow	Lithgow Valley Colliery Co.	19 1 4	8 9 6	27 10 10
	Lithgow Valley Pottery	20 5 0	9 0 0	29 5 0
	Various properties.....	24 14 7	9 19 10	34 14 5
Clwydd	Vale Colliery	13 9 11	5 19 11	19 9 10
	Vale of Clwydd Colliery	20 8 11	9 1 9	29 10 8
	Various properties.....	29 13 0	13 4 1	42 17 1
Eskbank.....	Oakey Park Colliery.	21 4 1	9 8 6	30 12 7
	Zig-zag Colliery.	16 5 4	7 4 7	23 9 11
	Hermitage Colliery	19 2 1	8 9 10	27 11 11
	Various properties.....	6 6 4	2 16 2	9 2 6
		190 10 7	83 14 2	274 4 9

Mr. Sandford, who was most heavily indebted, has paid all his rates.

J. W.
Spooner.
7 Dec., 1898.

5. *Mr. Perry.*] The rates for 1894 were not paid at all in the cases to which you refer? No.
6. The only reason they had for not paying is that the Council struck differential rates? Yes; and that in trying to strike a fresh assessment, no call of the Council was made, but only an ordinary meeting held.
7. The Bill has been introduced simply to cure an error? Yes. By-law 52 says:—

No motion, the effect of which, if carried, would be to rescind any resolution, order, or decision of the Council shall be entered on the business paper unless a call of the Council has been duly made and granted for such purpose.

8. *Chairman.*] The illegality lay in not making a call of the Council? Yes.
9. Have you any idea as to what was the total amount of the rates struck for the year 1894-5? Speaking from memory, about £900.
10. The whole of that amount has been paid with the exception of £274 4s. 9d.? Yes.
11. Not only have the Council not been paid those rates, but they have also lost the Government endowment which they represent? Yes. In that year the Government endowment amounted to 15s. in the £.
12. It has already been pointed out that a considerable amount of work was carried out near these properties in anticipation of getting the rates? Yes; a lot of work was carried out that year.
13. *Mr. Wallace.*] Virtually, all the rates owing have been paid, except those owing by the colliery proprietors, who fought this matter out in the courts? Yes.
14. *Mr. T. Perry.*] Are the collieries working now? Yes, all of them.
15. *Mr. Clarke.*] Is the amount you have named only for one year or for two years? For one year. I may say that in nine years we have spent over £10,000 upon the roads of the borough.
16. *Chairman.*] On the roads leading to these properties? No; on the leading roads in the borough.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

BOROUGH OF LITHGOW VALIDATING BILL.

(PETITION FROM WILLIAM BRIGGS, THOMAS SAYWELL, THOMAS WILTON, AND WILLIAM BRAGG,
PRAYING FOR LEAVE TO APPEAR BEFORE SELECT COMMITTEE IN PERSON, OR BY SOLICITOR,
OR COUNSEL, AND TO EXAMINE AND CROSS-EXAMINE WITNESSES ON.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 6 December, 1898.

To the Honorable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, in
Parliament Assembled.

The humble Petition of William Briggs, Thomas Saywell, Thomas Wilton, and William Bragg,—

RESPECTFULLY AND HUMBLY SHOWETH:—

1. That a Bill has been introduced into your Honorable House, in pursuance of leave in that behalf given, intituled "A Bill to Validate certain Assessments and Rates made by the Municipal Council of the Borough of Lithgow."

2. That such Bill has been referred to a Select Committee appointed by your Honorable House for consideration and report.

3. That your Petitioners being largely interested in the questions to be considered by such Select Committee, your Petitioners are advised that it is desirable they should be represented before such Select Committee.

4. Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honorable House will be pleased to grant them permission to appear before the said Select Committee in person, or by Solicitor or Counsel, and if necessary to adduce such evidence and send for such persons and papers as your Petitioners may be advised, together with power to examine and cross-examine witnesses called before the said Committee.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

WILLIAM BRIGGS.
THOMAS SAYWELL.
THOMAS WILTON.
WILLIAM BRAGG.

1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

GOVERNMENT LABOUR BUREAU.

(ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1898.)

Printed under No. 2 Report from Printing Committee, 15 September, 1898.

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The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau, to The Minister for Labour and Industry.

Sir,

Sydney, 5th August, 1898.

I have the honor to submit the sixth Annual Report of the Government Labour Bureau for the year ending 30th June, 1898.

Labour and Industry.

The operations at the Labour Bureau for the year clearly indicate a distinct falling off in the number of unemployed applying to the Department for employment, passes, and other forms of assistance.

The number of persons registered, and the number sent and assisted to work, show a marked decrease to that of any previous year.

It is only natural to expect that the number registering on our books each year would diminish; but when there is a considerable reduction both in the number registered and the number sent out, it is reasonable to conclude that there is a distinct falling off in the number of unemployed generally.

49—A

To

To the proof of this the following table of the number registered and sent out each year since the establishment of the Bureau (17th February, 1892, making it now six and a half years in existence) will amply testify:—

Year ending—	Number Registered.	Number Assisted and sent to work.
1893	18,600	8,154
1894	12,145	10,349
1895	13,575	16,380
1896	14,062	20,576
Intermediate period	3,283	5,327
1897	6,427	13,718
1898	4,167	7,817
Totals	72,259	82,321

The intermediate period referred to was between 18th February and 30th June, 1896. In making our year assimilate with the financial year, the above period of four months was occasioned.

It may seem strange that the number assisted and sent to work should so much exceed the number registered. It is due to the fact that a man is registered only once, but there is no limit to the number of times he may be sent or assisted to work.

The large totals of registrations and those sent and assisted to work for 1895 and 1896 was due to the great number sent in those years to work on the Centennial Park, Church and School lands, and other relief works, in addition to those dispatched to employment in the country on railway passes, &c.

The only Government works for the benefit of the unemployed during the year were railway deviations, Botany Sewage Farm, Shea's Creek, Glebe Island, and the scrub-cutting at the West Bogan. (The first-mentioned and Shea's Creek works have for the present ceased.)

These, however, can scarcely be called relief works, as they are all reproductive, and will ultimately provide a return upon the cost. The works would, furthermore, have been carried out whether there were any unemployed or not.

The continued drought from which the Colony has so severely suffered for the last three or four years, particularly in the Riverina and Western districts, inflicting terrible losses in stock and crops, the prevailing want of confidence and enterprise through the banking crisis and failure of financial institutions in 1893 (still felt and likely to be felt for some time), together with the great depreciation and fall in the value of property, both in the city and country, have been disheartening and discouraging, and have materially affected labour and industry throughout the Colony, preventing investment, speculation, and the distribution of capital which would have found employment for many of our own unemployed mechanics and labourers.

The effect of these financial disasters, together with rash speculation in bogus mining ventures, serious disputes between capital and labour, and the immense losses sustained by many of our wealthy as well as many of our industrial colonists, has done more to create the unemployed difficulty than anything else; and until the injurious effect is removed, and confidence restored, improvement will be slow; but the experience, severe as it may have been, will make it safe and sure.

It is said there is plenty of capital in the Colony, but being locked up, is of little use to its owner or anyone else. The reaction and improvement which is doubtless now setting in will, I think, induce its investment in sound and payable industries, of which there are plenty available, to the mutual benefit of investor and labour generally throughout the Colony.

Yet, notwithstanding all these difficulties and disadvantages to contend with, I think it can be truly and fairly stated that the condition and position of the Colony generally in all matters relating to trade, labour, and industry is improving and progressing.

As an evidence of this, the returns of the railways for last year might be mentioned, which, in the aggregate, was a record. I also understand that for this year the returns already indicate that it will be equal to, if not greater, than last year.

Furthermore, the large areas of land which have been cleared during the last two years, and which are still in progress to a greater extent this year with the necessary preparations for the coming season, will, I think, without doubt, go to prove that there will be a far greater area of land under cultivation this year than ever before in the Colony.

In support of this, I may quote the following extract appearing recently in the Press:—

"Wheat-growing.—It was pleasing to hear from the country visitors in town (during the Sheep Show and Sales) of the energy that has been given to grain-growers by selectors and squatters. Men who a few years ago would have thought it *infra dig.* to grow anything but wool are now giving their best attention to getting large areas under wheat, either by their own hands or what is known as the half system. Men who only had hundreds of acres in last year have thousands this. Although not a good harvest, they have tasted of the profits to be obtained from cultivation; and, from the present aspect, it is safe to predict that New South Wales will be an exporter for the world's market next season should we experience a propitious harvest. This deserves all encouragement. Instead of importing our bread-stuffs, New South Wales will be able to increase her revenue by exportation."

The dairying industry is also largely on the increase in the Colony, and many new factories are in process of erection.

It is, furthermore, safe to anticipate a continuance of improvement in these important industries, as it is thought by scientists and others (with whom the subject is a study) that the late general rainfall throughout the Colony, which has proved of immense value to the pastoralists and farmers, is evidence that the severe series of droughts from which the Colony has been suffering has broken up.

This has caused a feeling of hopefulness that some good and fruitful seasons may be expected, which will materially affect the unemployed difficulty, and largely add to the general progress and prosperity of the Colony.

As already mentioned, the late rains have been of immense value to the pastoralists of the interior, and will greatly increase the wool clip this year. The lambing also in several of the country districts will be very good. In one case a pastoralist informed me that the increase on his station would be equal to 96 per cent., and in other districts from 70 per cent. to 80 per cent.

Trades and Callings.

The following is an abstract of a few of the trades and callings registered, and of the numbers sent out during the last five years, showing a general reduction for each period:—

Trades and Callings.	Registered.					Assisted and sent to work.				
	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Bakers	149	109	129	89	50	65	42	50	59	31
Blacksmiths	201	174	156	68	38	63	42	58	57	25
Boilermakers	74	33	26	10	8	38	15	14	11	.....
Bootmakers	89	77	201	89	31	21	17	24	14	10
Bricklayers	206	123	110	46	23	45	56	122	108	27
Butchers	199	196	212	144	97	85	72	103	99	63
Carpenters	576	537	389	150	4	259	336	278	186	90
Carters	348	321	472	181	107	86	41	102	44	5
Clerks	264	263	264	155	104	31	7	19	13	16
Cooks	314	262	275	156	96	186	102	152	88	79
Dairy-hands	66	43	41	39	26	.....	.....	.....	16	26
Drapers	54	57	30	16	10	7	9	8	7	6
Engine-drivers	112	103	80	51	33	50	12	37	18	11
Engineers (mechanical)	158	138	100	45	22	.....	19	14	14	9
Farm hands	473	407	222	208	130	479	211	186	122	76
Firemen	99	68	69	42	30	10	6	8	3	1
Gardeners (flowers)	155	152	137	86	69	143	99	88	35	40
Generally usefuls	762	396	345	208	133	602	636	461	299	147
Grocers	86	72	73	33	23	9	8	6	4	6
Grooms	338	323	272	169	103	79	24	49	59	26
Hairdressers	33	21	24	6	4	12	7	8	4	2
Ironmoulders	63	22	39	9	9	5	.....	5	2	4
Labourers	3,285	4,548	6,152	2,274	1,549	517	1,470	6,494	9,073	5,104
Masons (stone)	134	133	110	60	17	18	.....	35	31	16
Miners (gold)	1,200	2,116	1,200	670	513	4,516	10,718	7,093	1,647	1,027
Painters	245	196	185	95	34	85	60	138	87	28
Plasterers	117	81	96	17	11	31	14	15	21	13
Plumbers	112	86	70	38	13	30	27	18	21	7
Printers	87	69	62	24	22	18	42	9	5	7
Quarrymen	56	110	112	14	23	38	12	56	25	10
Saddle and Harness makers	54	43	40	18	7	13	15	7	9	5
Seamen	20	135	189	50	44	.....	9	.....	.....	.....
Shearers	29	153	165	72	56	210	134	310	103	79
Shipwrights	26	27	30	7	3	23	6	6	5	2
Station hands	763	209	253	183	133	468	632	385	345	275
Tailors	69	71	47	24	10	19	27	27	8	5
Tinsmiths	41	31	31	16	11	19	3	20	8	5
Tutors	22	14	19	8	12	8	10	10	4	10
Upholsterers	11	19	13	4	1	4	6	2	1	.....
Waiters	31	38	37	16	4	22	5	8	1	1
Wheelwrights	27	22	26	5	4	19	8	33	16	4
Wool-pressers	52	22	14	5	5	.....	.....	15	3	9

By request, we have forwarded to the Governments of South Australia and Western Australia copies of all forms and books we have in use, together with explanatory notes, showing our methods in the working of the Labour Bureau.

In both these Colonies they contemplate opening labour bureaux to deal with the unemployed accumulating there.

When in Queensland recently I visited the Labour Bureau in Brisbane, and was surprised at the small amount of work done as compared with that of our own Department. The forms in use at Brisbane are the same as ours, copies of which were furnished them some years ago.

I understand that the forms, &c., in use at the New Zealand Labour Bureau are also the same as ours, copies of which, together with details of our methods, were furnished, by request, to the New Zealand Minister for Labour some years ago.

The Minister's recent instructions, directing that in future all applicants to the Bureau for registration, passes, or other forms of assistance, must first produce their elector's right, or some other satisfactory evidence to show they are *bonâ fide* colonists, has caused some peculiar revelations. It has been found that hundreds of men, some of whom have all their lives been in the Colony, had not only failed to enter their names on the electoral rolls of their districts, but had never in the whole course of their lives been in possession of an elector's right and had never recorded a single vote at the ballot-box.

In compelling these to procure electors' rights we have, during the last two months, added considerably to the electoral rolls of the Colony.

During the year we have received communications and reports from labour institutions in the United States of America and Austria, requesting copies of our publications, which were duly forwarded.

The returns of the Government Statistician show that the increase of population for the year ending 30th June is equal to 24,360, which is a very large increase to the consumers in the Colony. It also means that there will be an increase of thousands of young men just entering into manhood, most of whom will be competitors with the industrial classes in the battle of life, requiring increased avenues of employment to enable them to successfully do so.

Wages.

Wages.

The rates of wages offering at the Bureau and in the country is about the same as last year.

As is generally known, the Bureau does not interfere with the terms or conditions of employment. Its main object is to bring employer and employee together, leaving it to the parties themselves to make their own arrangements.

In cases, however, where an employer offers what is considered a very low wage, we sometimes point out that he cannot expect to secure a good man at his rate of wages; and frequently by these means an increase is obtained for the man, and a better standard of labour for the employer, thus disproving the groundless assertion made at times that the Bureau has been the cause of a reduction in wages generally.

It must be self-evident to any reasonable mind that while there is a large number of unemployed appealing for work a reduction of wages is sure to result. Work and wages are governed by the law of supply and demand, like anything else. If an employer requires fifty men and 150 apply, wages will decrease; but if only ten apply they will be sure to increase. It is a strange fact that many female domestic servants in several instances receive better wages than an able-bodied man. In many cases the fault lies with the men themselves, as instances are not wanting where, when work has been found for them, they fail to remain at it or try to give reasonable satisfaction to their employer.

The rate of wages paid to-day, when compared with that paid some ten or twelve years ago to skilled and unskilled labour, shows a very great reduction, in many cases from 25 per cent. to 40 per cent. This, however, is not peculiar to New South Wales, the same thing (excepting the different professions and perhaps shearers) having occurred in all the other Colonies. The reduction in the remuneration for labour has been in operation by slow degrees for a number of years throughout Australia.

As an illustration of the decline in the earnings of labour, I might refer to the Newcastle coal industry.

In 1880 coal was selling at 14s. per ton, and the miners were receiving as high as 5s. 2d. per ton for hewing. In 1891-2 there was a great drop in the selling price of coal, which came down to 8s. per ton, and a reduction in the hewing rate to 3s. 10d. and as low as 3s. 6d. per ton. In 1883 the vend was in existence, and the selling price of coal was fixed at 11s. with a hewing rate of 4s. 2d. per ton. This lasted for ten years, when, in 1893, it was abolished.

Competition set in and has continued ever since, reducing the selling price of coal and the hewing rate until, at the present time, the former is from 5s. 6d. to 6s. 9d. per ton, and the latter from 1s. 10d. to 2s. 11d. per ton, thus showing a reduction all round, in those years, of 50 per cent. The present price leaves hardly a margin of profit to the colliery proprietors and the hewing rate hardly a living to the miners.

During the existence of the vend the miners could earn from 10s. 6d. to 15s. per day, while at the same time there was a fair rate of dividends for the proprietors.

In 1880 and up to 1883 there were only some eight or nine collieries in the Newcastle District; whereas at the present time there are about eighteen, or double the number, and the miners have increased proportionately.

It may be somewhat difficult to definitely account for this great reduction. Keen competition has had a great deal to do with it, and unreasonable and ill-advised disputes and strikes have also assisted to occasion it. Every strike which took place in the Newcastle District reduced the foreign trade and assisted in opening up a coal trade in other parts of the world which became their competitors, until the foreign trade formerly enjoyed by the Newcastle collieries has to a large extent disappeared. Very few of the many strikes which took place had the effect of benefiting the miners; indeed, in almost every instance they returned to work worse off than when they left it.

Newcastle, under reasonable conditions, should be the most prosperous district in Australasia.

There is, I am pleased to say, a strong probability of the selling price being raised to 8s., and a proportionate increase in the hewing rate.

The alien question is one which, even at the present time, affects the standard of wages, and which, if not soon remedied, will materially reduce the wages of our own workers in the future.

There are constantly arriving in the Colony large numbers of Hindoos, Mahomedans, Afghans, Cingalese, Syrians, Greeks, and other foreigners. Many are engaged by employers seeking cheap labour, to the detriment of our own people. These foreigners can live on so little, as compared with Australians, and their habits of life being so different, that they become very dangerous competitors in the avenues of employment which they enter.

Only recently, two Hindoos or Afghans, I am not sure which, applied at the Bureau for work. They described themselves as carpenters, and said they would work cheap. Not being in possession of electors' rights, we refused to register them.

At the present time, the market-gardening is monopolised by Chinamen as well as the distribution of vegetables, not to speak of the large hold they have on the cabinet-making trade.

The retail fruit and fish industry is monopolised by the Italians; and the hawking and peddling chiefly by Assyrians.

The great danger is in the industry and perseverance of these people; and their mode and habits of living are such that our own colonists cannot compete with them. At the same time, our people would do well to emulate their industry, perseverance, and determination.

The reduction of wages, generally, was first due to the completion of our large public works in 1885. From 1880 to 1885, the sum of £5,242,807 was expended on public works, and while these were in progress work was brisk and wages good. Then we had the memorable land boom (1882 to 1891), which collapsed in 1892-3, the effect of which proved most disastrous to the Colony. Depression became marked; and soon work of all kinds became scarce, with a general reduction in wages. This condition of affairs was accentuated by the maritime strike of 1890. However, as already mentioned, there are indications of better times in the near future.

The Building Trade.

The building trade is still very much depressed. Very few buildings (with the exception of the Queen Victoria Markets) affording work for any length of time have been erected during the year.

The chief cause of the depression in this trade is undoubtedly due to its having been overdone during the land boom and building society mania of 1891-3, which had so blighting an effect on the hopes and prospects of so many of our industrious colonists.

The severe depreciation in the value of house property, and the great decline in rents, have made house property a very poor investment, and have consequently stopped almost all investment in that direction.

The number of empty houses in the city, and more especially in the suburbs, clearly shows that the supply far exceeds the demand.

The reduction of wages, together with the want of permanent employment, is the one great cause of so many empty houses. Large numbers of married men with families, through irregular employment, in some cases a few days in a month, or a few months in the year, and this at a much lower rate of wages than prevailed some years ago, find they are unable to occupy and pay for the rent of a house to themselves, have to put up with a room or rooms instead, or remove to some low and unhealthy neighbourhood where rents are lower, often to the sacrifice of their physical well-being. But it can also be truly said that in many of these cases the fault is their own. What little they earn is spent in dissipation, and ultimate loss of employment.

On the other hand it is pleasing to note that many of our best mechanics and labourers have, by energy, care, and some sacrifice, adapted themselves to the altered circumstances of life, and by the aid of the reduction in rents, habits of industry and sobriety, have managed to live a worthy and honourable life, which never fails to stick to such men in making an honest living.

Fossickers.

The serious droughts from which the Colony has been suffering, as already mentioned, has affected this industry materially. Fossicking and gold-mining cannot succeed without an abundance of water; and the want of rain during the last year and a greater portion of this prevented many from following this occupation.

As a recognised industry, fossicking has been in operation for the last five years, during which time no less than 26,644 men have been assisted to mining centres all over the colony—some to old and abandoned gold-fields, while others have succeeded in discovering new ones, such as Wyalong, where there are at present thousands of men employed.

Many of the fossickers have done well, others fairly well, and others have just for a time made a living.

As illustrating the success of some of the fossickers on old and abandoned fields, reference might be made to an instance mentioned in my last Report, where a man and his mate who received passes at the Bureau and joined a party working some ground in the Parkes District, which had been abandoned some twenty-five years ago, after sinking only 3 feet a very rich reef was struck, for which they had been offered £14,000 cash and 6,000 shares by a company that wished to buy them out.

During this year only 937 men were dispatched fossicking, being a decrease of 710 compared with the number sent out last year, viz., 1,647.

A large number of those sent fossicking have combined it with other occupations, such as farming, poultry-rearing, &c., and have sent for their wives and children to join them. In this way many hundreds of families have been permanently settled on the land.

It is worth noticing that since this industry has been in operation at the Bureau, the gold won in the Colony has on the whole been steadily increasing, and fossicking is, I think, justly entitled to some credit for this large addition to the wealth of the Colony, while at the same time providing an independent living for a large number of industrious men and their families.

The following table will show the value of gold won in the Colony since 1891:—

Year.	Oz.	Value.		
		£	s.	d.
1891	...	153,336	558,305	12 3
1892	...	156,870	569,177	17 4
1893	...	179,288	651,285	15 8
1894	...	324,787	1,156,717	7 7
1895	...	360,165	1,315,929	0 0
1895-6 (intermediate period)	...	111,024	402,590	0 0
1896-7	...	275,285	1,014,077	2 3
1897-8	...	318,692	1,178,492	0 0

Casual Labour Farm.

The Casual Labour Farm is situated near Pitt Town, in the Windsor District, and was formerly the Pitt Town Village Settlement (containing about 2,000 acres), which was established by Act of Parliament in 1893 on the Co-operative and Communistic or Socialistic principle. About 100 men were placed on the settlement, having wives and children numbering 265—90 married men and 6 single men.

It remained in existence up to the latter part of 1896, when it became a complete failure. It progressed for a time fairly well, while the Government provided the funds to support the settlers and their families. Altogether the State spent £7,705, or thereabouts, in the hope that ultimately it might become self-supporting; but when the Government stopped further assistance, and informed the settlers they must endeavour to support themselves by the production and exertion of their own labour, "a change came o'er the spirit of the dream," and in a very short time Socialism gave way to Individualism. One by one the settlers left and found employment elsewhere. The last of them left in the beginning of 1897.

In the latter end of 1896 the site was vested in the Hon. the Minister for Labour and Industry, who at once set to work to establish and prepare the settlement for a Casual Labour Farm, on lines very similar to that of Leongatha Labour Farm in Victoria.

The

The object of the Casual Labour Farm is, in brief, to provide a temporary refuge for those who are destitute, homeless, and unable to find employment.

The men sent to the farm are fed and housed, and receive a small weekly wage, which can be increased to a limit on the result of their own exertions and the amount of labour done.

The Minister appointed Mr. A. Hutchison as manager, who immediately commenced to fence in and protect the farm from stray cattle, &c.; clear and grub areas for cultivation of vegetables and fruit; and making accommodation for the men. The work already performed in this direction reflects the greatest credit on the management, considering the few employed.

A considerable amount of farm produce, vegetables, and fruit from the orchard was the result of the first season.

With fairly good seasons, should the Minister decide to dispose of the surplus produce, the Casual Labour Farm can be made to a large extent, if not altogether, self-supporting.

The first batch of ten men were sent to the farm in January, 1898. Some have left, having obtained employment elsewhere, and at present the number of men on the farm (30th June) is twenty-four, and will be increased to about sixty.

In addition to vegetable and fruit cultivation, there is an immense quantity of timber at which the men are employed felling and splitting, to be disposed of as firewood.

Another object in view will be to make the farm a sort of training-school to those sent there.

As they become competent in farming, vegetable gardening, and orchard work, they will (as applications for such kinds of labour come to the Bureau) be selected, as already has been done in some cases.

All men sent to the farm are selected at the Bureau, and upon the applicant signing the conditions and regulations under which they are accepted, they are sent.

The men at present on the farm have expressed themselves as being well satisfied with the conditions and their treatment; indeed, the sturdy, robust appearance of the men is a pleasing contrast to the appearance of many of them when they first applied to the Bureau to be despatched to the Casual Labour Farm.

Registry Offices.

I believe the Honorable the Minister for Labour and Industry has prepared a Bill to license registry offices. When passed into law it should be of great value in protecting members of the working classes and unemployed generally from being victimised, as they frequently are, by many of these so-called registry offices.

My experience of many of them during the existence of the Bureau has not been very favourable. A great many abuses exist in connection with them which might, and would, be remedied if the Bill referred to were passed.

Several of these offices have been prosecuted for obtaining money under false pretences.

In cases which have from time to time come before my notice, two, three, and four applicants have paid fees for some situation, which, in the end, turned out to be bogus. Others have been sent to places to be told, on arrival, they were not wanted.

In some cases it has been found that the employer has forwarded the fare to the registry office for the despatch of their employee, and, instead of paying the man's passage by rail, have held the money, and endeavoured to obtain a railway pass for him through the Bureau; but, by wiring to the employer from this office, the fraud has been detected, and the pass declined, at the same time debarring the registry office from all future Bureau assistance.

West Bogan Scrub-clearing.

This work was commenced in 1896. The first batch of fifty men, in gangs of ten each, was despatched on 14th September, 1896, and the work has been in operation ever since.

Notwithstanding all the criticism levelled against it, and the small wages earned by some of the men, the West Bogan scrub-clearing has been the means of providing employment for about 1,850 men, at a time, too, when work was scarce and difficult to find.

Last year the average wages earned were from 2s. 6d. to 12s. per day, averaging all round 6s. This year the earnings have been from 2s. 6d. to 9s. 6d. per day, or an average of 5s. 6d. It is but reasonable to expect that the earnings of some of the gangs would be small compared with others. On inquiry, however, the cause has invariably been traced to their own fault, the chief reasons being quarrelling among themselves, dissension, laziness, &c., &c. Others have found the work unsuitable.

The butty-gang system (in operation at the Bogan) does not always prove satisfactory. My own opinion is, the gangs are too large. Five in a gang would work better, there being less prospect of disagreement and dissension, as five men are likelier to agree and work together than ten. This, however, would necessitate increased cost in supervision and management.

The men select and form their own gangs. The gangers are always advised to be careful, in forming their gangs, to select men favourably known to them as agreeable and willing workers. If, among the gangs thus formed, indifferent men are included, and their efforts for that reason prove unsuccessful, the fault is theirs. The gangs when formed are selected by ballot, the method being as follows:—When instructions arrive at the Bureau for the despatch of (say) six gangs of ten men each for the Bogan, a notice in accordance is placed in the yard on a board, with complete information for all the men as to the conditions, price per acre, plan of blocks, &c. A stated time is allowed in which the men form gangs among themselves, appointing one of their number as ganger. If more than the requisite number of gangs apply, the gangers representing their gangs participate in a ballot, and the successful gangs are then despatched.

The cost of living at the Bogan is from 7s. 6d. to 10s. per week.

It has been proved beyond doubt that the gangs that work amicably and unitedly together can earn fair wages at this work.

The wives and families of married men (desiring it) in the gangs are advanced a weekly supply of provisions (till they earn sufficient to send down money to their families), the cost of which is deducted from the men's earnings.

Attendance and Conduct of Men employed.

The average daily attendance of unemployed at the Bureau was about 150. On occasions of selections of men for Government works the attendance was from 600 to 750.

The men come and go all day. When they find there are no suitable vacancies for the day they leave and seek work elsewhere.

As a rule the men are quiet and orderly, and willingly submit to the rules of the Department; but frequently I have to deal with men who think they can do as they like. These have to be treated firmly, as much in their own as in the interest of good order prevailing among the general body of those attending the Bureau.

Female Servants.

The demand for female servants has considerably increased during the last six months, which we often find it difficult to supply.

The wages offered for servants to go into the country are liberal. To further our efforts to secure what they required, employers have in several instances sent us money to advertise.

The Bureau is so well and favourably known throughout the Colony for supplying all kinds of labour free of charge to either party, that most of the large station owners and managers, and also tradesmen, prefer writing to the Bureau, and thus save themselves the excessive fees charged by some of the registry offices.

Relief.

The total amount of rations issued by the Government Labour Bureau for the year ending 30th June, 1898, was £344 13s. 4½d., and is made up as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Rations to special miners, ordered and paid for by the Mines Department	140	17	3
Rations advanced to families in Sydney of men employed on the Bogan, the cost of which is a charge on their earnings	64	3	11½
Free rations to families in Sydney of men absent in the country looking for work	139	12	4
	£344	13	6½

The only relief granted to country districts was £50 to the New Lambton Council and £100 to the Adamstown Council on the £ for £ principle, the Council adding a like amount, the whole to be spent, in accordance with conditions issued by the Minister, on useful and necessary works in the respective municipalities.

The granting of these sums was occasioned by the closing down of the Waratah Colliery and the serious accident which occurred at the Dudley Mine, throwing out of employment a large number of married men residing in the towns referred to, and who as a consequence were rendered destitute.

Old Men and Methods of Relief.

There are still about fifty old men who are past heavy manual labour continually applying at the Bureau for light employment. Some of these cases, having large families depending on them, seem very deserving.

In every case of relief there is an inquiry and inspection before any assistance is granted.

My experience in this Department has clearly proved the necessity of this, even when the applicant has been strongly recommended.

While State relief is absolutely necessary in many cases of destitution, sickness, widows, and other deserving conditions, indiscriminate charity often does more harm than good.

The new charity organisation, in the formation of which the Premier and other philanthropic citizens took so active a part, will, I have no doubt, prove both effectual in relieving the truly deserving and preventing imposition and overlapping by those with whom it is a profession.

Refunds.

The amount of refunds received from all sources for the year was £2,801 19s. 11d., or a decrease of £62 19s. 7d., as compared with the preceding year. This total represents the sum received for rations, miners' rights, and all other miscellaneous items.

It also includes the amount received as refunds of rail and steamer fares, totalling £2,741 1s. 5d., or a return equal to 72 per cent. on the cost incurred for rail and steamer fares. This is very satisfactory. The grand total amount of refunds up to the end of June was £17,420 8s. 3d.

There is, however, still a considerable amount due to Department.

A strict system of monthly circulars is in force to those indebted to the Bureau.

In the collection of fares I am much indebted to the assistance (in extreme cases) of the police, who, through the courtesy of the Inspector-General, Mr. Fosbery, have collected items in remote districts, &c., which would otherwise have been lost. The agents of our different country branches also render valuable assistance in the collection of fares due to the Department.

Country Branches.

According to the reports of the forty-two agents in various parts of the country, there are not so many unemployed as is generally supposed.

With the exception of Cooma, Dubbo, Grafton, Lithgow, Mudgee, and Maitland, all the agents report there have been very few during the year, and that, through the late rains, work has been found for most of those unemployed formerly.

According to the branch reports, the ruling rate of wages in the different districts show little or no alteration to that of the year previous.

The

The total number registered at the branches was 715, and the number sent and assisted to employment equal 288, at thirty-one of the branches; eleven branches reporting nil registered and sent out.

Through the frequent changing of Clerks of Petty Sessions (who act as our agents), and through the outgoing officer not instructing his successor, who may be entirely new to the duties of labour agent, many errors occur in the returns furnished us, necessitating extreme care at the Head Office in checking their figures, and causing a considerable amount of correspondence and wiring to correct same.

The Clerks of Petty Sessions receive no remuneration for their services as labour agents, and I fear that, generally speaking, they do not, as a consequence, take that interest in their work which they otherwise would.

The branches generally are of great assistance in supplying local knowledge to the Head Office when required; in detecting various forms of imposition; collecting refunds of fares, and furnishing the state of labour and industry throughout the Colony.

The reports of the country agents are hereto attached.

Summary.

The total number registered at the Bureau (Head Office) was 4,167, or 2,260 less than that for the preceding year. There were 1,542 married men, representing 4,160 children, of which 2,852 were dependent on their parents and 1,308 self-supporting, while the number of single men registered was 2,625.

The total number assisted and sent to work was 7,817, or a decrease of 5,901 as compared with the preceding year.

The number of fossickers sent out was 937, showing a decrease of 710 compared with that of the previous year, due no doubt to the drought experienced during the first eight or nine months of the year.

The number of arrivals from the other colonies and foreign parts was 667, or a decrease of nine to the previous year.

The number arrested for drunkenness, and other offences in the city and suburbs, and whose tickets were taken from them and forwarded with a report as to the nature of their offence by the police, was eighty-two, or 128 less than that for the preceding year. I cannot say if this decrease is to be attributed to the fact that the unemployed are becoming more temperate, or that they had less money to spend.

Whatever the cause, the figures indicate a marked difference for the better.

I am frequently asked if I can estimate the number of unemployed in and around Sydney, or in the Colony. Although it is my business to take note of all matters relating to the unemployed, it is impossible for me or anyone else to give the exact numbers. At best it is only an estimate of the probable number, and even that is most difficult to arrive at, as all through the Colony employment has been so irregular that one month there may be from 4,000 to 8,000 unemployed, which the very next month may be reduced to 2,000 or 4,000, through half of them securing temporary employment for a few weeks or months. Furthermore, during the winter months, the number of unemployed in Sydney always increases through slackness of work in the country at the close of the summer season, when they immediately flock to Sydney.

There is, however, ample evidence to show that there is a considerable decrease in the number of unemployed in and around Sydney this winter to that of previous years, as is borne out by the absence of agitations, public meetings, and processions of the unemployed as formerly.

There is still, however, a large number of men who can only obtain perhaps one or two days' work per week. These can only be classed as casual unemployed. On the other hand, there are always numbers of so-called or self-styled unemployed, who never seek employment, or accept it when offered.

These men are not only a menace and nuisance to the public, but a disgrace to all men who desire to live by honest labour and industry.

Of this class I estimate there are from 300 to 400 about Sydney. They are, however, to be seen in all large cities, preferring to lead a lazy life, some by begging and cadging, others by theft and robbery, but never by honest labour.

There is one other blot on our civilisation to which I wish to refer. I allude to the number (increasing daily) of bootless and ragged boys and girls, mere children, who infest our public streets, offering for sale matches, bootlaces, collar-studs, and other trifling articles with a view to attracting the sympathy of passers-by. Many of these children are bright and intelligent, but unless something is done to stop a course which, in most cases, can only lead to a worthless and, perhaps, degrading future, it will ultimately reflect very seriously on the Colony.

I believe if most of these cases were inquired into it would be found, in many of them, that the trifling earnings of these children go to support parents who would ruin the future of their own offspring in order to live an idle, dissipated life. In some there may be extenuating circumstances—in cases of aged or helpless parents unable to make a living, which unfortunate condition renders the assistance of their children necessary.

In any case, these little ones are allowed to pursue a very dangerous course. The old adage of "Train up a child in the way it should go," is brought to mind. The future of these children, if allowed to continue in their present mode of life, is sad to contemplate. Reform will be out of the question when they mature.

In conclusion, it affords me pleasure to state that my staff very cordially co-operate with me in carrying out the operations of the Government Labour Bureau.

I have &c.,

JOSEPH CREER,

Superintendent.

CLASSIFICATIONS of Trades and Occupations registered during the year ending the 30th June, 1898, and a comparison of same with previous years.

Trades.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	Trades	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
Accountants				4	2	Dentists	1	2	1	1	1
Acrobats			1			Divers		4			
Actors		1			2	Draftsmen		8	6	2	2
Agents				3		Drainers	3	4	9		
Architects	1	4	5	3		Drapers	44	57	30	16	10
Art decorators			1			Drovers		3			
Artesian-well borers		2	2		1	Dyers	3	1	3	2	3
Artists	4	2	1	2	1	Electricians	4	9	7	1	1
Artists' models		2				Electroplaters			1		
Asphalters	7	5	9			Engine-drivers	112	103	80	51	33
Assayers		5	2		2	Engineers (mechanical)	158	138	100	45	22
Auctioneers	3	3	1			(marine)					1
Bacon-curers		1	1		1	Engravers		1	6	2	2
Bakers	149	109	129	89	50	Factory hands			222	208	130
Ballad writers				1		Farm hands	473	407	20	15	6
Barbers	2	2	1	2		Farriers	11	5	20	15	6
Barmen and boots	30	21	21	6	4	Fellmongers	3	67	69	55	16
Barristers				1		Fencers	3	3		1	1
Basket-makers	7	2	7	5		Firemen	99	68	69	42	30
Bellows-makers		1				Fishermen		4	15	12	10
Billiard-markers	1		2	2	1	Fitters	19	29	42	12	10
Blacksmiths	201	174	156	68	38	Florists		1	3		
Boatbuilders	4	2	2	2	1	Foundry hands			33	3	
Boatmen			1			Frame-makers (picture)			2	3	
Boiler-makers	74	33	26	10	8	French polishers	14	15	11	4	2
Bone-carvers			1			Furnaceman		1			1
Bookbinders	4	6	7	5	5	Furriers			3		
Book-keepers				3	1	Galvanizers			1	1	
Boot-finishers and operators		2	8	30	6	Gardeners (flowers)	155	152	137	86	59
Bootmakers	89	77	201	89	31	(vegetable)				1	2
Bottlers	3	6	8	1	2	Gasfitters					
Box-makers				1	1	Generally usefuls	762	396	345	208	133
Brassfinishers		3	10	3		Class-makers	1				
Brassfounders	5	4	2	2		Glass-stainers		4			
Brassworkers			1			Glass-blowers					1
Brewers and hands	5	6	3	2	6	Glaziers			3	3	
Bricklayers	206	123	110	46	23	Goldsmiths		1		1	
Brickmakers	81	86	78	23	10	Graziers					
Bridge hands	16	9	19	12	7	Greengrocers				5	1
Brushmakers	1	4	1			Grocers	86	72	73	33	23
Builders	5					Grooms	338	323	272	169	103
Bushmen		190	188	146	52	Gilders				1	
Butchers	199	196	212	144	97	Guards (railway)					1
Butlers			1			Gunsmiths		3	3		2
Cabinet-makers		5	11	2		Hairdressers	33	21	24	6	4
Cabmen			2		1	Hair-workers					
Candle-makers				1		Harness-makers				6	3
Cannister-makers				1		Hat-finishers				1	
Canvassers	19	26	44	11	5	Hatters	4		3		
Cardbox-makers				1		Herbalists					
Carders, wool						Horse-collar makers			2		
Caretakers	15	16	14	6	2	Horse-trainers		4			
Carpenters, bridge	576	537	339	150	4	Hydropathists			1		
" general					75	Ink-makers		1			
" house					24	Iron-dressers			1		1
Carpet-layers		1				Ironfounders				1	
Carters	348	321	472	181	107	Ironmongers	13	12	20	9	6
Carvers				1	1	" saddler's					1
Casemakers		6	5			Iron-moulders	63	22	39	9	9
Cellarmen	5	3	1	3		Iron-turners		31	9	4	3
Chainmen	23	19	20	3	4	Ironworkers	23	16	25	7	
Chairmakers		1		1		Ivory-turners					
Charcoal-burners			1			Jammakers			5	1	
Chemists		12	17	4	4	Japanners	1	1			
Chimney-sweeps		1	4	1		Jewellers	5	4	5	1	
Cigar-makers					1	Jockeys			2	1	
Cigarette-makers			1			Joiners					3
Circus hands		2				Journalists	12	11	8	4	1
Civil engineers		4	5			Kitchenmen				2	5
Clay-modellers	1	1				Labourers	3,285	4,548	6,152	2,274	1,549
Clerks	264	263	264	155	104	Laundry hands	1	2	1	1	4
Cloth-weavers		2	1			Law clerks		1	6		
Coach-body-makers	41	12	8	6	3	Lead-workers		1			
Coachmen	6	17	10	10	4	Leather-dressers	1	1	1		
Coach-painters	5	11	13	6	1	Lecturers					
Coachsmiths		15	9	1		Lift attendants					1
Coach-trimmers				1	2	Lithographers		1	8		
Commercial travellers	15	20	13	6	4	Locksmiths	2	7	3		1
Compositors		61	92	18	9	Lumpers	2				
Condiment-makers		1		4		Machine hands				1	1
Confectioners	8	14	6	2	1	Machinists	26	13	2	5	2
Cooks	314	262	275	156	96	Marble masons			10	1	
Coopers	8	13	18	11	8	Marble-polishers	11	4	3	1	1
Coppersmiths	5	4		1		Masons (monumental)					1
Cordial-makers	9	10	8	3	1	Marine engineers		2			
Curriers	8	4	8	5	2	Married couples	42	39	17		2
Cutters (tailors)				1		Masons (stone)	134	133	110	60	17
Dairy hands	66	43	41	39	26	Master mariners	3	1	8	2	1
Dealers		21	94	42	29	Mat-makers			1		

Trades.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	Trades.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
Medical doctors.....			1			Spinners					1
Merchants		1				Station hands.....	763	299	253	183	133
Messengers		1			1	Station overseers					1
Metal-polishers			1		1	Stationers	3	2	3	3	2
Millet broom-makers					1	Stenographers		2	3		
Mill hands				2		Stereotypers		1	2		1
Millers.....	8	8	13	4	5	Stewards	26	31	16	7	6
Millwrights	5	4	1	1		Stone-cutters			2		
Miners (gold).....	1,200	2,116	1,200	670	513	Stone-polishers (litho.)		1			
„ (shale).....					5	Storekeepers	96	35	24	2	7
Mining engineers		3	5			Storemen		55	60	49	15
Mining surveyors		1				Stove-makers					
Modellers						Strikers				16	13
Musicians	6	5	7	2		Sugar-mill hands			1	3	
Naturalists		1		1		Surgeons			1	3	
Nurses (professional)					1	Surveyors	2	10	7		2
Oilmakers			1			Surveyors' hands					1
Oliver smiths.....						Tailors	59	71	47	24	10
Opticians	1	2	1			Tailors' pressers	1	4	2	3	5
Orchard hands	14	25	24	10	5	Tailow-makers	1	1	5	1	
Organ-tuners				1		Tanners	8	14	15	17	14
Ovenmakers			4			Teachers of singing and music.....					1
Overseers	8		1	1		Tea merchants			1		
Packers	13	8	13	4	3	Teamsters		1			
Painters	245	196	185	95	34	Telegraph operators	1	4	3	2	1
Paper-makers.....	1					Tentmakers	9	4	11	1	
Paper-rulers			3	1		Ticket-writers		1			
Pastrycooks		8	9			Tile hands		2	2		
Pattern-makers	5	2	2		3	Timber yardsmen		3	3		
Photographers	1	12	10	5	3	Timekeepers					2
Piano-tuners			2	1	1	Tinsmiths	41	31	31	16	11
Pile-drivers	1			2		Tobacco hands	3		8	1	4
Pipe-layers		1	2	2		Tobacconists					1
Pipe-makers					1	Tool-sharpeners.....					1
Plasterers	117	81	96	17	11	Tram conductors					1
Plate-layers	2	1		8	3	Tuck-pointers					
Plumbers	112	86	70	38	13	Tutors	22	14	19	8	12
Porters	6	11	5	6	1	Typfounders.....			1		
Portmanteau-makers	1	1	1			Typewriters.....					
Potters	6	5	5	1	1	Umbrella-makers	1	1		2	
Poulterers					1	Undertakers			2		
Poultry-farmers.....					2	Upholsterers	11	19	13	4	1
Printers	87	59	52	24	22	Valuators					
Quarrymen.....	56	110	112	14	23	Vegetable gardeners.....		1			
Riveters.....			3		2	Venectian-blind makers.....	2	3	3		
Ropemakers		2	3	1	1	Veterinary surgeons.....		1		2	
Rubble masons	1		1		1	Vicemen				1	
Rulers (machine)					1	Vignerons	2	1			
Saddle and harness makers	54	43	40	18	7	Vocalists.....	1		3		
Sailmakers				1	1	Waiters	31	38	37	16	4
Salesmen	21	40	27	10	3	Warders (gaol)					1
Sawmakers		1		1		Wardsmen	11	2	3	4	7
Saw-sharpeners			1		1	Warehousemen	3	23	9	3	4
Saw-mill hands				3		Watchmakers	5	10	6	5	2
Sawyers (circular).....	38	32	39	10	9	Watchmen				1	1
Scenic artists		1				Weavers				1	
Seamen	20	135	189	50	44	Wheelwrights	27	22	26	5	4
Shearers	29	158	165	72	56	Whipmakers		2	3		
Shearing-machinists.....		1				Whitesmiths		1			
Ship's caulkers		1				Wicker-furniture-makers.....				1	
Ship's plumbers.....			2			Wireworkers	6	4	7		2
Shipwrights	26	27	30	7	3	Wiremakers					
Showmen			1			Wire-mattress-makers.....		3	2		
Signwriters	6	3	3	5		Wood-carvers	1	2			
Silver polishers				1		Wood-turners	5	5	10		
Skin-classers					2	Wool-classers			12	2	8
Slaters	3	7	5	1		Wool-hands				16	1
Slaughtermen		3				Wool-pressers	52	22	14	5	5
Sleeper-getters						Zinc-workers			3		
Slipper-makers					1	Callings not classified	76	53	3		
Smelters		6	5	5	3	Totals	12,145	13,575	14,062	6,427	4,167
Soapmakers		3	1								
Solicitors			1	1	1						

DETAIL Summary of Registrations for the year ending 30th June, 1898.

Local registrations...									2,009
Arrivals	From the Colonies	North.	South.	West.			667	2,158	
		414	604	473		1,491			
Total registrations...								4,167	
Married men								1,542	
Single men								2,025	
Children self-supporting								1,308	
Children dependent								2,852	
Children represented								4,160	

REPORT showing the number of arrivals from the other Colonies, the United Kingdom, and Foreign parts, and residents here, all within six months during the year ending 30th June, 1898; and a comparison of same with previous years.

From.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
Queensland	332	188	170	204	204	149
Victoria	598	413	200	177	91	77
South Australia	67	34	37	42	17	21
Western Australia	20	21	130	66	85	135
Tasmania	110	60	51	40	12	24
New Zealand	196	104	289	306	104	85
United Kingdom	301	142	114	94	81	86
Foreign parts	147	95	110	67	82	90
Totals	1,771	1,057	1,101	996	676	667

RETURN of Police Reports for the year ending 30th June, 1898; and a comparison with previous years.

Offences.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
Absconding from bail.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Artillery desertion .....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Begging and vagrancy	11	9	5	4	9	3
Breaking, &c. (suspected).....	6	4	1	3	4	2
Drunkenness	290	118	114	228	136	58
Embezzlement	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
False pretence.....	6	2	4	1	1	.....
Gambling.....	6	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Indecency	8	2	.....	5	5	2
Indecent assault.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Language.....	11	11	11	16	17	1
Lunacy.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....
Malicious injury to property .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Perjury .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Riotous and assault	21	22	8	20	12	1
Theft	34	25	9	27	24	6
Uttering .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....
Wife desertion	4	.....	.....	2	1	2
Other offences.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Totals	399	195	153	307	210	82

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT for the years 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, and 1898.

Years.	Registered	Increase or decrease.	Assisted and sent to work.	Increase or decrease.	Refunded from all sources on account of advances.	Increase or decrease.	Fossickers.	Increase or decrease.	Remarks.
1893	18,600	8,154	£ s. d. 1,135 16 1	£ s. d.	Fossickers not sent out this year.
1894	12,146	D. 6,455	10,349	I. 2,195	2,676 10 0	I. 1,540 13 11	4,516	.....
1895	13,575	L. 1,430	16,380	I. 6,031	2,477 15 8	D. 198 14 4	10,718	I. 6,202	
1896	14,062	I. 487	20,576	I. 4,196	4,235 19 6	I. 1,758 3 10	7,093	D. 3,625	
Intermediate 18 Feb. to 30 June	3,283	.....	5,327	.....	1,227 7 7	.....	1,733	.....
1897	6,427	D. 7,635	13,718	D. 6,858	2,864 19 6	D. 1,371 0 0	1,647	D. 5,446	
1898	4,167	D. 2,260	7,817	D. 5,901	2,801 19 11	D. 62 19 7	937	D. 710	
Total.....	72,259	82,321	17,420 8 3	26,644	

TABLE showing various trades and callings to which persons have been assisted and sent to work in town and country; summary of wages recorded; together with comparative figures for the years 1896, 1897, 1898.

Trades and Occupations.	1896.		1897.		1898.		Wages Recorded.		
	Town.	Country.	Town.	Country.	Town.	Country.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Accountants and Bookkeepers...	1	3	...	3	...	6	.....	.....	£50 to £65 per ann.
Artesian well-borers .....	...	2	...	...	...	1	.....	.....	25s. per week, &c.
Artists' model	2	...	...	...	1	...	.....	.....	2s. per hour.
Asphalters	7	...	2	...	...	...	Contract	Contract.	.....
Assayers .....	...	...	...	...	2	2	.....	.....	£3 10s. per week.
Attendants, Hospital	5	2	2	3	1	2	.....	£50 to £70 per ann.	£52 p. ann. & found.
Bakers	2	54	4	55	...	31	25s. to 50s. per week	20s. to 50s. per week	25s. to 45s. per week.
Barren and boots	1	1	...	...	...	1	.....	.....	20s. p. week, found.
Bee-farmer .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	.....	.....	.....
Billiard-markers .....	...	...	3	...	...	...	.....	15s. to 20s. & found.	.....
Bird-trappers .....	...	...	2	...	...	...	.....	Own account.	.....
Blacksmiths	33	25	26	31	8	17	25s. to 50s. per week	20s. to 50s. per week.	25s. to 50s. per week.
Boatbuilders .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	.....	.....	.....
Boiler-makers	10	4	8	3	...	...	1s. per hour	1s. per hour	1s. per hour.
Bootmakers	2	22	2	12	1	9	.....	.....	Piece & 35s. p. week.
Brass-finishers	2	...	4	1	1	...	1s. per hour	1s. per hour	1s. per hour.
Brass-moulders	1	...	...	...	...	...	1s. per hour .....	.....	.....
Brewer's hands .....	...	...	1	3	...	...	.....	25s. to 30s. per week	.....
Bricklayers	77	45	73	35	4	13	7s. to 9s. per day ...	7s. to 9s. per day ...	7s. to 9s. p. day, contract.
Brickmakers .....	...	14	...	5	...	13	Contract	Contract & 7s. p. day.	8s. p. day & contract.
Bridge hands	2	11	4	4	...	4	6s. to 8s. per day ...	1s. per hour	Piece, 8s. per day.
Brushmakers	1	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....	.....
Bullock-drivers .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	.....	20s. and found .....	.....
Bushmen	29	55	24	82	...	20	10s. to 17s. 6d. p. wk.	12s. 6d. to 20s. p. wk.	15s. to 20s. & found.
Butchers (station, shop, and meat-works).	14	89	8	91	...	63	15s. to 40s. p. week	15s. to 40s. per week	20s. to 50s. p. wk., piece.
Cabinet-makers	7	...	1	...	1	...	1s. per hour	1s. per hour	Piece.
Canvassers	58	9	17	1	...	2	Salary & commission	Salary & commission	Salary & commission
Caretakers	2	5	2	...	2	1	5s. to 15s. per week	5s. to 12s. 6d. p. wk.	12s. 6d. to 15s. p. wk., found
Carpenters and joiners	194	84	117	69	49	44	6s. to 8s. per day ...	6s. to 9s. per day ...	7s. to 10s. per day.
Carpenters (bridge)	6	24	3	45	3	8	1s. per hour	6s. to 9s. per day ...	8s. to 9s. per day.
Carpenters (ship) .....	...	5	...	2	...	...	.....	.....	.....
Carpet layers and beaters .....	...	...	1	...	1	...	.....	1s. per hour	1s. per hour.
Carters .....	...	...	...	...	1	4	.....	.....	20s. to 25s. p. wk., found
Casemakers .....	...	2	2	...	...	...	.....	Piece .....	.....
Chaffcutters .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	.....	.....	Contract.
Chemists .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	.....	.....	.....
Clearers .....	...	...	...	...	3	62	.....	.....	Contract.
Clerks	3	16	...	13	4	12	.....	15s. to 50s. per week	25s. to 50s. per week
Coach trades	11	2	4	2	2	3	7s. to 9s. per day ...	1s. per hour & piece.	1s. per hour, piece.
Commercial travellers .....	...	...	...	...	...	2	.....	.....	Not stated.
Compositors	2	7	2	3	4	3	Piece	Piece	Piece.
Concrete hands .....	...	...	5	...	1	...	.....	10d. p. hour & piece.	Piece.
Confectioners	1	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....	Piece.
Cooks	30	122	7	81	4	75	10s. to 40s. p. week	12s. 6d. to 35s. p. wk.	15s. to 40s. per week.
Coopers	4	4	2	...	1	2	1s. hour and piece..	1s. hour and piece..	Piece, 25s. p. wk., found
Coppersmiths .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	1s. per hour .....	.....	.....
Cordial-makers .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	.....	.....	.....
Circus hands .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	.....	.....	.....
Curriers and tanners	5	6	1	1	...	3	.....	.....	.....
Dairy hands .....	...	...	9	7	11	15	.....	8s. to 15s. per week	40s. to 45s. per week.
Dealers .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	.....	.....	8s. to 20s. p. week, found
Doctors .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	.....	.....	.....
Draftsmen .....	...	...	1	...	...	1	.....	.....	.....
Drainers .....	...	...	5	...	2	1	.....	1s. per hour	1s. per hour.
Drapers	2	6	...	7	2	4	15s. and found to 40s.	£1 and found to £2	25s. to 30s. per week.
Drivers (horse)	134	10	31	13	2	6	10s. to 20s., found...	12s. 6d. to 25s. p. wk.	15s. to 25s. per week.
Drovers .....	...	1	...	7	...	5	.....	15s. to 20s., found...	20s. to 25s. p. wk., found
Dyers	3	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....	.....
Editors, newspaper .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	.....	.....	.....
Engino-drivers	7	30	3	15	...	11	.....	25s. to 35s. per week	25s. to 60s. per week.
Engine-fitters .....	...	...	...	...	...	5	.....	.....	1s. per hour, 40s. to 50s. per week.
Engineers	6	8	3	11	1	8	.....	70s. per week	30s. to 50s. per week.
" electric .....	...	8	...	...	1	...	.....	.....	.....
" mining .....	...	3	...	...	...	...	.....	.....	.....
" refrigerating .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	.....	.....	.....
Factory hands	1	...	...	...	1	...	.....	.....	.....
Farm, orchard, and plough hands	37	149	12	110	8	84	8s. to 20s. per week	8s. to 20s. per week	8s. to 25s. per week, found.
Fellmongers	2	63	...	34	...	48	.....	.....	6s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. per day.
Fencers	4	3	9	...	1	6	Contract	Contract, and 6s. to 7s. per day.	Contract, 7s. per day
Firemen	5	3	3	...	...	1	.....	6s. per day	6s. 6d. per day.
Fishermen .....	...	1	...	4	...	...	Own account	Own account .....	.....
Flour-mill hands .....	...	...	...	5	...	...	.....	£1 to 25s. per week	.....
Fossickers* .....	...	7,093	...	1,647	...	937	.....	.....	.....
French-polishers	2	1	1	...	...	...	.....	1s. per hour .....	.....
Furnacemen .....	...	...	1	12	...	...	.....	6s. per day .....	.....
Galvanised-iron workers	5	2	...	...	...	...	.....	.....	.....

* From City only.

Trades and Occupations.	1896.		1897.		1898.		Wages Recorded.		
	Town.	Country	Town.	Country	Town.	Country	1896.	1897.	1898.
Gardeners	50	38	20	15	17	23	8s. to 20s. per week	10s. to 27s. 6d. per week.	10s. to 25s. per week.
General usefuls ...	228	233	187	112	91	56	5s. to 20s. per week	5s. to 20s. per week	5s. to 20s. per week.
Glaziers .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	.....	.....	.....
Governesses, female servants*	10	227	1	93	5	7	.....	8s. to 15s. per week	9s. to 15s. per week.
Grocers and assistants	1	5	...	4	1	5	.....	15s. to 35s. per week	17s. to 30s. per week.
Grooms	26	22	37	22	11	15	.....	10s. to 20s. per week	10s. to 20s. per week.
Gum-pickers .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	.....	Piece .....	.....
Hair-dressers .....	...	8	...	4	...	2	15s. to 30s. per week	15s. to 30s. per week	25s. and found, 45s. per week.
Hawkers	2	1	...	...	...	...	.....	.....	.....
Horse-breakers .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	.....	Per head .....	.....
Horse-clippers	8	...	...	...	...	...	Per head .....	.....	.....
Horse-trainers .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	.....	.....	.....
Iron-fitters	6	3	13	10	2	...	1s. per hour	1s. per hour	1s. per hour.
Ironmongers .....	...	...	...	1	...	1	.....	.....	30s. per wk. & found.
Ironmoulders	1	4	...	2	...	4	.....	1s. per hour	1s. per hour.
Ironturners	10	6	3	3	...	3	1s. per hour	1s. per hour	1s. per hour.
Ironworkers	2	1	...	2	...	...	1s. per hour	1s. per hour	1s. per hour.
Jammakers	4	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....	.....
Jewellers .....	...	3	...	...	...	...	.....	.....	.....
Journalists .....	...	...	...	1	...	1	.....	.....	.....
Journalists .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....	.....
Kitchenmen	25	...	5	5	11	1	8s. to 15s. per week	7s. to 15s. per week	7s. 6d. to 15s. per wk.
Labourers	731	699	177	247	26	78	4s. per day to 1s. per hour.	5s. to 7s. per day ...	5s. and 7s. per day, 1s. per hour.
" Bogan Scrub .....	...	...	...	905	...	548	.....	Piece	Piece.
" Botany Sewage Farm .....	...	...	2,920	...	1,317	...	.....	6s. per day	6s. per day.
" Centennial Park and Kensington.	2,662	...	1,008	...	1,107	...	5s. per day	5s. per day	5s. per day.
" Forest Department ..	...	1,367	...	27	...	69	6s. per day	6s. per day	6s. per day.
" Glebe Island † .....	...	...	...	...	127	...	.....	.....	6s. per day.
" Casual Labour Farm † ..	...	...	...	...	...	44	.....	.....	.....
" Railway Deviations ...	...	...	...	49	...	299	.....	6s. per day	6s. per day.
" Randwick, Church and School Lands.	1,262	...	1,034	...	...	...	Piece	Piece	Piece.
" Randwick Quarries ..	...	...	32	...	...	...	.....	Piece	Piece.
" " Rifle Range .....	...	...	177	...	246	...	.....	Piece	Piece.
" Shea's Creek	2,415	...	2,442	...	1,218	...	7s. per day	7s. per day	7s. per day.
" Stock Routes .....	...	...	...	60	...	25	.....	6s. per day	6s. per day.
Laundrymen and laundresses ..	...	...	...	2	...	6	.....	.....	15s. to 20s. per week, found.
Locksmiths	2	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....	.....
Machinists, iron .....	...	...	...	4	...	...	.....	1s. per hour .....	.....
Married couples	6-12	80-180	5-10	51-102	...	19-38	£40 to £75 pr. ann.	£40 to £80 per ann.	£40 to £104 per ann.
Masons, marble	3	5	1	...	...	...	1s. per hour	1s. per hour .....	.....
" rubble .....	...	...	10	8	2	3	.....	5s. 6d. to 8s. per day	6s. to 7s. 6d. per day.
" stone	16	19	29	2	2	14	7s. to 9s. per day ...	7s. to 8s. per day ...	7s. to 9s. per day.
Mattress maker .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	.....	.....	.....
Meat preservers .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	.....	.....	.....
Millers and hands .....	...	...	...	1	...	4	.....	.....	£3 to £3 10s. per wk., 26s. & found.
Millwrights and hands .....	...	...	...	2	...	3	.....	7s. per day, £1 and found.	40s. to 50s. per week.
Miners .....	...	184	7	148	...	114	.....	35s. to 50s. per week	7s. per day, 45s. to 50s. per week, contract.
Mine managers .....	...	...	...	2	...	...	.....	.....	.....
Musicians .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	.....	.....	.....
Oilmakers .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	.....	Contract .....	.....
Oven-maker .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	.....	.....	.....
Painters and paperhangers	109	29	68	19	24	9	6s. to 8s. per day ...	5s. to 8s. per day ...	5s. to 8s. per day.
Pattern-makers, iron	8	3	2	1	...	...	1s. per hour	1s. per hour .....	.....
Photographers .....	...	1	...	...	...	1	.....	.....	.....
Pipe-layers	5	3	6	...	...	...	.....	6s. to 7s. per day ...	.....
Pisé-builders .....	...	2	...	...	...	...	.....	.....	.....
Plasterers	10	5	15	6	3	11	.....	1s. per hour	1s. per hour, piece.
Plate-layers .....	...	15	5	9	8	...	.....	6s. 6d. to 7s. per day	7s. per day.
Plumbers	12	6	12	9	5	2	.....	7s. to 8s. per day ...	7s. to 9s. per day.
Porters .....	...	...	...	...	2	...	.....	.....	.....
Quarrymen	50	6	18	7	...	10	6s. to 8s. per day ...	6s. to 8s. per day, and piece.	7s. to 8s. per day.
Riveters (iron) .....	...	16	...	...	...	...	.....	.....	.....
Saddle and harness makers	1	6	1	8	...	5	.....	25s. to 40s. per week	30s. per week & piece.
Sandwich-men	22	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....	.....
Sawyers	3	17	3	13	...	5	.....	Piece	Piece.
Scabblers .....	...	...	5	...	...	...	.....	5s. 6d. to 6s. 6d. ...	.....
Shearers § .....	...	310	...	103	...	79	.....	Per 100	Per 100.
Shipwrights .....	...	6	4	1	2	...	.....	1s. per hour	1s. per hour.
Signwriters .....	...	2	3	...	...	...	.....	Piece .....	.....
Signwriters .....	...	...	1	...	1	...	.....	Piece	Piece.
Slaters	4	...	...	5	...	...	.....	Piece .....	.....
Slaughtermen .....	...	3	...	...	...	...	.....	Piece .....	.....
Sleeper-cutters and squarers ..	...	34	...	11	...	...	.....	Piece	Contract.
Smelters .....	...	3	2	4	...	3	.....	.....	9s. 6d. per day.
Solicitors .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	.....	.....	.....
Station and shed hands § .....	...	385	...	345	...	275	10s. to 20s. per week	10s., 15s., and 20s. per week.	12s., 15s., 20s. per week.

* Years 1896 and 1897 also included. † Wives sent to join husbands in the country. ‡ Only started March, 1898. § Late Village Settlement; disbanded 1896. § Not sent out so early this year.

Trades and Occupations.	1896.		1897.		1898.		Wages Recorded.		
	Town.	Country	Town.	Country	Town.	Country	1896.	1897.	1898.
Station overseers .....	..	..	..	3	..	2	.....	.....	.....
Stonebreakers	40	34	57	9	4	25	.....	Per yard	Per yard.
Store hands .....	..	6	..	3	2	11	.....	.....	7s. 6d., 15s., 30s. per week.
Sugar-cane hands .....	..	2	..	..	..	..	.....	.....	.....
Surveyors' hands .....	..	15	..	9	..	9	.....	15s. to 20s. per week.	£1 to 25s. per week.
Tailors	2	25	1	7	..	5	.....	Piece	Piece.
Tank-sinkers .....	..	3	..	..	..	..	Piece .....	.....	.....
Tent-makers .....	..	..	..	..	4	..	.....	.....	.....
Tinsmiths	13	7	3	5	..	5	.....	1s. per hour	1s. per hour & piece.
Tutors	1	9	..	4	1	9	.....	10s. to 17s. 6d. per week.	£30 to £60 per annum.
Upholsterers	2	..	1	..	..	..	.....	.....	.....
Village settlers* .....	..	1	..	..	..	..	.....	.....	.....
Waiters	5	3	..	1	..	1	.....	15s. to 20s. per week.	20s. per week, found.
Watchmakers .....	..	..	..	..	..	1	.....	.....	Own account.
Watchmen	1	..	1	..	..	2	.....	.....	10s. per week, found.
Weavers .....	..	5	..	..	..	..	.....	.....	.....
Wheelwrights	22	11	11	4	3	1	.....	7s. per day, 20s. and found.	1s. to 1s. 3d. per hour and piece.
Wood-turners .....	..	..	1	..	..	..	.....	.....	.....
Wool-classers .....	..	17	..	10	..	6	.....	Per 1,000	Contract.
Wool-pressors .....	..	15	..	3	..	9	.....	.....	Contract.
Wool-sorters .....	..	9	..	4	..	..	.....	.....	.....
Wool-washers	32	..	55	69	..	11	.....	6s. per day	6s. to 6s. 6d. per day.
Women to join husbands in the country, with 70 children.†	..	..	..	..	..	36	.....	.....	.....
	8,558	12,018	8,787	4,931	4,376	3,441	.....	.....	.....
	20,567		13,718		7,817		.....	.....	.....

* Now Casual Labour Farm.

† In previous years (1896 and 1897) they were included under the heading of Governesses and Female Servants.

Annual Ration Account.

FREE Rations and Rations advanced to the families of men employed at West Bogan, for year ended 30th June, 1898.

Month ended—	Free Rations.				Bogan Rations.			Total Cost of Rations.			
	Families Relieved.		Rations issued at 1s. 10½d. per ration.	Cost of Rations.	Families Relieved.	Rations issued at 1s. 10½d. per Ration.	Cost of Rations.				
	Adults.	Children.									
				£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	
July	69	276	143	13	8	1½	21	57	5	6 10½	18 15 0
August	68	270	139½	13	1	6¾	16	38	3	11 3	16 12 9½
September	68	293	140	13	2	6	25	60½	5	12 0½	18 14 6½
October	88	412	181½	17	0	3½	35	74	6	18 9	23 19 0½
November	71	320	148½	13	18	5½	40	83	7	15 7½	21 14 0½
December	63	278	129½	12	2	9½	32	72½	6	15 11½	18 18 9
January	29	134	61½	5	15	3½	18	40½	3	15 11½	9 11 3
February	50	190	96½	9	0	11½	13	25	2	6 10½	11 7 9½
March	61	217	112	10	19	0	14	28	2	12 6	13 2 6
April	68	270	125½	11	14	10	18	36	3	7 6	15 2 4
May	45	176	83½	7	16	6¾	27	54½	5	2 2½	12 18 9
June	71	269	128½	12	0	11½	52	116½	10	18 5½	22 19 4½
Total	751	3,105	1,489½	139	12	4	311	685½	64	3 11½	203 16 3½

The Labour Agent, Armidale, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau, Sydney.

Sir,

Labour Bureau, Armidale Branch, 18 July, 1898.

I have the honor to inform you that during the year ending the 30th June, 1898, there were only two applicants for employment at this office, one of whom was sent to Tamworth the other to Tenterfield. There is at present no demand for labour or employment here. The current rates of wages in the district, so far as I can ascertain, are as follows:—Mines, per shift—miners, 8s.; truckers and labourers, 7s.; engine-drivers, 9s.; smelters, 9s. 2d.; carpenters, 9s. to 10s.; tool-sharpeners, 8s., and boys from 8s. 4d. to 5s. Farm labourers, from 15s. to 20s. and found.

I have, &c,

C. SMITH,

Agent.

The

The Labour Agent, Albury, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau,
Sydney.

Sir,

Labour Bureau, Albury Branch, 4 July, 1898.

I have the honor to report that no business of any kind was transacted at this branch during the year ended 30th June, 1898, and that no inquiries were made by either employers or persons seeking employment.

I furnish hereunder a list of the current rates of wages paid in the district:—

Flour-mill hands	45s. per week.
Blacksmiths	50s. per week.
Carpenters	8s. per day.
Wheelwrights	50s. per week.
Coachbuilders	60s. per week.
Bricklayers	9s. per day.
Stonemasons	9s. per day.
Brickmakers	7s. per day.
General labourers	6s. per day.
Agricultural and vineyard labourers	20s. per week and board.
Tinsmiths	45s. per week.
Saddlers	45s. per week.
Tailors	45s. per week.
Compositors	40s. per week.

I have, &c.,

W. JAMIESON,

Labour Agent.

The Labour Agent, Bega, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau,
Sydney.

Sir,

Department of Labour and Industry, Bega, 4 July, 1898.

Since my last yearly report the following rates of wages have been paid in this district:—

Blacksmiths	£2 to £2 15s. per week.
Carpenters	£2 10s. per week.
Shop Assistants	£3 per week.
Junior Shop Assistants... ..	£2 per week.
Storemen	from 10s. to £1 10s. per week.
Coach painters	£2 10s. per week.
Barbers	£2 5s. to £2 10s. per week.
Compositors	£1 10s. to £2 10s. per week.
Labourers	6s. to 7s. per day.

The state of the labour market in this district may be stated as being generally dull throughout the preceding twelve months. This may in a great measure be accounted for by the severe drought experienced for some months. The absolute dryness of the summer had the effect of destroying the grass, and, consequently, cattle suffered severely. And during the early part of this year serious floods occurred, which ruined many fine crops of maize: in addition to this, a large number of cattle died. Since then, however, we have had beneficial rains, and the winter promises to be a good one. No marked change has, in my opinion, taken place in the labour market to warrant me in saying that last year was a successful one, but it cannot be taken for granted from this that a number of unemployed are seeking work. From the fact of there being no applications received by me for this period, I must say that work must have been obtained by those seeking it by their own efforts, and a reference or registration at this office was not necessary.

I have, &c.,

W. E. O'BRIEN,

Agent.

The Labour Agent, Bathurst, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau,
Sydney.

Sir,

Court-house, Bathurst, 7 July, 1898.

I have the honor to forward herewith my report for the year ended 30th June, 1898. This branch has been found useful to persons seeking employment in other districts; they have been provided with railway passes; but I regret to state that employers of labour in this district did not take advantage of this branch when requiring labour of any class.

I have interviewed several employers, contractors and others, and they report that "We experience no trouble in getting competent men in any of the classes (stated in accompanying list) provided a fair rate of wages is paid"; occasionally skilled workmen cannot be obtained in this district.

I have, &c.,

W. G. R. SMITH,

Labour Agent.

Class.	Wage	Class.	Wage.
Accountants	40s. to 60s. per week.	Engine-drivers... ..	50s. to 60s. per week.
Bakers	35s. to 40s. "	Farm hands	15s. to 20s. per week and keep.
Barmen	20s. to 30s. "	Fellmongers	30s. to 45s. per week.
Blacksmiths... ..	35s. to 50s. "	Fencers	40s. to 45s. "
Bootmakers	35s. to 45s. "	Gardeners	15s. to 25s. "
Brickmakers	7s. to 8s. per day.	Grooms... ..	15s. to 20s. "
Bricklayers	8s. to 9s. "	Grocers... ..	35s. to 60s. "
Butchers	30s. to 40s. per week.	Ironworkers	45s. to 60s. "
Carpenters	8s. to 9s. per day.	Labourers	6s. to 7s. per day.
Cooks	15s. to 25s. per week.	Miners	7s. to 8s. "
Clerks	35s. to 50s. "	Narvies... ..	7s. to 8s. "
Coachmen	15s. to 20s. "	Ploughmen	20s. per week and keep.
Coachbuilders	45s. to 55s. "	Shoers	20s. per 100.
Draymen	2's. to 30s. "	Station hands	15s. to 20s. per week and keep.
Drivers	20s. to 30s. "	Stonemasons	10s. to 11s. per day.
Drapers	30s. to 65s. "	Wheelwrights	40s. to 50s. per week.

The

The Labour Agent, Bourke, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau, Sydney.

Sir,

Department of Labour and Industry, Bourke, 6 July, 1898.

I have the honor to submit you a report in connection with this branch of work done during the twelve months ending 30th ultimo.

Three persons have during that time registered themselves for employment. Refunds on account of railway passes granted have been made to the extent of £28 8s. 9d.

Matters in connection with the labour market have invariably been quiet, and there has been no desire, with the exception above stated, either by employers or employees to avail themselves of any advantages this branch may afford.

As far as I can see this branch in regard to its usefulness in bringing employers and employees together is unsuccessful.

I have, &c.,

O. A. S. FITZPATRICK, C.P.S.,
Agent.

The Labour Agent, Broken Hill, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau, Sydney.

Sir,

Department of Labour and Industry, Broken Hill, 16 July, 1898.

I have the honor to report that owing to the fact that the large mines in this district have their own private labour bureaus, my office has had no influence at all upon the local labour market during the past year.

A few men, mostly newcomers, have registered their names (as per my monthly reports), but I have never seen them afterwards, and have no doubt that their services have been quickly utilised and retained if found capable.

Mechanics are easily obtainable from Adelaide when required, and the supply of miners from New South Wales and the adjacent colonies is quite equal to the demand.

I have issued no railway passes during the year, nor have I received any refunds from persons who have obtained Government aid to proceed to their employment here. Rates of wages attached.

I have, &c.,

JAMES WATT,
Labour Agent.

Rate of wages paid at Broken Hill.

Apprentices—machine shop.....	4s. to 5s. 6d. per day.	Locomotive drivers	10s.	per day.
Blacksmiths—machinery smiths...	10s. 6d. "	" stokers	8s. 4d. "	
" smiths (general) ..	8s. 4d. to 10s. "	Masons	9s. to 10s. 6d. "	
" strikers, 1st grade..	7s. 6d. "	Planers—machine shop	9s. to 10s. "	
" " 2nd grade	6s. "	Riveters, 1st grade	9s. "	
Boiler makers	9s. to 10s. 6d. "	" 2nd	8s. "	
" assistants	7s. 6d. "	Screwers and shapers	7s. 6d. to 9s. "	
Boys (all)	2s. 6d. to 5s. "	Tinsmiths, 1st grade	10s. "	
Carpenters, 1st grade	10s. 6d. "	" 2nd	9s. "	
" 2nd	9s. 6d. "	Furnace feeders and tappers ..	9s. "	
" 3rd	8s. 4d. "	Charge wheelers	8s. 4d. "	
Drillers—machine shop	8s. 4d. to 9s. "	Miners	9s. "	
Electricians, 1st grade	9s. 10d. "	Platmen	8s. 4d. "	
" 2nd	9s. "	Bracemen	8s. 4d. "	
Engine drivers, winding	10s. "	Truckers	7s. 6d. "	
" stationary	9s. "	All unskilled manual labourers ...	7s. 6d. "	
" winch	8s. "	Station employees—		
Firemen	8s. 4d. "	Shepherds	15s. per week, with rations.	
Riggers	9s. to 10s. 6d. "	Boundary riders	20s. "	
Lathe hands—machine shop	8s. to 10s. 6d. "	Overseers	25s. "	

The Labour Agent, Braidwood, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau, Sydney.

Sir,

Braidwood, 2 July, 1898.

I have the honor to forward herewith the annual report of this branch for the year ended 30th ultimo. The operations at this branch during the year have been exceedingly small, only one applicant having been registered, who obtained employment and refunded the amount of his railway pass.

There are very few unemployed in this district, which is perhaps owing to the fact that there are no industries beyond that of mining, and that industry being very slack for some time past there is really no attraction to induce men to come here.

The most of the miners in the district are simply fossicking, and earn just about sufficient to make a living. The rates of wages prevailing average as follows, viz.:—

Miners	20s. to 30s. per week.
Labourers... ..	5s. to 15s. "
Cooks	10s. to 18s. "
Mechanics	25s. to 30s. "
Grooms (about)	15s. "

During the early part of this year the continued dry weather greatly interfered with farming and mining operations, but the abundant rains that have fallen recently render prospects in these directions more hopeful; but the supply of labour is quite equal to the demand, and is likely to remain so unless some great developments take place in mining, which is the principal industry of the district.

I have, &c.,

G. A. HYDE,
Labour Agent.

NOTE.—The refunds during the year amounted to £1 6s. 3d.

The Clerk of Petty Sessions, Coonamble, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau, Sydney.

Sir, Department of Labour and Industry, Coonamble, 10 July, 1898.
I have the honor to report that during the year ended 30 June, 1898, the work—as regards this branch of the Government Labour Bureau—was practically nil. No applications were made either for registration by men seeking employment or by employers for men. The condition of the labour market remains unaltered, excepting, perhaps, that there are less men to be seen loafing about waiting the advent of shearing as formerly. It may be, however, that it is rather early for the usual annual influx for that purpose. There is no demand for any class of tradesmen. The builders, saddlers, coachbuilders, and wheelwrights keep about the same number of men employed, but not constantly; these, with few exceptions, are old hands. The rate of wage current is the same as shown in last year's report—i.e., carpenters and builders, 8s. to 10s. per day; coachbuilders, wheelwrights, and blacksmiths, from 1s. to 1s. 3d. per hour; saddlers from £2 to £2 10s. per week; bakers, £2 per week; and labourers and station hands no fixed rate. During the year, three amounts of £2 6s. 6d. each were collected from men to whom railway passes had been granted.

I have, &c.,
C. DILLON, C.P.S.,
Coonamble.

The Labour Agent, Cowra, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau, Sydney.

Sir, Court-house, Cowra, 19 July, 1898.
I have the honor to inform you that during the year ending 30th June, 1898, three persons only registered their names in the books of this office, to each of whom a pass was granted to proceed to shearing.

The following are the rates of wages and occupations in this district:—

Station hands	...	...	...	...	...	...	from 12s. to 25s. per week.
Cooks	...	...	...	...	...	...	„ 10s. „ 20s. „
Wheelwrights	...	...	...	...	...	...	„ 50s. „ 55s. „
Blacksmiths	...	...	...	...	...	...	„ 50s. „ £3 „
Carpenters	...	...	...	...	...	...	„ 50s. „ £3 „
Shearers	...	...	...	...	...	...	„ 18s. „ 20s. per 100 sheep.
Rouseabouts	...	...	...	...	...	...	„ 15s. „ 20s. per week.
Drapers	...	...	...	...	...	...	„ 30s. „ £4 „
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	„ 25s. „ £3 „
Miners	...	...	...	...	...	...	„ 45s. „ 50s. „

During the past year, a considerable increase in the avenues of employment has occurred in this district owing to mining operations and increased cultivation.

I have, &c.,
JAMES MILLER,
Agent.

The Labour Agent, Cobar, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau, Sydney.

Sir, Cobar, 16 July, 1898.
In forwarding my report for the past twelve months, I have the honor to state that the condition of the labour market has been good, owing to the flourishing state of the mining industry. I estimate that there are about 900 men employed in the various mines in the district, the current rate of wages being as follows:—

Underground foremen	...	...	...	...	...	...	10s. per day.
Miners	...	...	...	...	...	...	8s. 4d. per day.
Underground labourers	...	...	...	...	...	...	7s. 6d. „
Engine drivers	...	...	...	...	...	...	8s. 4d. to 10s. 6d. per day.
Smelters	...	...	...	...	...	...	7s. to 9s. per day.
Carpenters	...	...	...	...	...	...	8s. „ 10s. „
Blacksmiths	...	...	...	...	...	...	7s. „ 9s. „
Engineers and turners	...	...	...	...	...	...	8s. „ 10s. „
Surface labourers and firemen	...	...	...	...	...	...	7s. per day.
Boys	...	...	...	...	...	...	3s. to 6s. per day.

There have only been four persons registered for employment during the year, it being the custom of the men to apply personally at the mines.

There are many good mines in the district, and when they are more fully developed the labour market will improve accordingly.

Refunds amounting to £14 2s. 6d. have been received at this office during the past twelve months for railway passes issued from other districts.

I have, &c.,
JNO. B. GIBSON, Acting C.P.S.,
Bureau Agent.

The Labour Agent, Cooma, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau,
Sydney.

Sir,

Court-house, Cooma, 2 July, 1898.

I have the honor to submit my report:—

1. Number of men registered at this office during the past twelve months, 29.
2. The amounts paid direct to this office as refunds of railway fares totalled £72 7s.
3. Railway passes issued from this office from 1 July, 1897, to 30 June, 1898, total—28.
4. *Labour Market*.—There has been a slight, but steady, improvement during the past year. Inquiries for employment have been less numerous, and there are not so many of the unemployed to be seen as formerly. Gold having been found in apparently payable quantities near Cooma, a small rush took place, and all the available auriferous land was applied for by local men. This rush has absorbed from 75 to 100 men. The finding of this gold had the effect also of sending out several more men prospecting. Road-making in this district also finds work for a good many hands.
5. Grazing is the principal industry. The uncertainty of the Monaro climate renders agriculture a precarious pursuit. There are about two hundred (200) men employed as goldminers.
6. Wages—Goldminers 7s. per diem.
Contract labourers 6s. "
Ordinary labourers 5s. "
Mechanics 6s. "
Bush labourers, boundary riders, &c., about 20s. a week, with rations.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD GOMM,
Agent.

The Labour Agent, Cootamundra, to The Superintendent, Government Labour
Bureau, Sydney.

Sir,

Department of Labour and Industry, Cootamundra, 4 July, 1898.

I have the honor to inform you that for the year ending 30th June, 1898, as per my monthly returns, five persons registered at this Branch. These were people who had work to go to, but were unable to reach their destinations without help from the Bureau, so railway passes were issued to them. On the whole, during the last twelve months, there have been few *bona fide* unemployed in this district, and at the present time the town and district are singularly free from those who really want work and cannot get it. Since my last annual report, very important works have been carried out near this town. I refer to the deviation works on the railway line at Frampton, on the south of Cootamundra, some 7 miles from the town, and the deviation works at Jindalee, some 4 miles north of Cootamundra. These works gave employment to some 600 or 700 men for nearly a year, and although the bulk of labour was introduced (I think through the Head Office), yet employment was given to several of the local unemployed, and residents with horses and drays, &c., &c.; also, during the last six months work has been going on close to the town in connection with the new water supply. This work is nearing completion. In farming matters, ploughing is still going on, the late rains having proved very beneficial to farmers in this respect, and a larger area than last year will be put under cultivation. The rates of wage at present obtaining in this district are as follow:—

Book-keepers	average	£3 per week.
Clerks	"	15s. per week.
Masons (cutters)	"	9s. per day.
Carpenters	"	8s. per day.
Bricklayers	"	8s. and 9s. per day.
Millers	"	£2 10s. to £4 per week.
Grocers	"	£2 15s. per week.
Assistants	"	15s. per week.
Drapers	"	£1 10s. to £2 10s. per week.
Bakers	"	£1 10s. per week, and board.
Wheelwrights and Blacksmiths	"	8s. per day.
Plumbers	"	8s. per day.
Blacksmiths' apprentices	"	5s. to 15s. per week, and board.
Butchers	"	15s. to 25s. " "
Farm labourers	"	10s. to 15s. " "
Labourers	"	6s. per day.

The foregoing list is, I think, a pretty comprehensive one as far as labour in this district is concerned.

I have, &c.,

G. ADDISON,
Labour Agent.

The Labour Agent, Dubbo, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau,
Sydney.

Sir,

Labour Bureau, Dubbo, 11 July, 1898.

I have the honor to report as follows on transactions of this Branch for the year ending 30th June, 1898:—

Registration of Unemployed.—Only five men registered their names at this office during the past twelve months.

Passes Issued.—Five passes were issued with approval of Head Office.

Refunds.—13s. 3d. received.

State of Labour Market.—No demand for labour here—local supply sufficient. Police report numbers of unemployed are camped on the reserves near the town.

Employers of Labour.—No advantage has been taken of this branch by employers of labour.

Rate

Rate of Wages.—Farm hands (good), 15s. to £1, with rations; day labourers, 5s. to 6s. per diem; scrub cutting, ringbarking, timber getting are done by contract, wage earned varies a good deal.

Town Industries.—Flour-milling, coach-building, saw-milling, brewing, &c., wages average 8s. per diem; wool-washing and boiling-down establishments, wages 7s. to 8s. per diem.

Remarks.—There has not been a single instance of a man obtaining employment through the agency of this office since the establishment of this Branch.

I have, &c.,

R. T. McNEVIN,

Agent.

The Labour Agent, Forbes, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau,
Sydney.

Sir,

Department of Labour and Industry, Forbes, 19 July, 1898.

Herewith I submit annual report of operations of this office in connection with Labour Bureau.

1. *State of labour market.*—Only three inquiries during the year for employment. Those employers seeking labourers never make use of the office as a medium.

2. No difference in the rate of wages since last report.

3. The local office is very rarely made use of by those out of work, as a means of assistance to employment, and only one pass was issued during the year from this district.

I have, &c.,

H. S. HORNIMAN,

District Agent.

The Labour Agent, Grafton, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau,
Sydney.

Sir,

Department of Labour and Industry, Grafton, 3 July, 1898.

I have the honor to submit the annual report as to the operations of the Grafton Branch for the year ending 30th June, 1898.

The work done during the year has been very little indeed; only three men registered. With that exception, neither employers nor employees have made any use of this branch, either to secure labour or obtain employment.

There are a fair amount of unemployed in the district, but not in any great numbers, and employers find no difficulty in obtaining unskilled labour.

Of the various works in the district, the Ramornie Meat-works employed a good many hands during the year, but at the present time, owing to the tick scare, the work has fallen off a good deal.

Ordinary unskilled labourers get from 18s. to 25s. a week and a cooked ration. Tallow-makers, extract-makers, and firemen average from 35s. to 45s. a week and a ration.

Butchers make about 60s. a week, but receive no ration.

Contractors who do most of the skilled work themselves make about £6 a week.

The men working in the tinsmiths' portion of the works average from 40s. to 60s. a week.

The Fresh Food and Ice Company employ a good many hands, and have a fair number of applicants for work on their books.

The rates of wages at the sawmills are—Circular sawyer, 8s. 4d. a day; machinist, 7s.; launch-driver, 8s. 4d.; drayman, 6s. 8d.; engine-driver, 6s. 8d.; and other ordinary hands, 6s. per day.

There are a good many men looking for work of this class, but not so many as a few months ago.

Ordinary road labourers receive from 6s. to 7s. a day.

I have, &c.

OSMAN A. EDWARDS, C.P.S.,

Agent.

The Labour Agent, Glen Innes, to The Superintendent, Government Labour
Bureau, Sydney.

Sir,

Department of Labour and Industry, Glen Innes, 1 July, 1898.

I have the honor to forward herewith my annual report for the year ending 30th June, 1898, annexed hereto.

I have, &c.,

F. BURNE.

ANNUAL Report by the Labour Agent, of the Labour Bureau, Glen Innes, for the year ending the
30th June, 1898:—

Number of men registered during the year, 1.

„ obtaining passes during the year, 1.

„ „ employment during the year, 1.

„ receiving miners' rights during the year, Nil.

„ unemployed in the district, very fluctuating; the few men out of work are now absorbed in the public works in progress in the district.

New industries started in the district, Nil.

CURRENT Rate of Wages in the District:—

Carpenters	8s. per day.
Labourers (ordinary)	6s. „
„ (farm)	15s. per week, and found.
Butchers	40s. „
Station-hands	12s. 6d. per week, and found.
Tinsmiths	7s. to 8s. per day.
Carters	30s. per week.
Blacksmiths	8s. per day.
Bricklayers and Stonemasons	9s. „
Miners	7s. 6d. per day.
Painters	8s. „
Drapers	50s. per week.

The

The Labour Agent, Goulburn, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau, Sydney.

Sir,

Court-house, Goulburn, 13 July, 1898.

The transactions at this branch during the year ending 30th June last have been unimportant. Twenty-six names were registered during that period, and railway passes issued to thirty-six persons to enable them to proceed to employment in other parts of the Colony, including one gang of twelve men for the Government scrub-clearing works at the West Bogan.

No applications were received from private employers of labour, and there has been no local demand for labour of any kind.

The sum of £63 14s. 6d. was received on account of refunds for railway passes issued, and duly forwarded to the Treasury.

The rates of wages obtaining in this district are shown on list attached.

I have, &c.,

C. P. S. HEHN,

Local Agent.

WAGES obtaining in the Goulburn district during the year ending 30th June, 1898:—

Miners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35s. to 40s. per week.
Bootmakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30s. per week.
Carters	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30s. to 40s. per week.
Slaughtermen	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25s. per week.
Labourers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36s. "
Cooks (men)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20s. to 40s. per week.
Drovers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15s. and keep.
Millers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60s. per week.
Wheelwrights	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40s. to 50s. per week.
Shop Assistants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20s. to 70s. "

The Labour Agent, Hillston, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau, Sydney.

Sir,

Hillston, 5 July, 1898.

I have the honor to report that no business was transacted at this Branch during the year ended 30th June, 1898.

One person applied to me for passes for himself, wife, and child, but the distance being over 60 miles to where his employment was I communicated with the head office as prescribed, but he being anxious to leave here at once I advised him to endeavour to obtain the needed assistance privately. This he was successful in accomplishing. As regards the district generally I have to report that there are practically no unemployed.

The industries are the pastoral and agricultural for the most part, wages ranging from 10s. to 20s. per week and rations; and the supply of labour is equal to the demand.

I have, &c.,

W. LION VOLCKMAN,

Labour Agent.

The Labour Agent, Hay, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau, Sydney.

Sir,

Government Labour Bureau, Hay Branch, 11 July, 1898.

During the year ended 30th June last, only one person in want of employment was registered at this branch, and no applications for labour were made by employers. The collection of refunds for railway fares to the amount of £7 1s. 9d., and the rendering of monthly reports, principally nil, to you comprised my operations. The public have been made aware that the branch exists, but both masters and men appear to prefer dealing directly with each other. The disastrous drought, extending almost continuously over the last three years, has greatly reduced the demand for labour in this, practically, pastoral district, and enforced economy on the employers, which the employees have had to share. The ruling rates of wages in the principal branches of employment are subjoined:—

Blacksmiths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8s. to 9s. per day.
Bricklayers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10s. "
Carpenters	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8s. to 10s. "
Wheelwrights	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8s. " 9s. "
General labourers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6s. " 7s. "
Blacksmiths' assistants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20s. " 30s. per week.
Horse drivers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20s. " 25s. "
Gardeners and cooks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15s. " 30s. "
Boundary-riders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15s. " 25s. " and rations.

I have, &c.,

J. BURNETT,

Agent.

The Labour Agent, Junee, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau, Sydney.

Sir,

Department of Labour and Industry, Junee Branch, 4 July, 1898.

In submitting my report for the year ending the 30th June, ultimo, I have the honor to inform you that I had no applications during the year by either men for work or employers of labour; there appearing to have been no genuine unemployed in the district. There were the usual men who go round from house to house cadging what they can, too lazy to work.

The

The principal industries of the district are wheat and wool-growing, goldmining, iron-foundry, soapworks, and coach-builders, &c., and steam chaff-cutters.

It has been a very bad season for the farmers and graziers—in fact, all the industries—on account of the very dry weather, the rainfall in the district for the last twelve months being exceptionally small. For the year the following rates of wages were paid, viz.:—

Goldminers	from 40s. to 50s. per week
and per shift	7s. 6d.
Agricultural labourers	20s. per week and board.
General labourers	from 15s. to 20s. per week and board.
Blacksmiths and wheelwrights... ..	from 30s. „ 60s. „ „
Moulders	up to 60s. „ „
Steam chaff-cutter labourers	5s. per day, and rations. „
Carpenters	20s. to 30s. per week.
Painters	20s. „ 25s. „

I have, &c.,

W. THEO. GARLAND,

Labour Agent.

The Acting Clerk of Petty Sessions, Jerilderie, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau, Sydney.

Sir,

Department of Labour and Industry, Jerilderie Branch, 2 July, 1898.

I have the honor to forward herewith my annual report on this Branch for the year ending 30th June, 1898.

Only three men registered during the year. One found employment locally, and the other two registered with the intention of obtaining work under Government on the Berrigan to Finley railway extension, to which they think their registration ticket will entitle them.

Refunds for railway passes have been received, amounting to £4 3s. 8d.

The industries in this district are few, principally pastoral and farming.

The current rate of wages for the class of labour usually required, namely, station and farm-hands, is from 15s. to 20s. per week, with rations.

The long drought seriously interfered with agricultural operations and the employment of workmen.

From 1st January to date of report not quite 3 inches of rain has fallen in this district.

I have, &c.,

JOHN CURRY,

Acting C.P.S.

The Labour Agent, Kempsey, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau, Sydney.

Kempsey, 30 June, 1898.

THE operations of this Branch in finding labour for employers, work for employees, or in assisting the unemployed by the issue of miners' rights, passes, &c., have amounted to nil, there having been but two registrations during the year, and no inquiries of any other nature.

From inquiries I have made it appears that employers of labour requiring skilled workmen obtain the same direct from Sydney, instead of availing themselves of the advantages of this Branch, or of the Bureau. Of unskilled labour there is an ample supply in the district to meet present and future requirements.

The year has been, financially, in this district a successful one, largely owing to increased operations in dairy-farming and associate pursuits, and the consequent advance in price of stock. Money has been more plentiful and more generally distributed than has obtained for some years, but still there does not, as far as I can ascertain, appear to be any increased demand for labour. The usual harvesting operations have taken place, and the crop has, I understand, been relatively a good one, but all the necessary labour has been obtained locally, without difficulty. I have made personal inquiries from many of the employers of labour in this district, and they all agree that the local supply is more than the demand.

In order to afford the Department as much information as possible in regard to labour in this district, I have obtained, and submit hereunder, reports, very kindly forwarded to me, from three representative gentlemen—*i.e.*, David Houson, Esq., District Engineer for Trial Bay and Macleay District; E. F. East, Esq., Manager, Messrs. Foley Bros. Factory; and T. Hennessy, Esq., Proprietor Alpha Sawmills—which will, no doubt, be read with interest.

Mr. Houson reports:—“(1.) There has been a surplus of labour throughout the whole year in connection with works under my charge, both day labour and contract. (2.) Rates of wages paid: Inspectors and foremen, 10s. to 15s.; blacksmiths, 8s. to 11s.; ships' carpenters, 9s. (finding own tools); powdermen and gangers, 8s.; steam drill drivers, 7s. 6d.; labourers, 7s.; boys, 3s. to 5s. (3.) Importation of more machinery on works is likely to decrease rather than increase number of men employed, and there will, therefore, be less demand from outside sources for next twelve months on works. (4.) The local labour, being mostly farm-hands, is not suited for class of work we require. Still, numbers of them have, by steady attention to work, made themselves serviceable.”

Mr. East reports:—“In reply to yours of 24th, I may state that the wages paid range from 15s. to £3 per week; the former being for the general hands (boys), the latter being rate paid engineer. *Re* your inquiry as to obtaining labour locally, I may mention that all the hands at the Central Creamery had to be obtained outside the district, with exception of generals, in which supply has been more than required, the number of hands employed at Central and Branch Separating depôts being at present nine; possibly, however, the number will be increased during the next twelve months.”

Mr.

Mr. Hennessy reports:—"Your letter to hand of the 24th *re* the labour market of the district. I have not experienced any difficulty in obtaining men to do the work I required; in fact it is the other way about—I have more applicants than I have work for. The rates of wages generally paid are from 27s. 6d. to £2 per week. *Re* the prospect of there being an increased demand for labour during the next twelve months, I do not think there will be any great demand for labour. The only time the demand might increase is about Christmas-time—that is, about the time the timber trade is brisk, from December to about June or August."

The current rates of wages remain largely the same as reported to you last year, and may be scheduled as follows:—

Bullock-drivers	...	...	...	...	26s. to 30s. per week, and rations.
Bricklayers	...	...	...	...	8s. to 10s. per diem.
Blacksmiths	...	...	...	...	6s. to 8s. "
Carpenters	...	...	...	...	6s. to 12s. "
Carters	...	...	...	...	9s. to 10s. "
Farm labourers	...	...	...	...	10s. to 20s. per week, and rations.
Labourers	...	...	...	...	5s. to 6s. per diem.
Mill-hands	...	...	...	...	5s. to 7s. "
Plasterers	...	...	...	...	10s. to 12s. "
Painters	...	...	...	...	7s. to 10s. "
Station-hands	...	...	...	...	10s. to 20s. per week, and rations.
Wheelwrights	...	...	...	...	6s. to 10s. per diem.

I have, &c.,

HERBERT PHILLIPS,

Government Labour Agent.

The Labour Agent, Lithgow, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau, Sydney.

Sir,

Court-house, Lithgow, 4 July, 1898.

I have the honor to submit for your information my annual report with regard to this Branch. During the past year only six men have registered their names, and six found employment. Six railway passes have been issued, and the amount of refunds collected amounted to £2 7s. 3d. There are nine collieries in the district, which employ about 230 men; but owing to the railway contract having gone for at least half the trade to other districts, about sixty or seventy men have been dispensed with, and one colliery has shut down for the present. The ironworks have been constantly kept going, giving employment to about 200 men. The smelting-works employ 104 men. The Coorwull woollen-mills employ about twenty-three men, besides about twenty women, boys, and girls. There are also two breweries, employing about twenty-five men. I should estimate the number of men unemployed in the district at sixty.

The wages current here are as follows:—Miners receive 1s. 8d. per ton hewing rate, and average about 5s. per day; smelters, from 7s. 6d. to 9s. 6d. per day; labourers, from 6s. 6d. to 7s. 6d.; bricklayers, 9s.; carpenters and blacksmiths, 8s.; weavers earn from 22s. 6d. to 35s. at piecework; engineers and engine-drivers average 9s. per day.

I have, &c.

B. M. COHEN,

Labour Agent.

The Labour Agent, Lismore, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau, Sydney.

Sir,

Department of Labour and Industry, Lismore, 2 July, 1898.

In submitting my annual report for the year ended 30th June last, I have the honor to inform you that, so far as this branch of the Labour Bureau is concerned, there has been practically no business done, only one name being registered on the books, and one person found employment. No inquiries from the employers, and the only assistance given was that of issuing a railway pass to enable a family to proceed to the Tweed from Lismore.

In order to get the most reliable information concerning the district, I communicated with Messrs. F. S. Murray, resident engineer, of Lismore; W. T. Yeager, timber merchant, of Coraki; J. McBride, manager of the Rous Sugar-mill; J. Wyness, manager of the Colonial Sugar Company's Sugar-mill at Broadwater; and several other leading business men, all of whom very kindly supplied what I asked, and from these, besides my own personal observations, I am enabled to say that just at present there appears to be a number of unemployed in the district, most of whom, if not all, will be engaged in various ways during the cane season, when the sugar-mills will be in full work, and because of the good demand in Queensland, where almost double the quantity of any previous sugar crop has to be harvested. Many of the hands unemployed now would not have been only for the excessive wet weather during the past half-year. There have been over 50 inches of rain registered, making it impossible for the road contractors to go on with their work, and also causing the roads to become so bad, where not metalled, that it has been difficult to proceed with any kind of out-door work.

The Hindoos are not so much in evidence this year as last.

The dairying industry continues to thrive, there being many newcomers to the district during the year. Farms close to creamery centres are being much sought after, and freely taken up. I have heard of one farm of 500 acres, about 9 miles from Lismore, being let at £1 per acre per annum, for dairying purposes, whilst the reports from the various managers are highly satisfactory. As I stated last year, there is still a large area of valuable Crown land available for selection, especially under the homestead selection area, but being some distance out, and there being no roads, they are not being taken up; but whenever any reserve adjoining the populated places is thrown open there are always many applicants. I expect over 200 applicants for 125 acres at Newrybar on the 21st instant, the price per acre being £3 10s., whilst at Byron Bay last week a block of Crown land was purchased by a local resident at the rate of £600 per acre.

The

The cane crop promises to yield splendid returns this year, the season having been suitable, and, so far, no frost to destroy; and should the £3 per ton duty be retained, this industry is likely to look up again and prosper side by side with the dairying.

The timber trade is also active, though the bad roads has retarded it somewhat; nevertheless, all the saw-mills are in full work, several of them working overtime to complete large orders; and this points to the activity in the building trade. Several large buildings are being erected in Lismore, and others are spoken of, so that with the increased population of the district the town of Lismore is steadily advancing and holding its own as the "Queen City of the North."

The following is a list of the current rates of wages being paid throughout the district, viz.:—

Skilled Labour.

Engineers, fitters, and engine-drivers	27s. 6d. to 60s. per week, and found.
Firemen, &c.	27s. 6d. to 35s. " "
Carpenters	7s. per day.
Masons	8s. "
Bricklayers and plasterers	8s. "
Boilermakers and fitters	9s. "
Painters	6s. 6d. "
Plumbers	7s. 6d. "
Shipwrights	9s. 6d. "
Copper and brass workers	9s. "
Moulders	9s. "
Miners	7s. "

Contract Labour.

The average earnings per man in the cane-cutting gangs is 7s. 2d. per day, ranging from 6s. to 11s. per day; ditto, for bullock team and driver, 14s. 1d., ranging from 10s. to 22s. 6d. per day; ordinary labourers, working for contractors, 5s. to 7s. per day and found; ditto, on farms, &c., 15s. to 22s. 6d. per week and found; old men and youths get 10s. to 15s. per week and found.

The average number of men employed each month on roads and bridges in the Lismore District has been 140. During April 241 were employed. The number of employees at the Rous Sugar-mill during the crushing season is about 195, and during the off season, 93.

I have, &c.,

ANDREW T. COCHRANE,

C.P.S. and Labour Agent.

The Labour Agent, Mudgee, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau,
Sydney.

Sir,

Mudgee, 8 July, 1898.

In forwarding the annual report for the year ended 30th of June last, I have the honor to state that during the past year no registrations were effected, and only one railway pass was issued. I took over the duties on the 16th ultimo, since when no applications have been made to me, and judging from my predecessor's reports, this office is not extensively used as a means of bringing employer and employee together. I cannot hear of any demand for labour, and there seems to be a number of unemployed about the district at present. Mining matters are quiet, with the exception of an alluvial find some 27 miles from here, which has yet to be proved. I have, therefore, to conclude my report by stating that at present the current rate of wages for mine labourers is 7s. 6d. per diem; farm labourers, 5s. per diem; and station-hands average 20s. per week with keep.

I have, &c.,

D. G. M'DOUGALL,

Agent.

The Labour Agent, Molong, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau,
Sydney.

Sir,

Molong, 2 July, 1898.

I have the honor to report that during the year ended 30th June, 1898, no applications, either by employers or by persons seeking employment, have been made at this office. The same report was made for the year ending 30th June, 1897.

The labour register at this office does not contain a single entry. The only work performed during the year was the furnishing each month of reports to the effect that no names had been registered; no refunds of any description made, and that the state of the labour market remained unaltered. The prevailing rate of wage for the class of labour usually employed, namely, farm and station-hands, being from 12s. 6d. to 15s. per week with rations.

This report as to the state of the labour market applies to the whole year.

I have, &c.,

F. S. MURRAY,

Labour Agent.

The Labour Agent, Maitland, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau,
Sydney.

Sir,

Court-house, Maitland, 1 July, 1898.

I have the honor to submit the following report on the operations of this Branch for the year ending 30th June, 1898.

Forty-four persons have been registered at this office during the year. Of these twenty-eight were granted passes as approved by you.

This Branch has not been largely used during the past year, as there has not been a great demand for labour, nor on the whole has there been employment sought.

There

There has been a great many tramps in the town who have not sought permanent work, but have been content with odd jobs, and then move on. These tramps do not actually want work, but as long as they can beg tucker are quite content; of course there are a few exceptions.

The principal industries in the district are mining and farming, and these are well supplied with all the labour that they are likely to require during the ensuing year.

The rate of wages during the year have been as follows:—Ordinary labourers, 5s. to 6s. per day; miners, 6s. to 8s. per day; mechanics, 6s. to 8s. per day; carpenters, 7s. to 8s. per day; bricklayers, plasterers, and masons, 8s. to 10s. per day; farm labourers, 10s. to 12s. per week.

I have, &c.,
W. MARSH,
Labour Agent.

The Labour Agent, Moree, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau,
Sydney.

Court-house, Moree, 1 July, 1898.

I HAVE the honor to report that during the year ending 30th June, 1898, the operations of the Moree Branch of the Labour Bureau have consisted principally of forwarding the monthly returns showing the rates of wages for the district, the information being obtained, as suggested by you, through the sergeant of police, whose long experience in this district and accurate knowledge of local conditions can be relied upon in such matters. It will be observed that the rates of wages are much the same. The extension of the town is delayed in consequence of difficulty in obtaining timber, grass being scarce; teams are therefore not available. Rain, however, has recently fallen, and during the coming year there will be a large number of houses erected. There should be therefore employment for persons in the building trade. The houses built here are nearly all of wood. An application was made a few months ago by a local contractor for six carpenters and forwarded to the Government Labour Bureau, Sydney.

The construction of the Moree to Inverell railway has during the past few weeks brought a considerable number of men to the district.

There have been no entries made in the unemployed register during the year, and, except the application above referred to, there has been no applications for employment. On the whole, the Moree Branch of the Government Labour Bureau has worked smoothly, there has been no friction of any kind, and it has no doubt filled satisfactorily the object on which it has been established.

I attach hereto the rates of wages paid by employes in this district.

I have, &c.,
T. G. ADRIAN, C.P.S.,
Labour Agent.

Rates of Wages at Moree to 30th June, 1898.

	£	s.	d.	
Station clerks	50	0	0	per annum, and rations.
Station boys	18	0	0	" " "
Farm labourers	50	0	0	" " "
General labourers	50	0	0	" " "
Domestic servants	26	0	0	" " "
Printers	2	10	0	per week.
Editor of paper	3	5	0	"
Compositors	1	15	0	"
Carpenters	0	9	0	per day.
Painters	0	10	3	"
Bricklayers	0	11	0	"
Hotel grooms... ..	1	5	0	per week.
Shoe blacks	1	0	0	"
Hotel cooks	1	10	0	"
Boundary riders	50	0	0	per annum, and rations.
Drapers	2	10	0	per week.
Horse drivers	1	5	0	"
Grooms on stations	50	0	0	per annum, and rations.
Fencers	1	10	0	per week.
Gardeners	1	5	0	"
Station-hands	1	0	0	"

The Labour Agent, Muswellbrook, to The Superintendent, Government Labour
Bureau, Sydney.

Sir,

Muswellbrook, 30 June, 1898.

I do myself the honor to report that matters in connection with this branch of your Department have for the last twelve months (ending to-day) been quiet, and the refunds to this branch amount to £17 0s. 9d.

As far as I am able to ascertain, wages in this district are as ruling generally, and there does not appear to be any unemployed.

I have, &c.,
J. KINGSMILL,
Agent.

The Labour Agent, Newcastle, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau, Sydney.

Newcastle, 18 July, 1898.

SCHEDULE showing approximately the number of persons employed, the number unemployed, and the rates of wages in the various trades mentioned, in the Newcastle District to June, 1898.

Class of Employment.	Rates of Wages.	Number employed.	Number unemployed.
Wharf labourers	1s. per hour	80	50
Carpenters	8s. to 9s. per day	300	50
Bricklayers	9s. to 10s. "	30	40
Plasterers	9s. "	20	30
Shop assistants	35s. per week	500	40
Carters	35s. "	550	49
Miners	2s. 11d. per ton hewing rate	5,000	200
Joiners	9s. per day	60	10
Bricklayers' labourers	8s. "	40	30
Printers	8s. "	70	10
Stone masons	9s. to 10s. per day	60	12
Clerks	35s. per week	600	70
Plumbers	9s. to 10s. per day	60	10
	Total	7,370	592

Miners' average earnings, 7s. 6d. to 9s. per day when in work. The miners unemployed are chiefly those at Dudley Colliery.

During the year 1st July, 1897, to 30th June, 1898, 165 applicants for employment have been registered in the books of the Newcastle Branch of the Government Labour Bureau, and 137 persons have been assisted with passes. Refunds of railway fares have been made to the amount of £70 19s. 6d. by persons assisted to employment by the Branch.

There is not likely to be any demand for outside labour in the district during the ensuing year.

W. ROBERTSON,
Agent.

The Labour Agent, Nowra, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau, Sydney.

Sir,

Department of Labour and Industry, 2 July, 1898.

I beg to report that during the year ended the 30th June last no employers applied for registration at this office, and only three men applied to be registered for employment.

The state of the labour market in the district has been satisfactory, and from reports obtained by me I ascertained that there were few unemployed to be found.

Mechanics, such as carpenters and builders, appeared to experience most difficulty in obtaining suitable employment, but farm labourers and others could obtain employment at a fair rate of wages.

Numbers of men found employment on the gold-mines in the district and received good returns.

The district being chiefly an agricultural one very little change takes place in the labour market, and men can always be found locally to supply the demands of the district. I submit hereunder the average rate of wages:—

Bricklayers	...	...	...	...	...	8s. per diem.
Carpenters	...	...	...	...	...	7s. "
Stonemasons	...	...	...	...	...	8s. "
Painters	...	...	...	...	...	7s. "
Labourers	...	...	...	...	...	6s. "
Farm labourers	...	...	...	...	...	20s. per week, or 10s. with board.
Plumbers	...	...	...	...	...	7s. 6d. per diem.
Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	30s. per week, with board.
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	25s. " "

I have, &c.,
W. F. MARKS,
Agent.

The Labour Agent, Nyngan, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau, Sydney.

Sir,

Nyngan, 4 July, 1898.

In furnishing my Annual Report, I have the honor to state that during the year ending the 30th June, 1898, the following business was transacted at this Branch:—

Men registered	...	...	...	...	...	286
Refunds collected	...	...	...	...	...	£4 19s. 6d.

It is not to be understood that the large number of unemployed registered was contributed solely by this district—90 per cent. of the total number consist of men attracted from foreign districts to the West Bogan Scrub work provided by the Government, the remaining 10 per cent. representing district unemployed who sought the assistance of the Bureau.

There is little variation in the state of the local labour market from time to time, save a few deserving men. The unemployed element is supplied chiefly by periodical workers, who work only when other resources fail. For local men, who are genuine in their desire for employment, the steady development of agriculture and the increasing occupation of surrounding Crown land will ensure a regular means of earning a livelihood.

I have, &c.,
M. G. McMAHON,
Local Agent.

The

The Labour Agent, Narrabri, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau,
Sydney.

Sir, Department of Labour and Industry, Narrabri, 9 July, 1898.

I have the honor to forward herewith the Annual Report for this Branch for the year ended 30th June, 1898.

The following are the particulars of the work done at this Branch for the period above mentioned :—

Passes issued	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Registrations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Refunds received	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.

During the early part of the past year, work appeared to be scarce, but since January, 1898, work in the building line has been fairly good and still continues so. The district pursuits being chiefly pastoral only the ordinary station-hands are generally employed, the wages paid being as follows :—

Boundary riders	...	...	...	...	...	...	20s. per week and rations.
General hands...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15s. " "

The meat preserving and chilling works, which were in operation last year, have since been converted into a butchering business, the wages there paid being as follows :—

Butchers—							
Slaughtermen	...	...	...	...	...	...	45s. per week.
Assistant slaughtermen	...	...	...	...	...	...	30. "
Carters	...	...	...	...	...	...	30s. and rations.
General hands	...	...	...	...	...	...	24s. to 30s. per week.
Store hands—							
Drapers	...	...	...	...	...	...	from 70s. per week.
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	from 50s. "
Carpenters	...	...	...	...	...	...	from 7s. to 8s. per day.
Bricklayers	...	...	...	...	...	...	8s. per day.
Stonemasons	...	...	...	...	...	...	9s. "
Quarrymen	...	...	...	...	...	...	9s. "
Wheelwrights, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	from 8s. to 10s. per day.

There are a number of timber-cutters employed in the district now carrying out some large contracts for ironbark railway sleepers, but I understand they are paid at per sleeper.

I have, &c.,
WALTER SCOTT,
Labour Agent.

The Labour Agent, Orange, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau,
Sydney.

Sir, Department of Labour and Industry, Orange, 1 July, 1898.

I do myself the honor to submit my report for the year ended 30th June, 1898.

Men Registered.—Five men were registered during the year, four of whom were found employment.

Railway Passes.—Four railway passes were issued under instructions from Head Office.

Demand for Labour.—There has been no demand for labour.

Rate of Wages.—Farm labourers, from 15s. to 20s. per week with rations; miners, from 30s. to 45s. per week.

Refunds.—The sum of £23 12s. 5d. was refunded for railway passes.

I have, &c.,
HENRY J. LEARY,
Local Agent.

The Labour Agent, Queanbeyan, to The Superintendent, Government Labour
Bureau, Sydney.

Sir, Department of Labour and Industry, Queanbeyan, 1 July, 1898.

I have the honor to submit the following report on the operations of this Branch during the year ended, 30th June, 1898.

Twenty-four applicants for labour were registered, of whom thirteen found employment, and one, who asked only for a miner's right, is since dead.

The applicants were in all cases either local men or from the immediately adjoining districts.

Beyond a few Government road contracts there is little work now going on in this district and insufficient to supply the local needs.

I append a list of current rates of wages:—

List of current rates of Wages.

Carpenters	...	...	...	...	...	...	7s. to 10s. per day.
Bricklayers	...	...	...	...	...	...	9s. per day.
Stonemasons	...	...	...	...	...	...	7s. to 10s. per day.
Plasterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	10s. per day.
Painters	...	...	...	...	...	...	8s. to 10s. per day.
Tinsmiths	...	...	...	...	...	...	9s. per day.
Labourers	...	...	...	...	...	...	5s. to 7s. per day.
Boundary riders	...	...	...	...	...	...	15s. per week, and rations.
Station-hands	...	...	...	...	...	...	15s. " "
Blacksmiths	...	...	...	...	...	...	40s. to 50s. per week.
Wheelwrights	...	...	...	...	...	...	40s. to 50s. "
Compositors	...	...	...	...	...	...	30s. to 40s. "
Storekeepers' assistants	...	...	...	...	...	...	20s. to 50s. "
Saddlers	...	...	...	...	...	...	30s. to 35s. "
Clerks	...	...	...	...	...	...	20s. to 30s. "
Cooks (female and general servants)	...	...	...	...	...	...	8s. to 14s., and board.
Housemaids	...	...	...	...	...	...	4s. to 8s. per week, and board.
Laundresses	...	...	...	...	...	...	4s. per day.
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	15s. to 25s. per week.
Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	50s. per week.
Carters	...	...	...	...	...	...	5s. per day.

H. J. JEFFREYS,
Labour Agent.

The Labour Agent, Tamworth, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau,
Sydney.

Sir,

Tamworth, 5 July, 1898.

I have the honor to inform you that very little work has been done in this Office during the year ending the 30th ultimo. I give heroin the rates of wages, but there is nothing in this district from one year's end to another that can possibly materially effect the condition of the labour market, or the rate of wages, and it is therefore to be regretted that time has to be taken up month after month in writing the same particulars to you for perusal. There are not many unemployed here now though it would be difficult to state a number. The work in connection with the water supply is almost completed, and the contractors for the Tamworth to Manilla railway line seem to have no difficulty in obtaining men.

Only three persons have had their names registered during the past year, one person was granted a pass, and no employers have inquired here for men.

RATES of Wages.

Saddlers and harness-makers	...	...	...	...	...	...	45s. to 70s. per week.
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	40s. to 50s. "
Drapers	...	...	...	...	...	...	40s. to 60s. "
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	30s. to 42s. "
Hairdressers	...	...	...	...	...	...	40s. to 60s. "
Ironmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	40s. to 50s. "
Store-carters	...	...	...	...	...	...	30s. to 40s. "
Millers	...	...	...	...	...	...	50s. to 63s. "
Carpenters	...	...	...	...	...	...	42s. to 60s. "
Bootmakers...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30s. to 42s. "
General labourers	...	...	...	...	...	...	5s. to 8s. per day.
Municipal labourers	...	...	...	...	...	...	..... 6s. "
Coach and body builders	...	...	...	...	...	...	42s. to 50s. per week.
Painters and finishers	...	...	...	...	...	...	42s. to 50s. "
Blacksmiths...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42s. to 50s. "

Of course indifferent workers earn less and good men more in some instances than the rates given.

I have, &c.,

LACHLAN W. BROUGHTON,
Labour Agent.

The Labour Agent, Tenterfield, to The Superintendent, Government Labour
Bureau, Sydney.

Sir,

Department of Labour and Industry, Tenterfield, 11 July, 1898.

I have the honor to submit herewith my Annual Report for the year ending 30th June, 1898. During the past year no persons have made application for registration of their names for employment. The usual road and bridge work in the district has been carried out by contract and day labour, but the amount of work going on has been scarcely sufficient to absorb the local demand outside of those in regular employment. The Chilled Meat Works have ceased operations, and the Boot Factory has not for some time been employing the full complement of hands.

The

The ruling rate of wages in the district for labour of all classes is as below :—

Bakers	25s. to 30s. per week.
Butchers	25s. to 30s. „
Tinsmiths	8s. to 10s. per day.
Carpenters	8s. to 10s. „
Blacksmiths	8s. to 9s. „
Labourers (ordinary)... ..	7s. per day.
Do (farm)	15s. per week, with rations.
Compositors, bootmakers, &c.	40s. „
Drapers and grocers... ..	40s. to 50s. per week.
Domestic servants	7s. to 10s. „ and keep.
Carters and stockmen	15s. to 20s. „ and rations.

I have, &c.,

W. C. GEIKIE,
Labour Agent.

The Labour Agent, Wagga Wagga, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau, Sydney.

Sir,

Court-house, Wagga Wagga, 5 July, 1898.

With reference to the labour market in this district, I have the honor to report that for the past twelve months the demand for tradesmen in the building trades has been better than the previous year. The labouring classes have severely felt the effects of three previous years' drought.

The supply of ploughmen has been far in excess of demand, good and regular hands receiving about £1 per week. Contracts for grubbing, clearing, &c., have been far fewer this year than last, thus materially affecting ordinary unskilled labour and entailing more distress than formerly. Labouring men, married and single, in town have in a number of cases been put to sore straits to avoid destitution.

Rate of wages of ordinary bush labourers, 15s. to £1 per week; old men and boys less.

One second-class railway ticket issued to J. A.—— in August, 1897; 5 second-class railway tickets issued to Mrs. H. S. R.——, May, 1898.

PHILIP E. ELDERSHAW,
C.P.S., and Labour Agent.

The Labour Agent, Walgett, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau, Sydney.

Sir,

Labour Agency, Walgett, 18 July, 1898.

In accordance with your instructions, I have the honor to forward you an Annual Report for year ending 30 June, 1898. No applications for employment have been made, and no engagements have been made through this Branch. During the past year the labour market in this district has been well supplied, and was quite equal to the demand for labour. The labour portion of the district is a moving one, and during the shearing season a large number of persons arrive in the district in search of employment in connection with the wool industry.

During the off season numbers of men are to be seen travelling in search of employment at the various stations throughout the district. As this district is purely a pastoral one, there is no great demand for labour, except in connection with the following occupations, the current rate of wages being as follows :—

General hands	15s. to 20s. per week.
Cooks	15s. to 30s. „
Boundary riders	15s. to 20s. „
Shearers	17s. 6d. to 20s. per hundred.
Teamsters	20s. per week.
Burr cutters	15s. „

The only industries in the district comprise wool-washing, saw-milling, and a wheelwright and blacksmith's shop, and the average rate of wages paid is from 6s. to 7s. per day. A good deal of ring-barking has been carried on throughout the district during the past year, owing to a number of new settlers taking up land; but this work is generally carried out by Chinese, at from 5½d. to 9d. per acre.

Employers throughout this district appear to have no difficulty in obtaining men when required, and consequently do not make use of this Branch when in search of employees.

I have, &c.,

W. STURROCK,
Labour Agent.

The Labour Agent, Wilcannia, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau, Sydney.

Sir,

Court-house, Wilcannia, 30 June, 1898.

I have the honor to report that since the Government Labour Bureau Agency has been established here there have been no applications either by employers or employees. The principal labour employed in this district is station-hands, and the current rates of wage is: Married couples, £65 to £75 per annum; teamsters, 25s. per week; cooks, 20s. to 25s.; boundary-riders, 15s. to 20s.; general hands, 15s. to 20s.; shearers, 20s. per 100 sheep; shed-hands and rouseabouts, 20s. to 25s. per week. The demand generally is far less than the supply.

I have, &c.,

J. W. FLETCHER,
Labour Bureau Agent.

The Labour Agent, Wollongong, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau, Sydney.

Sir,

Court-house, Wollongong, 6 July, 1898.

I have the honor to report nine persons seeking employment were registered at this branch during the year ending 30th June, 1898; four of these received railway passes to go to employment elsewhere. The trades of those registered were blacksmiths, 1; labourers, 3; farmers, 1; engineers, 1; coalminers, 2; goldminer, 1; 5 were married and 4 single.

The amount of £2 6s. 6d. was received as refund.

Practically there has been no business of importance transacted during the year. The employers of labour have not sought the assistance of the branch.

The ruling rate of current wages is as follows:—Carpenters, 6s. to 8s. per day; blacksmiths, 9s. per day; strikers, 5s. to 6s. per day; coalminers, 30s. to £2 per week; navvies, 6s. to 7s. per day; labourers, 6s. per day; bricklayers, 8s. to 9s. per day; farm labourers, 8s. to 12s. per week with board; bushmen and fencers, about 30s. per week; butchers, 30s. per week and meat; bakers, £2 10s. per week; barbers, £1 per week and board; grooms, 10s. per week and board; wharf labourers, 6s. per day; coal-trimmers, about 15s. to £1 per day; compositors, £1 to £1 15s. per week; moulders, 8s. to 9s. per day; fitters, 8s.; brass finishers, 8s.; iron-turners, 7s. 6d.; coach-body-makers, 8s.; coach-trimmers, 8s.; coach-painters, 8s.; brickmakers, 6s. 6d. to 7s.; tailors, 7s. to 8s.

H. S. BINGLE,
Labour Agent.

The Labour Agent, Young, to The Superintendent, Government Labour Bureau, Sydney.

Sir,

Labour Agency, Young, 7 July, 1898.

I have the honor to report that during the year ending 30th June last five railway passes were issued to persons who had obtained employment elsewhere, as follows:—One to Groongal, two to Cobar, and two Nyngan. Owing to the severe and protracted drought which the district has experienced, the demand for labour has been much in excess of requirements, but the recent rains have given an impetus to mining and farming operations, and there would not appear to be, at the present time, many unemployed in the district. The following are the rates of wages ruling throughout the year:—Miners, 50s. per week; carpenter, 8s. to 10s. per day; bricklayers, 9s. to 10s. per day; blacksmiths and tinsmiths, 40s. to 50s. per week; painters, 8s. per day; stonemasons, 11s. per day; and farm labourers, 15s. to 20s. per week.

I have, &c.,

P. W. COLLINS,
Labour Agent.

NUMBER of Men registered and found Employment at the Country Branches for the Year ending 30th, June 1898.

Branches.	July.	August.	Sept.	October.	Nov.	Dec.	January.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	Total for the Year.													
	No. Registered. Found Employment.	No. Registered. Found Employment.	No. Registered. Found Employment.	No. Registered. Found Employment.	No. Registered. Found Employment.	No. Registered. Found Employment.	No. Registered. Found Employment.	No. Registered. Found Employment.	No. Registered. Found Employment.	No. Registered. Found Employment.	No. Registered. Found Employment.	No. Registered. Found Employment.	No. Registered.	Found Employment.												
Armidale	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	2	2		
Albury	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bega	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bathurst	3	5	9	11	1	4	1	1	..	..	..	..	15	21								
Bourke	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	3	3				
Broken Hill	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	3	3				
Braidwood	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	2			
Coonamble	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cowra	2	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	4				
Cobar	..	..	2	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	3			
Cooma	11	11	14	14	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	44	44					
Cootamundra	2	2	1	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	5	5						
Dubbo	1	1	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	3	3					
Forbes	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2		
Grafton	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	2	2			
Glen Innes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	2	2		
Goulburn	13	7	8	13	1	..	1	1	1	1	..	1	20	29												
Hillston	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hay	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	
Junee	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Jerilderie	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2		
Kempsey, West	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lithgow	..	3	3	3	3	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	8	8									
Lismore	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1			
Mudgee	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1		
Molong	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Maitland, East	20	11	12	8	1	..	5	5	1	1	1	2	44	38												
Morce	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Muswellbrook	11	10	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	10				
Newcastle	36	32	17	17	8	5	4	4	3	3	1	3	101	117												
Nowra	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	
Nyngan	26	..	35	..	28	..	31	..	37	..	32	..	281	..												
Narrabri	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Orange	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Queanbeyan	11	3	..	1	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	24	4								
Tanna orth	1	11	8	1	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	5	11								
Tenterfield	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	
Wagga Wagga	17	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	1				
Walgett	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wilcannia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wollongong	2	2	..	2	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	9	4								
Young	..	3	3	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	5					
	158	87	122	87	52	17	38	1	51	6	46	8	55	9	25	8	120	46	13	0	20	10	10	3	715	293

1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

GOVERNMENT RELIEF WORKS.

(RETURN SHOWING MEN EMPLOYED ON RAILWAY DEVIATION WORK, CENTENNIAL PARK WORK, SHEA'S CREEK, MUDDY CREEK, AND THE SEWAGE FARM WORK.)

Printed under No. 13 Report from Printing Committee, 24 November, 1898.

RETURNS to *Orders* of the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 31st August, 1898, That there be laid upon the Table of this House, a Return showing,—

- “(1.) The number of men sent by the Labour Bureau, or otherwise, to railway deviation work during the year ended 30th June last.
“(2.) The total cost of such work for the year.
“(3.) The number of men employed on railway deviations now; and the weekly cost of same.
“(1.) The number of men who were employed at sand-shifting or other relief work on the Centennial Park during the year ended 30th June last.
“(2.) The total cost of such work, including all wages, rations, &c.
“(3.) The number of men employed there now, and the weekly cost of same.
“(1.) The number of men employed in connection with the works at Shea's Creek, Muddy Creek, and the Sewage Farm, and any other works connected therewith, during the year ended 30th June last.
“(2.) The total cost of such works during the year.
“(3.) The number of men employed on either of such works now, and the weekly cost of same.
“(1.) The number of men employed scrub-cutting during the year ended 30th June last, including all gangs sent to the Murray, West Bogan, or any other district.
“(2.) The total cost of such work for the year, including all rations, water, and other expenses.
“(3.) The number of men now employed on such work, and the total weekly cost.”

(*Mr. Perry.*)

Description and Locality of Work.	No. of men employed during the year ended 30th June, 1898.	No. of men sent from Government Labour Bureau during year ended 30th June, 1898.	No. of men now employed.	Average weekly cost.	Total cost for the year.
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Stock route clearing, Wagga Wagga District	148	25	20	50 0 0	6,578 15 0
Forest-thinning, Murray River and Narrandera	274*	69	Nil.	.....	10,332 0 1
Scrub-cutting, West Bogan	548	548	400	.....	38,644 3 9
	970	642	420	.....	55,554 18 10
Railway deviation.....		373	773	1,274 0 0	103,080 0 0
Sand-shifting, Centennial Park.....	1,107 (turns)†		51	366 0 0	2,000 0 0
Shea's Creek	71		11	8 10 7	11,301 9 1
Muddy Creek	13		1	2 2 0	593 11 10
Sewage Farm.....	103		50	90 0 0	10,628 12 7
Cook's River	18		17	35 10 0	3,085 6 9

* From 1st July, 1897, to 17th January, 1898, when work ceased.

† This number does not necessarily represent the individual workers, some men receiving more than one turn.

580 copies—Approximate Cost of Printing (labour and material), £1 5s. 0d.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES.

(REPORT.)

Printed under No. 1 Report from Printing Committee, 6 September, 1898.

The Chairman of the Board for International Exchanges to The Chief Secretary.

Sir,

Board for International Exchanges, Sydney, 8 August, 1898.

On behalf of the Board for International Exchanges, I have the honor to submit a report of the work done by the Board since its reorganisation, as published in the *Government Gazette* of 11th September, 1896, to the 31st December, 1897.

Number of letters and circulars despatched, 608.

Number of parcels despatched, 1,119.

Number of cases despatched, 23, containing 76 parcels.

Number of cases received, 21, containing 268 parcels for transmission to local addresses.

Number of documents received and presented by the Board to various Government Departments, 1,130.

Recognising the importance of placing most of the official publications received from foreign countries in a centre where they would be accessible to all Government Departments in common with the general public, the Board decided that the Public Library of New South Wales was the most suitable place, and so out of 1,130 documents received 874 were handed to that institution.

The expenses of the Board, as shown by cheques drawn, during the period of fifteen months were £89 10s. 9d.—a small sum considering the amount of work done. The Board has exercised the greatest economy wherever possible, and has considerably reduced the expense of transmission by using the book and parcel posts when convenient.

A system of regular exchanges has been established between this Colony and the Governments of Great Britain, United States, France, Belgium, and Germany, and it is hoped that the system will be further extended during the year 1898 to include the individual States of the United States of America.

While the Chairman was in England in 1897 he had several interviews with the Agent-General and the Colonial Office, and was successful in inaugurating a system whereby the most important of the publications of Her Majesty's Stationery Office will be forwarded during 1898 in monthly instalments, instead of annual consignments as heretofore, thus saving a delay varying from twelve to twenty months.

The Chairman also obtained, through the Board, for the Public Library of New South Wales, the whole of the valuable publications of the Library and the Natural History Department of the British Museum, now in print. The money value of this donation is over £400.

One of the first things the Board did on taking office was to send a circular to the Departments asking to be furnished with a list of the official publications regularly received by them from other countries, and a list of such publications, not now received, that were desired. The replies have been tabulated, so that the exchanges received by the Board may in future be allocated to those Departments to whom they will be most serviceable.

HENRY C. L. ANDERSON,
Chairman.

1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

—
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

LAND FRONTING THROSBY AND COTTAGE CREEKS,
SOLD BY A. A. DANGAR, ESQ. ;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE,

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND

APPENDIX.

Printed under No. 9 Report from Printing Committee, 27 October, 1898.

SYDNEY: WILLIAM APPELGATE GULLICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

—
1898.

1896.

**EXTRACT FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.**

VOTES No. 34. TUESDAY, 28 JULY, 1896.

6. LAND FRONTING THROSBY AND COTTAGE CREEKS, SOLD BY A. A. DANGAR, ESQ.:—Mr. Fegan moved, pursuant to Notice,—
- (1.) That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into and report upon the sale of land by A. A. Dangar, Esq., at Wickham, fronting Throsby Creek and Cottage Creek.
- (2.) That such Committee consist of Mr. Carruthers, Mr. O'Sullivan, Mr. Travers Jones, Mr. Sleath, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Edden, Mr. Wheeler, Mr. Dick, Mr. Nicholson, and the Mover.
- Debate ensued.
- Question put and passed.
-

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

**EXTRACTS FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.**

VOTES No. 7. TUESDAY, 30 AUGUST, 1898.

11. LAND FRONTING THROSBY AND COTTAGE CREEKS, SOLD BY A. A. DANGAR, ESQ.:—Mr. Fegan moved, pursuant to Notice,—
- (1.) That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into and report upon the sale of land by A. A. Dangar, Esq., at Wickham, fronting Throsby Creek and Cottage Creek.
- (2.) That such Committee consist of Mr. Carruthers, Mr. O'Sullivan, Mr. Perry, Mr. Sleath, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Edden, Mr. Nobbs, Mr. Dick, Mr. Nicholson, and the Mover.
- (3.) That the Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence of the Select Committee of Session 1896 be referred to such Committee.
- Question put and passed.
-

VOTES No. 31. WEDNESDAY, 26 OCTOBER, 1898.

6. LAND FRONTING THROSBY AND COTTAGE CREEKS, SOLD BY A. A. DANGAR, ESQ.:—Mr. Fegan, as Chairman, brought up the Report from, and laid upon the Table the Minutes of Proceedings of, and Evidence taken before the Select Committee for whose consideration and report this subject was referred on 30th August, 1898, together with Appendix.
- Referred by Sessional Order to the Printing Committee.
-

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1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

**LAND FRONTING THROSBY AND COTTAGE CREEKS, SOLD BY
A. A. DANGAR, ESQ.**

REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly appointed on the 30th August, 1898,—“to inquire into and report upon the sale of land by A. A. Dangar, Esq., at Wickham, fronting Throsby Creek and Cottage Creek,” and to whom was referred on the same date “the Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence of the Select Committee of Session 1896,”—have agreed to the following Report:—

Your Committee having examined the witness named in the margin* (and ^{H. J. Brown.} considered the evidence referred), find:—

1. That in 1840 20 acres of land fronting Throsby and Cottage Creeks, which forms the subject of the Committee's inquiry, was bought from the Government by Richard Tasker Furlong for the sum of £240.
2. That some years afterwards the land passed into the possession of Albert Augustus Dangar, to whom it was devised by his mother, a relative of Richard Tasker Furlong.
3. That between the periods from 1874 to 1885 portions of the land were sold by Mr. Dangar by public auction, and the purchasers were of opinion that there was no reservation of the foreshore, which opinion is endorsed by Mr. H. J. Brown, a solicitor of large experience in conveyancing.
4. That some years later the Government notified the various purchasers that the land which they had purchased, being on the foreshore, was the property of the Crown, and also intimated that preference would be given to the then holders of the land to purchase from the Government.
5. That the case of George Edward Redman, cordial manufacturer, is one of peculiar hardship, he having bought at one of these auction sales a portion of land for which he paid £1,000, and on which he subsequently placed improvements to the value of £1,100.
6. That Redman was offered and accepted £5,000 for the land; but subsequent investigation disclosed a defect in the title, and the Bank, which had advanced him a large sum in connection with his business, foreclosed, and took possession not only of the land which Redman had purchased, but also of a large portion which he had added to it by reclamation.
7. That the Bank had subsequently to pay the Crown £2,000 for the land which Redman had purchased and improved, and before he could resume business operations he had to pay the Bank £2,500.
8. That the Government, in resuming the land contained within the 100 feet reservation, have inflicted great hardship on the purchasers at the auction sales above mentioned, who, prior to the claim made by the Crown, considered their titles to the land were valid.

Your Committee therefore recommend the cases of the holders of land fronting Throsby and Cottage Creeks to the favourable consideration of the Government.

JOHN L. FEGAN,
Chairman.

No. 1 Committee Room,
Legislative Assembly,
26th October, 1898.

1896.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

WEDNESDAY, 29 JULY, 1896.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Edden,	|	Mr. Fegan,
Mr. Nicholson,	|	Mr. Wheeler.

Mr. Fegan called to the Chair.

Entry from Votes and Proceedings appointing the Committee read by the Clerk.
Committee deliberated.[Adjourned till To-morrow at *Half-past Eleven* o'clock.]

THURSDAY, 30 JULY, 1896.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Fegan in the Chair.		
Mr. Travers Jones,	|	Mr. Nicholson,
	|	Mr. Wheeler.

John Mann (*Clerk, Registrar-General's Department*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness produced register containing original grant of 20 acres to Richard Tasker Furlong.

Witness withdrew.

Edward Arnold Bronsdon (*Clerk-in-charge of Alienation Branch, Lands Department*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Ordered,—That the Chief Surveyor, Lands Department, and the Deputy Registrar-General be summoned to give evidence next meeting.[Adjourned till Tuesday next at *Half-past Eleven* o'clock.]

TUESDAY, 4 AUGUST, 1896.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Dick,	|	Mr. Fegan.
-----------	--	------------

In the absence of a Quorum, the meeting called for this day lapsed.

WEDNESDAY, 5 AUGUST, 1896.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Fegan in the Chair.		
Mr. Travers Jones,	|	Mr. O'Sullivan,
Mr. Nicholson,	|	Mr. Wheeler.

Edward Arnold Bronsdon recalled and further examined.

Witness handed in plan showing 20 acres of land, in the neighbourhood of Newcastle, applied for by Richard Furlong. [*See Appendix A.*]

Witness withdrew.

Henry Wheeler Gillam (*Deputy Registrar-General*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Edward Twynam (*Chief Surveyor, Lands Department*) called in, sworn, and examined.Witness produced Town map of Newcastle showing Furlong's 20 acres, and handed in plan showing Furlong's 20 acres as now occupied. [*Appendix B.*]

Witness withdrew.

[Adjourned till to-morrow at a *Quarter to Twelve* o'clock.]

THURSDAY, 6 AUGUST, 1896.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Dick,	|	Mr. Edden,
Mr. Travers Jones,	|	Mr. O'Sullivan,
Mr. Nicholson,	|	Mr. Wheeler.

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Dick called to the Chair *pro tem*.

Edward Arnold Bronsdon recalled and further examined.

The Chairman entered the room and took the Chair.

Witness withdrew.

Ordered,—That Mr. A. A. Dangar be summoned to give evidence next meeting.[Adjourned till Wednesday next at *Eleven* o'clock.]

WEDNESDAY,

WEDNESDAY, 12 AUGUST, 1896.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Fegan in the Chair.

Mr. Edden,	|	Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. O'Sullivan,	|	Mr. Wheeler,
	Mr. Slcath.	

Albert Augustus Dangar called in, sworn, and examined.
Witness withdrew.

[Adjourned till To-morrow, at *Twelve* o'clock noon.]

THURSDAY, 13 AUGUST, 1896.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Fegan in the Chair.

Mr. Edden,	|	Mr. Nicholson.
------------	--	----------------

George Colquhoun (*Crown Solicitor*) called in, sworn, and examined.
Witness withdrew.

Ordered,—That Mr. James Miller and Mr. George Redman be summoned to give evidence next meeting.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at *Eleven* o'clock.]

TUESDAY, 18 AUGUST, 1896.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Fegan in the Chair.

Mr. Carroll,	|	Mr. Travers Jones,
	Mr. O'Sullivan.	

James Miller called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

George Edward Redman called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Re-assembling of the Committee to be arranged by the Chairman.

[Adjourned.]

WEDNESDAY, 26 AUGUST, 1896.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Fegan.

In the absence of a Quorum, the meeting called for this day lapsed.

THURSDAY, 27 AUGUST, 1896.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Fegan in the Chair.

Mr. Carroll,	|	Mr. Edden.
--------------	--	------------

Job Butler Hudson called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Re-assembling of the Committee to be arranged by the Chairman.

[Adjourned.]

THURSDAY, 22 OCTOBER, 1896.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

None.

In the absence of a Quorum, the meeting called for this day lapsed.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

WEDNESDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Carroll,	|	Mr. Fegan,
		Mr. Nicholson.

Mr. Fegan called to the Chair.

Entry from Votes and Proceedings, appointing the Committee, and referring the Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence of Session 1896, read by the Clerk.

Papers referred before the Committee.

Resolved (on motion of Mr. Carroll),—"That the Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence of the Select Committee of Session 1896 be adopted by this Committee."*Ordered*,—That H. J. Brown, Solicitor, Newcastle, be summoned to give evidence next meeting.[Adjourned till Wednesday next at *Eleven* o'clock.]

WEDNESDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Fegan in the Chair.		
Mr. Carroll,	|	Mr. Edden,
Mr. Nobbs,		Mr. Perry.

The Chairman informed the Committee that he had ascertained that Mr. H. J. Brown, the witness summoned for to-day, could not attend.

Committee deliberated.

Ordered,—That H. J. Brown, Solicitor, be summoned to give evidence next meeting.[Adjourned till Wednesday next at *Eleven* o'clock.]

WEDNESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Fegan in the Chair.		
Mr. Edden,	|	Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Nobbs,		Mr. Perry.

Henry Joseph Brown (*Solicitor*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Re-assembling of the Committee to be arranged by the Chairman.

[Adjourned.]

WEDNESDAY, 26 OCTOBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Fegan in the Chair.		
Mr. Dick,	|	Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Nobbs,		Mr. Perry.

Chairman submitted Draft Report.

Same read and agreed to.

Chairman to report to the House.

LIST OF WITNESSES.

	PAGE.
Bronsdon, E. A.	8, 10
Brown, H. J.	19
Colquhoun, G.	15
Dangar, A. A.	12
Gillam, H. W.	9
Hudson, J. B.	18
Mann, J.	7
Miller, J.	16
Redman, G. E.	17
Twynan, E.	9

1896.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE

THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

LAND FRONTING THROSBY AND COTTAGE CREEKS,
SOLD BY A. A. DANGAR, ESQ.

THURSDAY, 30 JULY, 1896.

Present:—

MR. TRAVERS JONES, | MR. NICHOLSON,
MR. WHEELER.

J. L. FEGAN, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

John Mann called in, sworn, and examined:—

1. *Chairman.*] What position do you hold? Clerk in the Registrar-General's Department.
2. Do you produce the grant made to Richard Tasker Furlong? Yes.
3. Can you give the Committee a copy of that grant? I do not think there will be any objection to that. J. Mann.
30 July, 1896.
4. Will you read it? Yes.

LAND PURCHASE.

Grantee Richard Tasker Furlong; Date 17th July 1840; County Northumberland; Acres 20.

Victoria by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen Defender of the Faith and so forth.

To all to whom these presents shall come Greeting

WHEREAS at a public auction held in conformity with the Regulations made for the sale of Crown lands in our territory of New South Wales Richard Tasker Furlong of Newcastle has become the purchaser of the land hereinafter described for the sum of two hundred and forty pounds sterling Now know ye that for aul in consideration of the said sum of two hundred and forty pounds sterling by the said Richard Tasker Furlong to the Colonial Treasurer of our said territory for and on our behalf well and truly paid before these presents are issued in the manner hereinafter mentioned And in further consideration of the quit-rent hereinafter reserved we have granted and for us our heirs and successors do hereby grant unto the said Richard Tasker Furlong his heirs and assigns subject to the conditions reservations and provisos hereinafter mentioned all that piece or parcel of land in our said territory containing by admeasurement twenty acres be the same more or less situated in the county of Northumberland and parish of Newcastle at Swamp Creek in the vicinity of Newcastle allotment number one commencing at the eastern extreme of the line once marked as the northern boundary line of the Australian Agricultural Company's land and bounded on the north by seven chains of that line bearing west on the west by a south line of eleven chains and twenty links to the Newcastle Road on the south by the Newcastle Road easterly to the Bridge over Swamp Creek and on the east by that creek downwards to the river and by the river westerly to the eastern extreme of the line once marked as the northern boundary of the Australian Agricultural Company's one thousand five hundred acres Grant Reserving an Occupation Road fifty links wide being the land sold to the said Richard Tasker Furlong as lot 20 in pursuance of the advertisement of 18th September 1839 and in part payment for which a remission of one hundred and fifty pounds sterling was allowed to him as a retired Captain from Her Majesty's 80th Regiment of Foot under fifteen years service in accordance with the regulations of 1st August 1838 the balance of the purchase money amounting to the sum of ninety pounds sterling having been duly paid to our said Colonial Treasurer on 14th February 1840 with all the rights and appurtenances whatsoever thereto belonging To hold unto the said Richard Tasker Furlong his heirs and assigns for ever yielding and paying therefore yearly unto Us our heirs and successors the quit-rent or sum of one farthing for ever if demanded Provided nevertheless and We do hereby reserve unto Us our heirs and successors all such parts and so much of the said land as may hereafter be required for a public way or public ways in over and through the same to be set out by our Governor for the time being of our said Territory or some person duly authorised in that respect And also all stone and gravel all indigenous timber and all other materials the produce of the said land which may be required at any time or times hereafter for the construction or repair of ways and bridges for naval purposes and for public works together with the

right

J. Mann. right of taking and removing the same And also all land within one hundred feet of high water mark on the sea coast and on every creek harbour and inlet And also all mines of gold of silver and of coals with full and free liberty and power to search for dig and take away the same And also the right of full and free ingress egress and regress into out of and upon the said land for the several purposes aforesaid And we do further reserve unto us our heirs and successors full power for us or our successors or for the Governor for the time being of our said territory to resume and take possession of all or any part of the said land not hereinbefore reserved which may be required at any time or times hereafter for any public purpose the value of the said land not hereinbefore reserved or of so much thereof as shall be so required and of any building standing on the said required land being paid by the Government to the party entitled thereto at a valuation fixed by arbitrators chosen as hereinafter mentioned And we do hereby declare that in every case of arbitration which may arise under and by virtue hereof one arbitrator shall be chosen by the Governor for the time being of our said territory and one by the then owner or owners of the said land which two arbitrators (before they enter upon the said arbitration) shall elect a third as umpire who shall determine any disagreement between the two said arbitrators But if the owner or owners of the said land shall refuse or neglect to choose an arbitrator on his her or their part within one calendar month after being required so to do by public advertisement in the *Government Gazette* or otherwise then both arbitrators shall be chosen by the Governor for the time being of Our said territory which arbitrators shall also elect an umpire in the manner above mentioned Provided always that if the conditions reservations and provisos herein contained or any part thereof be not duly observed and performed by the said grantee his heirs and assigns then the said land shall be forfeited and revert unto Us Our heirs and successors and these presents and every matter and thing herein contained shall cease and determine and become absolutely void to all intents and purposes and it shall be lawful for Us Our heirs and successors by Our Governor for the time being of Our said territory or other person duly authorised in that behalf to re-enter upon the said land or any part thereof and the said grantee his heirs and assigns and all occupiers thereof therefrom wholly to remove In testimony whereof We have caused this Our grant to be sealed with the seal of Our said territory.

Given under the hand of Sir George Gipps Knight our Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of our said territory and its dependencies at Government House Sydney in New South Wales aforesaid this seventeenth day of July in the fourth year of our reign and in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty.

Signed and Sealed in the presence of,—

[L.S.] GEO. GIPPS.

H. WATSON PARKER.

ENTERED on Record by me this fourteenth day of September one thousand eight hundred and forty the following alterations having been previously made viz. the words "in the manner hereinafter mentioned" interlined after "issued" in the thirteenth line this Registration being now a verbatim copy of the original Deed as executed.

E. DEAS-THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary and Registrar.

I CERTIFY the above and preceding page to be a true copy of the entry or copy of the original Deed of Grant from the Crown kept as of record or for public or official purposes in the office of the Registrar-General of the colony of New South Wales.

H. W. GILLAM,
Dep. Registrar-General.

Registrar-General's Office Sydney 31st day of July 1896.

5. *Mr. Travers Jones.*] Can you identify that abstract [*produced*] as the same grant, leaving out the reservation? The description is the same.

6. The only difference is that in the original 100 feet is specified as reserved, but it is not in the abstract of title? No; I do not see it.

7. *Mr. Nicholson.*] When you come to the words "usual reservation," would you infer that 100 feet was meant thereby? Some of these are printed differently from others. In some the reservations are not put in.

8. Have you ever known a case in which the reservation was stipulated to be at low-water mark instead of high-water mark? No; but I could not tell you anything about that. They could tell you at the office. There is a man in charge of these things, and he would understand more about it.

Edward Arnold Bronsdon called in, sworn, and examined:—

E. A. Bronsdon. 9. *Chairman.*] What position do you occupy? I have charge of the Alienation Branch at the Lands Department.

30 July, 1896. 10. Have you any knowledge of the grant known as Furlong's Grant? Yes.

11. Have you got a description of it here? I have the original plan of it. And I produce the sale list of the 13th November, 1889, showing the sale of the land to Richard Furlong.

12. What was the price? £240.

13. Paid by whom? Richard Tasker Furlong.

14. Have you any conditions of sale? No, the book which I have here only gives a description of the land.

15. You could not say that there was a reservation of 100 feet there? Not from this book. This other book is an office record with regard to the grant. There was a reservation of all the land within 100 feet of high-water mark.

16. How long have you been in charge of this Branch? Six years.

17. Therefore a large number of sales have come under your notice? Yes.

18. Are there not lands sold right down to low-water mark? I have never known any.

19. You have never known any sold with water frontage? Not by auction.

20. Is it not a fact that land has been sold with water frontages? Only to high-water mark.

21. To high-water mark without the 100 feet limitation? Yes.

22. Are there any coal reservations in this grant? Yes; it says, "all mines of gold, silver, and coal."

23. They are reserved? Yes.

24. *Mr. Travers Jones.*] Does that abstract refer to the same land? Yes; there is no doubt about it.

25. Have you a plan here? Yes; it is a very old document.

26. Is the reservation of 100 feet marked on that plan? It is marked in pencil. The plans do not usually show a definite reservation.

27. *Chairman.*] Is it usual to put them in pencil? It is not usual to show reservations on the plan. I should assume that that has been put on within recent years.

28. Do you not think it would be better, when land is sold, to have accurate plans showing the reservation? Of recent years land has not been sold subject to reservations of that nature.

29. Do you sell the whole of it now? The Government would mark a definite boundary. If they wished to reserve 100 feet, the description would not go down to high-water mark.

WEDNESDAY,

WEDNESDAY, 5 AUGUST, 1896.

Present:—

MR. TRAVERS JONES, | MR. WHEELER,
MR. NICHOLSON, | MR. O'SULLIVAN.
JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Edward Arnold Bronsdon recalled and further examined:—

30. *Chairman.*] You sent a letter to the Clerk intimating a desire to correct some of your evidence? Yes; the first correction I wish to make is the answer to the question No. 14, "Have you any conditions of sale." I stated that the book I produced did not contain any conditions of sale. I find on further search that that is not correct. I produce the book to which I was then referring. It is a manuscript book, and I find the conditions of sale are in it. Condition of Sale, No. 4, has a bearing on the case, and is as follows:—

E. A.
Bronsdon.
5 Aug., 1896.

Deeds of Grant will be completed and issued in each case as soon as practicable after payment in full of the purchase money, and will be delivered to the grantee by the Colonial Treasurer, on payment of the regulated fee as fixed by the Government notice dated 9th January, 1832. Each lot will be granted to the purchaser by deed poll under the hand of His Excellency the Governor and the official seal of the Colony, to be held in free and common socage, and subject to the conditions and reservations contained in the form No. 3, Land Purchase, as published in the *Government Gazette* of 1st November, 1838.

I produce a copy of the Notice of 1st September, 1838, which shows the "Land Purchase Form, No. 3," and it embodies a number of reservations:—

* * * * * Provided nevertheless and we do hereby reserve unto us, our heirs and successors, all such parts and so much of the said land as may hereafter be required for a public way or public ways in, over, and through the same, to be set out by our Governor for the time being of our said territory, or some person duly authorised in that respect: And also all stone and gravel, all indigenous timber, and all other materials the produce of the said land, which may be required at any time or times hereafter for the construction and repair of ways and bridges, for naval purposes, and for public works, together with the right of taking and removing the same; and also all land within one hundred feet of high-water mark on the sea coast and on every creek, harbour, and inlet; and also all mines of gold, of silver, and of coals, with full and free liberty and power to search for, dig, and take away the same; and also the right of full and free ingress, egress, and regress into, out of, and upon the said land for the several purposes aforesaid; and we do further reserve unto us, our heirs and successors, full power for us, or our successors, or for the Governor for the time being of our said territory, to resume and take possession of all or any part of the said land, not hereinbefore reserved, which may be required at any time or times hereafter for any public purpose, the value of the said land, not hereinbefore reserved, or of so much thereof as shall be so required, and of any building standing on the said required land, being paid by the Government to the party entitled thereto, at a valuation fixed by arbitrators chosen as hereinafter mentioned.

The next correction is in regard to question No. 19, "You have never known any sold with water frontage?" To this I answered, "Not by auction." If that was the question as put I misunderstood it. As a matter of fact, land is sold with water frontage, but I explained in answering the next question that, except under special clauses of the Act providing for sale below high-water mark, the land sold is only down to high-water mark. I produce a certified copy of the original plan. [*See Appendix A.*]

Henry Wheeler Gillam sworn and examined:—

31. *Chairman.*] You are Deputy Registrar-General? Yes.
32. Have you any copies of grants of land conveying the water frontage to the grantees? Yes; I have a number of forms which we use when certified copies of grants are required. I have brought a number to show that in some cases there is a reservation of 100 feet above high-water mark, and in others there is no reservation. In the first one I have here there is no reservation.
33. Where is that situated? I do not produce the grants themselves, but the authorised forms which are filled up in connection with various grants.
34. *Mr. Travers Jones.*] When did that form come into use? It is dated 1830.
35. There is no reservation in that form? No.
36. *Chairman.*] Can you supply the Committee with the various grants of land along what was known as Swamp Creek and what is now known as Throsby Creek? I dare say I can.
37. *Mr. Nicholson.*] Is the particular form which was issued in 1830 applicable only to certain kinds of land, or do you use it indiscriminately? To certain kinds of grants.
38. Then there are still grants issued up to date without any water frontage reservation whatever? Yes.
39. Can you tell me for what number of years back such grants have been issued? I could not definitely say when they commenced to reserve. I find that from 1856 to 1862 reservations have not been continuous.
40. But it has been the common practice in the past to issue grants without any reservation of water frontage? Sometimes they would reserve it and sometimes they would not.
41. *Chairman.*] Can you find out when they commenced to make reservations? Yes, about October, 1831; before that there were special reservations for particular purposes.

H. W. Gillam.
5 Aug., 1896.

Edward Twynam, Chief Surveyor, Department of Lands, sworn and examined:—

42. *Chairman.*] Do you know the land fronting Throsby and Cottage Creeks? I know the locality.
43. When was your first survey made there? I believe about 1838.
44. Have you the original plan with you? Yes [*produced*].
45. On this plan there is no qualification as to 100 feet reservation? That is not shown on plans at all. It is merely a reservation introduced into the deed of grant.
46. But is it not a fact that you show the 100-ft. reservation on some of your plans at present? No, not on original plans, and there are no reservations of that sort made now.
47. You sell the whole right out now? Yes. The reservation of 100 feet above high-water mark was first introduced into deeds of grant about the year 1828.
48. Have you a copy of your last surveys made there? I can show you the latest plans illustrating the locality. The date of the plan I have produced is 1839.

E.
Twynam.
5 Aug., 1896.

E.
Twynam.
6 Aug., 1896.

49. *Mr. Travers Jones.*] Is the 100 feet included in the 20 acres? Yes.
50. So that the 100 feet would be actually taken off the 20 acres shown on the plan? Yes; the reservation is in the deed of grant, but is not shown on the plan.
51. *Chairman.*] So that there are 20 acres, less 100 feet? Yes.
52. Which really does not give the owner the 20 acres as originally intended? There are decisions of the Supreme Court to the effect that the 100 feet reserve is Crown land.
53. And if the Government sell an acre of land they have the right to deduct 100 feet from it? Yes.
54. Because it fronts a river or outlet? If a man sells an acre of land on which there is a reservation of 100 feet the Government can claim to exercise a right over the reservation at any time.
55. Which, I suppose, it always has done? Yes.
56. *Mr. Travers Jones.*] After the purchaser has paid for it? Yes.
57. *Chairman.*] Do you know of any instances in which the Government have waived their claim to the 100 feet reservation? I do not know of any.
58. Do you know of any exchange which took place between Cooper and the Government for Bellevue Hill in lieu of Double Bay? No.
59. How long is it since you took a survey of the land in question? The last survey was made lately in connection with the drainage of Newcastle, which shows all the houses and buildings all over the land, and I have had a copy compiled for you showing the present state of the land. In the first instance I will exhibit the present town map of Newcastle, showing the 20 acres coloured red. I also produce a tracing illustrating the present state of the land. [*Appendix B*].
60. *Mr. Travers Jones.*] Are you of opinion that it would require an actual survey on the ground to define the 100 feet reservation as it originally stood? It is impossible; the high-water mark has been completely altered by reclamations.
61. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] In the event of any of this land being washed away by the influence of the tide, the high-water mark still counts from the beginning of the water—not from the old mark? I understand that there are legal opinions to that effect. The 100 feet reserve can be claimed from the high-water mark as it recedes or goes forward.
62. So that in the event of 20 or 30 feet being washed away the reservation would still run in 100 feet from the present high-water mark? Yes.
63. *Chairman.*] If the people reclaim so many feet from the tide, will they have a right to high-water mark? They can only reclaim with the consent of the Government, and the reclamation makes a new high-water mark. They cannot make the reclamation until the owner has acquired the 100 feet reservation.
64. *Mr. Nicholson.*] With regard to the 100 feet reservation encroaching on the 20 acres, the 100 feet reservation would not be deducted from the actual measurement of the 20 acres? No, it is included in the 20 acres. As a rule, the reservation is included in the area.
65. And that means that the actual purchaser of the grant of 20 acres would only receive 19 acres? Yes, or whatever it might be. I think you asked when the reservation ceased to be put into the grants. It was first introduced about 1828, and it ceased to be introduced into grants of land about 1844, but it is still introduced into grants for volunteer land orders, on the ground, I think, that a volunteer land order is, to a certain extent, regarded as a free grant; but, as you are aware, very few volunteer land orders are outstanding now.
66. *Chairman.*] You have stated that several Supreme Court cases have decided the 100 feet reservation? Yes, two or three. There was one well-known case at North Harbour. I will send you the title of the cases.
67. You say that a comparison of the surveys would not lead to anything? No, it would not. The surveys produced are of very old date indeed, and to reproduce the water frontage line as it was in 1839 would be impossible.

THURSDAY, 6 AUGUST, 1896.

Present:—

MR. DICK,
MR. EDDEN,

MR. WHEELER.

MR. TRAVERS JONES,
MR. O'SULLIVAN,

JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

Edward Arnold Bronsdon, Esq., recalled and further examined:—

E. A.
Bronsdon.
6 Aug., 1896.

68. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] What documents do you produce to-day? I have the documents connected with a number of applications to purchase different parts of the 100 feet reserve on the frontage of Throsby Creek.
69. What do those papers show? They show the details of the application and the action taken upon it, leading up in most cases to the purchase of the land from the Government.
70. Do they in any way indicate the boundaries? There are tracings with some of the papers. I have not the original plans of the separate pieces.
71. Do you produce the papers showing the date of the claim by the Government for payment for land sold by A. A. Dangar? No; so far as I have been able to trace the matter no claim has been made by the Government until after the persons have made application to purchase.
72. By whose authority was that claim eventually made? The claim was made in pursuance of the application. The party applied to buy the land from the Government. The application was dealt with in the way prescribed by law, and, of course, after a certain time payment was asked for in the usual way.
73. *Mr. Travers Jones.*] Do your papers show that the reservation of 100 feet is within or outside the measured portion of 20 acres? I think the original plan which I produced yesterday shows that.
74. The plan shows that the 100 feet has been measured, and is within the 20 acres—but do any of your papers show it? It is stated in the Crown Solicitor's report that the land is within the 20 acres granted to Furlong, being part of the 100 feet reservation. The sale by the Government to Furlong excluded the 100 feet. There was a reservation out of the grant.
75. But stat the 100 feet was within the surveyed 20 acres? Yes.

76.

76. That is what the plan shows? Yes.
77. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Have you any papers to indicate at what date the Government abandoned the 100-ft. reservation throughout the Colony? So far as I know, there has never been a general abandonment. So far as I am aware, since the Act of 1861 came into force the deeds of land have not contained this reservation.
78. Virtually, then, there has been an abandonment, although no law has been passed to bring it about? Since 1861, so far as I am aware, it has not been the custom to reserve the 100 feet. If the Crown did not wish to sell the 100 feet adjoining high-water mark, it would distinctly describe the land as being above that 100 feet.
79. *Mr. Travers Jones.*] And would not be included in the survey? No.
80. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Then it amounts to this: The Crown still retain the right to 100 feet reservation, but do not apply it in all cases? No; I do not think so. If the Crown sells to high-water mark now the grant would contain no reservation, and, of course, the land to high-water mark would pass to the purchaser.
81. *Mr. Dick.*] Is it not a fact that in every deed of grant this reservation is either explicitly excluded or included? I think not.
82. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Have you anything to show definitely whether that right still remains with the Government? No.
83. *Mr. Edden.*] And is there nothing to show whether Mr. Dangar ever owned this 100-ft. reservation? I think that is clear from the evidence I gave the other day that the grant to Dangar excluded the 100 feet. There was a reservation of all land within 100 feet of high-water mark.
84. You said something the other day with regard to the applicants making application for the 100-ft. reservation? Yes.
85. Who were the people who made the reservation? There are several; Stephen Durrant Lott is one. The date of that application is April, 1887; the deposit was paid on the 16th April, 1887.
86. Did the Government, in any case, grant the applications? Yes.
87. And when they granted them they found the land was already in the possession of other people? It was in possession of the applicants.
88. But houses have been built on some of the foreshore prior to 1887? That may be; but this land was in the possession of the man who then applied to purchase it. He claimed to be the owner, as having derived a title through the sale by Mr. Dangar.
89. Was it ever Mr. Dangar's to sell or to give a title to? The Crown say not.
90. Mr. Dangar, I suppose, would have to sign a transfer, and if the Government had the title how did these people get hold of the deeds of the property? That our documents do not show. That, of course, would be a transfer between private parties, of which the Lands Department has no information. You might obtain information through the Registrar-General's Office on a point like that.
91. Would it be possible for deeds to be issued without the Lands Department knowing anything about them? Yes; transfers between private parties.
92. Supposing I sell a piece of land, I sign a transfer. I can readily see that the Lands Office might know nothing about that. Mr. Dangar might have the deeds for the whole of this block. The people to whom he sells certain portions have deeds outside his deed, which would have to be granted on the strength of his transfer, after cutting the land up into blocks? I think not. I think you will find the deeds these people have, apart from the transfer from Mr. Dangar, are the deeds issued in pursuance of the applications I have produced. Those are the only deeds we have knowledge of, except the transfers through Dangar.
93. *Chairman.*] What about the case of the man Hudson, who occupies the "Bellevue Hotel"? I have the papers here. Hudson applied in January, 1882, to buy that land from the Crown. The deposit was paid on the 28th January, 1882. I might mention that the deed eventually issued from the Crown to Hudson in pursuance of that application. The deed was forwarded to the Registrar-General on the 21st May, 1885.
94. Is it not a fact that a *Gazette* notice was issued to the effect that these people had built their properties on the 100-ft. reservation, and were they not informed that they would have the privilege of buying it before any one else? I have not come across any trace of such a document.
95. Do you mean to say that these people, after paying their money and building homes, are asked now to purchase the land without receiving any prior notice from the Government to the effect that they are trespassing? I have not been able to trace any notice from the Government.
96. Would you be surprised if I were to show you such a document? No.
97. Does it not seem strange that these people, after paying for land, and building their homes upon it, should now apply to the Government to be allowed to repurchase it? I think not.
98. It is not what any business man would do? If he found he had not a title to the land, and had built upon it, I assume he would seek to get a legal title to it.
99. But how would he know he had no title to it? I cannot say; it may be that some solicitor has been asked to transfer one block and has discovered the fact that the man had no title.
100. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Do the papers you have show the whole history of this case? No; these papers begin with the applications by the various parties to purchase the land.
101. Have you no papers prior to these? The only papers I have been able to get hold of are two old documents referring to the sale to Furlong, but they throw no light upon this matter. They are dated 1840.
102. Furlong was the original purchaser? Yes.
103. *Chairman.*] Have you the names of those who applied for grants from the Crown, along the creek? Yes; there is the A.J.S. Bank, Stephen Durrant Lott, Miller, J. B. Hudson, Robert Claxton, William Henderson, George Dawson, Shadrach Morgan. I think those are all, excepting one—Goodsir—the papers in connection with which I could not get hold of.
104. You have not given us the grants along the creek outside Dangar's sale? I have a parish map which might show it.
105. *Mr. Edden.*] Then we understand you to say that the Crown never parted with the 100-ft. reservation to Mr. Dangar? Yes.
106. And it never belonged to Mr. Dangar? No.

E. A.
Bronsdon.

6 Aug., 1888.

- E. A. Bronsdon.
6 Aug., 1896.
107. *Mr. Dick.*] Is it a fact that the Government have made no claim whatever upon these people either for the purchase of the land or for rent? So far as I have been able to ascertain, they have made no claim until the people themselves applied to buy the land.
108. Has your search been exhaustive? I cannot say that. I got the notice yesterday afternoon, and I have had clerks searching from then until this morning in various directions, and so far we have not been able to find anything of the sort.
109. Is it not a fact that claims of that kind do not issue from your Department? A claim like that would come from our Department, as a rule.
110. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] I desire to ask a question concerning a survey of 20 acres applied for Richard Tasker Furlong. In this survey the 20 acres appear, including the 100-ft. reservation;—do you know if that 100-ft. reservation was sold with the 20 acres? The contention of the Crown is that the 100-ft. reservation was not sold, because it was excepted under the grant.
111. Then this must be an excess area? I cannot say.
112. *Mr. Travers Jones.*] The evidence yesterday proved that the 100 feet is within the 20 acres? I agree that it is within the survey.
113. *Chairman.*] Have you the payments which have been made for the land and the payments which are due? Yes. George Dawson paid £32, on the 23rd July, 1886; Henderson, £195, on the 11th October, 1884; Claxton, £284, on the 9th July, 1884; Hudson, £234, on the 9th July, 1884; Morgan, £146 11s. 3d., on the 8th October, 1885; Stephen Durrant Lott, £480, on the 19th April, 1890. Miller has been called upon to pay £144 7s., and has paid £50, on the 26th June, 1894.

WEDNESDAY, 12 AUGUST, 1896.

Present:—

Mr. EDDEN,
Mr. O'SULLIVAN,

Mr. NICHOLSON,
Mr. SLEATH,

Mr. WHEELER.

JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Albert Augustus Dangar sworn and examined:—

- A. A. Dangar.
12 Aug., 1896.
114. *Chairman.*] Do you know the abstract of title produced? Yes; I believe that was the abstract submitted to all the solicitors for the purchasers.
115. In this abstract of title I notice the usual reservations;—what do you think they meant in connection with your sale of the land? I am not competent to say just now.
116. Before selling the land you made yourself thoroughly satisfied that it belonged to you? My solicitors did, and I believed it belonged to me.
117. Of course you are responsible for your solicitors? I believe I am.
118. And you are perfectly satisfied that the whole of the 20 acres rightfully belonged to you? It was bequeathed to me by my mother.
119. And you believed it rightly belonged to you? Yes.
120. I suppose you have seen the original deed or grant to the purchaser? I suppose I saw it in the first instance; but I do not remember the contents of it.
121. Do you know that 100 feet was reserved? To the best of my belief, and as far as my recollection goes, it was not reserved.
122. Then you sold the land believing the 100 feet was not reserved? The question never arose. The whole title was submitted to all the Newcastle and Maitland lawyers. Mr. R. W. Thompson, solicitor, of West Maitland, was himself a purchaser.
123. You sold some of the land to George Redmonds? I think he was a purchaser.
124. And John Ash? Yes.
125. And Shadrack Morgan? Yes.
126. And other purchasers? There is a very large number. There were four distinct sales, extending from 1874 to 1885.
127. I suppose you know that the deeds were accepted by the solicitors? Yes.
128. Does the indenture of Mr. Miller refer to part of the land? It is impossible to say, unless I closely examine it. I see it is Mr. H. J. Brown's preparation as a conveyancer. James Miller was not one of the purchasers from me. It seems that John Ash sold to George Miller. If I have to answer many questions of this character I shall have to ask you to allow me to call my solicitor.
129. *Mr. Edden.*] Who is your solicitor? Messrs. Creagh and Williams, of Bridge-street.
130. *Chairman.*] You believed, when you sold the 20 acres, there was no 100-foot reservation? I cannot remember the contents of the original deed. I went to Mr. Creagh's office this morning, but he unfortunately is ill in bed, and I could not get at that point. He had the handling of the whole business of the four sales, and no doubt he would be able to answer the question.
131. But does not the abstract of title [*produced*] show it? No; it refers to the usual reservation, and the 100-foot reservation is in regard to some of the land sold to the purchasers. There was a certain portion of frontage in the land and a good deal of back land.
132. Some of which was within high-water mark? No doubt.
133. *Mr. Sleath.*] Has your impression been that there was a reservation of 100 feet? I was under the impression that there was no reservation.
134. *Chairman.*] If you were under that impression you will admit that the purchasers would be under the same impression? I take it that that is so; otherwise they would not have paid me the money they did—£16,000, all of which was spent in Newcastle.
135. Do you know that the Government have demanded payments for certain of the land which was purchased from you? I have heard so from you, and I have gathered so from Mr. Miller.
136. Do you not think the purchasers should be compensated in some way by somebody? If the purchasers—first, second, or third hand—have any claim upon anybody, I hold that it is upon the Government.

137. Do you think the purchasers, who bought land under the belief that there was no reservation, have ^{A. A. Dangar.} a moral or legal right to pay for it a second time if called upon to do so? They have no claim upon me, and I have expressed myself to that effect in writing. I wrote to Mr. Fegan on 16th October, 1893, as ^{12 Aug. 1896.} follows:—

J. L. Fegan, Esq., Legislative Assembly,—

Union Club, Sydney, 16th October, 1893

Dear Sir,

Your note of the 9th instant reached me just as I was leaving home, or I would have replied to it sooner.

Mr. Miller wrote me himself on the same subject, and I daresay you have seen my reply to him. It seems a very hard case, but altogether made so by the unjust and unfair action of the Government. I sold, in perfect good faith, my title, approved of by a number of purchasers' solicitors, was seemingly good enough, no reservation ever having either been claimed by the Government previously, and now, nearly twenty years after, and after the land had been sold by the man who bought from me, the Government come down on the present holder and demand from him the value of it again.

There is no justice or equity about it, and such a case should be made public.

I decline, however, to interfere, and bring a hornet's nest about my ears, for if I assist one I may make up my mind to assist the whole. The onus of such an unjust action must rest with Mr. Copeland if he is determined to press it to the bitter end. I am sorry for Mr. Miller; same time, I hope I make my position and intentions clear to you.

I am, yours truly,

A. A. DANGAR.

138. *Mr. Edden.*] You have admitted that if those who purchased the land have to pay for it again they are entitled to some compensation? From the Government, but not from me.

139. If the Government never sold you that land, why are they entitled to compensation from the Government;—you appear to have sold land which never was yours, and you have no title for it? I deny that.

140. Do you consider, under the circumstances I have mentioned, the Government have a right to compensate the people to whom you sold the land? I may mention that the land did not come to my mother from the Government.

141. I again ask you whether, under the conditions I have mentioned, the Crown would be justified in compensating the people to whom you sold the land? I decline to answer the question put in that way without my solicitor being present. I say I did not attempt to sell land without a title.

142. *Mr. Sleath.*] You were under the impression, when the land was sold, that there was no reservation by the Crown? I was.

143. You sold the land in all good faith, believing you had a proper title to it? Yes.

144. But afterwards you found out otherwise, I suppose, and that a mistake had been made on the part of your solicitors probably? I have not found anything. You are trying to make me find out something.

145. You still claim that there is no reservation? I do; to the best of my belief there was not.

146. If it is proved that there was a reservation at the date of sale, and that the land was sold by you, or on your behalf, which really did not belong to you, and money was received for it, would it be a fair thing to ask the Government to reimburse those who have paid money to you for land which did not belong to you? It would seem to me so under the circumstances. If the Government are not responsible, I take it that the solicitors who proved all the titles are.

147. *Mr. Edden.*] Can you show any title to the land about which there is a dispute? There is an abstract of it [*produced*], and it was submitted to all the solicitors of Newcastle and Maitland. Even Mr. R. W. Thompson, the oldest solicitor in West Maitland, was a buyer. I have said the sales extended from 1874 to 1885, and there was time enough for the Government to take action to stop me selling the land if it was their property.

148. *Mr. Wheeler.*] You say that Mr. R. W. Thompson was a buyer? He was a buyer at the sale. Whether he bought frontage or back lands I cannot say just now.

149. *Mr. Sleath.*] But is it not a fact that previous to the last sales it became known to you and to intending purchasers that there was this reservation, although it was not specifically set out at the sale? I was aware that the Government had been stopping in and claiming under some reservation. How much it applied to me I could not say.

150. Previous to the sales? I do not think so. The first serious mention I heard of it was when Mr. Fegan wrote to me about Mr. Miller in 1893.

151. If you look at Mr. Brunker's remarks on the motion for the appointment of a Select Committee you will see that he went there as a purchaser? Brunker, Woolf, and Badgery were the sellers of all that land. I never remember Mr. Brunker saying a syllable to me about any reservation.

152. *Mr. Edden.*] How much land did you sell altogether? Getting on for 20 acres. It was the Furlong Grant. If you wish I will give you my reasons for selling the land. Mr. Black said in the House:—

Whether that was the case or not, it must have been known to the man who purchased the land from the original holder that he had not a proper title. Possibly that was one reason why he tried to get rid of the land.

I can give that an emphatic denial.

153. *Mr. Sleath.*] Mr. Brunker said in the House:—

I happen to know something about the circumstances of the case, because I know the piece of land in question, and I remember that on the day of sale I left Maitland intending to buy it. Assuming that Mr. Dangar had the right to the water frontage, the land was a piece which might have been made very valuable by reclamation.

? He does not say he was the auctioneer there.

154. He also said:—

Before the sale I ascertained that the Crown had reserved 100 feet frontage.

Did you know even before the last sale that the Crown insisted upon their claim to the 100 feet reservation? No, I did not; I should have had the question settled had I known. It is an extraordinary thing that Mr. Brunker should say that he knew that existed when every solicitor who attended the sale and passed the conveyances never said a syllable about it. I do not remember Mr. Brunker saying a word about it.

155. And were Messrs. Creagh and Williams your solicitors at that time? Yes; throughout the whole sale. Mr. G. P. Slade was the solicitor in the first instance.

156. *Chairman.*] Does the Crown reserve the coal under that land? I do not think so.

157. Is there coal under the land? I believe so.

158. Have you received royalty for it? Yes. You know the story about the Ferndale Colliery. I was pretty well slated over that, and had a narrow escape from being heavily punished in a monetary sense.

159.

- A. A. Dangar. 159. *Mr. Sleath.*] You say you did receive royalty? Yes; I sold land without reserving the coal. It is a long story, and I cannot tell it to you now.
- 12 Aug., 1896. 160. You sold the land believing there was no reservation? I did.
161. From what you have since heard, do you now believe there is a reservation of 100 feet? I am doubtful about it. I have never heard a direct claim made by a direct purchaser.
162. Then you are not actually aware of any reservation existing on the land? I am not by ocular demonstration.
163. If you sold the land, which is the reservation and for which you have been paid, you think if any compensation is given it should be given by the Government? It seems so to me. I know I have often expressed an opinion to that effect, and I hold it still.
164. In what year was your last sale? 1885.
165. Did that sale include water frontages? I cannot say without reference to the deed of grant.
166. *Mr. Sleath.*] Would your solicitor be able to give that information? He might be able to do so.
167. *Mr. Edden.*] You admitted once you sold all the land to the water's edge under the belief that it belonged to you? Yes.
168. Do you still think so? Yes.
169. And you think the title deeds show it also? I never looked at them. When all the solicitors in one district passed the title a man naturally thinks it is all right, and I knew nothing to the contrary.
170. *Mr. Sleath.*] What we want to know is what the title is, and by getting the information from your solicitor you ought to be able to tell us definitely? It might involve a very important question at law, and I could scarcely be expected to answer it.
171. *Mr. Edden.*] Will it not be better to have your solicitor here to answer the question? I telephoned to him this morning, but he is ill in bed.
172. It seems to me there must have been a doubt about the matter, seeing that the question was referred to all the solicitors of Newcastle and Maitland? I mean that a number of solicitors were employed by the buyers, and they would not pass the title unless they thought it was good.
173. *Chairman.*] Can you give us the names of the solicitors? George Wallace, T. B. Slater, Redhead and Son, G. T. Chambers, A. F. Richardson, R. W. Thompson, and W. W. Capper.
174. What were the conditions of sale? This is one:—

Subject to all the foregoing terms and conditions of sale, we whose names are hereunder written do hereby respectively acknowledge that we have this day purchased at the public auction before mentioned from Brunker, Woolf, and Badgery, acting for and on behalf of the said vendor, all his right, title, and interest of, in, and to the several lands, and so on.

175. *Mr. Sleath.*] Messrs. Brunker, Woolf, and Badgery were the auctioneers of that sale? Yes; and that was the principal sale. This was one of the conditions of sale by Woolf and Badgery:—

The vendor will at the time of sale deliver to the purchaser, his solicitor, or the auctioneer, an Abstract of his Title.

That all objections which, under these conditions, the purchaser can take to the title, shall be made and delivered to the vendor's solicitor within seven days of the day of sale, and all objections not so taken shall be deemed to be waived, and within fourteen days the purchaser shall at his own expense tender to the vendor or his solicitor a conveyance for execution.

176. *Mr. Edden.*] And you never had any objection? No.

177. I suppose you signed transfers, transferring the land from you to the purchasers? I signed conveyances.

178. *Chairman.*] I notice that Furlong's title, a copy of which has been produced, contains the 100-ft. reservation. It says:—

And also all land within 100 feet of high-water mark on the sea-coast, and on every creek, harbour, and inlet.

Does not that make it clear that you have sold land which does not belong to you? I do not think it does myself. As a matter of fact, the rights at that period were never exercised by the Government.

179. *Mr. Sleath.*] According to this title there can be no doubt which did not belong to you;—if this is a correct copy of the original deed of Richard Tasker Furlong, there can be no doubt that you sold land, or land was sold on your behalf, which did not belong to you, and you received money for it? I never heard a word about it at the time. Queries arose during some of the sales as to what lands were reserved and what were not reserved. There was an in and out arrangement along the line of water. Some were supposed to have a reservation and some were not. I do not remember anything arising about it in my case.

180. As a matter of fact, if this is a correct copy of Furlong's title, you will see that the Crown did reserve 100 feet, and, although you were ignorant of it at the time, still, if it has come to your knowledge now, you will see that land was sold for your benefit which did not belong to you? I suppose, as a matter of fact, there were hundreds and thousands of feet of frontage sold prior to my sales under the same condition, and no action was taken.

181. *Mr. Edden.*] We can admit that; but surely you will admit at once that if this is a true copy of the original deed, land has been sold which did not belong to you, although you may have known nothing about it? I will not admit that.

182. If that is a true copy of the deed it must be so, must it not? I am not going to answer that question now. May I call attention to a statement by Mr. Crick on the motion for the appointment of the Committee. He said:—

I understand that the deed of grant sets out that the usual reservations are made without specifically stating that there is a reservation of 100 feet above high-water mark.

183. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Did your mother purchase from Furlong? My father did.

184. And the land was bequeathed to you by your mother? Yes.

185. Then you sold to the parties who now complain? No; there has been no direct complaint. The complaint comes from second and third purchasers.

186. *Mr. Sleath.*] Is there a possibility of the abstract of title not being correct? That is not for me to argue.

187. *Mr. Wheeler.*] A short time ago you expressed a wish to make known to the Committee the reason why you sold the land? I remember making up my mind, without there being any question of title or anything in the world arising in connection with it, to sell the whole block of land. I knew it was of good

good value, and it was the only land in Newcastle under which I had a direct title. I hold other property in Newcastle, but I have only a life interest in it. I had to spend £5,000 or £10,000 over the "Great Northern Hotel," and that decided me to sell the land to the best advantage. Every penny I got from it was spent in Newcastle. I could not sell any of the other land, and I made up my mind to sell that. It was sold in good faith, and I believed every inch of it belonged to me.

A. A. Dangar.
12 Aug., 1896.

THURSDAY, 13 AUGUST, 1896.

Present:—

MR. EDDEN, | MR. NICHOLSON.
JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

George Colquhoun sworn and examined:—

188. *Chairman.*] You are the Crown Solicitor? Yes.
189. I suppose your advice has been taken upon deeds of grant conveying foreshores, and also upon deeds of grant reserving foreshores? I have had scores of them before me.
190. Is this a copy of one of them [*produced*]? I should take that to be a copy. There is nothing on the face of it to show that it is a certified copy, but it is the usual form of copy. In this copy it says, in reference to the 100-ft. reservation: "And also all land within 100 feet of high-water mark on the sea coast and on every creek, harbour, and inlet."
191. What would you take "within 100 feet" to mean? You take high-water mark at one point, and go 100 feet back.
192. Do you know anything of the grant to Tasker Furlong? No.
193. The Crown in this case has sold 20 acres, but the reservation, according to the deed of grant, refers to "all land within 100 feet of high-water mark";—would that 100 feet be included in the 20 acres, or would it be apart from it? It is all included in the 20 acres.
194. Has any case similar to this been before the courts of the Colony disputing the Government's right to the high-water mark? At the present moment I cannot recollect a case, but I know I was the defendant in a case the other day in connection with land at Tom Ugly's Point. There was a curious reservation in that instance of 100 feet for a road, but it was not particularly defined. It was rather a vague reservation, but still there was a reservation, and we won the case upon it. They wanted to get £1,000 less from the purchase money, and we declined, and said, "You bought the land, and the title deeds are there for you to see them." The same thing occurred at Cremorne—Milson's place. The reservation has been well known in this country for the last fifty or sixty years.
195. Do you know of any exchange which took place between the Cooper family for Double Bay and Belle Vue Hill? There was a case there in which there was a 10-acre reservation, and they considered it was void on account of uncertainty, but it was not. The Crown could take that 10 acres wherever they liked out of the grant.
196. Is it not a fact that they handed it over to the Cooper family—the Crown did not press its claim? I believe they reserved it, and that is how the question arose. If I had thought the matter was going to be referred to I would have looked up the case before coming here. They said, "You cannot take that 10 acres of reservation, because you have not any fixed position for it." That contention was not upheld, and they were able to take it wherever they liked.
197. According to this grant, it appears the Crown sold 20 acres to Richard Tasker Furlong? Yes. The eastern boundary of that is by the creek down to the river, and by the river west of it, to the extreme western end of the line.
198. So that the Government did not part with 20 acres of land? They sold 20 acres, subject to the right to resume at any time 100 feet from high-water mark.
199. That is 20 acres, less 100 feet? Less the right to resume it—not 20 acres, plus the 100 feet. They sold the 20 acres with the right at any time to resume 100 feet out of it, so that if they resumed at any time it would diminish the 20 acres by the actual area of 100 feet.
200. How do the Government go about the matter when they resume the land? That would depend upon the terms of the grant. We could resume at any time.
201. You would have to go through certain formalities? We could get a writ of intrusion. Supposing I wanted to take 100 feet in a certain place, I should inquire who were the occupiers of it. I should then give notice to them asking for possession. In the event of their declining to give possession I should file a writ of intrusion, which is the mode in which the Crown brings an action for ejectment.
202. How would that writ be served? It would be served upon the occupiers personally, in the same way as you would serve an ordinary writ if you wanted to recover £1,000.
203. If the writ were not served personally, the Crown could not take action? I should serve it on the occupier.
204. But supposing the writ were not served, would you have any claim? We have any time in which to serve it.
205. But it would have to be served before you had any claim? We have the right to the claim. We need not put it in force until such time as we choose. When we make up our minds we say, "Give us possession of that 100 feet."
206. But in the event of the writ not being served, the Crown does not make its demand properly? We are not bound even to make a personal demand. We can serve a writ at once if we choose.
207. What if the writ is not served? We rest upon our rights then.
208. But what if it is proved that the Crown has made no demand for the foreshores? That does not matter. We have any time in which to make our demand.
209. In this case a certain man is supposed to buy land from Mr. Dangar fronting the creek; he finds out that it is within the 100-ft. reservation; without serving the writ, the Crown through the *Government Gazette* make a claim;—is that legal or not? Perfectly legal.
210. Without serving any writs? Yes; because the parties themselves might say, "We bought this, subject to the 100-ft. reservation; there it is." Of course the writ is the last resource. We generally say, "We want the 100 feet and you must give it up; if you do not we must make you."

G. Colquhoun.
13 Aug., 1896.

- G. Colquhoun. 211. *Mr. Nicholson.*] Is it usual for the Crown to pay for any improvements effected on the reservation? I have never known it done. I apprehend that any person purchasing would purchase with his eyes open.
- 18 Aug., 1896. *Caveat emptor*—let the purchaser beware—is an old legal maxim.
212. Would you consider a notice given in the usual way, by advertisement, of a public sale of land, when the original abstract of title showed that there was a reservation of 100 feet frontage, sufficient to indemnify the vendor from any charge? When an abstract of title is furnished it is generally prepared by the vendor's solicitor, the vendor personally knowing very little about it. An abstract of title will be prepared, generally speaking, upon a contract or an advertisement of the sale of the property, which is the basis of everything. In the event of there being no particulars in connection with that contract, such as a reservation, then any purchaser would have to look out for what his abstract discloses. The abstract being prepared, is handed over to the purchaser or his solicitor. It is then the duty of the purchaser's solicitor to examine and compare the abstract with the original title. If the conditions of sale are such that a purchaser has to make his objection to the abstract within a certain number of days, and he does not make objection, the law considers he has waived all objection to the title.
213. *Chairman.*] What about the abstract of title? This is the abstract of the title for 20 acres of land.
214. With the usual reservations? Yes; the usual reservations of public ways, &c.
215. Would you take that to mean the 100-ft. reservation as well as other reservations? I should take it to mean a notice to me, if I were the purchaser's solicitor, putting me upon inquiry as to what those usual reservations were. In examining my deed, I should take good care to see what was put down.
216. Would not you think it strange if a man in the position of Mr. Thompson, solicitor, bought under the same conditions? No, I should not. It depends a good deal on when the sale to the sub-purchasers took place.
217. That was in 1875? As a matter of common knowledge, these reservations of 100 feet were not looked upon as anything very serious in those days. That, however, is not a legal answer. Of course, if a man buys with that reservation, he buys with his eyes open.
218. I suppose that if a man occupies the land including the reservation for twenty-one or thirty years, it does not give him the right to it? Not as against the Crown.
219. But as against a private individual? That is a different thing altogether. The Statute of Limitations comes in, and you are bound by the twenty years.
220. Then the Crown never parts with its right? No. We say that there is no Statute of Limitations against us in the Colony. It is still a moot question whether we are bound by the sixty years—that is what is called the *Nullum Tempus* Act. We have tried to get the Privy Council to decide it, and they have shirked it, but they will have to do it in a case I am sending Home now.
221. *Mr. Edden.*] Does it appear to you that if Mr. Dangar sold these foreshores to private individuals he sold that which does not belong to him? I do not know what the contract was, therefore I could not answer that question; but I will assume that he sold right up to the boundary line, not knowing about the reservation, and that the purchaser examined the title, and saw the reservation. He had it in his power then to say, "Mr. Dangar, you cannot sell me that; I decline to complete the purchase." He could have taken his objection, and refused to complete his purchase on that ground.
222. Yesterday Mr. Dangar was asked a question with reference to compensation. In Mr. Dangar's opinion, if the Government resume, the people who purchase the land have a right to compensation from the Crown;—what is your opinion? I cannot pass any opinion upon that. If they choose to make any claim against the Crown, I shall be quite prepared to meet it, but it would not be fair for me to pass an opinion at present.
223. *Chairman.*] Who is legally responsible for the mistake which has been made in regard to the 100-ft. reservation;—is it the solicitor, or Mr. Dangar? Certainly not the man who sold it. He must have sold it in all good faith. He did not sell simply the 100 feet. I suppose he sold a large piece.
224. Yes—£16,000 worth? How is it divided?
225. Into allotments [*plan produced*]? The plan does not show the usual subdivisions, but it shows how the property stands now. There is no doubt on my mind that it was the duty of the purchaser's solicitor to see that the title was all right.
226. Then, in your opinion, the solicitors were responsible? They were at that time; but I think it is too late now for them to be responsible. The time in which you can bring an action for negligence against them has lapsed.
227. How many years are supposed to elapse? Six.

TUESDAY, 18 AUGUST, 1896.

Present:—

MR. CARROLL, | MR. TRAVERS JONES,
MR. O'SULLIVAN.

JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

James Miller, wood-turner, Hannell-street, Wickham, sworn and examined:—

- J. Miller. 228. *Chairman.*] You bought some land originally sold by Mr. Dangar fronting Throsby Creek? Yes; I bought it from Mr. Ash.
- 18 Aug., 1896. 229. Who drew up your deeds? H. J. Brown.
230. Did he raise any objection to the title? None.
231. You signed the title? Yes.
232. When was it pointed out to you that it was defective? Not until after it was paid for and I was living on the land. I must have been living upon it from four to six months.
233. Did you ever mortgage the land? Yes; to the Newcastle Permanent Building Society.
234. Did they accept the deeds as correct? Yes; and I borrowed £100 from them.
235. When did you first know there was any stipulation as to a reservation? The first I heard of it was when M. T. Garrett applied to mine for coal under some reservations on the banks of the Hunter. I then made inquiries from Claxton, and he said he believed it was where we were living on. There had been different meetings got up by the residents on the land, and that was how I came to find that a reservation existed.

236. Did the Department send you notice to the effect that you were on the 100 feet reservation? I made application to the Land Board, and then I found I was on it. After I had paid the mortgage to the Building Society I made application to the Land Board to purchase the land, the reservation of which had been rescinded. J. Miller. 18 Aug., 1896.

237. Did you receive a letter in answer to yours? Yes; I received the following letter:—

[Am. 93-10, 125; S.P. 91-94.]

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 15 August, 1893.

I am directed to call your attention to the notice in the *Government Gazette* of to-day, from which you will perceive that you will be allowed to purchase, under the 63rd clause of the Crown Land Act of 1884, portion of land containing 7½ acres, in the parish of Newcastle, county of Northumberland; and I am to request that you will be good enough to pay into the Colonial Treasury the sum of £144 7s., being the price at which the land has been appraised, inclusive of the deed fee and costs.

Under the 213th clause of the Regulations of the Crown Lands Act of 1889, the amount stated must be paid in the manner pointed out within three months from the notice in the *Government Gazette*, under a penalty of an addition of 10 per cent. to the price; and should the price, together with such penalty, not be paid within a further period of three months, the claim to purchase will lapse.

The sum of £7 18s. out of the deposit, paid on the application, will be credited as part payment of the purchase-money, the balance being retained, in accordance with Regulation No. 209, to cover the part of costs incurred in connection with the application.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM HOUSTON,
Under Secretary
(per A.B.).

James Miller, Esq.,
Hannell-street, Wickham.

238. That is in regard to land which you paid for in 1879? Yes; I paid £150 for it.

239. How much of the £144 have you paid? £57 18s.

240. Have you asked for time in which to pay the balance? Yes; every three or six months.

241. Why? I have not been in a position to pay the money.

242. What were the meetings to which you have referred? To protest against having to pay a second time for the land. I thought when I bought the land it was mine, and that no one else had a right to it.

243. Who was the solicitor connected with the building society which mortgaged your land? Mr. Capper.

244. Your title to the land was accepted by H. J. Brown, and by Capper, of Newcastle? Yes.

245. What did you do when you found that the land was within the 100 feet reservation? I wrote to Mr. Dangar, and received the following reply:—

Sir,

Barona, Whittingham, Great Northern Railway, 26 September, 1893.

I am in receipt of yours of the 25th instant, and, in reply, do not see what claim you have upon me in the matter, or how I can assist you.

The allotment you allude to is, I suppose, one that Mr. J. Ash bought at my sale in 1875, when the land was sold in perfect good faith by me, and my title to it passed and approved of by all the solicitors of the various purchases, and again, I suppose, by your solicitor when you purchased from Mr. Ash.

It seems a most unjust thing that after all these years the Government can make such a demand as you say they are making upon you; but although, no doubt, Mr. Ash paid me for the land, I do not see why I should now, eighteen years after, refund you the money, or any portion of it.

I am, &c.,

A. A. DANGAR.

Mr. J. Miller, Wickham.

246. Have you any buildings on the land? Yes; I reside upon it and have a workshop there. It is worth £300 or £400. I pay 34s. or 35s. a year rates.

247. Then if you cannot pay the balance due to the Government, to all appearances you will lose everything? Yes; and I am not in a position to pay at present.

248. *Mr. Travers Jones.*] Have the Government made a recent claim for the balance? Yes; and they have given me an extended time—until December next.

249. *Chairman.*] But time after time you have received demands from the Lands Department for the remaining portion of the money? Yes; with 5 per cent. added.

250. *Mr. Travers Jones.*] Will you be in a position to pay the balance in December? No; but I should be in December, 1897, when I shall receive some money in connection with a Life Assurance.

251. If the Government ejected you from the land, would you lose your buildings and business? If they tried to do that I should have to endeavour to borrow the money. Otherwise I should have to lose my home.

George Edward Redman, cordial manufacturer, Hannell-street, Wickham, sworn and examined:—

252. *Chairman.*] Did you buy any land on the foreshores of Throsby Creek from Mr. A. A. Dangar? Yes. I will read what I have to say: I bought lot 6, section E, at auction from Messrs. Wolfe and Badgery, auctioneers, for the sum of £1,015, to be paid for on the following terms:—One-third cash, balance at one and two years at 7 per cent. interest; I paid the balance off in the first year at Maitland; at the time I paid such balance, Messrs. Wolfe and Badgery's clerk handed over to me the deeds; such deeds I did not order them, or anyone else, to make out; I accepted such deeds in good faith, thinking they were all right; I brought them home; next day I submitted them to Mr. George Wallace; he advised me they were quite correct, and the only thing that was wanting to complete, was to be sent to Sydney to be registered, which was done; in full faith that the title was good, I commenced to fill up the swamp; I may state, at the time I asked Mr. Badgery if I could reclaim any portion of the swamp, he informed me I could reclaim as much as I wished—in fact, it was such inducement held out that decided me to purchase this land; I was filling up the swamp for about five years; at times I had as many as six drays going at a time; in 1880, Messrs. Hume and Pegrum, Sydney, visited my place several times with a view to purchasing the whole of the land and property thereon; I sold the land and my business to them for £5,000; they paid me a deposit of £25; they sent the contract, together with the deeds, to Messrs. Pigott and Trickett, solicitors, Sydney; they pointed out the defect about the 100 feet from high-water mark; consequently the deeds were sent back as no good, and Messrs. Hume and Pegrum declined to purchase my business owing to the defect in the title of the land; the bank then went to law with me, with the result that I lost the land and had to compromise with my creditors in Sydney; I handed to them everything I had in the world; the trustees took possession, and run the business for seven months, with my assistance—for a living for those depending upon me; at the expiration of that time, they sold the business and everything I gave them; a few of my friends bought the business in for me; such business I have carried on until the present.

253. Who drew up the deeds? The auctioneer or Mr. Dangar got George Wallace to draw them up.

254. You found out that something was wrong when you had closed a bargain to sell the land for £5,000? Yes.

G. E.
Redman.

18 Aug., 1896.

- G. E. Redman.
18 Aug., 1896.
255. Had the deeds been good you would have put £5,000 in your pocket? Yes. I lost the lot, and started again without a shilling.
256. What did it cost you for filling up the land? £1,100. I lost all that.
257. If you had known it was Crown land would you have filled it up? No. I thought by reclaiming the land I could employ my men in the winter. I thought the land was part of my bargain, and that the purchase gave me the right to fill it up.
258. Did you lose the land you filled up? Yes, I lost it all. The bank claimed it. I owed the bank £1,500 on account of a mortgage which I got upon the land, in order to erect my buildings.
259. The bank had to purchase again from the Crown? Yes.
260. How much did the bank pay for it? £2,000.
261. The filling up you made was, I suppose, looked upon as an improvement? Yes.
262. Had the bank to pay for the Crown's improvements? Yes.
263. Had it not been for the improvements you made would the Crown have got so much? They would not have got 1,100 pence.
264. But on account of the filling up they got £2,000? Yes.
265. And then you had to buy from the bank again? After many years I bought back from the bank for £2,500.
266. So that, altogether, you are at a loss of £7,000? About that.
267. How many cordial manufacturers were there in Newcastle at that time? Myself and Mr. Moore.
268. So that you were injured considerably when you were sold up? Yes; I lost my trade and everything else.
269. How much do you think you lost altogether through the transaction? Fully £5,000. I was out of business for a year, and it took me years to pull up the business I lost. I have lost more than £5,000 if I include the loss of business.
270. *Mr. Travers Jones.*] Had you been allowed to carry on your business you could have done well? Yes.
271. And the defect in the title deed ruined you? Yes.
272. Are you still in the same line of business, and doing fairly well? Yes; but not so well as formerly.
273. *Mr. Carroll.*] When the deed was sent to Sydney was it registered? Yes, and it was handed back to me.
274. Was the land you bought all dry? Yes, at that time. When Mr. Dangar sold me the land he sold me 2 roods 16 perches.
275. *Mr. Travers Jones.*] The 100 feet of reservation was of no value until you filled it in? No. I do not think anyone would have had it as a gift. My labour and money made it worth £2,000. Formerly it consisted of mangroves and a swamp, and through my exertions, and the expenditure of £1,100, I made it good land.
276. *Chairman.*] Seeing that this land has been made of great value through the expenditure of your money, you think you should receive some concession from the Crown? Yes; if I could only get back what I spent there I would be quite satisfied.
277. Had you to compromise with your creditors on account of the solicitors, Messrs. Pigott & Trickett, finding out that the land you paid £1,000 for was within the 100 feet reservation? Yes.

THURSDAY, 27 AUGUST, 1896.

Present:—

MR. CARROLL,

MR. EDDEN.

JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Job Butler Hudson sworn and examined:—

- J. B. Hudson.
27 Aug., 1896.
278. *Chairman.*] Have you resided in Wickham? Yes.
279. Do you know anything of the sale of land by Mr. A. A. Dangar, at Cottage and Throsby Creeks? Yes.
280. Were you an original purchaser? Not from Dangar. I was present at the sale, and I bought by public auction, on the ground, from Mr. Croker.
281. Was any stipulation made as to the 100 feet reservation? None whatever. I bought, as Mr. Wood, solicitor, described it, with a thorough, good title.
282. Have you any information to give to the Committee? I bought the land on 2nd May, 1878, and gave £660 for it. I immediately called for tenders to build. I was informed by Mr. Hogue, the Wickham Council Clerk, that I was going to build on the footpath. He put a peg in, and informed me the street was 1½ chain wide. I had to stop my contract. I then asked Mr. Hudson, who was surveying for Dangar on the opposite side, when he cut up the other portion of his paddock, to put a peg in for me, and he did so.
283. Did the pegs vary? Yes, by 3 or 4 inches. I then wrote to Croker, and he came down, and I told him what was the matter. He went to George Wallace, the solicitor, who advised that I should go to arbitration and settle the matter. I agreed. He appointed J. C. Benares to act for me, and I appointed Wm. Grizzell, now deceased. The decision of the arbitration was that I should receive £170 14s., which Mr. Croker paid to me the same afternoon as compensation for the footpath. I was there for some years as an hotelkeeper when the Government surveyor came along, and a man drove a peg close to my tank in the yard. I asked him what he was doing, and he said he was carrying out orders. The surveyor came up and asked me if I was aware I was on a reservation of 100 feet from high-water mark. I said, "I am not." A meeting of purchasers was held, and afterwards I came to Sydney, and went to the Registrar-General's Office, and found out that in a copy of a deed which Dangar submitted to Tasker Furlong the words "usual reservation for public ways" were used instead of "a reservation of 100 feet from high-water mark." I produce a copy of the abstract of title which I received, but it is not a true copy; it only refers to the "usual reservations for public ways." Ultimately I had to buy the land from the Government. I paid them £233, and £1 for my deeds; and also £20, and £1 for deeds in respect of 2¼ perches upon which my stable was standing.
284. When you bought from Croker, you did not know there was any 100 feet reservation? No, nor did Croker.
285. *Mr. Carroll.*] What was the difference in time between Dangar selling to Croker and you buying from Croker? I could not tell from memory, but I think within two or three years.
286. *Mr. Edden.*] Your property is on the 100 feet reservation? Yes, and I had to re-purchase it from the Crown.

1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

TAKEN BEFORE

THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

LAND FRONTING THROSBY AND COTTAGE CREEKS,
SOLD BY A. A. DANGAR, ESQ.

WEDNESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER, 1898.

Present:—

MR. EDDEN,
MR. NOBBS,

MR. NICHOLSON,
MR. PERRY.

J. L. FEGAN, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

Henry Joseph Brown, solicitor, sworn and examined:—

1. *Chairman.*] You are a solicitor practising at Newcastle? Yes.
2. Do you remember Mr. Dangar selling land fronting Throsby Creek and Cottage Creek? Yes.
3. Did you act as solicitor for some of the purchasers? Yes, for some of them.
4. Have you heard that the Government have demanded payment for land which several purchasers bought from Mr. Dangar? In several instances the Government have claimed and have been paid compensation for the land within 100 feet of high-water mark.
5. As solicitor for a number of the purchasers you examined the title to the land? Yes.
6. You were perfectly satisfied that everything was proper so far as the reservation was concerned? I ascertained by comparing the abstract with the grant that the reservation existed.
7. Was not this land within the 100-foot reservation? Yes.
8. How then could you give a deed for such land? Of course Mr. Dangar conveyed what interest he had, and the purchasers took the title under various conditions, either because they could not help themselves under the circumstances or thought they could purchase the Crown right on easy terms.
9. Did the purchasers accept that title knowing that they had no right to the 100-foot reservation which really they had bought? Well, in some cases they did, believing as I have said that the reservation was merely nominal and that it could be rescinded at a nominal rate. In other cases the purchase money was paid in full or the land was built on before the purchasers came to me to prepare the conveyance, and then I explained matters, and it was thought that nothing could be done but take the land as it was.
10. You have in your hand the abstract of title to the land sold at auction? Yes.
11. Does it make any reservations? There is no mention of any reservation here of the land within 100 feet of high-water mark. I am usually considered a little over particular, and I always make it a point to compare the abstract with the deeds, to see that nothing is left out; that is to say, of course, when an opportunity offers. In these particular cases I did make that inquiry, and I saw that the 100 feet had been reserved.
12. *Mr. Edden.*] You had nothing to do with this grant until the purchasers came to you to get deeds for them? No.
13. You had nothing to do with Mr. Dangar at all? No.

H. J. Brown.
21 Sept., 1898.

H. J. Brown. 14. *Chairman.*] Did the persons who came to you to draw up their deeds, have anything before them but that abstract of title? They would not have even that. The abstract would come to me, as their solicitor, after the sale.

21 Sept., 1898.

15. Is it possible, do you think, that Mr. Dangar would sell that land without knowing that there were certain reservations in the grant? It is quite possible—it is quite probable indeed.

16. Do you think it is probable that a business man of Mr. Dangar's capacity could hold land without knowing how much belonged to the Crown, or what reservations were in the grant? The land came to him from his father. Mr. Dangar, senior, purchased the land, and Mr. A. A. Dangar, in all probability, would not trouble to make an inquiry on that point. I recollect that in one case the purchaser did give up for sale, on my pointing it out to him. In another case the purchaser said, "Well, it may be worth my while to take the land, and I can settle with the Government afterwards." I should say that in those days this reservation, as a rule, was not looked upon as being worth very much—it was considered that it was intended that the Crown should resume the land if they required it for public purposes, but not claim it otherwise, and that in any case the reservation could be got rid of by a comparatively nominal payment.

17. You have known Mr. Dangar for many years? Yes.

18. Do you think it is possible that a man of his business capacity would not know what reservations there were in the grant of that land? I think it is quite possible. He would know his father had purchased 20 acres, and probably would not consider it necessary to inspect the deeds; he would leave that to his solicitor.

19. Do you think you would own a piece of land without knowing what reservations were on it? As a solicitor, I should inspect the title, and see that everything was all right.

20. I suppose Mr. Dangar is a professional man too? No; he may never even have seen the deed.

21. There were 20 acres granted in the first instance to Richard Tasker Furlong? Yes.

22. In the advertisement in the *Government Gazette* of the 18th September, 1839, there is no reference made to any reservation? No; so far as I can see, the wrong is not with Mr. Dangar, who probably believed that he had a right to sell, but with the Government in demanding payment for land for which they had already been paid.

23. How is that? I cannot trace exactly which is the particular description from the advertisements in that *Gazette*, but none of them indicates that the water-frontage would be reserved. Of course, if the Government advertise land for sale, the meaning is to be taken as described or specified in the advertisement.

24. There are three or four advertisements in this *Gazette*? Yes, they are all on the same lines. You will notice that the length of the lines is not given, but it is stated that they will be sufficiently long to include 20 acres. The Government professed to sell and were paid for 20 acres, but there ought to be another advertisement in a later issue of the *Gazette* showing when the sale was to take place, and giving fuller particulars.

25. *Mr. Perry.*] Did the plan show a reservation of 100 feet? No. If I could see the Government conditions of sale or the advertisement under which the land was sold, it would set the matter at rest.

26. It says in the abstract "the usual reservation of public ways"? Yes.

27. That, I take it, is the usual thing, giving a right to the Crown to resume land for a roadway through any part of the grant? It is hard to say what is usual because these reservations vary—and I speak from an experience of forty or fifty years.

28. There apparently was a roadway reserved, what is termed here an occupation road, that is, a 50-links wide road? That occupation road simply started at the water's edge, and went within the 100 feet all along or nearly so. If it were intended that the 100 feet should be the property of the Government at the time of the sale they would never have reserved a road out of what belonged to them. The advertisement would lead any one reading it to believe that there was not to be a reservation of water-frontage.

29. *Mr. Nobbs.*] Are the creeks mentioned in this paper tidal creeks? In my opinion they are not creeks at all within the meaning of the deed. One is a water-course, and one is a channel.

30. Are they tidal channels? One is a tidal channel, and the other is a water-course taking its rise some little distance back, and it is no doubt backed up by the tide. Throsby Creek is a tidal channel and Cottage Creek is a fresh-water creek affected by the salt water at high tide.

31. It is really a tidal creek occasionally? Yes. At present it is a storm-water drain.

32. Was there a reservation of 100 feet to high-water mark made in the grant? Yes; but these grants are prepared by the Government after the sale, and the purchasers do not know what they insert. They might lie for years in the Treasury and no one would know what had been granted to him till some solicitor found it out.

33. As a matter of fact, a reservation of the land within 100 feet of high-water mark is contained in the grant of this land? Yes.

34. Mr. Dangar, in selling this land, sold under his title and he showed a plan in which there was no reservation whatever? I do not think it is shown on the plan.

35. The land comprised in the reservation was sold as if it was his land under the Crown grant? Yes.

36. He had no right whatever to sell Crown land? That is a legal question, but he had a moral right to do so, inasmuch as the Government have been paid for that land.

37. No application was made to the Government to resume this land in the ordinary way? No; not by Mr. Dangar, as far as I know.

38. Therefore it is really a flaw in the title? That is, assuming that the so-called creeks are creeks within the meaning of that Act.

39. If you were acting for a purchaser would you not, if you knew that the land was fronting salt-water creeks, examine the Crown grant to ascertain if it contained a reservation of that kind? Yes.

40. And if it did contain a reservation of that kind you would at once demand from the vendor the refund of a certain amount, that is the value taken off the land, or advise your client to throw up the land altogether? Yes, I would explain the whole matter to my client and let him act as he thought fit, as I did in these cases.

41. If it were shown afterwards to be a bad title you would consider yourself responsible to your client if you had not given that explanation to him? Yes.

42. If you had given that explanation to your client, and he had taken the title with all faults, he would be responsible? Yes. H. J. Brown.
43. And that purchaser, in selling again, would be exactly in the same position? Yes; as I have already stated, in those days there was not very much weight attached to these reservations. 21 Sept., 1838.
44. *Mr. Perry.*] It is laid down that the duty of a purchaser is to see that the title to the land is good? Yes; where he is afforded an opportunity.
45. Has it been ascertained whether the grant contains 20 acres with the 100 feet reservation taken out of it. I cannot say from the description. There is some muddle in this description in the grant. It refers to a proclamation of the 18th September, 1839. There are things not in that proclamation which are mentioned here as being in it. For instance, it says, "Being the land sold to the said Richard Tasker Furlong as lot 20, in pursuance of the advertisement of 18th September, 1839." There is no number of the allotment here at all, evidently there must have been another advertisement, because this is only a preliminary notice that this land would be sold.
46. *Chairman.*] Would not the first advertisement be gazetted in 1838? No; this is the first advertisement, that His Excellency purposes at an early date to put up the land for sale.
47. *Mr. Perry.*] Suppose there had not been that flaw in the title, would that land have brought more at auction? I do not think so, at the time; it was not known when the land was purchased.
48. Do you know of any case where there has been a reservation, and the Government have afterwards taken or used the land, and paid the owner for the land? I do not know of any instance in reference to a water-frontage; but I have an impression that the Government have paid for land granted with other reservations. I would like to point out to the Committee that the descriptions in this *Gazette* relate to a number of lots similarly situated. From the advertisement it is evident that it was intended to convey 20 acres. The length of the lines is not given, but it is stated that they are to include the full quantity. The land would be sold at auction at so much an acre; and if 20 acres were paid for, it was evidently intended by all parties that 20 acres should be retained by the purchaser. On a rough calculation, an acre and a half of land would be taken away from the grant by the reservation. This occupation road is all, or nearly all, within the 100-feet reservation, and the Government would not reserve a road out of property which belonged to themselves.
49. *Chairman.*] What conclusion do you draw from that? My conclusion is that the Government have sold the land, and have been paid for it twice. A number of other allotments fronting Throsby Creek were, later on, sold on or about the same day, and in some of these grants the reservation is inserted, and in others it is not, and for no apparent reason; they were all sold under the same circumstances. I am very much inclined to think that it is just a matter of chance what reservations are in a grant; that it all depends upon what pigeon-hole the clerk took the form of grant from.
50. You know that a number of persons have built their homes on this land? Yes.
51. You fully believe that the Government did not own or had no claim to the land? I have no doubt that a great many persons purchased the land under that impression; though after the purchases, in the case of my clients, they would know otherwise.
52. *Mr. Perry.*] Is the road on the river-bank? Yes.
53. Is it absolutely necessary that there should be a road along the river-bank? Yes; the road is now called Hannell-street.
54. The reclamation right was given in virtue of ownership of land fronting the creek? Yes; but I should say that in these cases the proprietors had paid for the rescission of the water frontage so far as regards their pieces. They did that in virtue of the ownership, although as a matter of fact, in some cases the whole of the land was within the 100-feet reservation.
55. Therefore the Crown must have recognised the private ownership of this 100-feet reservation? They did in a way at all events.
56. Were reclamation rights granted to the owners of the land comprised within the 100-feet reservation? The Government had granted a right to reclaim in cases where the reservation had been rescinded so far as regards the piece concerned, and in some cases the rescission had been allowed where the whole of the land was wholly within the 100-feet reservation. It was a kind of recognition of title.
57. *Mr. Nicholson.*] This goes to prove that the Government in every case did not exercise their privilege as to the 100-feet reservation from high-water mark? I think it was a matter of chance what particular form of grant was filled up. A gentleman in Newcastle has four separate allotments which were all bought at the same time under the same conditions. Three of them are without the reservation and the fourth has it.
58. *Mr. Perry.*] At the time this land was sold land was of very little value, and the Government were not very particular in their description? I know that some of the descriptions in the Government deeds are perfect curiosities. I have seen a deed of land in George-street, bounded on the west by George-street and nothing more. I have seen a deed of another piece, bounded on the north by the Hawkesbury River, and on all other sides by mountains. If I were arranging for the sale of this property for a client, and I intended to reserve 100 feet for high-water mark, I should instruct the surveyor to make his description so as to show that reservation. Instead of the land being bounded on the north or east, as it might be by a creek, it would be bounded by the line distant 100 feet from and parallel to high-water mark.
59. *Mr. Nobbs.*] This land was sold by an auctioneer? Yes.
60. Under the ordinary conditions of sale? Generally.
61. Was there any reservation mentioned in the conditions of sale? At the first sale I know that there was no mention made of the reservation. Whether there were subsequent sales in which there was a condition stating that the property was sold subject to the reservations in the Crown grant, I do not know, but there may have been - I do not say that there was in this particular case.
62. A reservation such as you mentioned would include the reservation of the water-frontage? Yes, it is so generally considered, but I have some doubt.
63. You cannot say that it was mentioned that it was reserved? No.
64. If purchasers bought the land at an auction sale, and it was not mentioned in the conditions that such a reservation existed they simply bought at their own risk, and they would be responsible for any loss which might be sustained? Yes, if they accepted the title.
65. Where a reservation of this kind exists, it is a usual thing for vendors, in order to protect themselves, to state it in the conditions of sale? Yes. I do not think that would be quite sufficient, or ought to be sufficient.

H. J. Brown. sufficient, because people do not listen to these things when they are read; and it ought to be distinctly stated that the water-frontage—which really means the land itself—is reserved. There are reservations of rights of drainage, and all that kind of thing. Perhaps this reservation is really an exception.

21 Sept., 1898.

66. *Chairman.*] If the owner believed that every foot of this land was his property—on account of its requiring this slip of 100 feet to make up the quantity of 20 acres mentioned in the grant—would it be possible for him to let the purchaser know that there was a reservation of 100 feet from high-water mark, when he himself did not know that there was? People who buy small pieces of land are generally not very conversant with the law relating to real property, and, as a matter of fact, many professional men are not, not that I say that they are defective in knowledge, but simply because it may not come within their particular branch of the profession.

67. And from taking too much for granted? No. There are some three or four branches of the profession, and a man may be a specialist in one branch, and have only a very moderate knowledge of the others.

68. If Mr. Dangar, who was sole owner of those 20 acres, did not know that the Government were claiming 100 feet from high-water mark, how would it be possible for him to let the purchasers know that they were. The purchaser would be just in the same position.

69. *Mr. Nobbs.*] As a matter of fact, purchasers generally look to their solicitor? Yes. It was Mr. Dangar's father who purchased the land. The water there is very shallow. The principal use of the water-frontage in those days would have been simply for the purpose of getting boats to take goods and things wanted for a house from the steamer. There are no fewer than four bridges across Throsby's Creek at present.

70. *Chairman.*] Four bridges and a small causeway? Yes; nothing more than an ordinary skiff could get under sail there, and then only at low tide.

71. Somebody must be in the wrong from the fact of these people having to pay twice for the land they bought? No doubt.

72. In your opinion, who is in the wrong? I should say from what is before me the Government undoubtedly are.

73. You have given this matter your very careful consideration? Yes. That opinion might be modified if I saw the advertisement announcing the sale of the land, and the conditions of sale. I observe that in his evidence before the former Select Committee, the Crown Solicitor, in answer to question 190, stated that the usual form of deed preserving foreshores contained these words: "And also all land within 100 feet of high-water mark on the sea-coast and on every creek, harbour, and inlet." The Committee will notice that it does not say anything about a river. If it had been intended to take a creek in the ordinary acceptance of the term, certainly the word "river" would have been used, as a river is more important than a creek. You would hardly reserve water-frontage in Cottage Creek, which is, perhaps, all mud at low tide, and exempt a river if it did not mean a creek in the legal sense of the term. Mr. Miller, in his evidence before the last Committee, says that I did not raise any objection in his case. He must have been mistaken when he gave that evidence.

74. Why? In the recital it says: "Whereas the said John Ash some time since sold and was paid for the land," and the land was subsequently sold to Mr. Miller. What has really taken place is this: The Government sold 20 acres, and, apparently, without letting the purchaser know anything about it, they gave him a deed for 20 acres, less 100 feet water-frontage, and they ought to rectify it.

75. Have not the following solicitors also accepted the title as good:—George Wallace, T. B. Slater, Redhead and Son, G. T. Chambers, A. F. Richardson, R. W. Thompson, and W. W. Capper? Yes.

76. It would be strange if they accepted a title which was of little value? As I say, they may have been in the same position as I was in, in some cases, and were instructed to do so by their client; or their client may have paid for the land, and was glad to get what he could.

77. *Mr. Nobbs.*] What does this reservation amount to in all? Over an acre and a half, I think.

78. You contend that this place is neither a creek nor a harbour nor an inlet within the meaning of the grant? Yes.

79. I see, from page 2 of the evidence taken by the former Committee, that the grant contains a reservation of 100 feet of all land within 100 feet of high-water mark on the sea-coast and on every creek, harbour, and inlet? Yes.

80. In your opinion, do these creeks come within either of these terms? I do not think so.

81. How would you describe these creeks? I should describe Cottage Creek as a water-course, and Throsby's Creek as a channel or ana-branch separating Bullock Island from the mainland.

82. In acting for a purchaser, you took that view of it? I did not act on it, but I say that where I accepted a title I either did it under instructions or because my client could not help himself—either from the conditions of sale or because there had been sub-sales by people who had been paid and could not refund the purchase-money, or the land had been built on. I am not sure that Mr. Dangar's second sale did not comprise that condition. Purchasers from the Government are, to a very great extent, at their mercy—the Government prepare the deeds, and no one knows what they put in them. For instance, in the early sixties some land was conditionally purchased at Lake Macquarie, and the description in the application which was accepted extended to the shores of the lake. When the purchase-money was paid in full, and all the conditions of the sale complied with, a grant was issued, and it contained a reservation within 100 feet of high-water mark. I pointed out that what my client bought was the land up to high-water mark, and that there was no mention of any reservation in the acceptance of his application. The Government admitted it, and struck out the reservation, and no doubt that should have been done at the time in these cases which are before the Committee. My impression is, so peculiar were the ways in which they made out these deeds, that probably some of the grants of land on the Blue Mountains contain reservations of land within 100 feet of high-water mark. I have been referred to the evidence of a former witness who gave extracts from the conditions of sale by the Crown, which refer to the reservation of land within 100 feet of high-water mark; but purchasers might come in too late to hear the conditions read, and if they did hear them might take no notice of them, and trust to the advertisement which showed clearly that the whole land up to high-water mark would be sold, particularly when it was sold and paid for by the acre. In these cases the position of the Crown would be legally correct; but morally speaking, I think the purchasers, having no idea that they were purchasing only part of the land they paid for, would have a claim to rescission.

83. *Chairman.*] Is there any other evidence which you would like to give? I think not.

[Two plans.]

Lot No. H.525-663 39/336

lot 743 Notice of 27th July 1839²

Sketch showing Twenty Acres of land in the neighborhood of Newcastle applied for by Richard Furlong

(s^d) J. T. yle White Junr.

Appendix A

To evidence of M^r E. A. Bronson.

Handed in before the Select Committee on Land fronting Throsby and Cottage Creeks sold by A. A. Dangar Esq.

(s^d) W. S. M.

5 & 96.

39/336

Vide also Col Sec. Let. 40/167 states that Captain Furlong having paid the balance to the Colonial Treasurer he has been authorized to take possession of the land.

See Purch Abstract 39/209

Lot 20 Sale 13th Nov. 1839

Sale cancelled by Col. Treas. let. No. 40/35 the deposit having been forfeited

Vide Colonial Treas. letter 40/164 stating that the completion of the purchase of the land has been specially authorized by Col. Sec. letter of the 12th Febru^y 1840

76 1535 Note to per possession of 100 feet reserve Application refused 30th April 1875

LP 58 - page 147
Deed issued to R. Furlong on 11th July 1840 resg. 100 feet above reserving all land within 100 feet of High Water Mark

to the land

77 ch^{ts} 8^{ths} 4^{ths} inch

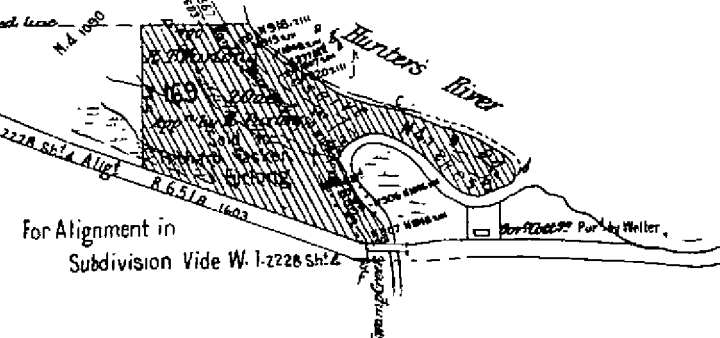
Marked line

M.A. 1000

W. 1-2228 Sh. 4. A. 1/2

For Alignment in Subdivision Vide W. 1-2228 Sh. 4

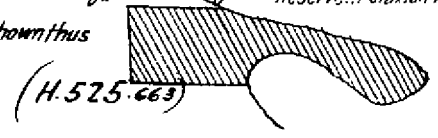
H. 64-643 8011



- a R. Claxton Resc S.P.
D^e Resc^d d^e
- b W. Herd Resc S.P. 1501
D^e Resc^d d^e
- c W. Radman Resc S. 1504
- d D^e Resc S.P. 1107
- e J. Goodier Resc S.P.
D^e Resc
- f J. B. Hudson Resc 1210
D^e Resc 1211
- g Aust. Joint S. B^e Resc^d } 82 1224
Resc^d } 82 1225
- h G. Dawson Resc^d } 82 1250
G. Dawson Resc^d } 82 1250
- i S. Morgan Resc^d } 82 1250
S. Morgan Resc^d } 82 1250

I CERTIFY that this is a CORRECT COPY of the original plan of which it purports to be a copy, I being the officer having the custody thereof.
Chief Draftsman Lands Dept
31st July 1896.
(s^d) A. J. Stopps
Actg. Chief Draftsman
Encls 41 32 Aug 10th
Page 47 Field Book 16

NOTE— All letters and figures shown in red on original Plan are on this copy shown thus
D^e D^e in black D^e D^e D^e 169. Vide Col Treas. letter
D^e D^e in pencil D^e D^e D^e 760, 1120 App^d by R. Furlong
Reserve. R. Claxton Resc S.P.
Brown tint on Original Plan is on this copy shown thus



Cat Nos
(N 51 5556
N 81
N 88
N 116

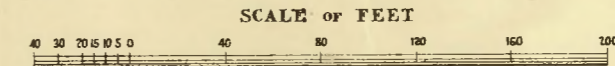
APPENDIX B.

To Evidence of Edward Tynham, Esq.,
Chief Surveyor's Dept.

PLAN
showing R. T. Furlongs 20ac⁺ as now occupied
June 1896
MUNICIPALITY OF WICKHAM

Handed in before the Select Committee on "Land fronting Throsby
and Cottage Creeks, sold by A. A. Dangar, Esq."

W.S.M.
5/8/96.



Note The Southern Western and Northern boundaries of R.T. Furlongs 20ac. great are shown thus - - - - -



1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

PATENTS AND TRADE MARKS ACTS.
(RETURN RESPECTING RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES IN CONNECTION WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF.)

Printed under No. 6 Report from Printing Committee, 13 October, 1898.

[Laid upon the Table in answer to Question No. 1, Votes No. 25, 12 October, 1898.]

Question.

- (1.) Patents and Trade Marks Acts:—*Mr. O'Connor*, for *Mr. Spruson*, asked the Minister of Justice,—
(1.) What were the total receipts and expenditure in connection with the administration of the Patents and Trade Marks Acts, from 1st August, 1887, when the Patents Law Amendment Act of 1887 came into effect, to the end of the last financial year?
(2.) The same for the last financial year?

Answer.

(1.) The receipts of the Patents Office from 1st August, 1887, to the end of the last financial year were £36,956; and the expenditure (without charges for printing, advertising, and stores), approximately, £22,324. The receipts under the Trade Marks Act for the same period were £13,686. Expenses connected with Trade Marks have been borne by the Registrar-General's Department, and no separate account has been kept. Since 13th May, 1890, the sum of £571 has been refunded to applicants for the registration of Trade Marks in cases of refusal and withdrawal. I cannot ascertain particulars of refunds in Trade Marks cases prior to the date mentioned.

(2.) The Patents receipts for the last financial year were £3,849, and the expenditure (without the before-mentioned charges), £1,235. The Trade Marks receipts for the same period were £1,546. Refunds in Trade Mark cases during that year amounted to £165.

P. P. PACKHAM,
Acting Examiner of Patents.

12th October, 1898.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

NECROPOLIS—ROOKWOOD.

(INFORMATION RESPECTING CEMETERIES AT.)

Printed under No. 9 Report from Printing Committee, 27 October, 1898.

[Laid upon the Table in accordance with promise made in answer to Question No. 4, Votes No. 29, Thursday, 20 October, 1898.]

- (4.) **ROOKWOOD CEMETERY**:—Mr. Nobbs asked the Minister of Justice,—
- (1.) What are the names of the trustees and secretaries of the various denominational cemeteries of the Necropolis, Rookwood?
 - (2.) What are the amounts of allowances, salaries, &c., paid to each of the above?
 - (3.) The addresses of offices of such trustees and secretaries, and the amounts paid for rent for each?
 - (4.) The names and salaries of cemetery managers, distinguishing those residing within their management?
 - (5.) The names and salaries of clerks to managers?
 - (6.) The number of labourers employed in each denominational ground, and if preference is given to residents within the district?
 - (7.) Must masons, undertakers, &c., attend offices in Sydney for permits before commencing work at or upon graves?
 - (8.) Can payment be made at Necropolis for graves; if so, have receipts to be obtained from offices in Sydney for such payments, or what is the usual course?

Mr. Lee answered,—I will lay the information desired upon the Table in the form of a return at an early date.

The Under Secretary of Justice to The Trustees of the Church of England Cemetery of the Necropolis.

Gentlemen,

Department of Justice, Sydney, 21 October, 1898.

I have the honor, by direction of the Minister of Justice, to forward herewith a copy of questions asked by Mr. Nobbs, M.P., in the Legislative Assembly, respecting the Necropolis at Rookwood; and to request that you will be good enough to furnish me, at your earliest convenience, with the desired information so far as it relates to the Church of England Cemetery, in order that the Minister may be in a position to answer the questions.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE MILLER,
Under Secretary.

NOTE.—A similar communication was sent to the Trustees of the General, Presbyterian, Wesleyan, Roman Catholic, Primitive Methodist, Jewish, and Independent Cemeteries, respectively.

Answers to Questions referred to.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND CEMETERY, NECROPOLIS.

Church of England Cemetery, Necropolis Office,
42, Elizabeth-street, Sydney, 189 .

1. John Dawson, Esq., Honorable James Watson, Dr. Andrew Houston, Alfred L. Bray, Esq., William Coles, Esq. (Trustees); Florence George Chippendale Hanslow (Secretary).
2. No allowances of any kind are made to the trustees. The secretary, £250 per annum.
3. 42, Elizabeth-street, Sydney; £78 per annum.
4. Charles Oliver Kimberley, officer-in-charge of the cemetery, and residing within the cemetery; £250 per annum.
5. Oliver Kimberley, at Rookwood, £50 per annum; John Bede Carroll, at Sydney, £50 per annum.
6. Eighteen. No preference is shown.
7. Yes.
8. Yes.

F. G. CHIP. HANSLOW,
Secretary.

GENERAL CEMETERY, NECROPOLIS.

General Cemetery, Necropolis Office,
42, Elizabeth-street, Sydney, 189 .

1. Honorable James Watson, Honorable George Thornton, Dr. Andrew Houston, Alfred L. Bray, Esq., William Coles, Esq. (Trustees); Florence George Chippendale Hanslow (Secretary).
2. No allowances of any kind are made to the trustees. Referring to the remaining questions, the sum of £38 per annum is paid to the trustees of the Church of England Cemetery, whose employees do whatever work is necessary.

F. G. CHIP. HANSLOW,
Secretary.

PRESBYTERIAN CEMETERY, NECROPOLIS.

Dear Sir, 37, Wentworth Court, Sydney, 24 October, 1898.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of 21st instant, and to forward herewith answers as required therein.

1. Messrs. R. T. Moodie, R. Miller, D. Elphinstone, W. Wood, J. H. Goodlet, and L. C. Henderson.
2. R. T. Moodie, managing trustee and secretary, £200 per annum; 37, Wentworth Court.
4. Alexander Watt, sexton, £120 per annum.
5. Minister, an honorarium, £120 per annum, without responsibility of trustees as to his functions.
6. Three or four as required from the district, having service from twenty to three years.
7. Yes.
8. Yes.

ROBT. T. MOODIE,
Managing Trustee.

AMENDED Rules and Regulations for the Presbyterian Cemetery, Necropolis.

1. The manager shall, under the direction of the trustees, have the charge, management, and control of the said cemetery, and of all matters connected therewith, and shall prosecute all offences against the Necropolis Acts of 1868 and 1884, and also all offences against the rules and regulations made under the authority of the said Acts.
2. The trustees may erect vaults for urgent cases, and may dispose of the same to any person on payment to the manager of the purchase money for the exclusive right of burial in such vault, and the cost and charges of erection, &c.; but in case any person should desire to erect his own vault, the work shall be performed according to the plan adopted by the trustees, and under the direction or supervision of the manager or officer-in-charge of the cemetery.
3. All vaults to be erected of stone set in cement, and all interments therein must be in lead coffins.
4. The kerbing for all graves and vaults shall be of stone, clean cut—for graves, 6 x 14 inches; for vaults, 8 x 15 inches; and if railing is erected, it shall be of iron, painted, and subject to the manager's approval. Areas for graves, 3 x 7 feet; for vaults, 8 x 10 feet to 12 x 10 feet.
5. The trustees may sell and grant land within the said cemetery for the exclusive right of burial, in perpetuity, or for any given period, in each and every section of the said cemetery; and also the right of erecting any vault, monument, tomb, tablet, gravestone, or monumental inscription; and such rights as aforesaid shall be considered as the personal estate of the grantee, and may be assigned in his lifetime or bequeathed by his will, subject nevertheless to all the by-laws of the said cemetery.
6. The trustees may order the removal or alteration of any vault, monument, tomb, tablet, gravestone, monumental inscription, kerbing, railing, or other erection which shall have been erected or placed in any of the said divisions of the said cemetery, which may be contrary to these by-laws, or any of them, or which may have been erected or placed there without the authority of the manager or officer-in-charge.
7. The trustees may charge and receive, for and in connection with the interment of bodies in the said cemetery, and for the erection of any vault, or for the enclosure of any land, for the exclusive right of interment therein, and for the right of erecting or placing therein or thereon any monument, tablet, gravestone, kerbing, monumental inscription, or other erection, the fees and charges provided in the schedule annexed, marked B.
8. Each proprietor to enclose his land with stone kerbing as above described, and cut thereon the number of the grave or vault within six months from the date of purchase.
9. No trees or shrubs shall be planted in any enclosure except such species as the trustees shall approve.
10. Masons and other workmen shall clear away all refuse made by them, and shall repair and make good all damage caused by or through them or their servants, to the satisfaction of the manager or officer-in-charge.
11. Masons and other workmen shall, before commencing any work in the ground, deposit with the manager or officer-in-charge the sum of ten shillings, which shall be forfeited if Rule 10 is not complied with.
12. All tombs and monuments must be erected on stone foundations 6 feet deep, or to rock, and a copy of every inscription and drawing of every tomb or monument must be approved by the trustees previous to the erection.
13. Every grave (where possible) shall be 6 feet deep, and not more than two adults shall be interred in each grave.
14. Notice of all interments and the legal certificate of death, also the length and breadth of the coffin, must be delivered at the office of the manager, in Wentworth Court, Sydney, and all fees, costs, and charges paid to him or the secretary prior to the issue of the order for interment, &c.; but in cases of emergency corpses will be received and interred in the said cemetery without the usual order: Providing the aforesaid information is supplied, and all fees, costs, and charges paid to the sexton or officer-in-charge of the cemetery. And any person depositing a corpse within the said cemetery contrary to this rule shall for every such offence, on conviction thereof, forfeit and pay the sum of five pounds.
15. The undertaker or person taking out the order for interment shall forward the same to the sexton or officer-in-charge of the cemetery at least eight hours prior to the time fixed for the interment, and the order of the manager or secretary shall be the proper authority to the sexton and other officers of the cemetery for the interment of every corpse mentioned therein.
16. The consent in writing of the owner of the exclusive right of burial in any grave or vault must be delivered at the office of the manager with the notice of interment.

17. The trustees shall, at their discretion, be permitted to authorise the manager to remit the charges for the interment of any poor person.

18. The trustees will, upon due notice and payment of the costs and charges, undertake the removal and replacement of head and foot stones, kerbing, slabs, monuments, &c. when graves or vaults are required to be opened, but will not be responsible for any damage which may occur in the performance of such work; but if due notice is not given, and the costs and charges are not paid as aforesaid, the trustees will not undertake the reopening of such grave or vault.

19. Every order issued by the manager or secretary must be delivered to the sexton at the said cemetery before any work is commenced or materials delivered, and all such work shall be carried on to completion without delay, and under the direction and supervision of that officer.

20. No heavy materials shall be drawn over the roads or paths in wet weather.

21. No person shall ride or drive any animal or vehicle over the roads or paths of the cemetery, nor shall any person work near a grave during the performance of a burial service.

22. No slab shall be placed over any grave where there has not been an interment, nor shall any person circulate any business cards within the said cemetery.

23. A plan of the selected sections for graves and vaults is kept at the office of the manager, and by the sexton or officer-in-charge of the cemetery, which may be inspected on application.

24. Any person desiring to have a tomb, monument, or place of burial kept in order in perpetuity may do so by depositing in the hands of the trustees, for the general purposes of the said cemetery, any sum of money not less than fifty pounds sterling, and the said trustees, or the trustees for the time being, shall cause to be expended on the said tomb, monument, or burial place, at their discretion, the interest on such sum at the rate of five pounds per centum per annum.

25. Any person offending against any of these rules and regulations shall, on conviction thereof, before any Justice of the Peace, forfeit and pay any sum not exceeding ten pounds nor less than ten shillings.

26. All rules and regulations heretofore published are hereby repealed, but the trustees reserve to themselves the right to make alterations from time to time in the fees and charges, and in the rules and regulations now and heretofore adopted by them.

Made and passed by the trustees of the said cemetery, this 25th day of January, 1898.

J. H. GOODLET, Chairman.
R. T. MOODIE, Manager.

Schedule B.

PRESBYTERIAN CEMETERY—THE NECROPOLIS, ROOKWOOD.

Abstract of Fees and Charges to be made.		£	s.	d.
For each allotment, section 1, 12 x 10 feet...	...	10	10	0
" " 2, 12 x 10 "	...	6	6	0
" " 3, 12 x 10 "	...	4	4	0
" " 4, 8 x 10 "	...	3	3	0
For reopening a grave in either of the above sections	...	1	10	0
For each allotment, section 5, 3 x 7 feet	...	1	7	6
For reopening the same	...	0	15	0
For each allotment, section 6, 3 x 7 feet	...	1	1	0
Reopening the same	...	0	12	6
Permission to erect a vault, for each allotment, section 1	...	2	0	0
" " " 2	...	1	10	0
" " " 3	...	1	0	0
" " " 4	...	0	15	0
Permission to erect a tombstone, for each allotment, section 1	...	1	0	0
" " " 2	...	1	0	0
" " " 3	...	1	0	0
" " " 4	...	0	15	0
" " " 5	...	0	10	0
" " " 6	...	0	10	0
Permission to erect fencing or kerbing, for each allotment, section 5	...	0	10	0
" " " 6	...	0	10	0

Made and passed by the trustees of the said cemetery, this 25th day of January, 1898.

J. H. GOODLET, Chairman.
R. T. MOODIE, Manager.

Trustees, R. C. Cemetery, Necropolis, 13, Castlereagh-street, Sydney.

1. (1.) The Rev. J. P. Moynagh, P.P., Patrick McMahon, J.P., John Hourigan, J.P., John Lane Mullins, Edmund O'Farrell. (A vacancy at present exists owing to the death of the Rev. Thos. Long.) (2.) Alexander James McNeil.

2. (1.) None; only out-of-pocket expenses being paid, viz.:—Train fares to cemetery on business connected with the trusts, which in 1897 amounted to £1 10s., and to date in 1898, £1 10s. (2.) The secretary's salary is £150 per annum.

3. (1.) 13, Castlereagh-street, Sydney, near Hunter-street. (2.) £46 16s. per annum.

4. Edward Keating; salary, £120 per annum; resident within cemetery.

5. None.

6. Six (6) (eight at present, two being employed temporarily). Preference is always given to local residents, if suitable.

7. (1.) Masons must submit, either personally or by post, copy of inscription to be cut on headstone, and design of headstone, for the secretary's approval. When such has been approved, the fees may be paid either at Sydney or Rookwood office before commencing work. Kerbing permits may be taken out at either office on payment of fee. (2.) *Re Undertakers.*—Regulations Nos. 14 and 15 are as follows:—14. Notice of all interments, and the legal certificate of death, must be delivered at the office of the secretary, 13, Castlereagh-street, Sydney, and all fees, costs, and charges, paid to him, prior to the issue of the order for interment, &c. And any person depositing a corpse within the said cemetery contrary to this rule shall, for every such offence, on conviction thereof, forfeit and pay the sum of five pounds. 15. That before an order for interment shall be given, the certificate of a clergyman, to the effect that the deceased had a right to interment in the Catholic burial-ground, must be produced. By resolution of trustees at meeting on 29th May, 1894, the above rule was made applicable only to those firms carrying on business this side of Summer Hill on Suburban line, those higher up the line being allowed to transact business direct and pay fees at Rookwood office.

8. At such times as Sydney office may be closed, or in case of urgency, those undertakers mentioned in reply 7, as having to transact business at this office, may transact and pay fees at Rookwood office. Payments of all descriptions may be made at cemetery. Separate receipt and order books are kept at Rookwood office, and receipts given on payment of various fees.

A. J. McNEIL,
Secretary.
PRIMITIVE

PRIMITIVE METHODIST CEMETERY, ROOKWOOD.

1. Revs. Geo. James, B. Kenny, M. Reavley, Thos. Davies, Jas. Green, W. Pettinger, Phillip S. Young, and Mr. G. F. Crozier; Rev. J. W. Holden. Secretary, 439, Riley-street, Surry Hills.
2. No allowances or salaries are paid.
3. Each minister in city and suburbs write out orders for interments. No rent is paid for offices. The secretary's address is given under section 1.
4. No salaried manager engaged. We only pay for digging graves, viz., 7s. 6d. for each adult grave.
5. No salaries paid to any clerks or managers.
6. No labourers at present permanently employed.
7. Yes.
8. Receipts obtained from secretary.

Sir,

I judge the foregoing answers are what you require.

Yours, &c.,

J. W. HOLDEN,
439, Riley-street, Surry Hills, Sydney.

Sir,

Great Synagogue, Elizabeth-street, Sydney, 24 October, 1898.

I have the honor, on behalf of the trustees of the Jewish portion of the General Cemetery, Rookwood, to forward you the following answers to questions asked by Mr. Nobbs, in so far as our portion of the Necropolis is concerned:—

1. Trustees: Mr. Justice Cohen, Messrs. Louis Phillips, George J. Cohen, Moritz Gottself; Simeon Frankel, Secretary.
2. Allowances, salaries, &c., nil.
3. Great Synagogue, Castlereagh-street; nil.
4. None.
5. None.
6. One regularly, sometimes more; yes.
7. Not necessarily; it can be done by letter.
8. Yes, if necessary; but as a rule our appointed supervisor of burials collects the amount after the funeral, when receipt is issued from this office.

I have, &c.,

S. FRANKEL,
Secretary to Trustees.

INDEPENDENT CEMETERY, ROOKWOOD.

1. Trustees: Sir James B. Fairfax, Josiah Mullens, Dr. P. Sydney Jones, Thomas B. Rolin, Samuel Thompson, and Joseph Palmer; Secretary: William Bell.
2. Trustees receive no remuneration; Secretary, £50 per annum.
3. Trustees and secretary's office, 173, Pitt-street; rent paid by secretary.
4. Alfred Fathers, sexton; salary, £9 15s. per month, including residence.
5. None.
6. One permanent labourer, with occasional extra man when required. Always a resident within the district.
7. Yes; except in cases of interment.
8. Yes. Payment can be made to sexton, who gives an interim receipt—official receipt being issued from secretary's office in due course.

Sydney, 24th October, 1898.

W. BELL,

Secretary to the Trust.

To the Honorable Minister of Justice,—

Sir,

381, George-street, Sydney, 25 October, 1898.

In answer to yours of the 21st instant, *re* Rookwood Wesleyan Cemetery, I have to submit the following:—

1. Trustees: William Bailey, T. P. Reeve, Thos. Cummins, E. Dawson, W. H. McClelland, and R. D. Sippe; Rev. Paul Clipsham, Registrar.
2. Trustees, honorary. Registrar, £125 per annum.
3. 381, George-street, Sydney; £50 per annum.
4. William Bailey; £2 2s. per month.
5. None.
6. Two. Yes.
7. Not necessarily.
8. No.

I am, &c.,

PAUL CLIPSHAM,
per M.H.H.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

INDECENT ADVERTISEMENTS BILL.

(PETITION FROM WILLIAM SAUMAREZ SMITH, D.D., ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY, PRESIDENT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF SYDNEY, IN FAVOUR OF.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 2 November, 1898.

To the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the undersigned, William Saumarez Smith, D.D., Archbishop of Sydney, President of the Standing Committee of the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney,—

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:—

That a Bill intituled "A Bill to Suppress Indecent Advertisements" is now before your Honorable House.

That, in the opinion of your Petitioner and of the Standing Committee of the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney, the Bill referred to is calculated to advance the cause of social morality and civic welfare.

Your Petitioner, therefore, humbly prays that your Honorable House will be pleased to pass the said Bill.

And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

WM. SZ. SYDNEY.

Similar Petitions were received,—

On 2nd November, 1898, from E. A. Rennie, President, and Robert Dey, Hon. Secretary, of the Council of New South Wales Branch of the Evangelical Alliance.

On 2nd November, 1898, from F. E. Harry, President, and Frederick Hibberd, Secretary, of the Baptist Union of New South Wales in Annual Session assembled.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

INDECENT ADVERTISEMENTS BILL.

(PETITION FROM SUSAN R. REA, PRESIDENT OF A CONFERENCE OF MEMBERS OF THE WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION, IN FAVOUR OF.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 10 November, 1898.

To the Honorable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned, the President of a Conference of Members of the Women's Christian Temperance Union and others, held at the Wesleyan School Hall, Newtown, on Tuesday, 11th October instant,—

SHOWETH:—

It was unanimously resolved that this Conference recognises the enormity of the evils resulting from the distribution of indecent literature, and the appearance in certain newspapers of advertisements relating to sexual disorders and other similar matters; heartily approves of the provisions of the Indecent Advertisements Bill introduced into the Legislative Assembly by Dr. James Graham; and prays the Parliament to pass the measure as speedily as possible.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Signed for and on behalf of the Conference,

SUSAN R. REA,
President.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA LAND SYNDICATE.

(PAPERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED CONCESSIONS TO THE.)

Printed under No. 1A Report from Printing Committee, 1 December, 1898.

Telegram from The Premier of New South Wales to The Premier of Victoria.

19 May, 1898.

REFERRING to Ordinance No. 1 of 1898, British New Guinea, as to acquirement of lands, I have telegraphed to Premier of Queensland in following terms:—"Confidential. Ministers strongly condemn provisions of agreement with Land Syndicate. We propose to do all in our power to prevent the completion of the transaction, but before doing anything would like your views."

Telegram from The Premier of Victoria to The Premier of New South Wales.

19 May, 1898.

Re land concessions in British New Guinea. I have already written to Queensland Government, asking to be furnished with views and particulars, and stating that matter is one respecting which the contributing colonies should have been consulted. Will co-operate with you in any future proceedings if we can do anything.

 GEORGE TURNER.

Cablegram from The Premier of New South Wales to The Acting Agent-General.

19 May, 1898.

The Administrator of British New Guinea has passed an Ordinance authorising a land transaction of great magnitude, and with powers of choosing land, which have aroused very strong public opinion against the proposal. The New South Wales Government have determined to oppose the project most unreservedly, and so, probably, will the Government of Victoria. Kindly make such representations to the Colonial Office as will prevent allowance of the Ordinance until the matter has been maturely considered.

G.H.R.

The Premier of Queensland to The Premier of New South Wales.

Sir,

 Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane, 19 April, 1898.

I have the honor to enclose, for the information of the Government of New South Wales, a signed and sealed copy of Ordinance No. 1 of 1898, British New Guinea, to enable certain persons to acquire and occupy lands not exceeding in the aggregate 250,000 acres in area, and for other purposes subsidiary thereto.

I have, &c.,

THOMAS J. BYRNES,

Cabinet consider that the Imperial Government should be requested not to advise assent to this Ordinance pending consideration by the Colonial Governments of the matter.—G.H.R., 17. Telegram to Premier of Queensland and copy to Premier of Victoria.—G.H.R., 18.

1898.—Queensland.

CONCESSIONS MADE TO BRITISH NEW GUINEA SYNDICATE.

(Correspondence respecting.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command.

(1.)

The Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office, to Sir Hugh Nelson.

Sir,

Downing-street, 28 May, 1897.

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you for your consideration a copy of a letter from Mr. J. Lowles, M.P., submitting a memorandum of the aims and proposals of the British New Guinea Syndicate, described as being established for the purpose of effecting preliminary arrangements justifying the formation of a company, having for its object the systematic institution and development of general commercial and trading operations in that colony.

I am to enclose copy of the reply which has been returned to Mr. Lowles, and to state that Mr. Chamberlain will be glad to be favoured with the expression of your views on the subject of these proposals.

As the arrangement under which Queensland, Victoria, and New South Wales make an annual contribution of £5,000 each to the cost of the administration of British New Guinea expires next year, Mr. Chamberlain proposes to avail himself of the opportunity presented by the presence in this country of yourself and the other Australian Prime Ministers to discuss with them the question of the future administration of the territory, and also the question raised in the despatch which he recently addressed to Governors of the Australian Colonies, of which a copy is enclosed, suggesting the incorporation of the Protectorate over the Solomon Islands with British New Guinea.

Knowing the great personal attention which you have devoted to the affairs of New Guinea, Mr. Chamberlain would be much obliged if you would favour him with a full expression of your views on the question of the future administration of that territory, and also on the suggestion as to the incorporation of the Southern Solomons with it.

A copy of the report furnished by Mr. Woodford, the Resident in the Solomons last year, is enclosed for your information.

I am, &c.,

JOHN BRAMSTON.

[Enclosure 1 in No 1.]

Mr. J. Lowles, M.P., to The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Sir,

House of Commons, 17 May, 1897.

I have the honor, on behalf of the parties interested in the matters referred to in the enclosed papers, to ask your favourable consideration of the proposals therein contained.

I may state for your information that Sir Charles Malcolm Kennedy (late of the Commercial Department of the Foreign Office), Sir Somers Vine, and I are authorised to represent the parties concerned, and to approach you in reference thereto.

The members of the Syndicate already admitted include individuals of high standing and thorough respectability in commercial and trading circles.

You are probably aware that in one direction of the proposed operations—viz., the rubber-tree industry—an exceptionally large demand, with every probability of vast extension, has been manifested in the manufacturing districts of this country, particularly in the Midlands.

It is the feeling of those on whose behalf I now address you that the known and admitted suitability of British New Guinea for the growth and development of this important product alone justifies their anticipations and wishes in proposing to expend capital within the confines of the territory wholly under the British Crown, and intimately connected with British, Imperial, and Colonial administration.

I venture to express the hope that the enclosed papers will satisfy you that a strictly honest and businesslike institution of a comparatively new channel for British trade and commerce is contemplated.

Practically the proposals now submitted do not differ from the facilities at present given for the acquisition of land in British New Guinea by the Administration, except in spreading the time of payment over a limited period, viz., eight years, but with this important consideration in addition, that a specified sum of money is necessarily to be expended during that period in actual development work.

I have had the pleasure, in company with Sir Charles M. Kennedy and Sir Somers Vine, of personally explaining the intentions and objects of the Syndicate to Sir John Bramston (permanent Under Secretary of State for the Colonies) within the past few days.

The agent engaged by those interested is Sir Somers Vine, whose recognised powers of organisation and personal acquaintance with the whole of the Australasian Colonies renders him peculiarly fitted for discharging the duties proposed to be entrusted to him by those with whom I am associated in this matter.

May I ask you to be good enough to commend the agent of the Syndicate to the consideration of the local Administration and the Colonial Governments concerned in this Conference with them on behalf of the Syndicate.

I have, &c.,

JOHN LOWLES,

Haggerston.

[Sub-Enclosure in Enclosure 1 in No. 1.]

MEMORANDUM prepared by Sir J. R. Somers Vine (late Assistant Secretary of the Imperial Institute), Sir Charles Malcolm Kennedy (late of the Commercial Department of the Foreign Office), and Mr. John Lowles, M.P.

The British New Guinea Syndicate.

This Syndicate is established with a capital of £5,000 (registered under the Limited Liability Acts) by three commercial and financial associations in the city of London, and several merchants, traders, and others, for the purpose of effecting preliminary arrangements justifying the formation of a company with ample capital (which would be available and at command if the Syndicate is enabled to obtain the reasonable options and privileges it has in view), having for its object the systematic institution and development of general commercial and trading operations in British New Guinea.

The Syndicate propose to send out a qualified agent to negotiate with the local administrative authorities of British New Guinea for the taking up—with the friendly concurrence and assistance of the Administration and the Colonial Office and other authorities concerned—of tracts of land suitable for the operations of the Company proposed to be formed. It is desired in the first instance to secure a lease of the lands direct from the Administration and from the natives (in the latter instance where such a course would be needful or desirable), by a nominal payment for a limited period to be defined. Before the expiration of that period, and subject to active measures being taken, it is further desired to obtain the confirmation of the lease of the lands temporarily assigned for an extended beneficial period, or in perpetuity so long as certain payments are made to the Government and other parties with rights of ownership at a rate to be agreed upon.

The temporary assignment of the lands to the Syndicate for a nominal payment would come to an end if active operations of the working and development Company were not commenced within the period to be reasonably defined.

One of the principal methods of development contemplated is the laying-out of "rubber-tree" and other plantations (strongly recommended by competent authorities, amongst others, Mr. H. O. Forbes, one of the pioneers of New Guinea exploration, as an almost certain remunerative speculation), whereby the administrative authorities will secure the easy improvement of the country which is essential to its welfare and that of its inhabitants.

It is, however, desired to include any and every product which the lands to be leased may offer for the operations of the Company, and to introduce to the country manufactured articles from the United Kingdom and the adjacent colonies.

It is particularly contemplated to employ existing agencies—so far as they can be usefully and properly engaged—such as recognised mission and other establishments, shipping firms, and respectable individuals who know the country and the natives, and can be depended upon to legitimately promote the details of development.

The organisation of native labour under instructed and intelligent control would be an important consideration.

The co-operation of firms, agencies, and persons of good standing and already carrying on trade in and with the country would be sought, and, if possible, secured.

The concurrence of the Colonial Governments interested in the subsidies now paid in connection with the territory would be sought and secured, so far as it could be reasonably and properly accorded.

It is hoped that the Colonial Office will testify its sympathy by recommending the agent of the Syndicate to the friendly consideration of the local Administration and the Colonial Governments directly concerned in respect of the negotiations and temporary agreements he would be authorised to enter upon. The paramount wish of the parties to the Syndicate is that their ultimate operations should be carried on under the complete supervision of the local authorities and to the full approval of the Imperial and Colonial authorities.

The parties interested believe that the time is now ripe and promising for the prudent investment of capital in an entirely British possession, which, at this moment is practically untouched by organised methods, whilst it is rich in natural resources—believed to be capable of profitable development and extension—within easy reach of regular communication and practicable transport between the United Kingdom and several important neighbouring colonies.

As far back as the year 1886, it was stated that the German New Guinea Company had been most fortunate in its operations (*vide* statements of Dr. Knappe, formerly German Consul at Samoa), and that the exercise of its privileges would be of enormous value in the future.

The report of the late Sir Peter Scratchley (presented to the Victorian Parliament in 1886) accurately describes the aims and hopes of all interested in the present venture. Sir Peter Scratchley desired the formation of a trading company on a basis somewhat similar to the British North Borneo Company, and he recommended that some portion of the territory (estimated at more than 85,000 square miles) should be handed over to a company for administrative and commercial purposes. The question of administration other than that absolutely connected with the commercial and trading operations of the Company as a company would, however, perhaps—and it would be the desire of the parties to the Syndicate that it should be so—be best left to the sole responsibility of the Government-appointed officials.

British New Guinea Syndicate.

The following is a basis of the arrangement which it is suggested to be proposed to the Administration:—

1. The granting of a Government Ordinance giving the Syndicate the right to take up, say, 250,000 acres of suitable lands not yet appropriated for a period of one year (from 1st January, 1898, to 31st December, 1898), by a cash payment of £1,000, payable in four quarterly instalments, and to continue the same thereafter to the Syndicate, its successors and assigns, until a sum of £30,000 in all shall have been paid (at any time within eight years from the date of the granting of the Ordinance), when the Syndicate, its successors and assigns, are to be confirmed in the freehold of the lands and all their products, subject to paying a special tax of 2½ per cent. on the net export value of all products taken out of the country from the lands occupied.

2. The Syndicate, its successors and assigns, to be required as a condition of the continuance of the option before referred to after the 31st December, 1899, to submit proof of an expenditure of not less than £10,000 within that period (or rather two years from the date of the Ordinance), on the institution of actual trade operations, and in like manner to submit proof that at the end of eight years from the date of the granting of the Ordinance the sum of £30,000 on trade operations and works of development in the country.

3. During the period of eight years from the date of the Ordinance, the Administration to undertake not to increase the export duties and import duties as now imposed, so far as regards the operations of the Syndicate, its successors or assigns.

4. The Syndicate, its successors and assigns, to be accorded such powers of primary administration as distinct from its purely business direction as the local Administration and the Colonial Office may agree in respect only of the lands, &c., assigned.

5. Subject to the foregoing limitations, the Syndicate, its successors, and assigns, to be granted as far as may be reasonably possible the powers and privileges which distinguish the British North Borneo Company.

6. The Syndicate, its successors, and assigns, to be free to take up further lands (over and beyond the 250,000 acres first conceded) as may be mutually agreed with the local Administration and the Colonial Office.

[Enclosure 2 in No. 1.]

The Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office, to Mr. J. Lowles, M.P.

Sir,

Downing-street, 28 May, 1897.

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, submitting the proposals of the "British New Guinea Syndicate," and requesting that their agent may be furnished with a letter of introduction to the Queensland Authorities.

I am to inform you that the control of the Administration of British New Guinea is, subject of course to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, vested in the Government of Queensland, which acts on behalf of the other colonies—namely, Victoria and New South Wales—which contribute to the expense of such administration.

Mr. Chamberlain is of opinion that before the Syndicate send any representative to Queensland their proposals should be discussed by you and your colleagues with the Premier of the colony, who, as you are aware, is now in this country, and to whom a copy of your letter has been sent.

I am, &c.,
JOHN BRAMSTON.

[Enclosure 3 in No. 1.]

The Secretary of State for the Colonies to The Governors of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania, and Queensland.

My Lord,—Sir,

Downing-street, 22 March, 1897.

Your Ministers are no doubt aware that, although a British Protectorate was declared in 1893 over the Southern Solomon Islands, until last year no steps have been taken to inaugurate a local Administration.

During last year the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific temporarily appointed Mr. C. M. Woodford, British Resident in the group, and Mr. Woodford, who had had some previous experience there, has, after revisiting the principal islands, furnished a valuable and interesting report on them, copies of which are enclosed.

It will be seen that there is already a considerable development of trade and commerce with the Protectorate, and that planting also has commenced, and some speculative purchases of land have been made.

The risks attending industrial enterprise in the Solomon Islands, from the character of the natives, are, unfortunately, too well known, and it is imperative, therefore, that the initial steps for the establishment of law and order should not be longer deferred.

I need scarcely remind your Ministers that the main object of Her Majesty's Government in establishing the Protectorate over these islands was to prevent the injury to Australian interests which would have resulted from their passing under the control of a foreign Power.

What is already taking place shows that it will be by Australian capital and enterprise that the Protectorate will be developed, and it is desirable, therefore, that the responsibility for the administration should rest with the Australian Colonies, and that it should be conducted in accordance with Australian rather than English ideas.

The

The Australian Colonies and New Zealand have already proved by their conduct in regard to British New Guinea, the Cook Islands, and Norfolk Island that they are prepared to relieve the Imperial Government of responsibility in regard to the Pacific Islands, which they are in a better position to discharge than Her Majesty's Government, and I have no doubt that they will be ready to act in a similar manner in regard to the Solomon Islands.

It has occurred to me that the best arrangement for the administration of the islands would be to add them to British New Guinea, with which the group is geographically connected, and as the agreement under which that Possession is now administered expires next year, its renewal might be discussed on the basis that the Solomon Group will be incorporated with it.

In the meantime, as will be seen from Mr. Woodford's report, it is expected to raise a local revenue of about £300 a year, and Her Majesty's Government have agreed to ask Parliament to vote a sum of £1,200 this year for the establishment of a Residency, which will enable a beginning to be made in the administration, and allow time for the Colonial Governments to discuss the question of providing for the future of the group.

The High Commissioner has been instructed to make all appointments provisional only, so as to afford perfect freedom in regard to future arrangements, as to which I shall hope to have an opportunity of full discussion with your Prime Minister when he arrives.

I have, &c.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

[Sub-Enclosure in Enclosure 3 in No. 1.]

Report on the British Solomon Islands by Mr. C. M. Woodford.

(Not printed.)

(2.)

Sir Hugh Nelson to The Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

Queensland Government Office,

Westminster Chambers, 1, Victoria-street, London, S.W., 7 July, 1897.

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 28 May last, with which you transmit, by direction of the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, for my consideration, a copy of a letter from Mr. J. Lowles, M.P., submitting a memorandum of the aims and proposals of the British New Guinea Syndicate, together with a copy of the reply which has been returned to Mr. Lowles, and request me to furnish Mr. Chamberlain with an expression of my views on the subject of the proposed formation of a company, having for its object the systematic institution and development of general commercial and trading operations in the Possession of British New Guinea.

Since the receipt of your letter under reply, I have had the advantage of personal interviews with the promoters of the Syndicate referred to, and I have given careful consideration to their proposals. Although considerable progress has been made since the declaration of Sovereignty over British New Guinea in the development of the country, especially from an administrative standpoint, it will, I think, be generally admitted that it is extremely desirable that the development should proceed more rapidly. The distinguished services rendered by Sir William MacGregor in establishing order and good government among the natives, and in exploring the interior of the country, are, I feel convinced, too well known to the Secretary of State to require mention here, but it would be manifestly difficult for the Lieutenant-Governor, whose time and energies are fully occupied with his arduous administrative duties, to do more for the expansion of agricultural, commercial, and industrial enterprise in the territory than he has already done. It appears to me that few better means for assisting this expansion could be devised than the formation of a company on the lines now suggested, and I am not disposed to regard in an unfavourable light the proposals which have been submitted. But it must be borne in mind that the enterprise would be attended with many and grave difficulties, some of which, such as the labour question and the popular aversion existing in the contributing colonies to syndicates in general, I have forcibly brought under the notice of the promoters. Much would, however, doubtless depend upon the character and experience of the directors appointed to locally control the Company's affairs. In any case it is imperative that, before any further steps are taken in the matter, the approval and support of Sir William MacGregor should be obtained. I have accordingly advised the promoters of the enterprise to depute an agent or agents to visit the Possession and to lay the proposals before the Lieutenant-Governor. If the Secretary of State is satisfied of the *bona-fides* of the Company proposed to be formed, and of its financial soundness, I see no objection to his furnishing the gentleman so appointed with letters accrediting him to Sir William MacGregor. I have assured the members of the Syndicate that if the Lieutenant-Governor is favourably impressed with their ideas, the Government of Queensland will give the most careful consideration to the whole project, and will consult with the Governments of the other contributing colonies with a view to submitting some definite recommendation to the Imperial Authorities.

I do not propose to deal here with the wider question of the administration of British New Guinea after the expiration of the present arrangement, whereby Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria make an annual contribution of £5,000 each towards the cost of government, or with the proposal to incorporate the Solomon Islands Protectorate with the Possession, concerning both of which an expression of my views is asked in your letter under reply. These matters will form the subject of official correspondence on my return to the colony, when the attitude to be adopted by the several Governments concerned has been definitely decided upon.

I have, &c.,

HUGH M. NELSON.

(3.)

The Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office, to Sir Hugh Nelson.

Sir, Downing-street, 24 August, 1897.

With reference to previous correspondence respecting the British New Guinea Syndicate, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit, for your information, copies of further correspondence with Mr. Lowles, M.P., and also copy of a despatch which has been sent to Lord Lamington on the subject of the proposals of the Syndicate.

I have, &c.,

C. P. LUCAS.

(Enclosure)

(Enclosure 1 in No. 3.)

Mr. J. Lowles, M.P., to The Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

Sir,

House of Commons, London, 15 July, 1897.

Referring to my previous correspondence with you and our meeting in respect of the proposed operations of the British New Guinea Syndicate, I now beg to state that, acting in accordance with the suggestion you were good enough to make, I have had several interviews with the Premier of Queensland and the Attorney-General of that Colony in respect of those proposed operations.

I am glad to be able to inform the Secretary of State for the Colonies, through you, that the Premier of Queensland has expressed to me, and through me, the corporations and gentlemen interested in the enterprise, his approval of the general principles of the suggested negotiations with the Administrator of British New Guinea. In stating this approval Sir Hugh Nelson has pointed out that the Colonial Office alone can properly request the Administrator to consider and advise on the proposals to be submitted by the agent of the Syndicate, although he (Sir Hugh) on behalf of his Government is willing to afford such countenance and assistance as he can properly and reasonably extend in the matter.

I understand from Sir Hugh Nelson that he has conveyed to you in effect the result I have now described.

I have to express the hope that the Secretary of State will be pleased to supply our agent—Sir Somers Vine—with a formal letter of introduction to the Administrator, and to ask that officer to give his best consideration to the proposals it is desired to submit to him. Sir Hugh Nelson has suggested that it might be possible and advisable to arrange a meeting with the Administrator at Brisbane in the course of October next.

I and some of the other gentlemen interested in the scheme are quite prepared to wait on the Secretary of State, should he be pleased to wish to see us.

I have, &c.,

JOHN LOWLES.

(Enclosure 2 in No. 3.)

The Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office, to Mr. J. Lowles, M.P.

Sir,

Downing-street, 9 August, 1897.

In reply to your letters of the 17th of May and the 15th of July, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acquaint you that he has been in communication with the Prime Minister of Queensland on the subject of the proposals of the British New Guinea Syndicate.

Mr. Chamberlain is, of course, anxious to assist, as far as he properly can, any scheme for furthering the development of British New Guinea, and the Queensland Government are animated with the same desire.

The details of any arrangement between the Syndicate and the local Administration must, of course, be discussed and settled with the Lieutenant-Governor and the Government of Queensland, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State, but Mr. Chamberlain desires me to state at once that he could not approve of any arrangement comprehending the sections numbered 3, 4, and 5, in the basis of arrangement enclosed in your letter of the 17th of May, having the effect of limiting the powers of the Government in respect of taxation, and of conferring administrative or legislative powers on the Syndicate or its assigns.

I am to enclose an extract from a letter of Sir Hugh Nelson (p. 4), from "But it must be borne in mind" to "accrediting him to Sir W. MacGregor." I am therefore to ask that Mr. Chamberlain may be furnished with the names of the associations and gentlemen referred to in the opening paragraph of the memorandum enclosed in your letter of 17th May.

I have, &c.,

ED. WINGFIELD.

[Enclosure 3 in No. 3.]

Mr. J. Lowles, M.P., to The Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

Sir,

Ingram House, 165, Fenchurch-street, London, E.C., 14 August, 1897.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant.

I have already heard from the Prime Minister of Queensland—with whom I and Sir Somers Vine have had several interviews—that he has been in communication with the Secretary of State, and is, like Mr. Chamberlain, anxious, as far as he properly can, to assist any scheme for the development of British New Guinea and its resources.

The British New Guinea Syndicate has from the first recognised that the details of any arrangement must be settled in the manner described in your letter, and it was with that object the subscribers invited Sir Somers Vine, who is personally acquainted with the Queensland Ministers and the Administrator of British New Guinea, to conduct the negotiations on their behalf. It has been the anxious desire of the Syndicate to hold itself clear of all governmental responsibilities as distinct from purely commercial and trading operations, and they consequently accept without question the non-approval of the Secretary of State of any arrangement comprehending sections 4 and 5 in the basis of arrangement enclosed in my letter of the 17th of May last. With respect to section 3 they, with equal readiness, accept the non-approval of the Secretary of State thereto, so long as it is clearly understood that the preliminary operations of any organised development are not totally crippled by the imposition of duties and charges which would preclude the reasonable possibility of the institutions and individuals who are ready to provide the necessary capital securing a legitimate and moderate return for their speculation and investments.

I am prepared to say, on behalf of the Syndicate, at once, that the contributing colonies shall have the power, under any form they may suggest, of approving or disapproving of the directors or others who may be appointed to locally control the Company's affairs, so long as such action is reasonably exercised, as we assume it would be, in perfect good faith and intention.

Sir Hugh Nelson's advice to us to depute an agent or agents to visit the Possession, and to lay the proposals before the Lieutenant-Governor, has been given prompt effect to by Sir Somers Vine being authorised to proceed to Australia and New Guinea, and empowered to negotiate and conclude—subject to the approval of both sides—a reasonable and business-like arrangement. His letter of instructions, drafted by Sir Charles Kennedy, approved by the Board of the Syndicate, and concurred in by Sir Somers Vine, is at the service of the Secretary of State, and a copy shall be forwarded to you if you are of opinion that the Secretary of State would like to be cognizant of its contents. I may mention here that, with the full approval of the Syndicate, I have consented to co-operate with Sir Somers Vine on the spot in the discharge of the duties entrusted to him, and leave for Australia in company with Sir Hugh Nelson on Saturday next, the 21st instant, *via* Cape Colony and Hobart.

Sir Somers Vine leaves on Friday, the 27th instant, by way of Brindisi and the Royal Mail route. I have communicated with him, and he is quite prepared to hold himself at the convenience of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on any day prior to his departure should his attendance at the Colonial Office be desired.

The Syndicate with much pleasure, comply with the very proper request of the Secretary of State, as expressed in the last paragraph of your letter.

The Syndicate at this moment comprises the following corporations and individuals:—

- (1.) The British Empire Finance Corporation (Limited), whose directors are:—
 - Hon. Sir Charles Tupper, Bart., G.C.M.G., C.B., M.P., Ottawa. (Late Prime Minister and ex-High Commissioner for Canada.)
 - Hon. Richard C. Grosvenor, Director-General, Life Assurance Company (Limited).
 - W. D. Cairney, C.A., Director, Scottish Alliance Insurance Company (Limited).
 - John Fergusson (Messrs. Ramage and Fergusson (Limited), shipbuilders, Leith), Chairman, Octagon Explorers (Limited).
 - John Lowles, M.P., Director, New Gold-fields of B.C. (Limited).
 - James McKillop, M.P., Director, James Nimmo & Co. (Limited), coalmasters, Glasgow.
 - R. J. Price, M.P., Director, Rhodesia (Limited).
 - Arthur Williamson, Director, London and Foreign Contract Corporation (Limited).
- (2.) The New Gold-fields of British Columbia (Limited), whose directors are:—
 - Hon. Sir Charles Tupper, Bart., G.C.M.G., C.B., M.P., late Prime Minister and ex-High Commissioner for Canada, Ottawa, Chairman.
 - John Lowles, M.P., Ingram House, Fenchurch-street, E.C.
 - Sir Charles Malcolm Kennedy, K.C.M.G., C.B., Exmouth.
 - G. Brooke Mee (Messrs. Mee, Billing, & Co.), 23, Leadenhall-street, E.C.
 - F. E. Harman, F.G.S., M.I.M. and M.F.C.S., 55, West Cromwell Road, S.W.
 - C. Ashworth, Esq., late London Manager of the Bank of Montreal, 60, Cranley Gardens, S.W.

(3)

- (3.) The European and Colonial Investment Syndicate (Limited), whose directors are :—
 W. H. Durrant (of the firm of Good and Durrant, Australian Merchants).
 John Crowle, Chairman of Slaters (Limited).
 R. G. Schwartz, Chairman of the Excelsior Tobacco, &c., Company.
 Sir Somers Vine, C.M.G.
 George Wright, J.P., Managing Director of the East Acton Estate Company.
 Tilden Smith, Colliery Engineer (son-in-law of Mr. Gillies, M.P., of New South Wales).
- (4.) The following Private Subscribers :—
 John Crowle, of Kensington, High-street.
 F. H. and J. W. Butler, of 155, Regent-street, the well-known wine merchants.
 W. H. Bailey, of Oakley-square, General Manager of Bass and Company.
 James McKillop, M.P., of Stirlingshire.
 Albert H. Williams, Esq., of John-street, W.C., solicitor.
 Morison and Marshall, of Winchester House, E.C.
 Thomas Adams, of Upper Ogel-street, W., Chairman and Managing Director of Ray & Co. (Limited), mineral water manufacturers.
 Minet, Pering, Smith, & Co., of 81, Cannon-street, E.C., solicitors.
 Sir Somers Vine, C.M.G., and John Lowles, M.P.

I have, &c.,
 JOHN LOWLES.

[Enclosure 4 in No. 3.]

See No. 4.

[Enclosure 5 in No. 3.]

The Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office, to Mr. J. Lowles, M.P.

Sir,

Downing-street, 20 August, 1897.

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, respecting the British New Guinea Syndicate.

Mr. Chamberlain has forwarded copies of all the correspondence to Lord Lamington for communication to his Ministers and to Sir William MacGregor, who will therefore be prepared for the arrival of the agent of the Syndicate.

I am, &c.,
 C. P. LUCAS.

(4.)

The Secretary of State for the Colonies to The Governor of Queensland.

My Lord,

Downing-street, 20 August, 1897.

I have the honor to transmit to you for communication to your Ministers, and to the Lieutenant-Governor of British New Guinea, the accompanying correspondence respecting a syndicate formed for conducting trading, planting, and other operations in British New Guinea.

You will observe that the various corporations mentioned in Mr. Lowles' letter of the 14th instant, as interested in the Syndicate, are "financing" or "promoting" companies.

I have, &c.,
 J. CHAMBERLAIN.

[Enclosure 1 in No. 4.]

See Enclosure 1 in No. 1.

[Enclosure 2 in No. 4.]

See No. 1.

[Enclosure 3 in No. 4.]

See Enclosure 2 in No. 1.

[Enclosure 4 in No. 4.]

See No. 2.

[Enclosure 5 in No. 4.]

See Enclosure 2 in No. 3.

[Enclosure 6 in No. 4.]

See Enclosure 3 in No. 3.

[Enclosure 7 in No. 4.]

See Enclosure 5 in No. 3.

Forwarded for the information of the Honorable the Acting Chief Secretary.—L., 30/9/97. Cabinet—H.T.
 Ascertain the date Sir Wm. MacGregor is expected in Brisbane.—H.T., 6/10/97. Forward papers to Agriculture
 for Mr. Thynne's information and advice.—H.T. Under Secretary for Agriculture.—J.F.S., 7/10/97. The
 Minister.—P.McL., U. Sec., 8/10/97. Read.—A.J.T., 8/10/97. The Secretary to the Prime Minister.—E. G.
 SCRIVEN, pro U. Sec., 9/10/97. Bring up when Sir W. MacGregor arrives.—J.F.S., 11/10/97.

(5.)

Sir Somers Vine to The Prime Minister of Queensland.

British New Guinea Syndicate.

Dear Sir Hugh Nelson,

Brisbane 22 December, 1897.

I enclose you herewith copies of memoranda I have prepared and transmitted to His Excellency the Governor, and having for their intention the further information of His Lordship and Sir William MacGregor.

We lunched with His Excellency on Sunday, when he stated that he was afraid it would be difficult for him to arrange an interview before next Monday, the 27th instant.

Believe me, &c.,
 J. SOMERS VINE.

Memorandum

Memorandum No. 1.

[Enclosure 1 in No. 5.]

20 December, 1897.

THE proposal to be first considered by the Administrator is that set out in the memorandum and supplements submitted to the Colonial Office in the summer of the present year.

It has been agreed in writing to eliminate the paragraphs Nos. 3, 4, and 5 of the suggested basis of arrangements (*vide* Colonial Office, Letter No. 15,334-97), but, in lieu thereof, the Syndicate will accept in general principle the powers contained and expressed in Appendix No. 25 of Mr. G. Seymour Fort's report, presented to Parliament in 1886.

The exclusive powers contained in this above-quoted appendix would constitute a monopoly only within the area of country to be operated upon by the Company suggested to be established. The like powers outside the operated-upon area would be exercisable by individual enterprise in common with the Company.

For all practical purposes the only general monopoly sought by the Syndicate is the right to select suitable districts. Without such a primary concession it would be hopeless to expect capitalists and investors to risk their moneys even as a pure speculation.

The nominal capital of the suggested Company has been discussed on a basis of £250,000 as a maximum and £100,000 as a minimum, with power to increase. Of this £100,000 the sum of £60,000 would be put aside to meet the requirements of clauses 1 and 2 of the basis of arrangement, the other £40,000 being applied partly to the expenses of the formation of the Company, and partly as a reserve for extended operations within the first (say) eight years.

The representation of the Governments of the Possession and of Queensland on the directorate (to the extent of one-third thereof) would be agreed and without the necessity of financial qualification by such nominated representatives.

What is desired at this stage is that the Administrator will express, in writing, to the Syndicate his willingness to recommend, with the concurrence of His Excellency the Governor of Queensland and the Government of Queensland, to the Colonial Office, subject to the consideration and settlement of details, the granting of the concession described in the papers previously and now submitted.

Memorandum No. 2.

[Enclosure 2 in No. 5.]

20 December, 1897.

AFTER the proposal to be first considered by the Administrator had been placed with the Colonial Office, and almost immediately precedent to the departure of the authorised agent of the Syndicate from England, he and Mr. Lowles, M.P., were requested to submit the following general proposal for the views of the Administrator:—

1. The whole area of the country not yet allotted or appropriated to be conceded (subject to existing agreements and rights) to the Company, by the Syndicate, for exclusive trading and commercial operations, as generally defined in the papers already submitted, and particularly set out in the Appendix No. 25 of Mr. G. Seymour Fort's report in 1886.

2. The Company to provide a sufficient sum of money to be invested in securities to be approved, to ensure a contribution to the revenue of the Government of £10,000 per annum.

3. The Government of the Possession to retain its present sources of revenue, but to transfer to the Company any surplus of revenue which may accrue in excess of an agreed annual estimate of administrative expenditure by the Government.

4. The rights of the Company hereunder to lapse at any time after twenty-five years, on its being paid the actual equivalent of its expenditure in the country, with 10 per cent. interest thereon. At any time after fifty years the rights to lapse on payment of the duly assessed then existing value of its works and property—other than land—in the country.

5. The Governments interested to be represented on the directorate in the proportion of not less than one-third of its number.

(6.)

British New Guinea Syndicate.

MEMORANDUM of proposals following Conference with His Excellency the Administrator of British New Guinea at Government House, Brisbane, on 27th December, 1897, and present thereat His Excellency the Governor of Queensland (Lord Lamington) and the Right Honorable Sir Hugh Muir Nelson (Premier of Queensland).

1. The Government by a special Ordinance concedes to the Syndicate the option of taking up within five years an area of one hundred thousand (100,000) acres of Crown lands within the territories of the Possession. Twenty-five thousand (25,000) acres or thereabout of Crown lands now available to be at the immediate option of the Syndicate after the issue of the Ordinance.

2. The Ordinance to concede the further option to the Syndicate of taking up an additional one hundred and fifty thousand (150,000) acres of land—being two hundred and fifty thousand (250,000) acres in all—within a further period of three years (being eight years in all) from the date of the Ordinance.

3. The price to be paid by the Syndicate to the Government for the land taken up shall be 1s. per acre for the twenty-five thousand (25,000) acres of land now available and at immediate option, and for all future purchases the sum of 1s. per acre plus any actual expenditure to which the Government may be put in acquiring the land so as to make it available for selection under the operation of the Crown Lands Ordinance.

The mode of payment shall be as follows, *viz.*:—25 per cent. of the purchase money to be paid in cash immediately upon the exercise of the option upon each block or area of land offered to the Syndicate, and the remaining 75 per cent. by instalments spread equally over the period during which the full option runs—*viz.*, eight years.

4. The Syndicate is to have the first option of taking any lands made available from time to time by the Government, and a reasonable period shall be defined wherein the option is to be exercised.

5. If within the period of five years from the date of the Ordinance the Syndicate fails to take up the lands made available and offered to it by the Government, then the option of the Syndicate shall lapse to the extent of the area proffered and not taken, provided always that the lands made available and proffered by the Government shall be reasonably suitable for the purposes of tropical cultivation or have afforded reasonable indications of comprising or containing mineral deposits of a marketable description.

6. At the end of eight years from the date of issue of the Ordinance the right of option exercisable by the Syndicate shall altogether lapse, if within that period the maximum area of 250,000 acres of land shall have been made available and proffered to the Syndicate, and any area up to 100,000 acres made available and proffered (in accordance with paragraph 5 hereof) within the first five years from the passing of the Ordinance, and not taken up, shall be calculated against the maximum amount of the option exercisable by the Syndicate.

7. The Syndicate shall be entitled to the full benefit of the products of the lands taken up by it whether on the soil or below it.

8. The Syndicate shall have a period of six months from the date of the Ordinance being conveyed to and placed with it wherein to exercise any or either of its options.

9.

9. The Ordinance conveying the rights shall recite that the primary objects of the Syndicate and its assigns (the larger company to be formed) are the cultivation and procurement of the rubber-plant in its various forms, and all other tropical and agricultural produce, and the acquisition of mineral and other deposits.

10. The Company to be formed by the Syndicate will include in its Articles of Incorporation the powers* set out at foot hereof, and the Ordinance conceding the rights to the Syndicate shall refer to and take note of these powers.*

(7.)

The Lieutenant-Governor of British New Guinea to The Governor of Queensland.

My Lord,

Brisbane, 28 December, 1897.

I have the honor to direct your attention to a most important point that has occurred to me in connection with the proposals of the British New Guinea Syndicate, and which it seems to me I should frankly and fairly set before your Excellency at once. To enter into a contract of the scope and kind of that now under consideration would practically be a settlement of the vexed question of Queensland employers ever obtaining plantation labourers from New Guinea. Whether the Government now gives a formal promise to the Syndicate that the available labour would not be removed from the colony, or left that to be implied, the result would probably be the same.

It would not be fair or reasonable to the Syndicate that, after they began operations in the Possession, labourers should be recruited there for Queensland.

Of course, I should regard the settlement of the contract with the Syndicate as very desirable from this point of view, because it would provide employment for a large number of natives in their own country, and it would practically render their recruitment for elsewhere impossible.

I have already stated more than once the ground on which I could not regard it as desirable that the available labourers of the Possession should be taken elsewhere. My opinion is quite unchanged; but your Excellency's Government may have other views and different interests to consider.

I have, therefore, deemed it my duty to bring this matter under your notice without delay.

I have, &c.,

WM. MACGREGOR.

(8.)

The Prime Minister to His Excellency the Governor.

Dear Lord Lamington,

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane, 29 December, 1897.

I have perused the draft form of agreement signed by Sir William MacGregor, as Lieutenant-Governor of New Guinea, and by Sir J. R. Somers Vine and Mr. John Lowles, M.P., for and on behalf of the British New Guinea Syndicate (Limited), and I see no objection on behalf of the Queensland Government to the agreement being approved of.

Yours very truly,

HUGH M. NELSON.

(9.)

The Lieutenant-Governor of British New Guinea to The Governor of Queensland.

My Lord,

Brisbane, 31 December, 1897.

With reference to your despatch No. 72 of 30th September, and its enclosures, I have now the honor to forward herewith a copy of the Memorandum of Agreement, which, as Administrator, I have signed with the accredited representatives of the British New Guinea Syndicate—Sir Somers Vine, C.M.G., and John Lowles, Esq., M.P., &c.

2. As the several points of this agreement have been more than once discussed in your Lordship's presence, and as you have so patiently, at the cost of considerable time and at some inconvenience, personally examined each article in detail, it is not now necessary that I should deal with the matter so minutely as would otherwise have been the case. But it may be well that I should put on record the principal considerations that have weighed with me as Administrator in coming to the decision at which I for my part arrived in respect of the agreement.

3. The undertaking of this Syndicate or Company would be on a scale sufficiently extensive to give a new and strong impetus to several economic industries, and to provide a large amount of employment to the natives of the colony in their own country. During the first three or four years of the existence of the Queen's Government in British New Guinea the natives were not sufficiently pacified to render it safe or desirable to encourage European settlement on a large scale. For some time the pacified centres were small, officers were untrained, and there was no constabulary force to protect settlers until time was had to collect and organise a sufficient number of the natives of the country for that purpose.

But during the last four or five years many districts have been quiet enough for the settlement of Europeans; the Government has been in a position to offer reasonable protection; liberal land laws have been in force, by which land has been under offer to *bonâ fide* settlers at a cheap rate; the engagement of natives as labourers has been facilitated and made easy; yet the amount of settlement effected by Europeans has been disappointingly small.

This was, perhaps, only what was to be expected if it were taken into consideration that New Guinea has the reputation of being a very unhealthy country; that it is next door to Queensland, which is a white man's country, a seller of good land on easy terms, offering a considerable local market, and with the comforts of civilisation within reach. Let it be added to this that the tropical agriculturist has had prominently before him of late years the nearer and more attractive field of Africa.

Thus, in spite of the efforts of the local Government to encourage the development of the country, the results as regards the utilisation of the soil have been disappointing. It has now become very clear that it is highly desirable to favour any reasonable scheme that would present the probability of a more speedy development than has hitherto taken place.

The

* Appendix No. 25 of Report of 1886, with sundry alterations.

The British New Guinea Syndicate seems to me to present itself opportunely as a new and different means for fostering agricultural and allied industries. Unless some encouragement is given to a company of that sort there is no apparent prospect of any great progress being made for some time in opening up and developing the agricultural resources of the country.

4. The most important clauses of the agreement are the first two. The chief concession to be made by the Crown to the Syndicate is the sale of 250,000 acres of land at the price of 2s. an acre, on deferred payments.

The principal advantage that would accrue to the colony would be from the improvement conditions, under which the Syndicate would have to expend at least 2s. an acre on the land; one-fourth of that sum within the first two years. There is now ready for settlement, and could be prepared for transfer to the Company, some 25,000 acres of land, and within twelve months from now so much land—probably 100,000 acres—could be offered to the Syndicate as would within that time open up employment for many natives from the settled districts, while it would add considerably to the imports and exports of the colony, and bring it probably near to the point at which it would be self-supporting.

I have by no means lost sight of the fact that the area to be offered to the Syndicate is a large one, and that the Government may require probably three or four years to find that amount of available and suitable land. But the larger the area and the more speedily the land is handed over to the Syndicate, so much the greater will be the utilisation of land now lying unproductive; and in like proportion so much earlier will be the expansion of trade, and of the revenue of the country.

Clearly, therefore, the Government should try to find the land at as early date as might be possible.

This is further desirable to remove obstruction to other intending settlers, to whom any lands offered to and declined by the Syndicate would be open.

5. It will be noticed that the general preferential right of selection to be given to the Syndicate will not interfere with the opening of mission stations or of trading stations.

6. The Syndicate would have an exclusive right to the minerals in or under the land, but they would pay a royalty of 2½ per cent. on the net value of the gold or any metals of the platinum group they might find.

This arrangement would no doubt lead to the thorough examination of the Syndicate's lands for mineral deposits.

7. It is understood by the Syndicate that they would be free to engage local coloured labourers, subject only to the laws and regulations regarding that matter in the colony.

It is also foreseen that the supply of local labour might be insufficient for the Syndicate's undertakings, and that it is very probable that at many points a small nucleus of more highly-trained coloured labourers might be desirable. Although it is not specifically expressed in the memorandum of agreement, the Syndicate would, should the need arise, expect that the Government of British New Guinea would be prepared to pass the necessary legislation, and to take the other steps required to enable the Syndicate, or those that become its assigns, to obtain labourers from the Solomon or other available Pacific Islands, or from India.

But these are matters that the Government would naturally have to deal with in studying the interests of settlers and planters, whether connected with a Syndicate or not. They could not, therefore, be looked upon as being in the nature of a concession.

8. I may state that, in my opinion, this agreement, if entered into definitely, and carried out with reasonable care and diligence, will prove of great advantage to the Possession.

May I be allowed to thank your Lordship and Sir Hugh Nelson on behalf of the colony for the really large amount of trouble you have taken over this matter. I feel sure the labour cannot be lost, for if this Syndicate's proposals should fall through, what has been done will facilitate negotiations with others.

I have, &c.,
WM. MACGREGOR.

[Enclosure in 9.]

British New Guinea Syndicate.

MEMORANDUM of Agreement following conference with His Excellency the Administrator of British New Guinea at Government House, Brisbane, on 27th and 29th December, 1897, and present thereat His Excellency the Governor of Queensland (Lord Lamington) and the Right Honorable Sir Hugh Nelson (Premier of Queensland).

1. The Government shall pass an Ordinance giving the Syndicate the right to take up 250,000 acres of Crown lands not yet appropriated at the price of 2s. per acre gross.

Twenty-five per cent. of the purchase money is to be paid in cash on the Syndicate exercising its right of option in respect to each several block put under offer to it, and 75 per cent. to be paid by instalments spread equally over the next subsequently eight years after the Syndicate exercises the right of option of each several block put under offer to it.

2. The Syndicate, its successors or assigns, shall be and are hereby bound to expend upon the lands passing into their possession a sum equivalent to the purchase money of the said lands—viz., 2s. per acre; 25 per cent. of which must be spent within two years of the land being acquired, and the remainder in the same proportion and within the same period as the instalments of purchase money are payable upon the said blocks.

3. The Government reserves to itself the right to give or sell land for purely mission purposes, or for any public purpose, and small areas not exceeding 10 acres (and not contiguous to any area offered to or taken by the Company) for trading or residential purposes.

4. Any pasture land taken up shall be sufficiently fenced, the cost of such fencing to be reckoned as money spent on improvements.

5. The Syndicate is to have the first option of taking any lands made available from time to time by the Government, such option to be exercised within six months from the offer being made to the Syndicate by the Government.

6. If within the period of eight years from the date of the Ordinance the Syndicate fail to take up the lands made available and offered to it by the Government, then the option of the Syndicate shall lapse to the extent of the area proffered and not taken, provided always that the lands made available and proffered by the Government shall be reasonably suitable for the purpose of tropical cultivation, or for pasture, or have afforded reasonable indications of comprising or containing mineral deposits of a marketable description.

7. The Syndicate shall be entitled to the full benefit of the products of the lands taken up by it whether on the soil or below it, but in the event of any gold or metals of the platinum group being found on such lands a royalty of 2½ per cent. on the net value shall be payable to the Government in respect thereof.

8. At the end of eight years from the date of issue of the Ordinance the right of option exercisable by the Syndicate shall altogether lapse, if within that period the maximum area of 250,000 acres of land shall have been made available and proffered to the Syndicate, but the right of option shall continue until the said 250,000 acres shall have been made available and proffered to the Syndicate. No claim at law for any shortage shall, however, lie against the Government if it shall be found impossible to complete the whole area, provided that all reasonable effort shall have been made to provide the said area of 250,000 acres.

9. The Syndicate shall have a period of six months from the date of the Ordinance being conveyed to and placed with it, wherein to exercise any or either of its options.

10. The Ordinance conveying the rights shall recite that the primary objects of the Syndicate and its assigns (the larger company to be formed) are the cultivation and procurement of the rubber plant in its various forms, and all other tropical and agricultural produce, and the acquisition of mineral and other deposits.

11. The Company to be formed by the Syndicate will include in its articles of incorporation the powers set out at foot hereof, and the Ordinance conceding the rights of the Syndicate shall refer to and take note of these powers.

1 to 10 approved. No. 11 I consider to be a matter for the Crown Law Officers to deal with.—W.M., 29/12/97.

WM. MACGREGOR,
Lieutenant-Governor,
29/12/97.

Agreed,—

SOMERS VINE, } For and on behalf of the British
JOHN LOWLES, } New Guinea Syndicate.

(10.)

The Lieutenant-Governor of British New Guinea to The Governor of Queensland.

My Lord,

Brisbane, 31 December, 1897.

With reference to my Despatch No. 83, of 31st December, I would respectfully suggest that a draft Ordinance should be prepared in the Crown Law Office here to give effect to the Memorandum of Agreement enclosed in the Despatch mentioned above.

If this could be done, much time might thereby be gained. If, however, this cannot be effected without expense to the Possession, I think the draft had better be deferred until it could be prepared by Mr. Winter.

I have, &c.,

WM. MACGREGOR.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary for favour of reply.—L. The Attorney-General.—H.M.N., 12/1/98.
The Under Secretary, Department of Justice.—H.S.J., B.C., 12/1/98. It is better that draft should be prepared in New Guinea.—T.J.B., 20/1/98. The Secretary, Prime Minister.—W.G.C., 20/1/98.
H.M.N., 1/2/98.

(11.)

The Lieutenant-Governor of British New Guinea to The Governor of Queensland.

My Lord,

Union Club, Brisbane, 17 February, 1898.

With reference to my Despatch No. 84, of 31st January, 1898, I have now the honor to submit the draft of an Ordinance to give effect to the Agreement between the Government of the Possession and the British New Guinea Syndicate.

2. Should your Lordship be able to convey to me your sanction to this measure before I leave Thursday Island, I should be in a position to pass it into law at Daru, during my inspection of the Western district, on the arrival there from Port Moresby of His Honor F. P. Winter.

I have, &c.,

WM. MACGREGOR.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary.—L. H.M.N., 23/2/98.

[Enclosure in No. 11.]

(Confidential.)

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

No. of 1898.

AN ORDINANCE

(Enacted by the Administrator of British New Guinea with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof)

To enable certain persons to acquire and occupy Crown Lands not exceeding in the aggregate two hundred and fifty thousand acres in area, and for other purposes subsidiary thereto.

Preamble.

WHEREAS an association of certain corporations and persons has been formed under the name or style of "The British New Guinea Syndicate" for the purpose amongst other things of acquiring and occupying Crown lands in the Possession of British New Guinea, and the cultivation thereon, and procuring therefrom, of the rubber-plant in its various forms, and of all other tropical and agricultural produce, and for the purpose of exploring and opening up such Crown lands, and for the purpose of discovering, working, and developing mines and mineral deposits thereon, and of getting and winning gems, metals, minerals and mineral ores therefrom: And whereas the said British New Guinea Syndicate has duly made application to be permitted to so acquire and occupy, with the objects aforesaid, such Crown lands not exceeding in the aggregate two hundred and fifty thousand acres in area: And whereas the terms, conditions, and stipulations upon which the said British New Guinea Syndicate should be permitted to so acquire and occupy such Crown lands have been provisionally agreed to by and between the said British New Guinea Syndicate and the Administrator of British New Guinea by a Memorandum of Agreement dated at Brisbane, in the Colony of Queensland, on the twenty-ninth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven: And whereas it is desirable that the said British New Guinea Syndicate should be permitted to acquire and occupy Crown lands in the Possession of British New Guinea, not exceeding in the aggregate two hundred and fifty thousand acres in area, with the objects aforesaid, and that for this purpose effect should be given to the said Memorandum of Agreement: Be it therefore enacted by the Administrator of British New Guinea, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:—

Short title.

1. This Ordinance may be cited as "The British New Guinea Syndicate [or Company] Ordinance of 1898."

Interpretation.

2. In this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise requires, the following terms shall have the meanings set against them respectively, that is to say:—

The Company.

"The Company"—The association of corporations and persons known as "The British New Guinea Syndicate," their lawful assigns or successors in interest.

Suitable lands.

"Suitable Lands"—Lands of the Possession available for occupation by the Company, and reasonably suited for agricultural or pastoral purposes, or affording reasonable indications of the existence therein of mineral deposits of commercial and marketable value.

Right to acquire lands.

3. Subject to the provisions of this Ordinance, the Company shall be entitled to obtain from Her Majesty an estate in fee-simple in suitable lands not exceeding in the aggregate two hundred and fifty thousand acres in area, and the Administrator in Council may from time to time sell such lands to the Company.

Lands available for purchase.

4. The Company shall, for the period of six months and no longer after the date of the passing of this Ordinance, have the sole right to purchase under the provisions of this Ordinance the whole of or any suitable lands which have heretofore been declared to be and which still remain available for occupation:

Save, as hereinafter provided, when and so often as any suitable lands are declared to be available for occupation, the Company shall, for the period of six months and no longer after the date on which such lands were respectively declared to be so available, have the sole right to purchase the whole or any of such lands under the provisions of this Ordinance until the Company has purchased lands amounting in the aggregate to two hundred and fifty thousand acres in area.

5.

5. If during the period of eight years from the date of the passing of this Ordinance suitable lands amounting in the aggregate to at least two hundred and fifty thousand acres in area have been from time to time available for purchase by the Company under the provisions of this Ordinance, but the Company has not at the expiration of that period purchased the total area of land which the Company is entitled to purchase, then the Company shall no longer have the sole right to purchase any lands then available or thereafter made available for occupation. Limitation of right of purchase.

But if during that period lands amounting in the aggregate to at least two hundred and fifty thousand acres in area have not been from time to time available for such purchase, then the Company shall continue to have the sole right, subject to the provisions of this Ordinance, to purchase any suitable lands then available, or thereafter made available for occupation, until such time as the Company has purchased the total area of land which the Company is entitled to purchase. Unless suitable lands have not been available.

6. Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to give or confer upon the Company any right of action for damages or compensation, or as for breach of contract or otherwise howsoever, by reason of any failure or inability to declare any land to be available for occupation under the provisions of this Ordinance, or to declare a sufficient area of land to be so available, or by reason of any default or delay in declaring any land to be so available. Company to have no claim for damages, &c.

7. The price to be paid by the Company as the purchase money for all lands purchased under the provisions of this Ordinance shall be at the rate of two shillings for every acre thereof. Purchase money.

8. When and so often as the Company desires to purchase any lands under the provisions of this Ordinance, the Company shall make an application for the purpose to the Government Secretary in such form as the Administrator in Council approves. Company to make application for lands.

The Company shall with every such application pay to the Government Secretary a part of the purchase money equal to sixpence for every acre of land comprised in such application. Deposit.

9. When the Company has made application for any suitable lands, and has paid the part of the purchase money hereinbefore required to be paid with such application, the Company shall be entitled to obtain from the Administrator a provisional grant of such lands in such form as may be directed by the Administrator in Council. Provisional grant to issue.

Every such provisional grant shall be prepared in duplicate, one copy of which shall be recorded by the Registrar-General in the manner in which instruments are directed to be recorded under "The Real Property Ordinance of 1889," and the other copy shall be given to the Company on the payment of such fees as would be payable for the issue of a Crown grant.

Upon the issue of such provisional grant, or upon receipt from the Government Secretary of a letter authorising the Company to take possession of any land, the Company shall be entitled forthwith to enter into possession of the lands comprised in such grant or in such letter.

10. The residue of the purchase money of lands granted to the Company shall be paid to the Government Secretary in eight annual instalments, each equal to twopence farthing for every acre of land comprised in a provisional grant or letter as provided in the last preceding section. Residue of purchase money.

11. During the period of eight years next after the issue of a provisional grant or letter as aforesaid for any lands to the Company, the Company shall be required to expend in *bona fide* improvements upon the lands comprised in such grant or letter a sum equal to two shillings for every acre of such land; and the Company shall be required to expend such moneys within the times following, that is to say—

During the period of two years next after the issue of the provisional grant of such lands, a sum equal to sixpence for every acre of the lands;

During each of the next succeeding six years, a sum equal to threepence for every acre of the lands.

12. The Administrator in Council may, if he thinks fit at any time so to do, extend for any period not exceeding one year, the time hereinbefore limited for the payment of any purchase money or the execution of any improvements under the provisions of this Ordinance. Improvements.

13. The Company shall be required to enclose all lands suitable for pastoral purposes granted to the Company with a good and substantial fence. Such fence shall be erected during the period hereinbefore limited for the execution of improvements, and the moneys expended in erecting the same shall be deemed to be moneys expended upon improvements within the meaning of the last preceding section. Extension of time.

14. When all the conditions and stipulations hereinbefore mentioned have been complied with by the Company with respect to any lands, the Administrator in Council shall, on the surrender of the provisional grant of such lands, order the issue of a Crown grant for the lands. Fencing pasture lands.

No fee shall be charged for the issue of a Crown grant under this section.

15. If the Company, at the expiration of any period hereinbefore limited for the payment of any purchase money, or the execution of any improvements by the Company, or at the expiration of any extended period as by this section provided, has not paid such purchase money or executed such improvements, then the whole or any part of the lands in respect of or upon which such purchase money ought to have been paid, or such improvements ought to have been executed, may forthwith, without re-entry or other proceeding whatsoever, by or on behalf of Her Majesty, be absolutely forfeited. Issue of grant.

16. Notwithstanding the provisions of "The Crown Lands Ordinance of 1890," or of any Ordinance amending or in substitution for the same, and notwithstanding the provisions of any Ordinance in force for the time being relating to mining, upon the issue of a provisional grant of any lands, the Company shall have the sole property in all products of the lands so granted, and especially shall have the sole property in all mines and mineral deposits thereon or therein, and shall, without payment of any fee or other sum of money other than the moneys hereinbefore required to be paid and expended by the Company and the royalty hereinafter mentioned, be the sole persons entitled to dig for, win, take, and acquire in and from the lands so granted all gems, metals, minerals, and mineral ores: Property in products of the lands; mining.

There shall be payable to Her Majesty a royalty of two pounds ten shillings for every one hundred pounds of the net value of all gold and metals of the platinum group won, taken, or acquired by the Company from the lands granted under the provisions of this Ordinance. Royalty on gold, &c., to be paid.

17. The Company may from time to time let the lands or any part thereof granted to the Company under the provisions of this Ordinance. Power to let.

During the period of such letting the person to whom the same are let shall, so far as the letting extends, have the same rights, powers, and privileges, and be subject to the same duties, obligations, and penalties as the Company has and are subject to.

18. To secure the payment of any money borrowed by the Company for the purposes of purchasing, acquiring, or developing the lands or any of them granted to the Company under the provisions of this Ordinance, the Company may from time to time issue debentures or give and execute mortgages or other charges or securities of or over such lands or any part thereof. Such debentures or securities shall be in such form and contain such provisions as the owners think expedient and the Administrator in Council approves. Power to mortgage.

19. The Company may from time to time assign or transfer to any person all or any the rights, powers, privileges, authorities, and concessions, which the Company has or may exercise under the provisions of this Ordinance; and also all or any right, title, and interest of the Company with respect to or in or over any lands granted under the provisions of this Ordinance. Upon every such assignment or transfer, the assignee or transferee shall, so far as the assignment or transfer extends, have the same rights, powers, and privileges, and shall be subject to the same duties, obligations, and penalties as the Company has and are subject to: Power to transfer rights, &c.

Provided that no assignment or transfer under the provisions of this Ordinance to any corporation or joint stock company shall be valid unless or until such corporation or joint stock company has been duly registered in some part of Her Majesty's dominions, in accordance with the laws in force therein with respect to companies, nor unless the objects or some of the objects for which such corporation or joint stock company is established are stated in the memorandum of association thereof to be as follows, that is to say—

- (a) To purchase lands, rights, privileges, concessions, and titles to land in the Possession of British New Guinea which have been acquired under the provisions of "The British New Guinea Syndicate [or Company] Ordinance of 1898" by the British New Guinea Syndicate, at and for the sum of _____ pounds; and to deliver to the said Syndicate in full payment of such purchase, paid-up shares in the capital of this Company, for distribution *pro rata* among the members for the time being of the said Syndicate, in accordance with the terms of an agreement dated _____, one thousand eight hundred and _____. To apply to the Administrator in Council of the said Possession from time to time for further suitable lands in the said Possession. To negotiate for the purchase of any lands in the possession of natives or others within the said Possession as may from time to time be deemed necessary to the purposes of the Company, and, agreeing upon the terms thereof—subject in all such cases to the approval of the said Administrator in Council being first obtained—to purchase, pay for, and take possession of the same. Objects of company to be stated.

(b)

- (b) To cultivate, farm, sell, rent, lease, exchange, or parcel out for allotment any portions of the lands of the Company, and to erect farm cottages, homesteads, factories, machinery, and buildings thereupon. To fence in and use any lands of the Company for agricultural or other purposes. To employ native or other labour. To co-operate with native or other inhabitants of New Guinea for the cultivation and growth of rubber, gain, sugar, tobacco, beet, and other like plants or cereals, and to supply seeds or plants for the purpose thereof upon such terms as to profit as may be from time to time arranged.
- (c) To plan and erect, or aid in the work of erecting, suitable dwellings for workpeople on the lands of the Company. To construct, or aid in the construction of, roads, canals, drains, or other surface works necessary to the lands and the purposes of the Company, both within and, by agreement, outside the boundaries of such lands. To purchase, construct, or aid in the construction of, carts, waggons, boats, barges, sailing or other vessels, or machinery for the transit and transhipment of materials, live stock, or other freight for use of the Company or others, either by sea or land. To construct, or aid in the construction of, sea or river defences, harbours, and wharfares to and upon any sea or river frontage bordering the lands of the Company, or contiguous thereto.
- (d) To buy, sell, breed, and keep horses, cattle, sheep, or other animals; to buy and sell timber or any other native product or deposit of the said Possession, and to manufacture the same into articles of commerce; to buy, import, manufacture, and sell building materials, mining, farming, and other implements, minerals, waggons, and machinery; and to export, sell, trade, or barter therein, and in the produce of the lands of the said Possession.
- (e) To erect trading establishments, store-houses, and farm buildings upon the lands of the Company; to purchase, manufacture, and trade in stores of all kinds, including coals, seeds, implements, tools, and all such other articles and materials as may be and are usually necessary for domestic, agricultural, or manufacturing purposes.
- (f) To erect, or aid in the erection and support of, agricultural and industrial schools adjacent to the trading establishments of the Company, and to employ European teachers in connection therewith.
- (g) To construct, purchase, or rent premises for the purposes of the Company, and to sell, sublet, or exchange such premises or any parts thereof.
- (h) To mine and develop any drifts or deposits of gold, or other precious metals, lead, tin, copper, antimony, nickel, bismuth, coal, or other minerals or gems; dig and quarry stone, brickearth, clay, or other deposits discovered within the lands of the Company; to erect buildings, machinery, and appliances for mining, and, by agreement, to acquire water-way rights, easements, or other privileges necessary to such purposes, or any of them, outside the boundaries of such lands; to rent or lease mineral properties within the said Possession; to explore, develop, furnish, maintain, and equip such properties with all necessary appliances, and to carry on the business of a mining, reducing, and smelting company.
- (j) To grant leases or take-notes for mining purposes in or over any of the lands of the Company, either at dead-rents or royalties, or both, as may be agreed upon; to accept paid-up shares or debentures in other companies as consideration for granting such leases or take-notes, and to hold, sell, or otherwise dispose of such debentures or shares as may be deemed expedient.
- (k) To purchase and erect on the lands of the Company, buildings, machinery, and all necessary appliances for refrigerating meat, and to carry on the business of purveyors of preserved meat, for sale or for exportation.
- (l) To carry on the business of land and financial agents; to act as brokers or agents, either separately or in conjunction with others, in the promotion and issue of any loan or loans of money which may hereafter be borrowed by the Government of British New Guinea in Great Britain; and to undertake, on commission or otherwise, any other agencies which may be conveniently conducted with the Company's business; to establish agencies in Great Britain for promoting emigration to the said Possession; to make advances of money on security, or afford assistance to intending emigrants thereto; and to aid in locating and, if practicable, in providing work and labour for immigrants introduced by the Company into the said Possession.
- (m) To apply for grants of land from the said Administrator in Council by way of subsidy for each statute adult introduced into the said Possession by the Company; to apply for like grants of land for each trading establishment and for each agricultural and industrial school built and opened by the Company; and also to apply for such like grants in consideration of any outlay in roads, works, or erections in the Colony which, in the judgment of the said Administrator in Council, may be deemed permanently advantageous to the trade and growth of the said Possession.
- (n) To apply, from time to time, for grants or loans of money from any public fund voted by Her Majesty's Parliament in aid of immigration, colonisation, or colonial land improvements.
- (o) To borrow on debentures or other securities, and take up moneys at interest for the purposes of the Company to the extent of one-fourth of the subscribed capital of the Company: to pay off the same, and, if necessary, in like manner to re-borrow from time to time as the directors may consider essential to its interests.

20. Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to prevent or limit or take away the power of the Administrator in Council from at any time issuing grants in fee-simple—

- (a) Of any lands for any public purpose;
- (b) Of any lands to any person in trust for any mission body for religious purposes;
- (c) Of any lands for trading or residential purposes not exceeding ten acres in area in any grant, and not contiguous to any lands granted to or applied for by the Company.

(12.)

The Chief Secretary to His Excellency the Governor.

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane, 24 February, 1898.

THE Chief Secretary submits his duty to your Excellency, and, in returning Sir William MacGregor's Despatch No. 10 of the 17th instant, with enclosed draft of an Ordinance to give effect to the Agreement between the Government of British New Guinea and the "British New Guinea Syndicate," has the honor to recommend that your Excellency's sanction be given to the introduction of the Ordinance in the Legislative Council of the Possession.

Sir William MacGregor's Despatches Nos. 83 and 84, both dated 31st December, 1897, are also returned herewith.

HUGH M. NELSON.

(13.)

The Lieutenant-Governor of British New Guinea to The Governor of Queensland.

My Lord,

Daru, 21 March, 1898.

I have the honor to forward herewith six signed and sealed copies of an Ordinance, No. 1 of 1898: To enable certain persons to acquire and occupy lands not exceeding in the aggregate 250,000 acres in area, and for other purposes subsidiary thereto. This Ordinance was approved in your despatch of 24th February, 1898, and it has been passed without material alteration.

2. Would your Lordship be so good as to intimate to Sir Somers Vinc, by cablegram, that the Ordinance has been passed.

3. I shall post for that gentleman, direct from Thursday Island, copies of the Ordinance as passed by the Council. The *Gazette* copies will not be published for some little time, until the papers are returned to Port Moresby.

I have, &c.

WM. MACGREGOR.

Read and returned.—H.M.N., 13/4/98.

[Enclosure

[Enclosure in No. 13.]

See Enclosure in No. 11.*

*NOTE.—The only difference between the Draft Ordinance and the signed and sealed copy is the insertion in section XI, after the words "During the period of two years next after the issue of the provisional grant," of the words "or letter aforesaid authorising possession to be taken."

(14.)

The Prime Minister of Queensland to The Prime Ministers of New South Wales and Victoria.

Sir, Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane, 19 April, 1898.

I have the honor to enclose, for the information of the Government of New South Wales, a signed and sealed copy of Ordinance No. 1 of 1898, British New Guinea, to enable certain persons to acquire and occupy lands not exceeding in the aggregate 250,000 acres in area, and for other purposes subsidiary thereto.

I have, &c.,
THOMAS J. BYRNES.

(15.)

Telegram from Mr. J. Lowles, M.P., to The Governor of Queensland.

London, 14 April, 1898.

INFORM MacGregor we proceed directly Colonial Office approved.

LOWLES.

T.J.B.—18/4/98.

(16.)

The Prime Minister of Victoria to The Prime Minister of Queensland.

Sir, Premier's Office, Melbourne, 25 April, 1898.

I have the honor to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, furnishing me with a signed and sealed copy of Ordinance of British New Guinea No. 1 of 1898.

I have, &c.,
GEORGE TURNER.

(17.)

Paraphrase of Telegram from The Agent-General for Queensland to The Chief Secretary.

London, 7 May, 1898.

NEW GUINEA Syndicate has made preliminary payment of £1,000.

(18.)

The Chief Secretary to His Excellency the Governor.

Sir, Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane, 10 May, 1898.

I have the honor to inform you that I received yesterday from the Agent-General for the Colony a telegram, dated London, 7th instant, of which the following is a paraphrase:—

"New Guinea Syndicate has made preliminary payment of one thousand pounds sterling."

I now beg to recommend that an intimation to the above effect be conveyed to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of British New Guinea.

I have, &c.,
For the Chief Secretary,
JAMES R. DICKSON.

(19.)

Mr. J. Lowles, M.P., to The Governor of Queensland.

London, 6 May, 1898.

INFORM MacGregor Ordinance settled. Paid Agent-General £1,000.

LOWLES.

(20.)

The Prime Minister of Victoria to The Prime Minister of Queensland.

Sir, Premier's Office, Melbourne, 11 May, 1898.

I have the honor to forward herewith, for your perusal, an excerpt from *The Age* of yesterday, respecting certain land concessions said to have been made by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of British New Guinea to a British syndicate.

I shall be glad to be favoured with an expression of your views on the subject.

I have, &c.,
GEORGE TURNER.

[Enclosure in No. 20.]

(From *The Age*, 5 May, 1898.)

A NEW GUINEA CONCESSION.

FAVOURING BRITISH EXPLOITERS—AN AMAZING MONOPOLY.

SOME little time ago attention was called in *The Age* to certain negotiations that were in progress between Sir J. Somers Vine, of Imperial Institute fame, as representative of a British syndicate, and Sir William MacGregor, Administrator of British New Guinea, for extensive land concessions in British New Guinea. It was pointed out that ever since British control had been established over part of New Guinea Australian enterprise in this direction had been severely discouraged, if not absolutely blocked, by the stringency with which all proposals to develop the resources of the island were treated, whilst the apparent tendency was to favour British exploiters. Now we learn that the syndicate negotiator has met with amazing success in his dealings with the Administrator, for an Ordinance published in a recent *British Papua Government Gazette* announces that an agreement has been completed between the representative of the British syndicate and the Administrator for the sale of no less an area than 250,000 acres of land to the Syndicate, on terms which cannot fail to astonish and excite resentment, especially in the Australian Colonies, which pay so handsomely for the retention and government of southern New Guinea as a British possession.

The

The favoured syndicate is to have the 250,000 acres in fee-simple for 2s. per acre, on condition that they spend a further 2s. per acre on improvements within eight years. Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria did not contemplate such a sacrificial disposal of the territory when, in order to secure it as belonging to the Australasian sphere, they agreed to pay between them £15,000 a year towards the cost of its government. But the ridiculous nominal value placed on the land is not the most extraordinary feature of the transaction. The application made and granted was not for a particular area of 250,000 acres, but for whatever available area or areas the Syndicate may covet after due inspection and appraisal. Still more remarkable—the Syndicate is not bound to select the land at once, but is given eight years in which to pick the eyes out of the Possession! It receives a monopoly of selection against all comers.

Whatever claim the humble and self-reliant prospector from an Australian colony might have, as soon as the land he desires, and which he, perhaps, has explored and discovered at the risk of his health and life, is available for occupation, the much-favoured company can calmly step in and take possession of it at the rate of 2s. an acre, whatever the other man's offer for the same selection might be. And with the land goes under this agreement the right to all mineral deposits found thereon. If, therefore, a prospector should happen on a large mineral deposit, or find a great gold-field, the Company can again step forward and peg out the whole lot at 2s. per acre. Furthermore, it is agreed that if at the end of those eight years the Papuan Government have not declared available a total of 250,000 acres, the privilege of priority held by the Syndicate will continue until the required area is thrown open. Accordingly, the interesting *status quo ante* of monopoly will very likely continue at the end of the eighth year, and the Syndicate be enabled to still reap where others have sown, at the rate of 2s. per acre.

In the Ordinance mentioned, the Syndicate sets forth its plans and intentions. It will occupy Crown lands and "take rubber therefrom"; explore and open up Crown lands; discover, work, and develop mines and mineral deposits thereon; and get and win gems, metals, minerals, and mineral ores. Also, they propose to carry on business as land and financial agents, to act as brokers, or agents, either separately or in conjunction with others, in the promotion and issue of loans which hereafter may be borrowed by the Government of British Papua in Great Britain. They will lend money to settlers, obtain land subsidies from the Government for every adult introduced, on commission; apply for a share of subsidy granted by the Imperial Government to promote colonisation; borrow on debentures, acquire more land from the natives (with the permission of the Administrator), grant mining leases, acquire shares, refrigerate meat, erect buildings; buy, sell, breed and keep horses, cattle, sheep, or other animals; buy or sell timber, buy or sell farming and mining implements, build boats, construct waggons and barges, sea and river defences, harbours and wharves. But, however hard this monopoly may press on other commercial or agricultural settlers, it is the clause in the Agreement relative to mining that needs special attention:—

"Notwithstanding previous legislation relating to mining, or any amendment thereof, upon the issue of a provisional grant, the Syndicate shall have the sole property, in all the products of the lands so granted, and especially shall have the sole property in all mines and mineral deposits thereon or therein, and shall without payment of any fee or other sum of money other than the 2s. per acre (6d. is sufficient to obtain the provisional grant and a monopoly of the minerals) be the sole person entitled to dig for, win, take, and acquire from the lands so granted all gems, metals, minerals, and mineral ores. A royalty of £2 10s. for every £100 of the net value of all gold and metals of the platinum group won must be paid to the New Guinea Government. The Syndicate has the right to sublet its lands, mines, or rivers, and to issue debentures, give mortgages, &c."

The position has been summed up as follows:—The Syndicate undertakes absolutely no responsibility whatever in exchange for a vast monopoly, which allows them to comfortably sit down, keep their hands in their pockets, and their purse out of danger, while badly-equipped private individuals roam the country, risking health and money in the exploration of the unknown interior. Then, should the pioneer's persistency and courage meet with success, and he returns with the news of a great mineral find, perhaps the Syndicate solemnly arises and acquires the choice morsel for 2s. an acre. And an acre might be worth a fortune. And so, without risk or work, they will utilise the achievements of other men, and propose literally to live on the sweat and blood of the pioneer and prospector. A more effectual way to frighten off genuine settlers could not have been discovered.

(21.)

Telegram from The Prime Minister of New South Wales to The Prime Minister of Queensland.

Sydney 18 May 1898.

CONFIDENTIAL Ministers strongly condemn provisions of Agreement with Land Syndicate We propose to do all in our power to prevent the completion of the transaction but before doing anything would like your views.

G. H. REID.

(22.)

The Chief Secretary to The Deputy Governor.

Sir,

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane, 20 May, 1898.

It will doubtless have come under your notice that considerable popular excitement exists both in the southern colonies and in Queensland in regard to the concessions granted by the Government of British New Guinea to the British New Guinea Syndicate, which are embodied in the Ordinance, of which signed and sealed copies accompanied Sir William MacGregor's despatch to His Excellency Lord Lamington, of date 21st March last. On the 16th instant a letter was received by me from Sir George Turner, enclosing an extract from the *Age* newspaper, in which the concessions in question were referred to, and asking for an expression of the views of this Government on the subject; and on the 18th instant Mr. Reid telegraphed that the Government of New South Wales strongly condemned the provisions of the agreement entered into with the British New Guinea Syndicate, that they proposed to do all in their power to prevent the completion of the transaction, but that before doing anything they would like an expression of the views of this Government in the matter.

Upon examining the papers connected with this subject, I find that the provision of Clause 20 of the Amended Proposals for the Administration of British New Guinea, as set forth in the Second Schedule to "*The British New Guinea (Queensland) Act of 1887*," which requires that the Government of Queensland shall consult the Governments of the other contributing colonies in all matters other than those of ordinary administration, has apparently, in this instance, not been complied with. Sir Hugh Nelson, who was Prime Minister at the time when the negotiations between Sir William MacGregor and the Syndicate were concluded, may possibly be able to throw some light on this particular phase of the subject, but, as you are aware, he is at present in New Guinea, and is not expected to return to Queensland until early next month.

Under the circumstances, it would appear exceedingly desirable that steps should be taken to delay the final completion of the Ordinance under which the concessions to which exception is taken are made, and I would therefore ask you to be good enough to communicate by telegraph with the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, asking him, for the reasons above stated, to advise Her Majesty to withhold Her assent in the meantime to the Ordinance in question.

I have, &c.,

For the Chief Secretary,

JAMES R. DICKSON.

(23.)

15

(23.)

Telegram from The Chief Secretary to The Prime Ministers of New South Wales and Victoria.

Brisbane 20 May 1898.

Re British New Guinea Syndicate it does not appear from papers connected with matter that requirements of Clause 20 of Amended Proposals for Administration of British New Guinea have in this instance been complied with but Sir Hugh Nelson who was Premier when negotiations between Sir William MacGregor and Syndicate were concluded and who might throw some light on this matter is now absent in New Guinea. It would therefore appear desirable to await his return before taking further steps but I have asked Deputy-Governor to telegraph Secretary of State requesting him to advise Her Majesty to withhold assent to Ordinance in the meantime.

For the Chief Secretary,
JAMES R. DICKSON.

(24.)

Paraphrase of Telegram from The Chief Secretary to The Agent-General.

Brisbane 20 May 1898.

CONSIDER it desirable to advise that public opinion excited at concessions made to New Guinea Syndicate. It does not appear from documents dealing with subject that Governments of New South Wales Victoria consulted with in accordance with clause 20 Amended Proposals Administration New Guinea Nelson who might throw light on this phase of subject out of the colony. As Governments referred to threaten to oppose completion of transaction I have asked Deputy-Governor communicate with Secretary of State for the Colonies by telegraph requesting that assent of Her Majesty be withheld in the meantime.

(25.)

Telegram from The Administrator of the Government to The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Brisbane 20 May 1898.

WITH reference to British New Guinea Ordinance enclosed in Despatch No. 19 5th April my Government requests me to inform you that as far as can be ascertained Governments of New South Wales and Victoria were not consulted with respect to terms of contract with Syndicate prior to Governor of Queensland giving directions for introduction of Ordinance by Lieutenant-Governor of British New Guinea as required by provisions of clause 20 British New Guinea amended proposals Government of New South Wales Government of Victoria now remonstrated strongly Nelson who was then Prime Minister now absent from the colony. My Government requests that question of exercise of power of disallowance may be reserved until there is an opportunity for all three Governments expressing opinion on Ordinance for consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

(26.)

The Prime Minister of Victoria to The Prime Minister of Queensland.

Sir,

Premier's Office, Melbourne, 17 May, 1898.

In continuation of my letter of the 11th instant, No. 1,744, relative to certain concessions of land in New Guinea made to a syndicate, I now beg to enclose further newspaper cuttings on the subject, and to state that I shall be glad to be furnished with full particulars of the matter.

I have up to the present time received no official intimation of the concessions, which, if the reports be true, are of a very important and extensive character, and of such a nature as would, I should have thought, have formed a fitting subject for consultation amongst the contributing colonies before any engagements were made by the Lieutenant-Governor.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE TURNER.

[Enclosure 1 in No. 26.]

(From *The Age*, 11 May, 1898.)

ONE is obliged to rub his eyes over the special New Guinea article published in *The Age* of yesterday, and to ask himself whether the Imperial Government is going back to the colonial policy of 300 years ago, when it sought to settle America by the establishment of huge landed monopolies. The concessions made to the British syndicate, engineered by Sir J. Somers Vane, amount to the shutting up of New Guinea against the pioneering settler for the next two or three decades. The policy pursued is one evincing the most incredible mapatude, when viewed from the colonising standpoint. Ordinary settlers and pioneer explorers have been virtually warned off New Guinea by the Imperial Administration there of Sir William MacGregor. There have been rumours of gold discovery, and enterprising people would have penetrated the island and tested the land; but, instead of this being favoured, discouragements have been thrown in the way. In a single word, white settlement is not wanted from the colonies. The General Administrator makes his annual report and furnishes copies to all the colonies in return for the £15,000 a year furnished to him; but beyond that he stands as much aloof from Australia as if he were a subject of the Grand Lama or a denizen of some frozen island off the Siberian Coast. For the pleasure of hearing once a year that a few British officials in New Guinea draw their salaries and endeavour to teach the Papuans the advisability of burying their enemies rather than eating them, the Victorian taxpayers pay £5,000 per annum. The money has never been begrudged so far, because the settlement was undertaken in order to prevent the island falling into the hands of hostile foreigners.

But this new departure of handing that island virtually over to a company of monopolistic exploiters will excite very different feelings in the bosoms of our colonists. The recent official Ordinance promulgated by Sir William MacGregor gives to a British syndicate the right to absorb every acre of land which may be declared open for settlement for the next eight years, to the extent of 250,000 acres; and as it is very unlikely that that area will be proclaimed, it virtually shuts out every private and individual settler. The terms of the new agreement are all in favour of the Syndicate, and all against the public. The land is to be sold in fee-simple for 2s. per acre, together with every mineral it may contain. The Syndicate must spend 2s. per acre in improvements; but it need not take the land in blocks, but may pick the "eyes" out of the island; and should a rich gold-field be discovered anywhere, the Syndicate may peg it all out and claim it as a private possession, even though it were worth hundreds of millions sterling. In fact, no private enterprise can find any footing alongside this gigantic monopoly created by Sir William MacGregor. The Syndicate means to settle and work the land, sell the same, prospect for minerals, and warn everybody else off. It will exist without responsibility, being able to take or leave the land as it pleases, and spend or not spend, with almost sovereign rights over the land. It is, in fact, a great contrivance for retarding the free settlement of New Guinea, and handing over a virtual appanage of Australia into the hands of a rigid monopoly. The colonies have, perhaps, no legal power of preventing the consummation of this disastrous policy; but they hold the power of the purse, and it ought not to require any hesitation as to what the contributing colonies will do in the face of this monopolistic Ordinance. Sir George Turner might at once communicate with Queensland and New South Wales with a view to joint action in withdrawing from any further subsidy after the year 1898. It is impossible that Victorians will consent to pay for the maintenance of an establishment which seeks to set up in British territory, at the end of the century, one of these petty trading sovereignties like the East India Company, which a couple of centuries ago were tolerated only for the lack of a more efficient means of colonisation.

[Enclosure

[Enclosure 2 in No. 26.]

(From *The Age*, 11 May, 1898.)

THE Premier's attention has been attracted by the description published in *The Age* of yesterday of the astonishing transaction by which an enormous area of land in British New Guinea has been granted to an English syndicate on nominal terms, with conditions constituting a close monopoly. As Victoria is a contributor to the cost of administering British New Guinea, this colony has a right to say something about administration carried on in this fashion. The colonial subsidy is about £15,000 per annum, of which Victoria this year pays £5,000. Victoria has so little interest in, or benefit arising from, the New Guinea administration that the Premier recently proposed to withdraw our contribution altogether, and it was only after a consultation with Sir Hugh Nelson, the Queensland Premier, and Sir William MacGregor, Administrator of British New Guinea, that he consented to wait the result of some negotiations with the Imperial Government on which Sir William MacGregor has gone to England. If British New Guinea is to be exploited in this style, however, the Victorian Premier will be less inclined than ever to continue the subsidy. Official communication between New Guinea and the southern colonies is conducted through the Queensland Government, and Sir George Turner will make inquiries of the Queensland Premier to ascertain more particularly the circumstances of this land transaction.

[Enclosure 3 in No. 26.]

(From *The Age*, 16 May, 1898.)

THE NEW GUINEA CONCESSION.

WAS THE GOVERNMENT CONSULTED?

It cannot be too strongly urged upon the Governments of Victoria and New South Wales that it is their duty to interfere to prevent the realisation of the project for the exploitation of New Guinea by a so-called "British" syndicate. Further inquiry into the matter has shown that *The Age*, in the article the other day describing the nature of the concession, has unearthed what looks like a very ugly scandal. The purely commercial and utilitarian aspect of the transaction in the practical handing over a vast territory to a huge monopoly would warrant a vigorous protest on the part of the colonies that have for over ten years contributed to the maintenance of British New Guinea. But the affair has a political, and possibly an international, significance that raises it above mere considerations of settlement and trade, and demands the serious attention of those responsible for the well-being of Australia.

The agreement between this highly favoured Syndicate and the Lieutenant-Governor of New Guinea, Sir William MacGregor, provides for the transfer to the former of 250,000 acres in fee-simple for 2s. per acre, on condition that a further sum of 2s. per acre be spent on improvements within eight years. No particular area is defined. Sir William MacGregor has virtually said: Go and pick out any land you like; it need not be in one piece, but you can select the choicest spots you can find in any part of the colony. What is more extraordinary, the Syndicate is not bound to choose the land at once, but may take eight years in which to leisurely inspect the entire Possession, and make sure that they get only the cream of the country. If the Administrator had sold New Guinea outright, as if it were a suburban allotment, he could not have more effectively parted with the control of the land or more emphatically exclaimed "hands off" to any venturesome prospector or explorer from the mainland. The Ordinance gives power to explore and open up Crown lands, use rivers, develop mines, gather rubber, fell timber, construct harbours and wharves, and actually provide sea and river defences. The Company, it is presumed, in order to protect its interests from foreign invasion or domestic envy, will have an army and navy, and probably declare war. We have already referred to the iniquity of the charter of the Company with respect to mining. The development of the undoubted mineral wealth of New Guinea is a proper sphere for Australian enterprise. Plucky prospectors from the continent will always be visiting the Possession in the hope of making a good find; but now should the explorer happen upon a rich mineral field, down will come the Company and absorb the treasure, paying for it 2s. an acre, and acquiring all the adjacent land through which the reefs or leads may run at the same extravagant figure. A more salutary method of warning off genuine settlement could not have been devised.

The grant made to this British corporation entirely subverts the policy hitherto pursued in respect of New Guinea. Mr. Theodore Bevan, the well-known New Guinea explorer, to whose courage and enterprise we owe so much of our knowledge of the New Guinea interior, has been endeavouring for years past to obtain land concessions from Sir William MacGregor, but that high-minded patriot has always repudiated with pious horror the thought of allowing land grants for speculative purposes. Mr. Bevan's experience in endeavouring to do something with the country to which he has rendered such valuable service fully bears out our observation of the other day, that Australian plans for the development of what is really Australian territory have been thwarted, checked, or coldly discouraged by the Administrator. As far back as 1888, after Mr. Bevan had explored the rivers of the Gulf of Papua, he applied to the then Administrator, Mr. John Douglas, for a large area. That claim was considered excessive, but it was freely admitted that the intrepid explorer's services deserved generous recognition. In 1890 Mr. Bevan applied for a grant of land, and was informed, in reply, that it was contrary to the policy of the Government to give "exclusive" exploiting privileges to anybody. If, however, the applicant would specify any particular part he wished to lease or purchase, steps would be taken to ascertain if it could be made available. In reply, Mr. Bevan described an area of 100 square miles on the Purari River, for which he was willing to negotiate, and would have been prepared to take up on any reasonable terms. Sir William MacGregor took several months to consider this proposal, and in May, 1891, replied that it was perfectly hopeless to obtain 100 square miles in any part of the Possession, because it was "not the policy of the contributing colonies to sell land for speculative purposes." That reply so completely scouted the idea of any considerable scheme for exploiting the country that Mr. Bevan did not pursue the matter. He did not want land to grow potatoes, but for general exploration purposes; and as there appeared not the faintest probability that such an enterprise as the British New Guinea Syndicate would ever be countenanced, he let the whole subject drop.

In March, 1897, however, the question was reopened by an inquiry from Mr. Bevan as to whether the policy of the Possession was of a more progressive character than had been the case seven years previously—was it still to be understood that no large areas would be granted? Sir William MacGregor intimated his willingness "to advocate any reasonable concessions." The reply was that Mr. Bevan and his friends were able to provide £20,000 for exploration work, and that they would prospect for gold and coal, and work the india-rubber and timber resources. Another five months elapsed, and the applicant was then informed that only inquiry made upon the spot, and with reference to some definite tract of country, could lead to practical results. Mr. Bevan, in a letter dated 7th February, 1898, reiterated his demand for concessions in the Papuan Gulf country. That letter was crossed by one from Sir William MacGregor of the same date. This letter is worth quoting in full, because it introduces a new feature into the business in the person of the "Honorable Duncan Gillics," and shows clearly that certain Melbourne interests were strongly concerned in the negotiations, that ended so successfully for the British syndicate. The communication is as follows:—

"Sir,

"Brisbane, 7 February, 1898.

"I am directed by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor to inform you that he has received your letter of 21st December last, addressed to Mr. Dutton, Private Secretary to the Prime Minister of Queensland. This had as an enclosure copy of a letter from the Government Secretary of British New Guinea to yourself, dated 14th August, and of a communication from yourself to that gentleman dated 30th August.

"2. The Lieutenant-Governor is not in a position to state whether any reply has been sent from Port Moresby to your letter of 30th August; but it appears to His Excellency quite clear that nothing whatever of a conclusive nature could have been arrived at, as no details of any intended transaction have yet been submitted by you. It would rather appear that you wish to have these made to you by the Government. The object of the letter of the 14th August of the Government Secretary to yourself was to elicit from you a definite proposal, in the absence of which the Government is not in a position to deal with the matter, except by the tedious process of a long correspondence of question and answer. In the interim a strong company has made to the Government a definite and complete proposal, so formulated that its details could be dealt with at once, and be accepted or rejected.

"This proposal is now under consideration, and, if finally approved of by the directors, it will take up as much land as the Crown will wish to alienate at present, with the exception of small areas for trading settlement.

"3. Sir William MacGregor has, however, been given to understand that the company referred to are desirous of obtaining your aid and co-operation, and would wish to incorporate yourself and your friends in their undertaking. If this could be arranged it would be a matter of special gratification to the Lieutenant-Governor, who believes that your knowledge and experience of the country would particularly qualify you for rendering valuable services to the company as a director

director or manager. Sir William MacGregor has been given to understand that the Honorable Duncan Gillies has become a director of the new company, and the Lieutenant-Governor would venture to suggest that you should confer with Mr. Gillies on the subject, and if possible join your forces with those of his friends in this transaction. Mr. Gillies will be in a position to acquaint you with details.

I have, &c.,

“ARCHY B. McDOWALL,

“Private Secretary.

“Theodore F. Bevan, Esq., Melbourne.”

Naturally the presence of a director of the new company in Melbourne facilitated explanation, and Mr. Bevan called on Mr. Gillies at the Athenæum Club. That gentleman asked for the Administrator's letter to be left with him, which, of course, was refused. Mr. Bevan desired an early interview, but Mr. Gillies absolutely declined to discuss the matter. The fact stated in Sir William MacGregor's letter, that the Syndicate was anxious to secure his services as director or manager, made Mr. Bevan suspicious that his name had been used in securing the concession to the Company, but Sir William replied that his name was never mentioned. In subsequent correspondence, Mr. Bevan, commenting on the grant made to Vine and the shabby treatment of himself after the perils he had endured, the service rendered, and the money he had spent in the country, hoped that His Excellency would pause, and, if necessary, cancel the negotiations by cable. He even demanded the common rights of first application, which were recognised all over Australia. But further negotiation was simply ignored.

Mr. Bevan then approached Sir George Turner on the matter, and, with the limited knowledge gained from a paragraph in *The Age* of 3rd February as to the character of the concession, he pointed out to the Premier that if the Syndicate was granted all the land the Crown would wish to alienate at present the effect would be to make those interested people, who might be only “astute boomers,” a cash present worth anything from £50,000 upwards on the London market. It would make them the heirs and inheritors of all that had been done in British New Guinea up to date. It would be granting to people who had probably never seen New Guinea the most exclusive privilege that could possibly be conceived. It would stultify the whole policy pursued in respect of New Guinea, and would not further the progress of the country. How was it possible, Mr. Bevan asked, to fix guarantees which would ensure that after the promoters had had their day the shareholders could be tied down to conditions which would prevent land from lying idle; and he warned the Premier that the transaction would not only be generally denounced, but that it had all the elements of a grave public scandal. The Premier of Queensland, in answer to a complaint made by Mr. Bevan as to the manner in which he had been treated, stated that any application he might make for a similar concession to that granted to the British corporation would receive favourable consideration, and be treated in a liberal spirit. “But,” asks Mr. Bevan, “how is it possible to treat any other person with liberality under the terms of the Ordinance? If the Syndicate has sufficient influence to engineer this great scheme it would be powerful enough to get its own Governor appointed, and as one of the conditions is that the Syndicate, with the permission of the Administrator, may buy land from the natives, it is easy to see that on the plea of native rights they may monopolise the whole country, and compel every prospector to go cap in hand for permission to explore. Concessions of large areas are necessary in such a country where capital is urgently required for development, but there was no justification for hurriedly and foolishly constituting a few people in London or elsewhere the ground landlords of the future Australian New Guinea.”

We have already shown that this concession is an entire reversal of New Guinea policy; the Administrator's own correspondence indicates the outrageous departure now made. In an article on New Guinea in the *Scottish Geographical Magazine* for April, 1895, Sir William MacGregor says: “The policy of the colony is to sell land to *bona fide* cultivators, but not to encourage speculation by selling large areas to exploiting syndicates, or to grant concessions that would be immediately sold for what they might bring.” Instead of adhering to this cautious policy, or overstepping its limits only to a moderate extent, Sir William has out-Heroded Herod in going beyond it for the benefit—of whom? If one could only learn the secret history of this scandalous barter of a whole Possession—a Possession that has been maintained and managed by Australian money to the extent of over £150,000, it would open the public eyes to the real influences that have been at work. Surely Sir George Turner and Mr. Reid were never consulted in regard to the Syndicate's proposals, as they ought to have been, or, if they were, the all-absorbing demands of federation must have prevented their giving the matter proper consideration. Sir William MacGregor, in the article quoted, showed that the £15,000 a year contributed came from Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria. “These colonies are, therefore, allowed to have much to say in the general direction of the lines of policy that mark the administration of New Guinea.” Quite so. The colonies pay the piper; they should have the privilege of calling the tune. Again, to quote Sir William: “It follows that the destiny of British New Guinea is to be a satellite of Australia, and if it is not mismanaged it will be a great and valuable dependency of the Commonwealth. . . . The three colonies mentioned alone are expending their money on it in the hope that they may turn to some good account the country and people we have been considering.” Precisely. Victoria and New South Wales have not spent between them £100,000 in order to hand over the country to a set of greedy land-boomers. But the most important point in Sir William's article *apropos* of the present state of things is the following sentence, and we would call Sir George Turner's special attention to it:—“The Government of the Possession is provided with the ordinary power of passing laws to suit its requirements, subject to the sanction of the Australian Colonies.” Did the Victorian Premier sanction this scheme? Was he consulted about it in any way? If not, if he has given no consent then the whole agreement is not worth the paper it is written on. Sir George Turner should take immediate steps to have the Ordinance quashed, and some more “reasonable concession” substituted, otherwise he should withdraw the subsidy, without which the New Guinea Government would come to a standstill. As we have hinted at the beginning of this article, the fate of Australia may be involved in what, on the face of it, may appear to be merely a smart business deal. If a mysterious syndicate, the members of which—outside Mr. Duncan Gillies and Sir Somers Vine—are unknown, can go in and take possession of a country, what is to prevent a foreign Power inspiring a mercantile corporation to do the same thing? Sir George Turner should lose no time in communicating with the other contributors of the subsidy, in order that this preposterous grab may be effectually defeated.

[Enclosure 4 in No. 26.]

(From *The Age*, 17 May, 1898.)

Outrageous as the monopoly proposed to be created in New Guinea for a British land-booming syndicate seemed when it first leaked out, it did not look nearly so bad as subsequent developments now show it to be. The letter from the private secretary of Sir William MacGregor, the Lieutenant-Governor of that island, to Mr. Theodore Bevan, the New Guinea explorer, published in *The Age* of yesterday, throws a lurid light upon a most extraordinary, not to say suspicious, transaction, and shows that although Mr. Duncan Gillies considered any attention to the material interests of Victoria during the term of his Agent-Generalship to have been incompatible with the dignity of his ambassadorial functions, he is not adverse to lending his name and influence to a British syndicate formed to exploit what is really Australian territory. The facts which have so far been elicited tend to point to a desire on Mr. Gillies's part to imitate the rôle of Mr. Cecil Rhodes, and to establish a kind of chartered company, with possibly a new Jameson raid in the future, for the proposed company of land-boomers has arranged to undertake even sea and river defences. It is impossible to say as yet what arguments or persuasions were brought to bear on Sir William MacGregor by the land-boomers, but they must have been very powerful, for they induced him to abandon entirely his formerly announced policy regarding concessions of land so far as to grant what is virtually a monopoly to a syndicate of which Mr. Gillies and Sir Somers Vine are leading members. There can be no doubt whatever on this point, for we have Sir William's own assurance on the subject. As long ago as 1891, when Mr. Bevan applied for a concession, Sir William distinctly recognised his paramount claim to anything which it might be in his power to grant, but assured him that it was utterly hopeless to obtain 100 square miles in any part of the Possession, because it was “not the policy of the contributing colonies to sell land for speculative purposes.” But in March, 1897, when Mr. Bevan again applied, the Lieutenant-Governor intimated his willingness “to advocate any reasonable concessions.” What had occurred in the meantime to bring about this complete change of policy? Had the “Honorable Duncan Gillies” exerted his eloquence with such success as to change the history of New Guinea? On this point we have no definite information, but the course of events certainly tends that such was the case, for when Mr. Bevan again asked for a concession he was told that, although the Government had changed its policy, Mr. Gillies's syndicate had been there beforehand, and had acquired a virtual monopoly. This is evidently the meaning of the letter addressed to Mr. Bevan by the private secretary of the Lieutenant-Governor, in which he says of the British syndicate: “It will take up as much land as the Crown will wish to alienate at present, with the exception of small areas for trading settlements.”

Tho

The real question now is, and to this question the people of these colonies, who have paid £150,000 towards the government of New Guinea, have a right to demand an explicit answer: "Why did Sir William MacGregor grant to Mr. Gillies and a British company what he refused to Mr. Bevan and his Australian friends?" It cannot have been a want of confidence in their financial ability, for the Australian partners were able to provide £20,000 for exploration work, and were willing to undertake to prospect for coal and gold, and work the india-rubber and timber resources. Moreover, Mr. Bevan is admitted by Sir William MacGregor to have a claim upon the New Guinea Government for his excellent exploration work, while, as far as we are aware, Mr. Gillies knows no more about the island than he knows about an octopus railway system in Mars. At a first glance it looked as if Mr. Gillies and his friends had made use of Mr. Bevan's name in order to obtain the concession, for Sir William's secretary wrote to Mr. Bevan stating that he had been given to understand that the British company was desirous of obtaining the explorer's aid and co-operation, and "would wish to incorporate you and your friends in their undertaking." So convinced was Sir William of this that he suggested to Mr. Bevan to see Mr. Gillies, but the latter gentleman, when applied to, sternly refused to even discuss the subject. Sir William subsequently stated that Mr. Bevan's name had never been mentioned to him in connection with the matter; but, all the same, it must have been suggested by someone, and this is one of the points which needs elucidation in this remarkable affair.

[Enclosure 5 in No. 26.]

(From *The Age*, 17 May, 1898.)

The position of affairs in relation to the New Guinea land scandal, as it is explained by the Premier, makes matters no better. Having read the article on this subject in *The Age* of yesterday, the Premier states that he had done all he could to forward the interests of Mr. Theodore Bevan in his New Guinea enterprise. As for the large concession which has been made to the English syndicate, Sir George Turner states that he was never consulted about it as a matter of administration, nor did he know anything about it till he saw it mentioned in the Press. The Administrator of New Guinea, Sir William MacGregor, is not under the control of the contributing Governments (Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria), and he can do what he likes without their permission, but the practice is to inform or consult them. The bargain of the colonies named with the Imperial Government is that the Administrator of New Guinea is to consult the Queensland Governor with regard to legislative and administrative acts; that functionary refers to his Executive, and that body again consults the Governments of the contributing colonies. In small matters, Sir George Turner says, the Victorian Government concurs as a matter of course; on those which seem to require consideration the other contributors are consulted, and the Queensland Government is asked to investigate, as that Government manages New Guinea affairs for the contributing colonies. But in this land transaction the Victorian Premier was never consulted. Nothing official has ever reached him, and he knows nothing of the matter beyond what he has seen in the Press.

THE NEW GUINEA LAND GRAB.

Sydney, Monday.

Mr. C. E. Kennedy manager of the New Guinea Development Syndicate, and a resident of New Guinea, in an interview to-day, expressed emphatic condemnation of the Sir J. Somers Vine proposed grab of New Guinea territory, and said that if the scheme were carried out it would stop the development of New Guinea. At one time a person wishing to develop the resources of New Guinea could get land at 2s. 6d. per acre, but if the Vine scheme were carried out intending settlers would have to pay fancy prices to the Syndicate. Mr. Kennedy thinks the southern colonies should at once send a combined remonstrance to Mr. Chamberlain against the Somers Vine proposal.

(27.)

The Chief Secretary to The Prime Minister of Victoria.

Sir,

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane, 21 May, 1898.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 17th instant, in which, with reference to previous correspondence, you enclose further newspaper cuttings on the subject of the concessions made by the Government of British New Guinea to the British New Guinea Syndicate, and, while asking to be furnished with full particulars regarding the matter, state that up to the present time you have received no official intimation of the concessions reported to have been made.

A telegram which I caused to be despatched to you yesterday will have informed you of the action taken by this Government with the view to deferring the grant of Her Majesty's assent to the Ordinance under which effect is given to the Agreement entered into between Sir William MacGregor and the Syndicate in question, and I must ask that compliance with your request for further information on the subject be allowed to stand over until Sir Hugh Nelson's return from New Guinea, which is expected to take place early next month. In the meantime, I take this opportunity of reminding you that a copy of the Ordinance containing all particulars as to the concessions granted to the Syndicate was forwarded to you under cover of Mr. Byrnes's letter of the 19th April last, receipt of which was duly acknowledged by you on the 25th idem.

I have, &c.,

For the Chief Secretary,

JAMES R. DICKSON.

(28.)

Telegram from The Prime Minister of New South Wales to The Prime Minister of Queensland.

Sydney 23 May 1898.

AM in receipt of telegram intimating that you have requested Deputy-Governor to cable Secretary of State for the Colonies to advise Her Majesty to withhold assent to Ordinance No. 1 of 1898 British New Guinea.

G. H. REID.

Noted.—J.R.D., 26/5/98.

(29.)

Telegram from Mr. J. Lowles, M.P., to The Governor of Queensland.

London 21 May.

INFORM MacGregor everything in order here Agent prepared to start on receipt of cable from you Referring to protests Reid Turner if faith broken now will have permanently bad effect against colony here.

LOWLES.

Read. Copy by wire to Premier.—J.R.D., 25/5/98.

(30.)

19

(30.)

Paraphrase of Telegram from The Secretary of State for the Colonies to The Deputy-Governor of Queensland.

London 24 May 1898.

REFERRING to your telegram of 20th May on receipt of Governor's Despatch No. 14 of 5th March agreement and draft Ordinance prepared with approval of Queensland Government were carefully considered. Draft Ordinance did not appear to sufficiently protect Government of Possession and I intimated to Syndicate that I should require modifications. This was accepted by them and on 3rd May I intimated to them on receipt of Ordinance giving effect to amendments. I would at once submit to Her Majesty for approval *see* my Despatch No. 21 of 3rd May. I do not see that your Ministers can now oppose allowance of Ordinance without breach of faith and I presume Nelson and MacGregor fully informed Premiers Victoria and New South Wales at Melbourne Conference as to agreement which was matter of notoriety and was I am informed freely discussed Agents for Syndicate with prominent public men and Ministers at Sydney and Melbourne. You should communicate all information concerning matter and this telegram to Government of New South Wales and Government of Victoria.

CHAMBERLAIN.

Read. Copy by wire to Premier.—J.R.D., 25/5/98.

(31.)

Telegram from The Chief Secretary to The Prime Ministers of New South Wales and Victoria.

Brisbane 26 May 1898.

REFERRING to my telegram of 20th instant a cablegram has been received by His Excellency the Administrator of the Government from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subject of the concessions made to the British New Guinea Syndicate. Sir Samuel Griffith has forwarded a copy of Mr. Chamberlain's message to His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales and to the Administrator of the Government of Victoria and I would invite your attention to its terms.

For the Chief Secretary,

JAMES R. DICKSON.

(32.)

Telegram from The Prime Minister of Victoria to The Prime Minister of Queensland.

Melbourne 25 May 1898.

New Guinea land concession. We have cabled to our Agent-General as follows viz. Ask Secretary of State for the Colonies advise Queen withhold for the present assent to British New Guinea Ordinance No. 1 of 1898 enabling Syndicate acquire 250,000 acres land. We were not consulted as required by clause 20 of Amended Proposals for Administration of the Possession, and as matter very important desire opportunity of carefully considering measure.

GEO. TURNER.

Read.—J.R.D., 25/5/98.

(33.)

Paraphrase of Telegram from The Agent-General for Queensland to The Chief Secretary.

London 26 May 1898.

COLONIAL Office (has) telegraphed Governor about New Guinea Syndicate.

(34.)

Telegram from Mr. J. Lowles, M.P., to The Governor of Queensland.

London 6 June 1898.

FOR MacGregor Chamberlain announced Commons to-day approval Ordinance as amended.

LOWLES.

(35.)

The Chief Secretary to His Excellency the Governor.

My Lord,

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane, 7 June, 1898.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt from your Excellency of a telegram, dated 6th instant, from Mr. J. Lowles, M.P. (returned herewith), having further reference to the British New Guinea Syndicate Ordinance, and to recommend that a copy of the telegram be forwarded to His Excellency Sir William MacGregor.

I have, &c.,

For the Chief Secretary,

JAMES R. DICKSON.

(36.)

Telegram from The Prime Minister of Victoria to The Prime Minister of Queensland.

Melbourne 10 June 1898.

I HAVE to-day cabled to our Acting Agent-General as follows. New Guinea Syndicate make again strong protest against ratification of Ordinance clause twenty of Amended Proposals for Administration requires Queensland consult other contributing Colonies on all matters other than ordinary administration. This was not done nor did Queensland give us any information whatever prior to passing Ordinance neither have contributing Colonies had any opportunity to ascertain or consider amendments proposed by Imperial Government. As we have already expended £50,000 in connection with New Guinea there is strong feeling here that before final ratification contributing colonies should be afforded opportunity of knowing all facts and fully considering matter as provided in clause twenty above-mentioned which being Schedule of Queensland Act has force of law. If we are not to be consulted with regard to such important questions it is useless our spending money in connection with New Guinea.

GEORGE TURNER.

(37.)

(37.)

The Secretary of State for the Colonies to The Governor of Queensland.

My Lord,

Downing-street, 3rd May, 1898.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 14, of the 5th March, transmitting correspondence as to the agreement between the Government of British New Guinea and a Syndicate, together with the draft of an Ordinance to give effect to that agreement.

2. From the enclosed copies of correspondence with the solicitors acting for the Syndicate you will perceive that the Ordinance required amendment in certain important particulars, and that the Syndicate has accepted the amendments, which should be embodied in the Ordinance, or made the subject of an amending Ordinance, as the case may be.

3. The subsection proposed in the solicitor's letter of the 25th ultimo, though in substance sufficient, appears to require more precision in its language before it is embodied in the law.

4. I have caused the Syndicate's solicitors to be informed that, on the understanding that the Ordinance is amended as required, I shall be prepared to at once submit it for Her Majesty's approval.

I have, &c.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

For consideration of the Honorable the Chief Secretary, the advisability of forwarding copies of this to the southern contributing colonies, without awaiting the return of the Ordinance from the Lieutenant-Governor of British New Guinea.—LAMINGTON, 10/6/98.

Copies to Governments of New South Wales and Victoria, and prepare for publication in full.—J.R.D., 10/6/98.

[Enclosure 1 in No. 37.]

The Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office, to Messrs. Minet, Pering, Smith, and Company.

Gentlemen,

Downing-street, 22 April, 1898.

With reference to the letter from this Department of the 12th ultimo, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to inform you that he has now received from the Governor of Queensland a copy of the provisional agreement between the Administrator of British New Guinea and the British New Guinea Syndicate, and the draft of an Ordinance intended to give effect to that agreement, and has carefully considered those documents with your letters of the 18th of February and the 16th and 28th ultimo.

2. The agreement between the Government of British New Guinea and the Syndicate receives Mr. Chamberlain's approval generally, but he considers it necessary that the Ordinance to carry out the agreement, of which you have, no doubt, received a copy, should be amended in the following particulars:—

3. The Government is not sufficiently protected by the provisions of section 5 of the Ordinance in regard to the question which may arise as to the suitability of the lands made available for purchase by the Company. It is necessary that provision should be made for the question of the decision of the suitability if and whenever it arises by arbitration; and clause 5 of the draft should be amended accordingly.

4. Clause 5, paragraph (2), goes beyond the agreement with the Syndicate in extending the sole right of the Company to purchase lands until such time as the Company has purchased the total area of land which the Company is entitled to purchase. The intention, as expressed in the Memorandum of Agreement, is that the right should survive until such time as suitable lands, amounting in the aggregate to 250,000 acres, shall have been made available for occupation; and the clause must be amended accordingly.

5. The absence of any provisions for the survey of the lands purchased by the Company would give rise to serious difficulty hereafter, and it is necessary that the Ordinance should provide that before a Crown grant is finally issued in respect of any lands in respect of which a provisional grant has been made, such lands must be surveyed at the joint expense of the Government and the grantee, and that the final grant is to be issued for the area comprised within the boundaries set forth in the provisional grant only on the condition that any excess of the area stated in the provisional grant is to be paid for by the grantee, and that any deficiency is to be made up by the Government, either by the grant of other suitable lands or by restoring a proportionate part of the money paid under the provisional grant.

6. The provision for payment of royalty on the net value of gold and other similar metals does not commend itself to Mr. Chamberlain, but he is not prepared to insist on his objection to the provision if a clear and satisfactory understanding can be arrived at with the Company and expressed in the Ordinance as to the meaning of net value under the Ordinance, and upon the provision of a proper system of ascertaining the net value of metals won, taken, or acquired.

7. As regards the words in clause 3, subsection (b), of the Memorandum of Association of the British New Guinea Company, to which you call special attention in your letter of the 18th of February, I am to say that it appears to be immaterial whether they are inserted or not, as they would be implied in any case.

8. Mr. Chamberlain will await your reply to this letter before communicating with the Governor of Queensland.

I have, &c.,

C. P. LUCAS.

[Enclosure 2 in No. 37.]

Messrs. Minet, Pering, Smith, and Company to the Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

Sir,

81 Cannon-street, London, E.C., 29 April, 1898.

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 7836-98, of the 22nd instant, addressed to us by direction of Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.

2. We have lost no time in communicating with those members of the Syndicate who have been entrusted by the subscribers generally with the conduct of its affairs, and after careful consideration given by them to your letter, we have been directed to state as follows:—

3. The Syndicate is in entire accord with Mr. Secretary Chamberlain in regard to clause 5 of the Ordinance. It will fully meet the views of our clients if a subsection to the following purpose is added to the clause:—"In the event of any difference of opinion arising between the Government and the Company as to the suitability of lands made available for the exercise of the option secured to the Company, such difference shall be, if need be, referred to the arbitration of competent persons selected by the Government and the Company respectively."

4. The Syndicate is in entire accord with Mr. Secretary Chamberlain in his construction of the Memorandum of Agreement as purported to be dealt with by paragraph 2, clause 5, of the Ordinance, and consent to the amendment suggested, so long as it is clearly and unmistakably admitted that no person or persons can be dealt with by the Government or accorded privileges similar to those conveyed to the Company until such time as suitable lands, amounting in the aggregate to 250,000 acres, shall have been made available, and, in consequence thereof, purchasable by the Company. Our clients understand that the point of Mr. Secretary Chamberlain's comment is that delay might be made by the Company in purchasing suitable lands made available, and thus fetter the Government in after operations for an indefinite period. That would, of course, be unfair to the Government, but, on the other hand, the Company must be protected against having the aggregate area of land or considerable portion thereof submitted to it as being suitable and available, and be expected to purchase the same before reasonable time has been allowed for examining into and judging of such suitability. Our clients have in mind the expectation that it is very likely the Company will, in many instances, be the first to discover suitable areas for occupation, in which case it could, and no doubt would, take the initiative in action as prescribed by paragraph 1, clause 8, of the Ordinance.

4. The Syndicate is in entire accord with the views expressed in paragraph 5 of your letter.

5. The Syndicate is of opinion that paragraph 6 of your letter is clearly answered by the enclosed memorandum they have obtained from their accredited agents on the subject.

6.

6. The general contents of your letter being dealt with in the foregoing paragraph 3, we are desired to request Mr. Secretary Chamberlain's attention to the following facts and circumstances. A cable message has been received by our clients from the Governor of Queensland, dated 25th March, to the following effect:—

"New Guinea Ordinance passed."

Since then the subscribers to the Syndicate have met, and further contributed the moneys necessary for all preliminary payments in connection with the suitable lands at this moment available for occupation, as referred to in our letter to your Department of the 23th ultimo; and, furthermore, considerable progress has been made in the direction of obtaining guaranteed capital for the company proposed to be formed. If operations have to be suspended until such time as the Secretary of State can communicate with and receive answers from the Government of British New Guinea, the delay will give rise to serious complication.

By the last inward Australian mail our clients are advised that certain parties in that continent have become acquainted with the nature of the negotiations which have passed, and are moving to seek privileges from the Government of British New Guinea in anticipation of the Secretary of State's approval to the Ordinance given to this Company. Our clients anticipate—and, indeed are absolutely convinced—that they will meet with nothing but straightforward treatment on the part of the Government of the Colony and the Secretary of State, but there is the possibility that unexplained delay in the conclusion of the business might afford pretexts in some quarters for discrediting the good faith and intentions of our clients, who are anxious that practical work should be commenced at the earliest possible moment.

We are, therefore, to suggest that the difficulty might be effectually met by the Secretary of State formally notifying his approval of the Ordinance subject to the details of amendments now agreed (the same to be set out in the form in which they could be added as subsections to the Ordinance) being accepted. We would then, on behalf of our clients, transmit a formal acknowledgment of the notification and full acceptance of the amendments. The adhesion by the Government of British New Guinea thereto would go without question.

7. The Syndicate is prepared to lodge with the Government of British New Guinea, at any moment, the preliminary purchase money for the lands already available.

We have, &c.,

MINET, PERING, SMITH, & CO.

[Sub-Enclosure in Enclosure 2 in No. 37.]

BRITISH NEW GUINEA SYNDICATE.

25 April, 1898.

MEMORANDUM.—The purport of paragraph 2, clause 16, of the British New Guinea Government Ordinance was very fully discussed with the Administrator, and he fully agreed illustrations of the application and meaning of net value propounded in the following sense by Sir Somers Vine:—

"Net value is to be regarded as the world's general marketable value of the particular product—per ounce or per ton—at the time it is shipped from the Colony in accordance with its quality. It is assumed that the Company would be required by the Government to supply returns of its exports under the head of minerals. &c., the Company would declare in detail the quantity and standard of quality of such exports, and the net royalty would be 2½ per cent. upon the market value of the product then existing in whatever part of the world it might be consigned to."

MINET, PERING, SMITH, & CO.

[Enclosure 3 in No. 37.]

The Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office, to Messrs. Minet, Pering, Smith, and Company.

Gentlemen,

Downing-street, 3 May, 1898.

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th ultimo, accepting the amendments which he considered necessary to be made in the British New Guinea Syndicate Ordinance of 1898.

A subsection to the effect of that submitted in the 3rd paragraph of your letter will be added to clause 5 of the draft Ordinance; but as the interest of the Government requires that the option granted to the Syndicate should be exercised within a reasonable time it will be desirable also to fix a reasonable limit to the time within which the arbitrators shall be required to report on any case referred to arbitration under the new subsection.

Mr. Chamberlain considers that "net value" should be more clearly defined in the Ordinance itself, and he apprehends that it will meet your view if it is declared to mean the wholesale market price of any given commodity in the market to which it is consigned, or in the London market, as you prefer.

As the amendments in the draft Ordinance are substantially accepted by the Syndicate, Mr. Chamberlain has transmitted copies of the correspondence to the Governor of Queensland, and has informed him that if the Ordinance is passed by the Legislature of British New Guinea containing the amendments required, he will at once submit it for Her Majesty's approval.

It does not appear necessary to draft the amendments here.

I have, &c.,

H. BERTRAM COX.

(38.)

The Chief Secretary to The Prime Ministers of New South Wales and Victoria.

Sir,

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane, 10 June, 1898.

With reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the concessions granted by the Government of British New Guinea to the British New Guinea Syndicate, Limited, I now do myself the honor to forward to you, for the information of the Government of New South Wales
Victoria a copy of a despatch, dated 3rd May ultimo, addressed by the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies to His Excellency the Governor of Queensland, transmitting copies of certain correspondence which has taken place between the Colonial Office and Messrs. Minet, Pering, Smith, and Company, as representing the British New Guinea Syndicate, with regard to the amendments which Mr. Chamberlain considers necessary in the Ordinance by which effect is given to the agreement arrived at between the Syndicate and the Government of the Possession.

I have, &c.,

For the Chief Secretary,

JAMES R. DICKSON.

(39.)

Telegram from The Prime Minister of New South Wales to The Prime Minister of Queensland.

Sydney 13 June 1898.

UNDERSTAND Ordinance embodying Syndicate land grant goes back to New Guinea for amendment Surely Administrator will observe terms of New Guinea Act Amended Proposals and before going further ask the opinion of the contributing Governments through you Victoria has sent another strong message Home and we feel just as strongly here of which Colonial Office was advised some time ago.

G. H. REID.

(40.)

(40.)

Telegram from The Prime Minister of Victoria to The Prime Minister of Queensland.

Melbourne 13 June 1898.

NEW GUINEA SYNDICATE Reid has communicated to me his message to you stating that as it is understood Ordinance goes back to New Guinea for amendment surely the opinion of contributing colonies will be asked by Administrator through you as provided by amended proposals for administration of British New Guinea before the matter goes further I support New South Wales and fully expect to be consulted.

GEORGE TURNER.

(41.)

The Prime Minister of Queensland to Sir Hugh Nelson.

Sir,

Brisbane, 14 June, 1898.

I have the honor to enclose a copy of the correspondence which has taken place respecting the concession made by the Government of British New Guinea to the British New Guinea Syndicate, Limited, and to inform you that the Government will be glad to be favoured with any observations you may desire to offer on the subject of this correspondence, more especially with respect to the contention put forward by the Prime Ministers of New South Wales and Victoria that they should, under clause 20 of the amended proposals for the Administration of the Possession, have been consulted in regard to the agreement in virtue of which the concessions referred to are granted.

I have, &c.,

THOMAS J. BYRNES.

(42.)

Telegram from The Prime Minister of Queensland to The Prime Ministers of New South Wales and Victoria.

Brisbane 15 June 1898.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA SYNDICATE I shall communicate fully with you on subject in course of a few days and in meantime I have arranged that no further action shall be taken with respect to despatch from Secretary of State dated 3rd instant.

THOMAS J. BYRNES.

(43.)

The Prime Minister of Queensland to The Prime Ministers of New South Wales and Victoria.

Sir

Chief Secretary's Office Brisbane 17 June 1898.

Referring to my telegram of 15th instant I now do myself the honor to forward to you the accompanying printed copy of the correspondence which has taken place on the subject of the concessions granted to the British New Guinea Syndicate Limited and to inform you that on the receipt of a reply to my letter to Sir Hugh Nelson of 14th instant I shall address you further on the whole question of these concessions.

I have, &c.,

THOMAS J. BYRNES.

(44.)

Telegram from The Prime Minister of Queensland to The Prime Ministers of New South Wales and Victoria.

Brisbane 18 June 1898.

I HAVE posted to you a copy of the correspondence which has taken place on the subject of the concessions granted to the British New Guinea Syndicate.

THOMAS J. BYRNES.

(45.)

The Prime Minister of New South Wales to The Prime Minister of Queensland.

Sir,

Sydney, 22 June, 1898.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 17th instant, No. 98/3,819, transmitting a printed copy of the correspondence which has taken place on the subject of the concessions granted to the British New Guinea Syndicate (Limited).

I have, &c.,

G. H. REID.

(46.)

The Prime Minister of Victoria to The Prime Minister of Queensland.

Sir,

Melbourne, 23 June, 1898.

I have the honor to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, No. 98/3,820, furnishing me with a printed copy of correspondence which has taken place relative to the concessions granted to the British New Guinea Syndicate (Limited), and I await receipt of the further letter which you propose to send me upon receiving a reply to the communication on the subject which you have addressed to Sir Hugh Nelson.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE TURNER.

(47.)

The Prime Minister of New South Wales to The Prime Minister of Queensland.

Sir,

Sydney, 23 June, 1898.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 10th instant (98.7,847, Gov., 98/3,628), forwarding, for the information of this Government, copy of a despatch dated 3rd May ultimo, addressed by the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies to His Excellency the Governor of Queensland, covering copies of correspondence which has passed between the Colonial Office and Messrs. Minot, Pering, Smith, and Company, as representing the British New Guinea Syndicate, relative to the agreement arrived at between the Syndicate and the Government of British New Guinea.

I have, &c.,

G. H. REID.

(48.)

(48.)

Telegram from The Prime Minister of Victoria to The Prime Minister of Queensland.

Melbourne 27 June 1898.

NEW GUINEA concession I shall be glad if you will prepare a full statement of the objections to the proposal. The three Premiers can sign it. Reid and myself can also protest on the ground that we were never consulted.

GEORGE TURNER.

(49.)

Sir Hugh M. Nelson to The Chief Secretary.

Sir,

Brisbane, 18 June, 1898.

In accordance with the request contained in your letter of the 14th instant, I now have the honor to submit some observations on the correspondence that has taken place respecting the British New Guinea Ordinance No. 1 of 1898.

The correspondence begins with a letter dated the 25th of May, 1897, addressed to me in London by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. This letter was submitted by me to the Premiers of New South Wales and Victoria, as well as to yourself, and Sir Henry W. Norman was also consulted respecting it, although quite unofficially. To the best of my recollection, Mr. Reid took little interest in the subject, but suggestions made by Sir George Turner, Sir Henry Norman, and yourself are embodied in my reply dated the 7th July. We were all of one opinion—that the matter, while worthy of consideration, was one to be dealt with by the Administrator of the Possession, and after several personal interviews with the promoters of the Syndicate, at one of which you were present, I sent to the Secretary of State the reply dated the 7th of July. In that letter you will observe that I stated:—

“I have assured the members of the Syndicate that if the Lieutenant-Governor is favourably impressed with their ideas, the Government of Queensland will give the most careful consideration to the whole project, and will consult with the Governments of the other contributing colonies with the view of submitting some definite recommendation to the Imperial Authorities.”

That, as you will easily observe, was written under the impression that if the Administrator favoured the project he would be able to make a draft agreement with the promoters of the Syndicate under the existing Ordinances of the Possession, which, as an act of other than ordinary administration on his part, would naturally have been submitted as stated. But the Administrator found it necessary to proceed in the matter by legislation, and in no instance since the establishment of the Possession have the other colonies been consulted in respect of any proposed legislation. The invariable practice has been for the Administrator to submit drafts of Ordinances proposed to be introduced into the Legislature of British New Guinea to the Governor of Queensland, who submits the same to his Prime Minister, and he advises thereon, and makes any suggestions that may seem proper. The Governor then returns the draft to the Administrator, and intimates his approval or otherwise of the introduction of the Ordinance in the Legislative Council of the Possession. On the passing of an Ordinance by that body, the Administrator has authority to give his assent to it in the Queen's name. It is then immediately reported to the contributing colonies and transmitted to the Secretary of State, who has full power to advise the disallowance by Her Majesty of any such Ordinance, and with whom, therefore, the ultimate decision in all matters of legislation rests.

With regard to matters of administration, however, the other contributing colonies have always been consulted when such matters were considered to be outside the category of “ordinary administration”; and the 16th clause of the Second Schedule has always been carefully observed, no excess expenditure having been authorised until the consent of the contributing colonies has been obtained.

It is, therefore, not surprising that this method of procedure, in which New South Wales and Victoria have tacitly acquiesced for nine years eight months and a half of the ten years during which the agreement was to last, should have come to be regarded as a strict compliance with the stipulations contained in the Second Schedule of the British New Guinea (Queensland) Act.

Having regard, then, to what has taken place in the past, New South Wales and Victoria would not seem to have much reason to complain, in the present instance, of a breach of clause 20 of the Schedule, though, regarded from the standpoint of legal technicality, the practice hitherto adopted and acquiesced in by all the parties interested may not have been in strict accordance with the proper meaning of the language used in the Schedule, which, however, is sufficiently vague to be susceptible of more than one interpretation.

There is, however, in my opinion, no question as to the validity of the Ordinance passed, even although the stipulations of the Second Schedule were not strictly adhered to.

Under the Letters Patent of 8th June, 1888, by which the Possession of British New Guinea was constituted, the Administrator and Legislative Council are invested with full authority to make laws for the good government of the colony, subject only to the Crown's right of disallowance; and neither these Letters Patent nor the instructions to the Administrator of the same date contain anything which suggests subordination to the contributing colonies. The Administrator is enjoined to have regard to the instructions of the Governor of Queensland.

Having given the matter the fullest consideration since my return from New Guinea, I have arrived at the conclusion that, in accordance with the spirit of the Second Schedule, the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria should have had an opportunity of influencing the opinions of Queensland before action was taken, although such a course would have been contrary to the practice established and invariably adhered to. I have formed this conclusion, not from anything I have seen in the correspondence, but in consideration of the fact that this Ordinance is not one of general application: that it may affect materially the financial position of the Possession, and that it deals with specified individuals. I regret that such opportunity was not afforded.

At the same time, the correspondence discloses a strong probability that if the southern colonies had been consulted at an earlier date it would not have occurred to them to raise any objections to the provisions of the Ordinance. The Ordinance was forwarded by you to them on the 19th of April, and its receipt was acknowledged by Victoria without comment. It was not until the 11th of May that the Premier of that colony took any notice of it, and then only to enclose cuttings from a Melbourne newspaper.

newspaper. On the 17th May Sir George Turner forwarded further newspaper cuttings on the subject, and complained that he had received no official intimation of the concessions made to the Syndicate, although he must have had the Ordinance in his possession for at least twenty-three days; and in that letter he, for the first time, states his opinion that the matter was a fitting subject for consultation among the contributing colonies before the Lieutenant-Governor made any engagements.

The Government of New South Wales do not seem to have acknowledged the receipt of the Ordinance, but on the 18th of May they telegraphed expressing their disapproval of its provisions. It is noticeable, however, that they make no suggestion that they ought to have been consulted at an earlier date. It is reasonable, therefore, to assume that if they had been consulted they would have taken no notice of the matter within time to be of any practical effect; and if the draft Ordinances of the Possession are to be submitted to the contributing colonies, it seems to me that—considering the very imperfect means of communication we have with British New Guinea, and the delays that usually occur in obtaining replies from New South Wales—the legislation of that territory would be so much obstructed that the work of administration could not be carried out. A strong case in point respecting these delays on the part of New South Wales is the letter addressed to the Premier of that colony on the 16th February respecting the Conference of Premiers which took place on the 24th of January, no reply to which, except the bare acknowledgment of its receipt, had been received up to the time of my leaving office, nor has any, I believe, yet come to hand. Indeed, I am given to understand that the amended proposals in connection with British New Guinea, which were submitted to New South Wales in 1887, have never been assented to by that Colony; and the part of the agreement contained in clause 2 of the Second Schedule has never been carried out by either New South Wales or Victoria.

The deliberations of the Conference at Melbourne, on the 24th January, were confined solely to one subject—namely, the future finances of the Possession, and the affairs of the Syndicate were not referred to. At the same time the matter was one of notoriety. Many people in Melbourne mentioned it to me when I was there again in February. Probably the Premiers of New South Wales and Victoria would have made inquiries on the subject were they not evidently so fully occupied with Federation business.

If any default has been made by Queensland in this instance, it seems to have been cured by the force of circumstances, because the Secretary of State having returned the Ordinance for amendment, it consequently requires to be again laid before the Legislative Council of the Possession, and some months must elapse before it can again reach the hands of the Secretary of State. The contributing colonies will therefore have ample time to lay their objections to the Ordinance before him.

On the real merits of the Ordinance, nothing is said in the correspondence, and it would not be right for me to anticipate the arguments that may be laid before the Secretary of State by the colonies objecting to its provisions.

With regard to the Press, there is nothing, as quoted in the correspondence, that would carry any weight.

The argument used by the Press that, because three colonies have contributed to the expense of government in New Guinea the dwellers therein ought to have some right of priority over non-contributing colonies in the way of selecting the lands of the Possession, and, in fact, over the rest of Her Majesty's subjects throughout the Empire, is scarcely worthy of serious consideration, besides being distinctly contrary to the spirit of the Second Schedule.

The Possession was established, not for the object of conferring commercial or pecuniary benefit on the guaranteeing colonies, but as a safeguard against its being annexed by a foreign power, to the great danger of the whole of Australia, especially in case of war; and the continuance of it as a British Possession affects the interests of Australia in particular, as well as the honor of the whole British Empire.

The actual contributions up to date are as follow:—

	Date to which Contributions paid.	Amount contributed.		Amount due to 10th September, 1893.	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Imperial Government	31 Mar., 1898.....	52,741	16 10	1,333	6 8
New South Wales.....	30 June, 1897.....	44,027	15 6	5,972	4 6
Victoria	30 Nov., 1897.....	46,111	2 2	3,888	17 10
Queensland.....	31 Dec., 1897.....	46,527	15 6	3,472	4 6
West Australia.....	31 Mar., 1897.....	1,294	14 0	323	13 6

The statement, also made by the Press, that the Syndicate have power to "pick out the eyes of the country" is quite unwarranted. They must exercise their option on lands declared by the Administrator to be available. They cannot even choose the districts in which the land is to be surveyed, nor the size of the blocks. The Ordinance in no way limits the powers of the Administrator to issue miners' rights to prospect on Crown lands any more than does the alienation of land in Queensland. Seeing that homestead selectors in Queensland can obtain as much as land as they desire at 2s. 6d. an acre, with healthy climate, police protection, schools, post and telegraph services, railway communication, and all the other advantages of civilisation, I consider that the price to be paid by the Syndicate for the land in the Possession, with the conditions attached, is fair value, as the country in my opinion is totally unsuited for settlement in the same way that settlement has been, and is now, taking place in Queensland and the other Australian Colonies.

As stated in my report of even date:—"I am quite convinced that the advantages that will accrue from the expenditure of capital, and the development of trade, will be more in favour of the Possession and of the Australian Colonies than of the Syndicate, who will necessarily have to take all the risks and expenses of pioneering, and can hardly expect to derive any profits from their undertaking for some years to come."

Sir William MacGregor has dealt with applications to take up land in large areas in the order in which they have been received, this being the first that was submitted to him in a specific and definite form. I wish here to state that the promoters of the Syndicate, when in Australia, assured me that they were extremely anxious to enlist the practical co-operation of the financial and commercial community of Australia; and with that object in view they, I believe, consulted with many prominent men both in Sydney and Melbourne.

The

The case of Mr. Bevan is referred to in the correspondence, but it is well summed up in Sir William MacGregor's letter of the 7th February, 1898, where he says:—

"The object of the letter of the 14th August of the Government Secretary to yourself was to elicit from you a definite proposal, in the absence of which the Government is not in a position to deal with the matter, except by the tedious process of a long correspondence of question and answer."

The fact of the matter is that Mr. Bevan has never formulated any business-like proposal, and it is important to notice that in none of his correspondence does he take the trouble to afford the Administrator any assurance or guarantee that he either has or could command the capital necessary to carry out his projects. If there are other capitalists willing to venture their money in the development of the Possession—although I may say that there is no evidence of such up to the present time—or if I may assume that others may be stimulated by the concessions granted to this Syndicate, then I would make the following suggestion, which I discussed with Sir William MacGregor during my recent visit to British New Guinea, before we had heard of the objections raised to the concessions made to the Syndicate, and which I am authorised to state has his full approval:—The Possession with its present income can only afford to employ one surveyor, which causes great delay in marking off lands suitable for cultivation and other purposes. Let the contributing colonies agree to an immediate excess expenditure sufficient to employ, say, half a dozen competent surveyors, each with his proper staff, who shall mark off with as little delay as possible 250,000 acres (out of the total area of 57,945,600 acres contained in the Possession) which could be put under offer to the Syndicate in terms of the Ordinance. If, in the exercise of their option, within six months thereafter they take up the whole of this land then the contract will be at an end so far as supplying land is concerned. On the other hand, whatever lands it may not be convenient for them to take up could be made available for other capitalists. I venture to say that no more surveys will be required for eight years, unless it may be to cut up into smaller areas the portions originally surveyed, the intention being in the first instance to survey the land in considerable blocks, say, 30,000 to 50,000 acres. Sir William pointed out to me localities like the Musa River, where he estimated that 100,000 acres could be so dealt with without in any way interfering with the native population. It would also be a great advantage that the surveyors should receive from the Administrator his personal instructions as to the districts most suitable for the purpose. If this recommendation is approved, prompt action will be necessary, as the Administrator's term of office will shortly expire, and it would be of great importance to the Possession to be able to utilise his knowledge and experience in this matter.

As the time has certainly arrived when the question of the development of the resources of the Possession must be taken up in some practical manner, and as the scheme authorised by the Ordinance in question is the only substantial proposal in this direction which has yet been submitted to the Administrator, it appears to me that the colonies objecting to the Ordinance should, before they agitate to inflict such a serious blow to the Possession as disallowance, formulate an alternative scheme to develop the resources of the country in some better way.

I have, &c.,

HUGH M. NELSON.

(50.)

The Prime Minister of Queensland to The Prime Ministers of New South Wales and Victoria.

Sir,

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane, 29 June, 1898.

Referring to my letter of the 17th instant, I now do myself the honor to forward, for the information of your Government, a printed copy of a letter, dated 18th instant, addressed to me by the Right Honorable Sir Hugh Nelson, containing certain observations on the correspondence which has taken place respecting the British New Guinea Ordinance No. 1 of 1898.

I also enclose a printed copy of report which Sir Hugh Nelson has been good enough to furnish on his recent visit to the Possession.*

I trust in the course of a few days to be in a position to address you at length on the question of the Ordinance mentioned in Sir Hugh Nelson's letter above referred to.

I have, &c.,

THOMAS J. BYRNES.

(51.)

The Chief Secretary to His Excellency the Governor.

My Lord,

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane, 30 June, 1898.

I do myself the honor to forward herewith, for Your Excellency's information, and for transmission to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, copies (six) of a letter, dated 18th instant, addressed to me by the Right Honorable Sir H. M. Nelson, submitting certain observations on the correspondence which has taken place respecting the British New Guinea Syndicate Ordinance No. 1 of 1898.

I beg also to enclose, for a like purpose, a similar number of copies of a report which Sir Hugh Nelson has been good enough to furnish on the subject of the visit which, in company with Your Excellency, he recently made to British New Guinea.*

I would respectfully suggest that copies of both these documents should be sent to His Excellency Sir William MacGregor.

I have, &c.,

THOMAS J. BYRNES.

(52.)

The Chief Secretary to Sir Hugh Nelson.

Sir,

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane, 30 June, 1898.

I do myself the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 18th instant, in which you submit certain observations on the correspondence which has taken place respecting the British New Guinea Ordinance No. 1 of 1898.

I have, &c.,

THOMAS J. BYRNES.

(53.)

* See C.A. 52.—1898.

(53.)

The Secretary to the Prime Minister to The Secretary to the Agent-General.

Sir,

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane, 30 June, 1898.

I have the honor, by direction, to forward herewith, for the information of the Agent-General, a printed copy of the correspondence which has taken place relative to the concessions granted under the British New Guinea Ordinance No. 1 of 1898 to the British New Guinea Syndicate (Limited).

I enclose also a copy of a letter addressed by the Right Honorable Sir H. M. Nelson to the Prime Minister, submitting certain observations concerning the correspondence above referred to, and a copy of the report which Sir Hugh Nelson has been good enough to furnish on the subject of the visit which, in company with His Excellency the Governor, he recently paid to British New Guinea.

I have, &c.,

HENRY S. DUTTON.

(54.)

The Secretary to the Agent-General to The Secretary to the Prime Minister.

Sir,

Queensland Government Office, Westminster Chambers,

1, Victoria-street, London, S.W., 27 May, 1898.

I have the honor, by direction, to acknowledge the receipt, on the 20th instant, of the following telegram from the Chief Secretary:—

"Consider it better advise that public opinion excited by concessions made to New Guinea Syndicate it does not appear from documents dealing with subject that Governments of New South Wales and Victoria consulted in accordance with clause 20 Amended Proposals Administration New Guinea Sir Hugh Nelson who may throw light on this phase of subject out of the Colony As Governments referred to threaten to oppose completion of transaction I have asked Deputy Governor to communicate with Secretary of State for the Colonies by telegraph requesting that consent of Her Majesty be withheld in the meantime"

And to confirm the following reply sent by the Agent-General yesterday:—

"Colonial Office (has) telegraphed to the Governor about New Guinea Syndicate."

A copy of a letter received from the Colonial Office, with its accompanying copy of a telegram, which the Secretary of State for the Colonies has despatched to the Deputy Governor of Queensland on this subject, is enclosed herewith.

I have, &c.,

CHAS. S. DICKEN.

[Enclosure in No. 54.]

The Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office, to The Agent-General for Queensland.

Sir,

Downing-street, 25 May, 1898.

In reply to your letter of 20th instant, respecting the agreement entered into with the British New Guinea Syndicate by the Lieutenant-Governor of British New Guinea, with the cognizance and approval of the Government of Queensland, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit, for your information, copy of a telegram which he has sent to the Deputy Governor of Queensland on the subject.

I am, &c.,

H. BERTRAM COX.

[Sub-Enclosure in Enclosure in No. 54.]

See No. 30.

(55.)

Telegram from The Prime Minister of Queensland to The Prime Ministers of New South Wales and Victoria.

Brisbane 2 July 1898.

AFTER very careful consideration of the question of the New Guinea Syndicate concessions I am of opinion that the issues involved which include the whole subject of the future administration of New Guinea are so numerous and of so complicated a character that any attempt to deal with them by correspondence must result in confusion and delay. The most satisfactory method of arriving at a solution of the important questions at stake appears to me to be by a conference of the Premiers of the contributing colonies and I earnestly commend the suggestion to your favourable consideration. If you agree the place of meeting is immaterial so far as I am concerned but in view of the meeting of our Parliament on 26th instant it is desirable from my standpoint that the conference should be held as soon as possible. I have telegraphed in similar terms to the Premier of { Victoria.

{ New South Wales.

THOMAS J. BYRNES.

(56.)

Telegram from Mr. J. Lowles, M.P., to His Excellency the Governor.

London 30 June 1898.

FOR MacGregor Chamberlain replying to question Commons supported agreement concluded with Syndicate by quoting despatch saying encouragement necessary if resources to be developed Company proceeds vigorously with large expenditure directly you advise additions made Ordinance.

LOWLES.

(57.)

The Chief Secretary to His Excellency the Governor.

My Lord,

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane, 4 July, 1898.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt from your Excellency of a copy of Mr. Lowles' telegram to Sir William MacGregor, dated the 30th ultimo, reporting the nature of Mr. Chamberlain's reply to a question in the House of Commons with reference to the British New Guinea Syndicate, and stating that the Company will proceed vigorously with large expenditure as soon as advised of the additions being made to the Ordinance, and to submit my opinion that the persons interested in the matter in England should be advised that all proceedings in connection with the Ordinance are suspended until the advice of the contributing colonies is received.

I have, &c.,

THOMAS J. BYRNES.

(58.)

27

(58.)

Telegram from The Prime Minister of Victoria to The Prime Minister of Queensland.

Melbourne 4 July 1898.

Re proposed New Guinea Conference I cannot well leave Melbourne at present as House is in session and I have to prepare for several important Bills Financial Statement and loan proposals for public works, Monday 17th would suit me if you can arrange for Mr. Reid to be in Melbourne on that date but this may be difficult in view of his general elections being so close and his House in session.

GEO. TURNER.

(59.)

Telegram from The Prime Minister of Queensland to The Prime Minister of New South Wales.

Brisbane 5 July 1898.

I HAVE received following telegram from Sir George Turner "*Re* proposed New Guinea Conference I cannot well leave Melbourne at present as House is in session and I have to prepare for several important Bills Financial Statement and loan proposals for public works Monday 17th would suit me if you can arrange for Mr. Reid to be in Melbourne on that date but this may be difficult in view of his general elections being so close and his House in session (Signed) George Turner." I shall be glad to learn your decision as soon as possible.

THOMAS J. BYRNES.

(60.)

Telegram from The Prime Minister of New South Wales to The Prime Minister of Queensland.

Sydney 5 July 1898.

AM in receipt of your telegram of 2nd instant suggesting conference of Premiers *re* New Guinea Land matter.

G. H. REID.

(61.)

Mr. J. Lowles, M.P., to His Excellency the Governor. *

London 5 July 1898.

CABLE received Please inform Chief Secretary Syndicate procedure strictly regular first to last Delay causing complication and loss Prolongation will be disastrous and involve claim for substantial compensation.

LOWLES.

To the Chief Secretary.—I. I reserve any comments I may have to make.—T.J.B.

(62.)

Telegram from The Prime Minister of New South Wales to The Prime Minister of Queensland.

Sydney 6 July 1898.

Your telegram suggesting a conference of Premiers to New Guinea matters our general election is so near that a conference before it is practically impossible.

G. H. REID.

(63.)

The Prime Minister of New South Wales to The Prime Minister of Queensland.

Sir,

Sydney, 4 July, 1898.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 29th ultimo (No. 98.8803 N., 9814107), forwarding, for the information of my Government, a printed copy of a letter, dated 18th idem, addressed to you by the Right Honorable Sir Hugh Nelson, containing certain observations on the correspondence which has taken place respecting the British New Guinea Ordinance No. 1 of 1898.

I have, &c.,

G. H. REID.

(64.)

The Prime Minister of Victoria to The Prime Minister of Queensland.

Sir,

Melbourne, 5 July, 1898.

I have the honor to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your letter, No. 4108, of the 29th ultimo, forwarding a printed copy of a letter, dated the 18th idem, addressed to you by the Right Honorable Sir Hugh Nelson in connection with the correspondence which has taken place relative to the British New Guinea Ordinance No. 1 of 1898; also a printed copy of a report furnished by Sir Hugh Nelson on his recent visit to the Possession.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE TURNER.

(65.)

The Chief Secretary to The Prime Minister of New South Wales.

Sir,

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane, 11 July, 1898.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 6th instant, informing me that, in view of the near approach of the general election in New South Wales, you will be unable to take part in the conference suggested by me of Prime Ministers of the contributing colonies on the question of the concessions to the British New Guinea Syndicate, and that of the future administration of the Possession. I have also received a telegram from the Prime Minister of Victoria, in which he states that owing to parliamentary business he would be unable to attend such a conference before the 17th instant, which would bring the meeting too near the date of the opening of the Queensland Parliament.

As it accordingly appears practically impossible to carry out my suggestion, I consider it necessary, in order to avoid further delay in dealing with the subject of the concessions to the Syndicate, to formally refer to the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria, under clause 20 of the "Amended Proposals for the Administration of British New Guinea," the Ordinance under which the concessions are granted, and to request that you will, at the earliest possible date, favour this Government with your views regarding the provisions of the Ordinance referred to, as they are desired to be amended by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.,

THOMAS J. BYRNES.

(66.)

(66.)

The Chief Secretary to The Prime Minister of Victoria.

Sir,

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane, 11 July, 1898.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 4th instant, informing me that, for the reasons therein given, you would be unable to take part before the 17th instant in the conference, suggested by me, of Prime Ministers of the contributing colonies on the question of the concessions to the British New Guinea Syndicate, and that of the future administration of the Possession.

As the date named by you is too near that of the opening of the session of Parliament here to allow of my being absent from Queensland at that time, and as, owing to the impending general election in New South Wales, Mr. Reid is unable at present to leave his colony, it appears to be practically impossible to carry out my suggestion, and I therefore consider it necessary, in order to avoid further delay in dealing with the subject of the concessions to the Syndicate, to formally refer to the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria, under clause 20 of the "Amended Proposals for the Administration of British New Guinea," the Ordinance under which the concessions are granted, and to request that you will, at the earliest possible date, favour this Government with your views regarding the provisions of the Ordinance referred to, as they are desired to be amended by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.,

THOMAS J. BYRNES.

(67.)

Telegram from The Prime Minister of Queensland to The Prime Ministers of New South Wales and Victoria.

Brisbane 11 July 1898.

As there appears no chance at present of arranging a conference to discuss the British New Guinea question I am writing you to-day formally referring to you in terms of clause 20 of Amended Proposals the Ordinance under which the concessions are granted and requesting you to favour this Government with your views regarding its provisions as they are desired to be amended by the Secretary of State. I shall be glad to receive your reply at the earliest possible date.

THOMAS J. BYRNES.

(68.)

Telegram from The Prime Minister of New South Wales to The Prime Minister of Queensland.

Sydney 12 July 1898.

MUCH regret impossible to confer just now Will give best attention to your letter New Guinea.

G. H. REID.

(69.)

The Prime Minister of New South Wales to The Prime Minister of Queensland.

Sir,

Premier's Office, Sydney, New South Wales, 20 July, 1898.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant (98, 101 Chf. Secs., 98172) requesting to be favoured with the views of this Government regarding the provisions of the Ordinance under which the concessions to the British New Guinea Syndicate are granted.

I have, &c.,

ANDREW GARRAN,

For the Premier.

Telegram from The Home Secretary, Queensland, to The Premier of New South Wales.

20 May, 1898.

Re British New Guinea Syndicate. It does not appear from papers connected with matter that requirements of clause 20 of amended proposals for administration of New Guinea have in this instance been complied with, but Sir Hugh Nelson, who was Premier when negotiations between Sir William MacGregor and Syndicate were concluded, and who might throw some light on this matter, is now absent in New Guinea. It would therefore appear desirable to await his return before taking further steps, but I have asked Deputy-Governor to telegraph Secretary of State requesting him to advise Her Majesty to withhold assent to Ordinance in the meantime.

JAMES R. DICKSON.

Telegram from The Premier of Victoria to The Premier of New South Wales.

23 May, 1898.

I HAVE cabled to our Agent-General as follows, namely:—Ask Secretary of State for Colonies advise Queen withhold for the present assent to British New Guinea Ordinance No. 1 of 1898, enabling Syndicate acquire 250,000 acres land. We were not consulted, as required by clause 20 of amended proposals for administration of the Possession, and, as matter very important, desire opportunity of carefully considering measure.

GEORGE TURNER.

Telegram from The Premier of New South Wales to The Premier of Victoria.

25 May, 1898.

CONFIDENTIAL. I communicated with Agent-General requesting him to ask Colonial Office to withhold assent to Ordinance. After doing that I got message from Queensland stating they had through Deputy-Governor cabled Home asking that the Queen's assent should not be given until matter had been inquired into.

Cablegram

Cablegram from The Acting Agent-General, London, to The Premier of New South Wales.

25 May, 1898.

REFERRING to your telegram of 19th instant, Colonial Office asks what are specific grounds upon which your Government object to agreement; says administration of New Guinea was discussed at Conference Premiers in February last without exception being taken to agreement, which had then become common knowledge. Secretary of State for the Colonies fears any attempt to reconsider the question at this late date might lead to serious complications, and suggests your Government please communicate with Government Queensland at once on the subject.

Cablegram from The Premier of New South Wales to The Acting Agent-General.

30 May, 1898.

AGREEMENT was not considered at Conference, nor did the Premiers know of it. Some of the provisions are so extraordinary that they have excited strong indignation. Besides, the terms of the law as per amended agreement scheduled to Queensland Act requiring consultation with us have not been complied with.

The Acting Agent-General to The Premier of New South Wales.

Sir,

Westminster Chambers, 27 May, 1898.

Referring to your telegram of the 19th instant, requesting me to make representations to C.O. to A.A.-G., the Colonial Office in order to prevent the allowance of an Ordinance passed by the Administrator of British New Guinea authorising a land transaction of great magnitude, I have the honor to forward herein a copy of a letter addressed to me by the Secretary of State for the Colonies in reply to my communication on the subject. 4,761, 25th May.

I telegraphed to you on the 25th instant the purport of the Colonial Office letter, but have since received a note from that office stating that the Conference of Premiers whereat the administration of New Guinea was discussed took place in January last, and not in February, as stated in their letter of the 25th instant.

I have, &c.,

DANIEL COOPER.

The Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office, to The Acting Agent-General for New South Wales.

Sir,

Downing-street, 25 May, 1898.

In reply to your letter of the 19th instant, enclosing copy of a telegram from the Premier of New South Wales, respecting the agreement made by the Government of Queensland and the Lieutenant-Governor of British New Guinea with the British New Guinea Syndicate, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acquaint you that he would be glad to be informed what are the specific grounds upon which the Government of New South Wales objects to the agreement in question.

2. It was concluded in December last by the Lieutenant-Governor, with the full cognisance and approval of the Queensland Government; and the whole question of the administration of the Possession was subsequently discussed at the Conference of Premiers at Melbourne, with Sir William McGregor, in February* last, without any exception being taken to the agreement, which had then already become a matter of common knowledge.

3. In these circumstances, Mr. Chamberlain fears that any attempt to reconsider the matter at this late date may give rise to serious complications, and he would suggest that the Government of New South Wales should place themselves at once in communication with the Government of Queensland on the subject.

I am, &c.,

H. BERTRAM COX.

* Corrected by subsequent note to January.

Cablegram from The Acting Agent-General, London, to The Premier of New South Wales.

19 May, 1898.

I HAVE received your telegram of to-day about British New Guinea. I have communicated with Colonial Office.

The Deputy-Governor of Queensland to The Governor of New South Wales.

Sir,

Government House, Brisbane, 25 May, 1898.

I have the honor by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to enclose copies of telegrams sent by me to him on the 20th May, and of his reply received to-day.

I have, &c.,

S. W. GRIFFITH.

20 May.
20 May.
25 May.

The Deputy-Governor of Queensland to The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Translation.

20 May, 1898.

WITH reference to British New Guinea Ordinance, enclosed in Despatch No. 19, of 5th April, my Government requests me to inform you that, as far as can be ascertained, Governments of New South Wales and Victoria were not consulted with respect to terms of contract with Syndicate prior to Governor of Queensland giving directions for introduction of Ordinance by Lieutenant-Governor of British New Guinea as required by provision of clause 20, British New Guinea amended proposals. Government of New South Wales, Government of Victoria now remonstrate strongly. Nelson, who was then Prime Minister, now absent from colony. My Government requests that question of exercise of power of disallowance may be reserved until there is opportunity for all three Governments expressing opinion on Ordinance for consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

S. W. GRIFFITH,

Deputy-Governor.

The

The Deputy-Governor of Queensland to The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Translation.

20 May 1898.

CONFIDENTIAL with reference to my telegram of to-day having regard to arrangements for future administration. Strongly recommend assent to request of my Government. Strong feeling growing up bearing on the subject.

S. W. GRIFFITH.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies to The Governor of Queensland.

London 24 May 1898.

REFERRING to your telegram of 20th May, on receipt of Governor's Despatch No. 14 of 5th March, agreement and draft Ordinance prepared with approval of Queensland Government were carefully considered. Draft Ordinance did not appear to sufficiently protect Government of Possession, and I intimated to Syndicate that I should require modifications. This was accepted by them, and on 3rd May I intimated to them, on receipt of Ordinance giving effect to amendments, I would at once submit to Her Majesty for approval (see my Despatch No. 21 of 3rd May). I do not see that your Ministers can now oppose allowance of Ordinance without breach of faith, and I presume Nelson and MacGregor fully informed Premiers Victoria and New South Wales at Melbourne Conference as to agreement, which was matter of notoriety, and was, I am informed, freely discussed by agents for Syndicate with prominent public men and Ministers at Sydney and Melbourne. You should communicate all information concerning matter and this telegram to Government of New South Wales and Government of Victoria.

CHAMBERLAIN.

Cablegram from The Acting Agent-General for New South Wales, London, to
The Premier of New South Wales.

7 June 1898.

In the House of Commons yesterday in reply to a question, Under Secretary of State for the Colonies stated New Guinea Conference concluded after full discussion at Brisbane. On being submitted to him with draft Ordinance he intimated to promoters and Queensland Government that subject to certain modifications he would be prepared to advise Her Majesty not to disallow it. Syndicate has accepted conditions. On receipt of amended Ordinance it will be his duty to submit it as promised. Say it is for Queensland Government not for him to consult Governments other contributing colonies on matters affecting administration British New Guinea. No reply received from Colonial Office your telegram of 30th ultimo.

Telegram from The Premier of Victoria to The Premier of New South Wales.

9 June, 1898.

New Guinea Syndicate land concessions. It is reported in *Age* to-day that you said that, as a matter of statute law, the proposals had to be submitted for the approval of the authorities in the contributing colonies. Do you refer to clause 20 of the amended proposals for the administration of British New Guinea, which reads thus: "The Government of Queensland to consult the Governments of the other contributing colonies in all matters other than those of ordinary administration, and to report to them all action taken." That clause being part of Schedule to the British New Guinea-Queensland Act of 1887 is statute law in Queensland. Is it so also in New South Wales, or do you refer to some other enactment? If the latter, please give me a reference to it, as I desire to co-operate with you.

Telegram from The Premier of New South Wales to The Premier of Victoria.

10 June, 1898.

NEW GUINEA Land Syndicate. My allusion was to the Act you quote from.

The Home Secretary, Queensland, to The Premier of New South Wales.

Sir,

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane, 10 June, 1898.

With reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the concessions granted by the Government of British New Guinea to the British New Guinea Syndicate (Limited), I now do myself the honor to forward to you, for the information of the Government of New South Wales, a copy of a despatch dated 3rd May ultimo, addressed by the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies to His Excellency the Governor of Queensland, transmitting copies of certain correspondence which has taken place between the Colonial Office and Messrs. Minet, Pering, Smith, and Company, as representing the British New Guinea Syndicate, with regard to the amendments which Mr. Chamberlain considers necessary in the Ordinance by which effect is given to the agreement arrived at between the Syndicate and the Government of the Possession.

I have, &c.,

For the Chief Secretary,
JAMES R. DICKSON.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies to The Governor of Queensland.

My Lord,

Downing-street, 3 May, 1898.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch No. 14 of the 5th March, transmitting correspondence as to the agreement between the Government of British New Guinea and the Syndicate, together with the draft of an Ordinance to give effect to that agreement.

2. From the enclosed copies of correspondence with the solicitors acting for the Syndicate, you will perceive that the Ordinance required amendment in certain important particulars, and that the Syndicate has accepted the amendments, which should be embodied in the Ordinance, or made the subject of an amending Ordinance, as the case may be.

3. The subsection proposed in the solicitors' letter of the 25th ultimo, though in substance sufficient, appears to require more precision in its language before it is embodied in the law.

4. I have caused the Syndicate's solicitors to be informed that, on the understanding that the Ordinance is amended as required, I shall be prepared to at once submit it for Her Majesty's approval.

I have, &c.,
CHAMBERLAIN.

The Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office, to Messrs. Minet, Pering,
Smith, & Co.

Gentlemen,

Downing-street, 22 April, 1898.

With reference to the letter from this Department of the 12th ultimo, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to inform you that he has now received from the Governor of Queensland a copy of the provisional agreement between the Administrator of British New Guinea and the British New Guinea Syndicate, and the draft of an Ordinance intended to give effect to that agreement, and has carefully considered those documents with your letters of the 18th of February, and the 16th and 28th ultimo.

2. The agreement between the Government of British New Guinea and the Syndicate receives Mr. Chamberlain's approval generally, but he considers it necessary that the Ordinance to carry out the agreement, of which you have no doubt received a copy, should be amended in the following particulars:—

3. The Government is not sufficiently protected by the provisions of section 5 of the Ordinance in regard to the question which may arise as to the suitability of the lands made available for purchase by the Company. It is necessary that provision should be made for the question of the decision of the suitability if and whenever it arises by arbitration; and clause 5 of the draft should be amended accordingly.

4. Clause 5, paragraph (2), goes beyond the agreement with the Syndicate, in extending the sole right of the Company to purchase lands until such time as the Company has purchased the total area of land which the Company is entitled to purchase. The intention, as expressed in the memorandum of agreement, is that the right should survive until such time as suitable lands, amounting in the aggregate to 250,000 acres, shall have been made available for occupation; and the clause must be amended accordingly.

5. The absence of any provisions for the survey of the lands purchased by the Company would give rise to serious difficulty hereafter, and it is necessary that the Ordinance should provide that before a Crown grant is finally issued in respect of any lands in respect of which a provisional grant has been made, such lands must be surveyed at the joint expense of the Government and the grantee, and that the final grant is to be issued for the area comprised within the boundaries set forth in the provisional grant, only on the condition that any excess of the area stated in the provisional grant is to be paid for by the grantee, and that any deficiency is to be made up by the Government either by the grant of other suitable lands, or by restoring a proportionate part of the money paid under the provisional grant.

6. The provision for payment of royalty on the net value of gold and other similar metals does not commend itself to Mr. Chamberlain; but he is not prepared to insist on his objection to the provision if a clear and satisfactory understanding can be arrived at with the Company, and expressed in the Ordinance, as to the meaning of net value under the Ordinance, and upon the provision of a proper system of ascertaining the net value of metals won, taken, or acquired.

7. As regards the words in clause 3, subsection (b) of the Memorandum of Association of the British New Guinea Company, to which you call special attention in your letter of the 18th February, I am to say that it appears to be immaterial whether they are inserted or not, as they would be implied in any case.

8. Mr. Chamberlain will await your reply to this letter before communicating with the Governor of Queensland.

I am, &c.,
C. P. LUCAS.

Messrs. Minet, Pering, Smith, & Co. to The Under Secretary of State, Colonial
Office.

Sir,

81, Cannon-street, London, E.C., 25 April, 1898.

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 7,836-98, of the 22nd instant, addressed to us by direction of Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.

2. We have lost no time in communicating with those members of the Syndicate who have been entrusted by the subscribers generally with the conduct of its affairs, and after careful consideration given by them to your letter, we have been directed to state as follows:—

3. The Syndicate is in entire accord with Mr. Secretary Chamberlain in regard to clause 5 of the Ordinance. It will fully meet the views of our clients if a subsection to the following purpose is added to the clause:—"In the event of any difference of opinion arising between the Government and the Company as to the suitability of lands made available for the exercise of the option secured to the Company, such difficulty shall, if need, be referred to the arbitration of competent persons selected by the Government and the Company respectively."

4. The Syndicate is in entire accord with Mr. Secretary Chamberlain in his construction of the Memorandum of Agreement, as purported to be dealt with by paragraph 2, clause 5, of the Ordinance, and consent to the amendment suggested, so long as it is clearly and unmistakably admitted that no person or persons can be dealt with by the Government or accorded privileges similar to those conveyed to the Company until such time as suitable lands, amounting in the aggregate to 250,000 acres, shall have been made available, and, in consequence thereof, purchasable by the Company. Our clients understand that the point of Mr. Secretary Chamberlain's comment is that delay might be made by the Company in purchasing suitable lands made available, and thus fetter the Government in after operations for an indefinite period. That would, of course, be unfair to the Government; but, on the other hand, the

Company

Company must be protected against having the aggregate area of land or considerable portions thereof submitted to it as being suitable and available, and be expected to purchase the same before reasonable time has been allowed for examining into and judging of such suitability. Our clients have in mind the expectation that it is very likely the Company will, in many instances, be the first to discover suitable areas for occupation, in which case it could, and no doubt would, take the initiative in action, as prescribed by paragraph 1, clause 8, of the Ordinance.

4. The Syndicate is in entire accord with the views expressed in paragraph 5 of your letter.

5. The Syndicate is of opinion that paragraph 6 of your letter is clearly answered by the enclosed memorandum they have obtained from their accredited agents on the subject.

6. The general contents of your letter being dealt with in the foregoing paragraph 3, we are desired to request Mr. Secretary Chamberlain's attention to the following facts and circumstances. A cable message has been received by our clients from the Governor of Queensland, dated 25th March, to the following effect:—"New Guinea Ordinance passed."

Since then the subscribers to the Syndicate have met, and further contributed the moneys necessary for all preliminary payments in connection with the suitable lands at this moment available for occupation, as referred to in our letter to your Department of the 28th ultimo; and, furthermore, considerable progress has been made in the direction of obtaining guaranteed capital for the Company proposed to be formed. If operations have to be suspended until such time as the Secretary of State can communicate with and receive answers from the Government of British New Guinea the delay will inevitably give rise to serious complication.

By the last inward Australian mail our clients are advised that certain parties in that continent have become acquainted with the nature of the negotiations which have passed, and are moving to seek privileges from the Government of British New Guinea in anticipation of the Secretary of State's approval to the Ordinance given to this Company. Our clients anticipate, and, indeed, are absolutely convinced, that they will meet with nothing but straightforward treatment on the part of the Government of the Colony and the Secretary of State, but there is the possibility that unexplained delay in the conclusion of the business might afford pretexts in some quarters for discrediting the good faith and intentions of our clients, who are anxious that practical work should be commenced at the earliest possible moment.

We are, therefore, to suggest that the difficulty might be effectually met by the Secretary of State formally notifying his approval of the Ordinance, subject to the details of amendments now agreed (the same to be set out in the form in which they could be added as subsections to the Ordinance) being accepted. We would then, on behalf of our clients, transmit a formal acknowledgment of the notification and full acceptance of the amendments. The adhesion by the Government of British New Guinea thereto would go without question.

7. The Syndicate is prepared to lodge with the Government of British New Guinea at any moment the preliminary purchase money for the lands already available.

We have, &c.,
MINET, PERING, SMITH, & CO.

Memorandum.

British New Guinea Syndicate.

25 April, 1898.

THE purport of paragraph 2, clause 16, of the British New Guinea Government Ordinance was very fully discussed with the Administrator, and he fully agreed illustrations of the application and meaning of net value propounded in the following sense by Sir Somers Vane:—"Net value is to be regarded as the world's general marketable value of the particular product per ounce or per ton at the time it is shipped from the Colony in accordance with its quality. It is assumed that the Company would be required by the Government to supply returns of its exports under the head of minerals, &c.; the Company would declare in detail the quantity and standard of quality of such exports, and the net royalty would be 2½ per cent. upon the market value of the product then existing in whatever part of the world it might be consigned to."

MINET, PERING, SMITH, & CO.

The Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office, to Messrs. Minet, Pering, Smith,
and Company.

Gentlemen,

Downing-street, 3 May, 1898.

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th ultimo, accepting the amendments which he considered necessary to be made in the British New Guinea Syndicate Ordinance of 1898.

A subsection to the effect of that submitted in the third paragraph of your letter will be added to clause 5 of the draft Ordinance, but as the interest of the Government requires that the option granted to the Syndicate should be exercised within a reasonable time, it will be desirable also to fix a reasonable limit to the time within which the arbitrators shall be required to report on any case referred to arbitration under the new subsection.

Mr. Chamberlain considers that "net value" should be more clearly defined in the Ordinance itself, and he apprehends it will meet your view if it is declared to mean the wholesale market price of any given commodity in the market to which it is consigned, or in the London market, as you prefer.

As the amendments in the draft Ordinance are substantially accepted by the Syndicate, Mr. Chamberlain has transmitted copies of the correspondence to the Governor of Queensland, and has informed him that if the Ordinance is passed by the Legislature of British New Guinea containing the amendments required, he will at once submit it for Her Majesty's approval.

It does not appear necessary to draft the amendments here.

I am, &c.,
H. BERTRAM COX.

Cablegram

Cablegram from The Acting Agent-General to The Premier of New South Wales.

11 June, 1898.

REFERRING to your telegram of 30th ultimo, I have received a letter from the Colonial Office stating matter one for your Government. Settle with Queensland Government. Latter responsible for agreement. Letter repeats terms reply recent question in the House of Commons, and adds matter now rests entirely with Queensland Government and Lieutenant-Governor, New Guinea.

Telegram from The Premier of Victoria to The Premier of New South Wales.

10 June, 1898.

I HAVE to-day cabled to our Acting Agent-General as follows:—New Guinea Syndicate.—Make again strong protest against ratification of Ordinance clause 20 of amended proposals for administration. Requires Queensland consult other contributing colonies on all matters other than ordinary administration. This was not done, nor did Queensland give us any information whatever prior to passing Ordinance, neither have contributing colonies had any opportunity to ascertain or consider amendments proposed by Imperial Government. As we have already expended £50,000 in connection with New Guinea, there is strong feeling here that before final ratification contributing colonies should be afforded opportunity of knowing all facts, and fully considering matter as provided in clause 20 above-mentioned, which being schedule of Queensland Act has force of law. If we are not to be consulted with regard to such important questions it is useless our spending money in connection with New Guinea.

GEORGE TURNER.

Minute by The Governor of New South Wales to The Premier of New South Wales.

11 June, 1898.

HIS Excellency the Governor begs to state, for the information of Ministers, that, upon the receipt of the telegram of the Right Honorable the Prime Minister, dated Nowra, the 11th of June, he transmitted to the Secretary of State for the Colonies a telegraphic despatch in the following words:—

“Ministers consider that action of Queensland, in not consulting New South Wales and Victoria, New Guinea Syndicate, is violation of law. Strongly object to some of conditions.”

HAMPDEN,
Governor.

The Acting Agent-General to The Premier of New South Wales.

Sir,

Westminster Chambers, 10 June, 1898.

In continuation of my letter of the 27th ultimo, P. 135/98, and with reference to your telegram of 30th idem, on the subject of the proposed concession to the British New Guinea Syndicate, I have the honor to enclose herewith copies of my telegrams to you of the 7th and 9th instant, together with the letters which have passed between myself and the Colonial Office hereon.

Copy
correspondence.

I also enclose a newspaper cutting giving the reply of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to a question in the House of Commons on the subject, respecting which I telegraphed to you on the 7th instant.

I have, &c.,
DANIEL COOPER.

The Acting Agent-General to The Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

Sir,

Westminster Chambers, 9, Victoria-street, London, S.W., 1 June, 1898.

In continuation of my letter of the 27th ultimo, in which I informed you that I had telegraphed to the New South Wales Government the purport of Mr. H. Bertram Cox's letter of the 25th idem, No. 11,228/98, asking to be informed what are the specific grounds upon which they object to the agreement made by the Government of Queensland and the Lieutenant-Governor of British New Guinea with the British New Guinea Syndicate, I have now the honor to enclose herein a copy of the telegraphic reply of the Honorable the Premier and Colonial Treasurer, Sydney, stating that the agreement in question was not considered at the Conference of Premiers at Melbourne, nor did the Premiers know anything of it. My Government also state that some of the provisions of the agreement are so extraordinary that they have excited strong indignation. Further, that the terms of law as per amended agreement schedules to the Queensland Act requiring consultation with the New South Wales Government have not been complied with.

In view of these objections, I beg again respectfully to ask that the Secretary of State for the Colonies will be pleased to prevent allowance of the New Guinea Ordinance on the subject until the question has been maturely considered.

I forward herein a copy of the telegram which I addressed to my Government on the 25th ultimo.

I have, &c.,
DANIEL COOPER.

The Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office, to The Acting Agent-General.

Sir,

Downing-street, 8 June, 1898.

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, respecting the agreement made by the Lieutenant-Governor of British New Guinea and the Government of Queensland with the British New Guinea Syndicate.

In reply, I am to state that the matter is one for the Government of New South Wales to settle with the Government of Queensland, which is responsible for the agreement.

I am to add that the Government of Queensland has been fully informed of Mr. Chamberlain's views in regard to the agreement and the Ordinance which has been passed to give effect to it, and Mr. Chamberlain has intimated to the Government of Queensland and the Syndicate that if certain modifications which he has desired in the Ordinance are made, he will be prepared to advise Her Majesty not to disallow it. The matter, therefore, now rests entirely with the Government of Queensland and the Lieutenant-Governor of New Guinea.

I am, &c.,
H. BERTRAM COX.

The Times, 7th June, 1898.

ENTERPRISE IN NEW GUINEA.

MR. HOGAN (Tipperary, Mid.) asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he had received an application from a British syndicate for the concession of a large tract of territory in New Guinea; whether he could state the actual area applied for, and the purposes for which it was sought; and whether he had arrived at a final decision in the matter; and, if not, whether he would consult the Australian Governments that provided the funds for the administration of British New Guinea, and ascertain their views on the proposal?

MR. CHAMBERLAIN (Birmingham, W.): An application for a concession in British New Guinea was made to me last year on behalf of a British syndicate, and the promoters were referred by me to Sir Hugh Nelson, the Prime Minister of Queensland, who was then in this country, as the Government of that colony is primarily responsible for the administration of New Guinea. Two gentlemen deputed by the Syndicate proceeded with him on his return to Queensland to discuss the matter with the Government of that colony and the Lieutenant-Governor of British New Guinea. An agreement, giving the Syndicate an option to purchase suitable lands to the extent of 250,000 acres, for the purpose of cultivation of rubber and other products, or for mining, was concluded, after full discussion, at Brisbane, and on its being submitted to me, with the draft of an Ordinance of the Legislature of New Guinea to give effect to it, I intimated to the promoters and to the Government of Queensland that, subject to certain modifications required to protect the Government of British New Guinea, I should be prepared, on receiving an Ordinance passed by the local Legislature with the amendments required, to advise Her Majesty not to disallow it. The Syndicate have agreed to my conditions, and if and when I receive the amended Ordinance it will be my duty to submit it for Her Majesty's pleasure as promised. It is for the Government of Queensland, not for me, to consult the Governments of the other contributing colonies on matters affecting the administration of British New Guinea.

MR. TOMLINSON (Preston): I should like to ask whether this reply will be reported in full in the newspapers, because we have not heard a word. ("Hear, hear!" and "Oh!")

MR. CHAMBERLAIN: Yes, Sir; but it is a very long one.

The Rev. Dr. Bevan to The Premier of New South Wales.

British New Guinea Concession.

Sir,

"Bella Vista," Parliament Place, Melbourne, 23 May, 1898.

I have the honor to enclose herewith, for your information, copy of letter which I have addressed to Sir George Turner on the subject.

I have, &c.,

THEODORE F. BEVAN.

The Rev. Dr. Bevan to The Premier of Victoria.

British New Guinea Concession.

Sir,

"Bella Vista," Parliament Place, Melbourne, 21 May, 1898.

I have the honor, in reference to *The Age* article of 16th instant, based on information and suspicions volunteered by me, to give a little further information *re* the suggested foreign influence. In doing so it is only fair to state that I do not for one moment suspect the integrity of any name that has been mentioned, or that I may mention, in this communication. If my theory is correct, the knowledge of the plot is confined, and will remain confined, to one or two men in a certain European capital.

Throughout my connection with New Guinea I have never forgotten the means by which the Germans obtained foothold in that part of Australian territory. In my interview with you of 11th January I made it plain that I should not have approached them at all save for the difficulty of doing anything with Sir Wm. MacGregor.

My negotiations with the Neu Guinea Compagnie, Berlin, have (N.B., just as this other enterprise has come to a head) been temporarily adjourned, on the pretext that they are negotiating for the transfer of their sovereign rights to the Imperial German Government; also owing to difficulties as to duration of lease and power of disposal.

They made me recently, as you may remember, an offer of a provisional concession of some 2,000 square miles, under conditions upon which one could have been ousted at any moment. After these disclosures they will not be any the readier to meet me half way, but that cannot be helped.

My discovery in 1887 of the Aird and especially the Purari Rivers provides the readiest means of access to a promising German district from which they are at present more or less shut out on their side by mountain walls. The notifications of these great rivers had, of course, previously been seen where they disembogue into 60 miles of the Papuan Gulf, but the real rivers themselves back from the coast had neither been ascended nor explored. They were erroneously confused with and conjectured to be affluents of the Fly River (*vide* "Sunday at Home," Religious Tract Society, London, volume for 1887, page 538, article by Rev. James Chalmers). My negotiations with the Neu Guinea Compagnie brought this fact prominently under the notice of the Berlin Foreign Office. In 1896 the Germans sent out an expedition from Stephansort (Kaiser Wilhelm's Land) towards the country at the head of the Purari. In October last a more ambitious enterprise with a similar objective was projected, also from their capital (Stephansort), distant probably in a right line less than 100 miles from the head waters of the Purari River.

In March, 1897, my father-in-law, Mr. James C. Taylor, of Sydney (who knew my objects, and that I had seen the German Consul here), visited Adelaide, and at the "York Hotel" a Mr. W. D. Bohm met him, and represented that he was connected with the Hirsches and Rothschilds. Through this introduction Mr. Bohm corresponded and asked me, amongst other things, "Can you secure any command of River Purari?" Mr. Bohm went to Europe in August.

As late as 14th January, 1898, a Mr. J. Stuart Thom, solicitor, of Athenæum Chambers, 11, Castlereagh-street, Sydney, wrote me a fishing letter by instruction of a London client (not named), who represented he had large influence with the German Government, and was often in Berlin. To this letter, of course, I made no reply.

In reference to an alternative proposal I recently made the Neu Guinea Compagnie, I was asked by a consular representative here whether German influence would be allowed on the Board. I learnt incidentally that the Neu Guinea Compagnie was restricted to German directors, and the thought occurred

occurred to me when I heard the terms and scope of Sir Wm. MacGregor's concession, whether similar British provision had been made. Otherwise, it is easy to see what a cheap opportunity might be afforded, not only of spying out the land, but also of securing eligible foothold which could be used to further either speculative or political ends. Even if worked wholly under an English exterior, the inspiration and the result quite feasibly might still be foreign.

While idle fears should not be allowed to retard the genuine development of the Possession, it must be remembered that the subtle quality of European diplomacy and the insidious character of foreign aggression have already been fully exemplified in New Guinea. New Guinea is not only part and parcel of the Australian geographical system, but is our natural limit boundary to the north. Just as the Indian Pamirs have been described as "the roof of the world," so are the Papuan Alps "the roof of Australia." It is the only available base close at hand for future foreign aggression. A worthy inspiration for our statesmen is the thought that not until the whole of it is British territory will the Australian dominion become intact.

I have, &c.,

THEODORE F. BEVAN.

The Rev. Dr. Bevan to The Premier of New South Wales.

British New Guinea.

"Bella Vista," Parliament Place, Melbourne, 16 June, 1898.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose herewith copy of letter, which please substitute for the one sent to you yesterday.

You will, I believe, credit me with entirely subordinating the personal feeling. The evidence I adduce is intended merely to show that autocratic power can seldom be placed in infallible hands.

The stand taken by New South Wales is worthy of Mr. G. H. Reid.

Personally, I have no grudge or ill-will against Sir William MacGregor.

I have, &c.,

THEODORE F. BEVAN.

The Rev. Dr. Bevan to The Governor of Victoria.

Corrected and enlarged late fee letter forwarded to the Governor of Victoria, London, per R.M.S. "Cuzco," 15th June, 1898. (Postscript explained that time did not then permit the necessary alterations.)

British New Guinea.

"Bella Vista," Parliament Place, Melbourne, 15 June, 1898.

Your Excellency,

Herewith I beg to enclose cutting from *Age*, of 9th instant. Therein I state that the land on which the Syndicate has paid a deposit is not suitable for European settlement. It is malarial tropical land near the coast; to place European emigrants whereon (as hinted in the Ordinance) would be to drive them to the shambles, and draw down upon us the contempt and indignation of the civilised world.

I venture to express the opinion that Sir William MacGregor's faults are more those of the head than of the heart. He was brought up in the "Lilliputian" school of Fiji. What natives the administration has succeeded in getting much influence over—instead of being made indirect taxpayers, as they might be, in return for the advantages of the "Pax Britannica"—are liable to trial and imprisonment for what I think are merely peccadilloes in a fine permanent race of people, but one degree removed from a state of absolute savagery. (In official report for year ending 30th June, 1897, pages vi to ix, it will be seen that out of a total of 420 trials, convictions were registered amongst other offences for breaches of Roads and Burials Regulations, infringement of Beche-de-mer and Pearl Shell, Constabulary and Wild Birds Ordinances, disobeying Magistrates' orders, using threatening language, breaking out of gaol, and spreading lying reports and other trifles, when viewed from the abovementioned standpoint).

There are in New Guinea healthy sites, fresh-water rivers of the first magnitude, and payable resources, which, I believe, can be utilised for the equal advantage of both classes of Her Majesty's subjects, viz., Natives and Europeans.

I do not care to speak about myself, but there is one point that is not universally understood. There is no doubt that I am the actual discoverer of the two great rivers known as the Aird and Purari. In my hurriedly-published book in 1890, I said that Captain Blackwood, of H.M.S. "Fly," ascended the Aird for 20 miles. In Jukes' book, which describes the voyage, there is a map which clearly shows that they did not even reach Aird Hill. The channel they ascended being merely a salt-water estuary in the deltaic system of a river which the natives did not allow them to reach, and, therefore, they did not see.

As regards the Purari, first entered by me of any European *viâ* Bald Head in the early part of 1887, the Rev. James Chalmers, who had, like many others, seen the notifications of great fresh-waters rivers (in flood-time, palm-nuts, tree-trunks, and layers of fresh water are washed right out to sea) at the head of the bight of the Papuan Gulf—expressed the opinion, in an article published after my discovery, that all the rivers round Bald Head were in the delta of "the Fly River, which drains all Central New Guinea" (*Sunday at Home*, 1887, p. 538).

Sir William MacGregor does not bring these facts out very clearly, but, while recognising his many great qualities, I am well aware of his predilections. (In his official reports he almost ignores me as regards the Aird. In reference to the Purari, however, in a despatch to the Governor of Queensland, dated Port Moresby, 3rd May, 1893, he states: "Mr. Theodore Bevan was the first to ascend, to examine in detail, and to map these deltaic arms, and to see, traverse, and chart any part of the river itself." In a pamphlet published for sale by the London Missionary Society, being an report of an address on "Missions and Missionaries," delivered by Sir William MacGregor in Edinburgh on 11th March, 1895, my name is never even mentioned, but instead a statement is made that the Rev. James Chalmers "is the original discoverer of the great Purari River.")

The Aird and Purari are, to my thinking, the two most important strategic rivers in New Guinea, and I was quick to perceive from their general trend and magnitude, that their head waters must be either near or actually in Kaiser Wilhelm's Land.

The "Fijian" policy would appear to have entirely broken down as applied to Austral New Guinea in pretty well every respect. Please make any use of all this information in the public interest.

I have, &c.,

THEODORE F. BEVAN.

Telegram

Telegram from The Premier of New South Wales to The Premier of Queensland.

(Copy of same also sent to Premier of Victoria.)

13 June, 1898.

UNDERSTAND Ordinance embodying Syndicate land grant goes back to New Guinea for amendment. Surely Administrator will observe terms of New Guinea Act amended proposals, and, before going further, ask the opinion of contributing Governments through you. Victoria has sent another strong message Home, and we feel as strongly here, of which Colonial Office was advised some time ago.

The Premier of Queensland to The Premier of New South Wales.

Sir,

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane, 17 June, 1898.

See printed matter herewith marked "A."

Referring to my telegram of 15th instant, I now do myself the honor to forward to you the accompanying printed copy of the correspondence which has taken place on the subject of the concessions granted to the British New Guinea Syndicate (Limited), and to inform you that on the receipt of a reply to my letter to Sir Hugh Nelson, of 14th instant, I shall address you further on the whole question of these concessions.

I have, &c.,

THOMAS J. BYRNES.

Telegram from The Premier of Queensland to The Premier of New South Wales.

18 June, 1898.

See printed matter marked "A."

I HAVE posted to you a copy of the correspondence which has taken place on the subject of concessions granted to the British New Guinea Syndicate.

THOMAS J. BYRNES.

Telegram from The Premier of Queensland to The Premier of New South Wales.

29 June, 1898.

See printed matter marked "B," and page 23, &c., of matter marked "A."

I HAVE posted to you this evening a copy of Sir Hugh Nelson's letter, containing his observations on the British New Guinea Ordinance No. 1 of 1898.

THOMAS J. BYRNES.

Minute by The Premier of New South Wales.

New Guinea Land Syndicate.

MR. REID presents his humble duty to His Excellency the Governor, and forwards papers on the above subject.

Mr. Reid suggests that the papers be laid upon the Table of both Houses.

G.H.R., 23/6/98.

Minute by The Governor of New South Wales to The Premier of New South Wales.

IN returning to you the papers on the subject of the New Guinea Land Syndicate, I beg to observe that I have deemed it expedient, before authorising these documents to be laid upon the Table of both Houses of the Legislature, to ascertain whether the Secretary of State for the Colonies is aware or not of any objection to the adoption of the course suggested in your minute of the 23rd instant; and with a view to this end I have to-day addressed a despatch to Mr. Chamberlain.

HAMPDEN,

Governor, 27/6/98.

The Premier of Queensland to The Premier of New South Wales.

Sir,

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane, 29 June, 1898.

See page 23 of printed matter marked "A."

Referring to my letter of the 17th instant, I now do myself the honor to forward, for the information of your Government, a printed copy of a letter dated 18th instant, addressed to me by the Right Honorable Sir Hugh Nelson, containing certain observations on the correspondence which has taken place respecting the British New Guinea Ordinance No. 1 of 1898.

See printed matter marked "B."

I also enclose a printed copy of report which Sir Hugh Nelson has been good enough to furnish on his recent visit to the Possession.

I trust, in the course of a few days, to be in a position to address you at length on the question of the Ordinance mentioned in Sir Hugh Nelson's letter above referred to.

I have, &c.,

THOS. J. BYRNES.

"B"

1898.—Queensland.

VISIT TO BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

(Report by the Right Honorable Sir H. M. Nelson on his)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command.

To The Honorable the Chief Secretary,—

Brisbane, 18 June, 1898.

Sir,

In accordance with your letter of the 15th April, I have the honor to report that, in company with His Excellency the Governor, I paid a visit to British New Guinea. Leaving Brisbane on 16th April, we arrived at Port Moresby on 25th April, and we left Samarai on the return trip on 28th May.

Condition of public offices.

Whilst at Port Moresby I visited Government House and the various public offices, all of which seemed in good order with the exception of Government House itself, which, if it is to be utilised further, should be renovated and provided with a decent stock of suitable furniture. At present it is in an extremely unsatisfactory condition, only suitable for what we might regard as a rough bush bachelor's residence.

Places visited.

Later on I visited the following places:—Daugo (cocoanut plantation), Tupusulei, Kappakappa, Maopa, Aroma, Dedele, Mugula, *alias* Dufaure, Samarai, Miawarra villages, Mita, Awaiama (Chad's Bay), Taupota,

Taupota, Wedau (Bartle Bay), Sinapa (Phillips' Harbour), Porlock Harbour, Maisina, the Mambare, Tamata, Yewa village, Bola, several villages on the Gira, the Ope, and Kumusi Rivers, the mouth of the Musa River, Dingba, Barabua, Douglas Harbour, and Port Hennessey.

With regard to the natives on the south-east coast, they all appear to be healthy and happy; and they were delighted with our visit. They are on the best of terms with the Government, and are generally well conducted. There can be no doubt that the readiness with which they have accepted our laws has been to a large extent due to the labours of the missionaries, who for years have devoted their lives to the noble work of Christianising these people. Condition of natives.

I was very much struck on this long coast-line by the great numbers of young children and youths we saw at the villages, which convey the impression that the population in that part of the Possession must be on the increase. The same applies to the villages we visited along the north-east coast as far as Phillips' Harbour. From there, going westward, we found the natives much more shy, and evidently possessing much less confidence in the white man and the Government. From that point, right up to our boundary on the Gira River, I may state that, although we were able to interview the men of the villages and exchange greetings of friendship with them, on no occasion were the women and children allowed to come within our view. They had evidently been ordered into hiding places in the scrubs. At some villages the inhabitants ran away at our approach, although every effort was made to assure them that our intentions were friendly. At all such places we left tokens of friendship, and on the return journey the natives exhibited more confidence in us. Population; behaviour of natives.

I may state that previous to our visit to the Mambare, several of the wild tribes had banded together and made a raid upon the village of Yewa and massacred some of that tribe, the number being variously stated at from ten to fourteen, the reason assigned being that they were too friendly with the whites, and were giving the Government Agent information respecting the whereabouts of the murderers of Mr. Green. The raiders also carried off ten Yewa women, two of whom managed to escape. We saw one of the escapees at the new Yewa village formed at the junction of the Tamata and Mambare Rivers. This new village is surrounded by a strong stockade; it does not contain many inhabitants, but those we saw—men, women, and children—were very friendly. Yewa massacre.

As illustrating native character, I may state that we had with us a native of the village who had served a term of imprisonment and was being returned home, and his reception by his relatives and the whole village was most affectionate. Other incidents came under our notice which tend to show that the natives have very strong feelings with regard to relations and friends, and also great fondness for the place where they were born. The strongest example of this is shown by runaway carriers, who, when seized by nostalgia, start a journey of hundreds of miles around the coast to get "home." Strange as it may seem to Europeans, the training and discipline the man above-mentioned had received while undergoing his imprisonment, together with the education he gained through mixing with Government officials and others, made him well qualified for appointment as village constable, to which office he was duly inducted by His Excellency the Administrator, apparently to the immense satisfaction of the whole village. Nostalgia; village constables.

We spent four days on the Mambare and two nights at Tamata Station, where the unfortunate Mr. Green met his death at the hands of the natives in January, 1897. From all I could learn from the natives and others, there does not appear to have been the least animosity between them and the late Mr. Green, the incitement to the deed being the cupidity of the natives—the desire to make themselves the possessors of the stores and implements which they saw in his custody. Murder of Mr. Green.

On the Gira we visited several villages and interviewed the inhabitants, most of whom professed the greatest cordiality and friendship to the Government, but on no occasion were we honored with a view of "the fair sex" or children. The Gira.

With regard to the lands that we were able to inspect, my impression is that along the banks of the rivers they are most fertile and suitable for agriculture, but pioneers must make up their minds to have a very rough time of it for some years after starting operations. Towards the mouths of the rivers the banks are very low and seemingly subject to inundation, but this, I am led to believe, would not be any detriment to the growing of rubber. But these lands would certainly not be suitable for the growth of sugar-cane or like tropical products. As you ascend the rivers, however, the banks become higher, and tropical cultivation of every kind could be carried on there. Character of lands.

Without wishing to draw unfavourable comparisons, I may state that no lands came under my observation suitable for settlement in small areas; nor can any of them, in my opinion, compare with the lands on the Herbert, the Johnstone, the Daintree, and other rivers in tropical Queensland. The conditions of climate and other circumstances connected with the Possession are such as to lead me to form the decided opinion that none of the lands there are suitable for small settlers with limited means, or for what we call "close settlement." If the country is to be developed it can only be accomplished by companies or individuals having command of large amounts of capital. Nothing came under my observation that would lead me to believe that the inducements to settle on the territory are sufficiently strong to attract farmers or others from Queensland or the other Australian Colonies, where in addition to a healthy climate they enjoy all the advantages of civilisation—schools, police protection, railways, post and telegraph services, &c., all of which are as yet unknown in the Possession. Not suitable for "close settlement."

With regard to trade, at present it is carried on by a few traders, and the difficulty is that with such an extensive coastline—some 3,700 miles, including the islands—proper surveillance by the Government is impossible. The copra trade is dead at present, as no profit can be made therefrom. A little is being done in getting the natives to collect rubber, mostly from a vine, which they cut down to extract the juice; but their manipulation of the substance is so rude as to seriously depreciate its market value. Fibre is also got from the natives, the best being obtained from the aerial roots of the pandanus, but for the same reason—want of proper handling and the unevenness of the quality—it has not yet attained to any satisfactory value in the market. Some alluvial gold is being won on the Gira, some 20 miles from Tamata Station, but the accounts as to the permanency of the field vary. One storekeeper assured us that it is worked out, while another told us that the miners there are doing fairly well. Pearl-shelling is carried on to a limited extent, the quality of the shell obtained, though light, being of the very best. Trade.

His Excellency the Administrator cherishes great hopes of the future development of the Possession when the operations of the Company established under the British New Guinea Ordinance No. 1 of 1898—whereby it has been agreed to sell to the Company upon certain terms an area not exceeding 250,000 acres out of the total of the 57,945,600 acres which comprise the Possession—come into full effect. From the statement laid before me by the Administrator in December last, I was quite satisfied British New Guinea Syndicate.

of

of the advisableness of establishing the company referred to, and since I have had an opportunity of seeing something of the country, I am fully confirmed in that opinion. I am quite convinced that the advantages that will accrue from the expenditure of capital and the development of trade will be more in favour of the Possession and of the Australian Colonies than of the Syndicate, who will necessarily have to take all the risks and expense of pioneering, and can hardly expect to derive any profits from their undertaking for some years to come.

Mission work.

Only two of the four missions established in the Possession came under our cognizance—namely, the stations of the London Missionary Society, situated on the south-east coast, and of the Anglican Mission on the north-east coast. The former of these has been established for many years; the latter is of quite recent growth. Both of these work in conjunction, and co-operate with the Government—a feature which I consider is essential if the maximum of good work is to be attained. The result of their labours towards the civilisation of the natives is most gratifying. I was also pleased to find that both have made a commencement in the direction of imparting to the natives a knowledge of the English language. This, if persevered with, will have a highly beneficial effect in the way of facilitating intercourse and cultivating friendly relation between the natives and Europeans. We were prevented from visiting the Wesleyan Mission, which is situated in the islands, through my serious illness; and, in any case, time would not admit of a visit to the Roman Catholic Mission, as it is far away to the west, on the St. Joseph River. Our trip did not extend to that portion of the Possession lying west of Port Moresby.

Employment of Papuans.

So far as the employment of Papuans in regular work is concerned, Nature has been so bountiful to them that they have never been accustomed to anything like systematic or continuous labour. I do not think that the present generation, at any rate, could be induced to undertake steady daily toil.

As to the idea that has been mooted, of getting some of the natives over to Queensland to work for six months during the busy season on the sugar plantations, I cannot see any reason to give encouragement to the project. The family and home affections of the people are so strong that any lengthy absence from their villages would be most distressing to them, and form an obstacle that it will be very hard to overcome. If the experiment were made—to which, of course, the consent of the Imperial Government would be necessary—it would require to be carried out in the most careful manner. A small number, say fifty, would be the most that it would be advisable to introduce, and they should be accompanied by a European protector of long experience among the natives in New Guinea, who would reside with them, and generally look after their interests during their term of service. Considering that the Possession is practically free from any bad disease—an easily cured skin disease being the most prevalent malady—and that the natives as yet know nothing of alcoholic liquors, I fear that the experiment would be hazardous. Taking all the circumstances into consideration, I think our planters might as well at once abandon the idea of looking to New Guinea as a field from which to procure extra labour.

Laws and their administration.

The laws so far introduced, being chiefly directed towards the protection of life and property, readily commend themselves to the native mind. They have been, and are being, enforced gradually, without any violent rupture of native habits and customs, except perhaps in the matter of burials, and even the natives themselves are beginning to appreciate the law on this subject from a sanitary point of view, although they occasionally attempt to evade it. The administration of the laws is attended with as little formality as possible; everything is made clear to the parties concerned, and justice is tempered with mercy, reasonable allowance being made for the idiosyncracies and old customs of the people.

The practice of appointing ex-convicts to the position of village constables, in cases where a chief has not been found to take the office, has worked very satisfactorily. The native selected for this position has generally served a somewhat lengthy term of imprisonment, during which he has gained a knowledge of our civilisation, and has been instructed in the laws of the Possession, so that when installed into office he is able to impart considerable information regarding these matters to his people; and it is wonderful to note the amount of influence he acquires over the whole district, apparently by the mere prestige of his office.

Police.

I inspected the police at Port Moresby, and was very much pleased with their appearance and discipline, and the manner in which they performed their drill. They are recruited, as far as possible, from various parts of the Possession, so that they may be utilised as interpreters, one of the great difficulties Government officials, missionaries, and travellers having to contend with being the large number of dialects spoken. The sergeants are all able to speak a little English, sufficient to communicate with the Commandant and other officials, whilst the Commandant himself is able to hold converse with the natives in several of their dialects.

Altogether the administration of justice is carried on in a very satisfactory manner, considering the circumstances of the country.

Visits of inspection.

Although great progress has been made in the civilisation of the natives, it seems to me essential that they should be periodically visited by the Administrator, whom they look up to with great awe and respect. Although not giving any cause for alarm on the south-east coast, where the missions have been long established, yet they are a very excitable race, and no one can predict what might happen if agitators from the uncivilised tribes got amongst them. And, as I have mentioned, the effects of civilisation from Phillips' Harbour westward are not at present as marked as one could wish. The agents and police magistrates are efficient officers, and their number might be increased with great advantage, but their visits naturally do not carry the influence that a visit from the Administrator would do. To enable the latter to carry out his periodical visits of inspection it is necessary that a ship should be provided, and it is to be hoped that the "Merrie England" will be retained in the service for some time, although it would be advisable to replace her as soon as practicable with a more suitable and less expensive craft.

The work of the Administrator.

I should consider any report of my visit to British New Guinea incomplete which did not contain a record of my strong conviction of the special suitableness of the selection of Sir William MacGregor by the Imperial authorities for the work of organising a savage population, and imposing upon a wide and hitherto almost unknown territory the beneficial restraints of civilisation. As legislator, Administrator, and intrepid explorer, the impress of his personality is everywhere present. The work he has done in British New Guinea has increased the value of the country as a possession of the Empire, and although almost everything yet remains to be accomplished in the way of developing the resources of the territory, it is to Sir William MacGregor that the honor is due of having established the first conditions necessary for the success of subsequent Administrators.

I have, &c.,

HUGH M. NELSON.

Nor

NOTES OF TRIP TO BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

THE following notes were compiled for the information of His Excellency the Governor of Queensland and the Right Honorable Sir H. M. Nelson, K.C.M.G., P.C., during their trip from Brisbane to British New Guinea, which occupied from 16th April to 7th June, 1898 :—

SATURDAY, APRIL 16.—Left Brisbane in the A.U.S.N. Co.'s s.s. "Arawatta" at about 5 p.m., Mr. J. Gilligan, Principal Shorthand Writer, and Mr. Bailey, Colonial Botanist, accompanying the party. Had a large number of passengers, including Bishop Stone-Wigg, who was on his way to New Guinea to assume the direction of the work of the Anglican mission on the north-east coast.

SUNDAY, APRIL 17.—His Lordship the Bishop held divine service in the saloon, a large number of passengers attending. He preached an interesting sermon on the Resurrection, and Miss Florence Schmidt assisted the singing at the piano. The ship called at Sea Hill and Flat Top, from whence telegrams and letters were despatched.

MONDAY, APRIL 18.—At sea.

TUESDAY, APRIL 19.—Landed at Bowen about 9 a.m. Mr. Bailey inspected a supposed Princess Beatrice palm, brought in some years ago from the neighbourhood of Mt. Elliott, but was disappointed, the specimen proving a different species altogether.

Arrived in Townsville Harbour at 9:30 p.m. One of those who landed was a somewhat interesting specimen of humanity. A native of Tasmania; he was brought to Australia when about 2 years old; had lived ever since in the far West; could neither read nor write, and he had no recollection of having ever seen the sea or a ship. This was, therefore, a novel experience for him, and one of his remarks re the sea was that it was the largest lagoon he had ever seen without ducks on it. He was under arrest on a charge of being concerned in the crime of cutting the throats of eight horses belonging to a carrier out West about eight years ago. It was reported on board that he was likely to be acquitted—that, in fact, he was innocent, but could give important evidence which would criminate another man. His name was Chapman; married, and two children. He bitterly regretted his ignorance, and expressed his determination to "work his fingers to the bone" to educate his children. On arrival the Governor received a letter inviting him to avail himself of the privileges of the North Queensland Club—of which he is patron—to which His Excellency replied in suitable terms. Sir Hugh and the other members of the party were made honorary members of the club during their stay.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20.—We went ashore in Customs launch, reaching Townsville about 9 a.m. Walked to "Queen's Hotel"; posted letters, and sent telegrams. His Excellency took part in a game of golf; Sir Hugh visited Harbour Board and other offices. After lunch His Worship the Mayor, several aldermen, and leading townsmen waited upon His Excellency and formally welcomed him to Townsville, the interview drifting into general conversation on the condition and prospects of the town and district. After this His Excellency rode into the suburbs accompanied by Inspector Fitzgerald. His Excellency invited a small number of leading citizens, including Mr. Justice Chubb, to dinner, which occupied the time up to the hour of starting for the "Arawatta," about 8 p.m. Here we parted with Captain Harford and a goodly number of our other fellow-passengers, so that the cabin accommodation was more liberal and comfortable.

THURSDAY, APRIL 21.—The ship was made fast alongside the Cairns wharf by 10 a.m., about two hours later than we had hoped she would. Here we had the first public display in the presence of the Naval Brigade and the boys of the Anglican Church Brigade, with their fife and drum band drawn up on the wharf. The formation of the latter is the self-imposed work of the Rev. W. Maitland-Woods, and although of comparatively recent origin, it has taken well with the lads and their parents, and promises to extend. The power for good in such an organisation needs no special pleading; it is self-evident, and it is to be hoped that similar attractions to our youths will be cultivated and encouraged by those who have the means at their command to do so. As His Excellency stepped ashore, the ever-welcome strains of the National Anthem greeted his ears, the crowd respectfully uncovering, while the Brigade presented arms. By request His Excellency inspected both bodies, and complimented each upon making such a creditable display. To the boys he added a few special sentences of praise and encouragement, calculated to strengthen their loyalty and increase their desire to stand in the front rank as defenders of their country. Hearty general cheers followed. Then His Lordship Bishop Stone-Wigg, addressing the lads, also praised them for their turnout in such good form, and urged them to get others to join their ranks. Cheers for His Lordship closed this portion of the proceedings. Some disappointment was expressed at the visit being "informal," there being a desire to give His Excellency a "right royal reception." The party were next taken in charge by the Mayor and other representatives of local authorities, and conducted to a special train in waiting to convey them to "the Lion" of Cairns—viz., the Barron Falls. Invitations swelled the number of excursionists to between forty and fifty, and just before starting an incident which caused some amusement occurred. An old man named Chappell, whose eccentricities on the wharf had previously attracted attention, expressing a desire to see the Governor, was shown into the vice-regal presence. His first question to His Excellency was, "Are you a Sydney native?" Answered in the negative, he explained that he was the oldest digger in Australia, and hearing that His Excellency was going to New Guinea he had brought him a pick and washing-dish with which to prospect that country for gold. Whether he was not satisfied with the Governor's appearance as having the material out of which a successful digger might be developed, or the desire to retain possession of his precious utensils overcame his previous liberal intentions it is impossible to say, but he suddenly took his leave with his property, to the further amusement of the crowd. The run to the Falls is always full of interest to visitors, and even local residents never tire of the unique and splendid scenery which bursts into view as the train toils from point to point up the Barron gorge, and culminates in the magnificent spectacle of the Falls themselves. The view on this occasion was exceptionally fine, a large volume of water rushing to its precipitation of 700 feet, but not more than sufficient to create a slight veil of mist, which rather added to the beauty of the scene. Strange how long one can linger gazing at such a feature of nature! It stirs the poetic soul to elevated and elevating themes. And to the practical mind it suggests thoughts of how the almost inconceivable power here running to waste might be grasped by man's puny hands, confined and directed into channels whereby it might be made his obedient slave and potent factor in carrying on the industrial operations of the valley beneath. But the order, "All aboard," breaks into the reverie, and taking a last look at this grand cascade—perhaps the last—the downward journey is commenced and successfully accomplished. Although light refreshments were served at the Falls, the fresh mountain air had a most appetising effect, and on reaching "Hinde's Hotel," shortly after 2 o'clock, all were glad to find a substantial luncheon in readiness. The company, too, was enlarged by the presence of a considerable number of citizens, and a very enjoyable hour was spent in discussing the many good things for which Cairn's hospitality is noted.

The toast, "The Queen," having been honoured in the most loyal and hearty manner,

The Mayor briefly proposed the health of His Excellency the Governor, to whom he referred as a worthy successor to Sir Henry Norman, who had endeared himself to the hearts of the people, and proved one of the best Governors Queensland had ever had.

The toast was received with enthusiasm, "Lady Lamington and the little ones" coming in for a full share of the cheering.

His EXCELLENCY, after thanking the company for their hearty reception and generous hospitality on this his second visit to Cairns, said: Your Mayor has referred to my predecessor as having endeared himself to the people of Queensland. I only hope that I may be able to achieve the same happy position. It is certainly my desire to do so. (Loud applause.) It is especially gratifying to me to be entertained in this manner here to-day, because although I have enjoyed coming here under the good auspices of Captain Lee in the splendid ship "Arawatta," to-morrow or next day I shall have to embark on stormy seas in a much frailer vessel, therefore I want all the encouragement and fortifying I can get to embolden me to undertake this desperate venture. (Laughter, and Hear, hear!) Having again had the good fortune to witness something of your scenery, I think I cannot do better than repeat the compliment I paid last year—that you are the happy possessors of some of the finest scenery in Australia. (Applause.) At the time of my last visit you were somewhat anxious because of the want of rain. This, I understand, has been a bumper year in that respect, and that you are all rich and prosperous. The only drawback to this happy condition seems to be the unkindness of certain officials down south in refusing to receive shipments of your luscious and delightful fruit—the banana. (Applause.) I am glad, in spite of the warlike display we saw on the wharf this morning—and here I must say that not only was I pleased to see the Naval Brigade turn out in such numbers and with such good bearing and appearance, but I must congratulate the Rev. Mr. Wood on having got together in such a short period a large number of boys who will, I am sure, benefit very much by the training and discipline they will have to undergo. It is very essential that we should give our boys some impression of what is required of the citizens of every country in order that they may be able to properly undertake or maintain the defence of their own country. (Applause.) I say that I am very glad that in spite of this warlike ardour so successfully fostered in Cairns you have not sent a hostile expedition to Sydney. (Laughter and applause.) But I would point out that there is a movement

movement now under consideration which, if successfully accomplished, and in which, if you were to join, you would be able to properly have some controlling influence in the event of any sound grievance arising. I refer to the great movement going on in Australia for the federation of the various colonies. I do not know, and officially I do not wish to know, what are the feelings of the people of Cairns towards federation. It is not my prerogative to enter upon such a matter, but it is well within my prerogative to say that I consider there is no movement more calculated to bring about an increase of the prosperity of Australia than the breaking down of those barriers that prevent it from becoming a great and united nation. (Loud applause.) As to the Bill that is before the people, that I do not intend to enter upon. But there is one point in which the federation of Australia touches me very much. It has been suggested that this federation will lead to a diminution of the loyalty of Australians towards the great Empire of which they are at present parties. (Never!) Now, that I do not believe. I do not believe it for the simple reason that I regard our Empire as based upon common sense—that is, upon well-founded principles that are of direct material value to each and to all of us. It is not a false, sentimental idea that makes us call ourselves "British." By the mere fact of enrolling yourselves into a greater State than this of which you are at present the inhabitants, you will, so to speak, enlarge your horizon and see how essential it is in these days that one and all of us—no matter where we may be on the face of the globe—should be partners in one great kingdom. (Loud applause.) Our peace is secured, our commercial enterprise is established and fostered, and—most important of all—we are able to secure and develop those great institutions and characteristics of our nationality which I firmly believe have in the past proved all powerful factors in establishing our dominion throughout the world. (Loud applause.) This is not the occasion to pursue such a topic. I can only say that if you take a broad view of this matter and remember that all of us here in Australia are living under the regis of the British Empire, you will not be backward in enrolling yourself under the banner of a united Australia. (Loud applause.) I again thank you as the representative of the Gracious Monarch who is the embodiment of the strength and universality of our nation for the loyalty to which you have given expression. It touches and encourages me to receive such testimony of your love to our Monarch, and of your desire to be partners in the destiny of our great Empire. (Loud applause.) I can only assure you dwellers in Cairns that by becoming part of a united Australia you will find that those small checks offered by Nature to the development and enrichment of your district will be overcome, and that in course of time it will become one of the most fruitful and prosperous districts not only in Queensland but in Australia. (Loud and continued applause.)

Mr. MUNRO then proposed the health of Sir Hugh Nelson in highly eulogistic terms, making special reference to the Sugar Works Guarantee Act and the Tramways Act, which had proved of immense benefit to the district and were likely, if extended, to be still more beneficial.

Sir HUGH, responding, said: I desire to thank you all most cordially for the kind manner in which you have received the toast proposed by Mr. Munro. I think that if any reward was suitable to a person in the position I am in—about to retire from active political life—the best that he could have is to retire with the esteem and goodwill of his fellow-colonists. (Hear, hear!) I am extremely pleased to hear your expressions of opinion here to-day, and though it may seem to some extent self-flattery on my part, I think I retire from party politics with the goodwill and to a large extent the esteem of the men with whom I have been associated during the last forty years. (Loud applause.) I appreciate very highly what Mr. Munro has said with regard to the efforts of the Government with which I have been connected to further the interests of the northern part of the colony and of this district in particular. It is a great mistake for you to suppose that your interests are in any way neglected by any Government that may exist down in Brisbane. On the contrary, I think you will find that every Government that may come into office will always look upon the northern part of the colony as a place that must be encouraged and developed, and so its interests must be attended to. (Loud applause.) I do not think that any Government could live and neglect the interests of the north. (Hear, hear! and applause.) We all recognise that its development is essential to the progress of Queensland and of Australia, and I can assure you that anything that has been done lately has been done in the interests of the colony and of Australia as a whole. (Hear, hear!) I highly appreciate the eulogies Mr. Munro has been pleased to confer upon myself, but I wish to point out that, as far as carrying on the Government is concerned, one man by himself would be able to do very little, and whatever good has been accomplished by the Government of Queensland has been done, not by myself, but in conjunction with my colleagues. (Applause.) I have always been pleased to be able to say that my colleagues have always worked thoroughly in unison with myself: had they not done so I do not think we would have been able to do the little we have done for the advancement of the colony; and now that I have been kicked upstairs I leave the Government without any compunction, because the same men who have been carrying on our affairs for some years past are now offering their services to carry it on for the future—(applause)—and I hope that they will succeed even better than in the past. (Cries of "No, no.") You may think that that is very complimentary, but I do not take it in that light, because to a large extent it depends upon the people themselves. If they will stick together and assert their right to good government—especially to economical government, so that our finances may be maintained in a good position—if they will take advantage of the opportunity they will have in a year or so of insisting upon that at the poll—I have no hesitation in saying that Queensland will go on and prosper, and eventually become the richest and greatest colony of the whole group. (Loud applause.) I must assure you of this also: That it involves very great sacrifice on the part of any man to take office as a Minister, still more so the position of Premier. He has to give up the whole of his private business and devote his time and energies to the business of the country, and very often he gets nothing but abuse for all his work. (Hear, hear!) I feel extremely grateful therefore for receiving on this occasion some thanks from the community of Cairns. I know that they have always been well disposed towards the Government, but of course that is insignificant in comparison with their higher duty—a determination to maintain their rights and to see that good government is enforced throughout the colony. (Loud applause.) If they persevere in that their prospects are the very best, and as far as I am individually concerned, having made Queensland my home as long as I live, I can assure you that I shall do everything I can to promote her interests. (Loud applause.) I believe and hope that in the new sphere into which I am now entering I may be able to be of some influence in guiding the colony towards that end which we all desire. And I should like the people themselves to back up all such efforts and assert before the world that all those absurd ideas about socialism and the division of property are not going to be entertained in this colony at any rate. (Loud applause.) I again thank you most heartily for your good wishes. (Loud applause.)

"Our Visitors" having been proposed in suitable terms,

His Lordship Bishop STONE-WIGG was called upon to respond. In doing so he extended to all well-behaved citizens a cordial welcome to New Guinea, which presented many opportunities for enterprise and industry. Touching briefly on the nature of his work, he referred to the enormous benefits missionaries had conferred upon the world scientifically, commercially, and, above all, in spreading the gospel of "Peace and goodwill" to all men. The biographies of famous missionaries not only revealed their services in the extension of the borders of our knowledge, but were full of incentives to unselfishness and faithful devotion to God and man.

HIS EXCELLENCY, in proposing the health of the Mayor, again returned thanks to the citizens of Cairns for their generous hospitality.

The MAYOR acknowledged the compliment in a few suitable sentences, and the company separated.

Taking leave of our generous entertainers, the steamer cast off at about 5 o'clock, and anchored off Port Douglas at 9. Here a deputation of residents paid their respects to His Excellency, and expressed a hope that he would pay the district a formal and more lengthy visit before long.

FRIDAY, APRIL 22.—Daylight found the "Arawatta" alongside the wharf at Cooktown, where the party left her, not without feelings of regret, for the trip so far had been "through summer seas" and thoroughly enjoyable. The Governor and Sir Hugh were welcomed by the Mayor, Mr. E. P. Seagren, and the Town Clerk, and it was arranged that the party should partake of a *déjeuner* at His Worship's private residence at 11 a.m. It had been intended to visit the schools and other public institutions, but this being the last port of call in Queensland there was much to be done in the way of letters, public and private, and final telegrams, to say nothing of trans-shipping impedimenta to the "Merrie England," which was in port awaiting our arrival. To mark the event His Excellency directed that a holiday be given to the children attending the public schools. On Captain Curtis, of the "Merrie England," reporting himself to the Governor and Sir Hugh, he intimated that he was anxious—in order to carry out the wishes of His Excellency Sir Wm. MacGregor, Governor of New Guinea—to get underweigh as soon as possible. So 1 o'clock was fixed as the hour of departure. Although the notice to the townspeople was very short, the gathering at the Mayor's numbered about fifty of the leading residents of the town and district, and the collation was in Cooktown's best style, which is saying a great deal.

The toast of "The Queen" having been duly and heartily honoured.

The MAYOR expressed regret that the next toast—"His Excellency the Governor"—had not fallen into better hands, but he felt honoured in being able to welcome him to Cooktown, and to wish him a pleasant journey to and from New Guinea.

The

The company having responded to the call with musical honours,

His EXCELLENCY, replying, said: Mr. Mayor and gentlemen,—I thank you very much for your warm greeting of me to-day, and also for having given me this generous entertainment. It is not the first time that I have received kindness at your hands, for, as you are aware, Cooktown was the first place that I landed upon the Australian continent when I came here to take up the high office to which I had been appointed. I was therefore prepared in some degree to expect that you would be cordial in your welcome, but at the same time I hardly expected that you would put yourselves to so much trouble and inconvenience, meet together in such numbers, and give me so handsome a "send-off." As you are aware, Sir Hugh Nelson and myself are about to visit the British Possession of New Guinea, and it is essential for us to do so because this year the system of administration by which the Possession has hitherto been governed lapses, and a new agreement has to be entered into. It is almost, I should imagine, a unique system of government, inasmuch as I hold a sort of double office, first of all as the representative of constitutional government in the self-governing Colony of Queensland, and also of New Guinea, which is more directly under the control of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. I do not think that you will find elsewhere in the British Empire such a mixed system of administration, and therefore it is all the more necessary, in the interests of those colonies that have so largely found hitherto the supplies by which New Guinea has been kept going, that we should visit, as far as possible, the most important places in the Possession, and become thoroughly acquainted with the great—the wonderful work, I think, I may justly describe it—that Sir William MacGregor has accomplished during the last ten years in that country. It is doubtful whether any man in the service of Her Majesty has grappled with and overcome greater difficulties than Sir William has done. So we hope during our visit to be able to equip our minds with a fuller and better understanding of the condition of this Possession of the Colony, and what will be the best means of governing it for the future. As this port is often visited by Her Majesty's ships of war, you have direct and visible connection with our Empire; therefore you are able to thoroughly understand and to have wide views as to the freedom of government that prevails under the British flag, and at the same time the desirability of maintaining the closest union between all the different portions of the Empire that is compatible with allowing the fullest measure of local administration to the component parts. (Loud applause.) I can assure you that at the present time our Empire has more at stake, and is more in danger from attacks upon her commercial prosperity, than has been recorded in our history for, perhaps, 100 years. Therefore, you will understand that I thoroughly appreciate every occasion of seeing and of having paid me visible manifestations of your regard, loyalty, and devotion to the British Empire. (Loud applause.) Certainly since the days of Pitt, when that little island of the North Sea defied the most powerful forces in Europe, no such great stress has been placed upon Great Britain as during the last two years, and I do not think that we can believe that those times of difficulty and danger are yet passed. I can only hope that you will always give a responsive and cordial welcome to whoever may be the holder of the high office that has been entrusted to me. (Hear, hear! and applause.) I may here observe that I forgot to mention one matter connected with the object of my journey. I do not see that gentleman present, but I refer to the first Anglican Bishop of New Guinea, Bishop Stone-Wigg. (Applause.) We cannot forget the great enterprise upon which he is bound, nor can we forget what he has given up, not merely in a maternal sense, but also his good work in Brisbane, into which he had entered with all his heart and soul. That he has now abandoned for work in a new country where greater difficulties will await him, and, perhaps, with less response, less visible result of his strenuous energy and devotion. (Applause.) I only mention this point, because I do not think we should forget him or his work. As he pointed out yesterday at Cairns, the missionary is not merely a missionary, but also a great civiliser; therefore, he and those under him will play an important part in bringing the people of New Guinea under better and more civilised government. (Applause.) Thus having mentioned the principle of self-sacrifice, I would conclude by saying that I can conceive no more general proof of practical self-sacrifice than that every individual and every party in the State should be ready to join in the defence of their country—(hear, hear! and applause)—should be willing to give the best of their money, it might be of their blood, to maintain the freedom of their institutions, to preserve their independence, and to combine with every portion of that great world-spread Dominion over which Her Majesty Queen Victoria reigns for the security of all. (Loud applause.) I can only thank you again, gentlemen, for your kind welcome, and you, Mr. Mayor, for the good wishes you expressed regarding the journey I am just undertaking. (Loud applause.)

Sir HUGH NELSON, in proposing the health of the Mayor, said: His Excellency has expressed his opinion as to the feeling of loyalty displayed by the people of Cooktown, and I can say that on every occasion on which I have visited it—a good few now—the same spirit has been manifested. (Applause.) And although Cooktown is not able to boast that its trade and sphere of influence is extending—which I regret very much—I am sure that it is not at all due to any backward movement or want of enterprise on the part of the local authorities as presided over by your present Mayor. (Loud applause.) I understand that he has been living among you for the last twenty-five years, and I am sure that he is looked up to with esteem and honour by all classes in the district. (Applause.) I have very great pleasure, therefore, in asking you to drink his health.

This having been done, amid cheers, the Mayor briefly responded, and the party separated.

As the hour of departure drew near, a considerable crowd gathered on the wharf, including a good number of children in holiday attire. The gardens of the town had evidently been laid under tribute to supply testimony of loyalty and personal regard to the Governor in the form of flowers; and many and varied were the leave-takings of fellow-travellers per "Arawatta" and local friends. "A good trip," "pleasant voyage," "safe return," "come back whole," "don't be made kiki of" were the more common. The last led to rather personal remarks as to our condition for being served up, and the consensus of opinion appeared to point to His Excellency as the most appetising morsel. Dear old friend Bailey said he felt satisfied that he would be last to "grace the table," if indeed his "collection" of bones and skin would not secure him immunity from sacrifice. His only hope was that should he be disposed of in cannibalistic fashion, he might, when in the spirit, be permitted to view the tortures which those who partook of him were certain to suffer in the form of indigestion. But there must be an end to all things; and so there was to this good-natured, friendly banter, and at last the "Merrie England" steamed off to the cheering music of ringing cheers for "His Excellency the Governor." Alas, what a change from the "Arawatta"! We had heard that the "Merrie England" was pretty lively, but we expected that she would be at least fairly well suited to the climate and the waters in which her work has to be done. We found just the contrary. Even in the winter months the saloon is hot and stuffy; in summer-time it must be insufferable—"an ante-chamber to Tophet." As a crack yacht for the cold regions about the English Channel—for which purpose she was built—she may have done very well, but for equatorial waters she is most unsuitable. Being of wood is an advantage in seas studded with reefs and shoals, but her drawbacks far outweigh this. With sail and steam and everything in her favour she cannot do more than 9 to 10 knots an hour; her average draught is about 13 feet, and her carrying capacity, about 260 tons, is very inadequate to the rapidly-growing requirements of her sphere of operations. In fact, she is cramped for room for her own stores and equipment, which are so crowded together that they cannot but deteriorate. She is wet and generally uncomfortable, and when her decks are crowded, as they sometimes are, with native prisoners, native police, and their belongings, the effect is far from agreeable. The accommodation for the crew is also very inadequate. No sooner had we got into the Pacific, with a strong south-east breeze, occasional squalls, and a lumpy sea, than our troubles began. Now she sinks deep in the trough of a wave, then springs with the agility of a deer with sidelong bound to port; then down again with headlong rush to starboard at an angle so sharp that one wonders—Will she ever right herself? But her lead keel saves her, and away she flies like a bird that sights the hunter's snare to the opposite angle, so that it is a matter of holding on firmly to keep one's feet. Indeed, it is hard muscular exercise to stand on deck for an hour or so. As Sir Hugh aptly remarked, "It is hard work to sit still." In her gymnastics she ships large quantities of water, while those on the bridge are often treated to a heavy and unwelcome shower-bath. It is perfectly safe to assert that the "Merrie England" has provoked as many "swear words" as any vessel afloat, and the appellations substituted for "England" are many, most of them "unfit for publication." Having a good deal of deck cargo, and there being some danger of losing our live stock when we got outside the protection of the Barrier Reef, it was determined to anchor under the lee of Lizard Island for the night, much to the satisfaction of the party, all of whom, except Sir Hugh, had become victims to *mal-de-mer*. We anchored in 10 fathoms, a few hundred yards from the shore, and passed a pleasant night.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23.—The party went ashore after breakfast, Mr. Bailey to botanise, the others to explore. We landed on a beautifully white but somewhat coarse gravelly beach, composed largely of decomposed granite, close to the site where stood the residence of unfortunate Mrs. Watson, whose heroism and sad fate form such a pathetic story. Her husband was engaged in *bêche-de-mer* fishing, and had some Chinamen in his employ. During his absence in Cooktown, some natives who had landed from canoes swept down on the home and speared one Chinaman on the spot. Mrs. Watson, with her infant child and the other Chinaman, succeeded in pushing off in half of a 400-gallon iron tank that was lying on the beach, and drifted on to another island about 20 miles distant. Here the unfortunate woman, her child, and Chinese companion

companion perished from want of food and water. The people of Cooktown have erected a monument to her memory. Leaving our botanical enthusiast to revel in the luxurious vegetation near the beach, the rest of the party, eager for exercise after their enforced inactivity—except that compelled by the gyrations of the "Merrie England"—ascended the highest point on the island, 1,179 feet. The ascent is easy, but care is needed on account of the large loose stones covered with coarse grass 5 and even 6 feet high, a trip or a slip on which might easily mean a sprained foot or damaged cuticle. Led by His Excellency, we reached the top of the hill in about an hour. Here we found a cairn of stones about 10 feet high, in one of the crevices of which His Excellency discovered a bottle containing a paper with an inscription to the effect that the spot had been visited by Professor Agassiz and party, voyaging in the steamer "Croydon," Captain Thompson, in May, 1896. We added the following:—"On the way to New Guinea in the 'Merrie England,' 23rd April, 1898. Lamington; Stone-Wigg, bishop; J. Gilligan, P.S.W., F. Baird, seaman."

The view was splendid, but the long line of the Barrier Reef, well marked by heavy breakers, prompted unpleasant anticipations of the morrow. The verdure-clad isles close by stood out in strong relief, while the shallow waters intervening, reflecting the clear blue sky, produced marvellous combinations of colour—dark and pale green and blue, blending into turquoise, opalesque, and many other beautiful shades which our language fails to describe. The breeze too was most exhilarating. Returning to the beach the excursionists indulged in a delightful bath in the cool clear sea, the only danger being the temptation to prolong the immersion beyond the limits of prudence. Then, a drink of deliciously cool water from under the shade of a huge boulder, and we felt perfectly happy. At 2 p.m. up anchor and off we steam to face our fate outside the Barrier. In the course of an hour or so we are well within view of this gigantic natural breakwater which, covered in ever-recurring masses of foam and spray, lead us to fear a sad time when our lively sea sprite enters the realms where "the winds their revels keep." Passing through the mile and a-half opening in this coral belt we encounter a heavy cross sea with strong wind on our beam, which gave the "Merrie England" a further opportunity of displaying her athletics and compel most of us, including even some of the officers, to seek the lee side in sore distress. The water, too, found its way into His Excellency's cabin through the ventilator, and sundry drippings from leaks on the weather side of the saloon rendered the settees useless for sleeping purposes. Sleep! Alas, there was no sleep for anyone on board that night. The "Merrie England"

"Doth murder sleep."

The roar of the wind and waves, the rattle of culinary utensils or similar articles broken adrift from their fastenings, the crash of crockery or glassware, the din of chairs and other furniture dashing hither and thither, and above all the horrors of sea-sickness, render the occasion one to be remembered. It was rather exasperating than otherwise to the rest of us to see Sir Hugh calmly smoking his pipe all this time, as if the "Merrie England" were behaving in the most orthodox and satisfactory manner. And yet the weather was not very bad! What the condition of things must be in a gale it is hard to conceive.

SUNDAY, APRIL 24.—A melancholy, woe-begone lot we looked as we struggled on to the deck this morning—all but Sir Hugh, who still found solace and joy in his "clay"—verily a "pipe of peace." The day was uneventful. Beyond seeing a little drift timber, a flight of flying-fish, and a few sea-birds, nothing occurred to disturb the solemn silence which pervaded the company. Everyone seemed to be absorbed in introspection, utterly regardless of his neighbour. As we approach New Guinea coast we slow down considerably so as not to come near the reefs until broad daylight.

MONDAY, APRIL 25.—This morning was ushered in with rain squalls, driving us below to the hot saloon, or our hotter cabins, thus accentuating our discomfort. Perhaps there should be added to the list of advantages possessed by this "ocean greyhound," that of economy, for certainly the consumption of victuals on board when she is at sea is reduced almost to *nil*. At about 11 o'clock the mountains of New Guinea were discerned through a rift in the dense mass of clouds which had obscured everything but the sea since early morning. "Near, and near, and nearer still," came those magnificent heights, until at last we sight the houses at Port Moresby. Following a tortuous reef-bound passage, we enter the harbour, and drop anchor at 1 p.m.

PORT MORESBY.

Formerly the headquarters of the London Missionary Society, and now the seat of Government, this is one of the most important centres in New Guinea. It is a perfectly safe harbour running north and south between 5 and 6 miles, the one or two obstacles to perfectly free navigation in the outer branch—patches of reef—being beacons, while there is plenty of deep water all round. The inner branch, known as Fairfax Harbour, out of compliment to the admiral of that name, is completely landlocked, with bold shores and an average anchorage of 4 to 5 fathoms. The country is very irregular, the hills running down sharply to the sea, with a patch or two of sandy beach, and they are covered with what appears to be fairly good grass and stunted eucalyptus. The buildings occupied by the Europeans do not exceed about thirty; they are mostly of bungalow style, and being painted white, or nearly so, show out well in the midst of surrounding vegetation. Government House, situated on a pretty knoll about midway between the commercial portion of the settlement and the native village, is an unpretentious—a very unpretentious—bungalow, with airy apartments and wide verandahs, suited to the climate, but the apartments are few, the building is sadly in want of repair and paint, and is certainly unworthy of its title. The furniture well matches the building. A flagstaff stands in the centre of a grass plot, in front of which is an extensive garden enclosed with native fence, containing cocoanut, paw-paw, bananas, taro, sweet potatoes, sugar-cane, and other tropical products. A stone jetty affords a capital landing-place, and a walk of nearly a quarter of a mile around the cultivation enclosure leads to the house. Though the headquarters of Government, His Excellency Sir William MacGregor is seldom here for any lengthy period, being for ever on the move in order to properly and effectively govern and regulate the vast territory under his control—over 90,000 square miles. The native village Hanuabata, situated below the mission station, is a semi-marine collection of huts, raised on light piles and constructed of sago-palm bark and leaves sewn together with thin strips of cane, and neatly thatched with nipa palm leaves. Each has a small platform or verandah in front, and as a rule they are weather-proof and comfortable from a native point of view. A fire is usually kept burning in the centre of the floor, in an enclosure a few inches high specially prepared for the purpose so as to prevent conflagration, which would be a terrible calamity in a large native village. What the result would be can be imagined when it is stated that in this village and that of Elevara, which adjoins it, the population is about 1,200, although the whole area under dwelling does not exceed 2 or 3 acres. As intimated, some of the huts are built on piles in the water. The original object of this was to afford some measure of protection against the attacks of the hill tribes who frequently swooped down and killed their weaker brethren of the coast in hundreds, and looted their dwellings. Sometimes whole villages were exterminated. Thanks to missionary work, followed up by the vigorous, firm, yet pacific administration of Sir William MacGregor and his predecessors, those days of wholesale slaughter have passed away for ever. It seems marvellous that in the course of a few years the temper and habits of a naturally savage race could be so brought into subjection by peaceable means that the hundreds of tribes who inhabit the coast-line are now on amicable terms with their hereditary foes of the hills. Though this change has been effected, marine villages still exist, but they are dying out, their occupants gradually taking to the shore. The native is a strong conservative, clinging long to old habits and customs, even when the reason for their existence has passed away. One strong argument in favour of water villages is the sanitary feature.

Capital roads have been made in and about Port Moresby, all by prison labour. Considerable extensions have been carried out under the supervision of Sir William, and the work is still being pushed on up the valley of the Laloki and beyond, so that facilities for transit and settlement are steadily becoming greater. The Government have purchased about 1,000 acres from the natives at Port Moresby, and all transactions of that nature with "foreigners" must be approved of by the Government.

The principal—in fact, the only—firm doing general business is Burns, Philp, & Co., who, with praiseworthy energy and pluck, are extending their commercial ramifications throughout the Possession. This is undoubtedly a great advantage to the place, and it is to be hoped that it is so to the firm in a monetary sense. They have a fine store, well stocked, at Port Moresby, and among other improvements they have constructed a commodious wharf with tramline, &c., to the store.

As soon as we dropped anchor His Excellency Sir William, accompanied by the Hon. F. P. Winter, C.M.G., Chief Judicial Officer, the Hon. A. Musgrave, Government Secretary, and Mr. Mackay, Private Secretary to Sir William, came off in the Governor's boat, manned by a native crew in neat uniform; while the Commandant of Constabulary, Captain Butterworth, the Collector of Customs, Mr. Ballantine, and other officers were conveyed to the ship in the police boat, also propelled by a stalwart native crew. The Hon. W. H. Goss, representative of Burns, Philp, & Co., came off later. Introductions having taken place and greetings of old friends having been exchanged, the latest news from Queensland and elsewhere was imparted to our hosts, who reciprocated with matters local.

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The next order was "Luncheon on board," and in a short time we were enjoying the best on board the "Merrie England." The word "enjoying" ought to be emphasised, for we voyagers had enjoyed nothing in the way of comestibles since leaving Cooktown.

We heard something of the indefatigable energy of New Guinea's Governor, so that we were not surprised when we found Sir Hugh Nelson's remark, as we steamed into the Port, "He'll have us off on some expedition before we know where we are," verified by the appearance of the steam-launch alongside ready to tow a boat containing the gubernatorial party—doubtly so now—to inspect the coconut plantation on the island of Daugo, about 2 miles distant. This island is apparently of submarine formation—sand, shells, broken coral, &c.—and is evidently well suited to the purpose to which it is now appropriated. The majority of the cocoa palms are doing well, but some show rather slow growth. They are set out in rows, sixteen to the acre, the island containing between 15,000 and 16,000. Two systems of planting have been adopted—the Ceylon method, placing the nut in a hole about 2 feet deep, and covering it with soil, and the native mode—just covering the nut with surface soil. Which is the better is a debated point, so that the experiment will be watched with interest. The palms are kept clear of weeds and undergrowth by native labour, and in the course of a few years this isle will be a most luxurious retreat—a perfect maze of coconut groves, with their splendid shade, to say nothing of the fruit in its various stages of development. Here, on arriving at the caretaker's hut, we were regaled with the milk of young cocoanuts—a cool, refreshing drink, highly appreciated by the thirsty traveller, whatever his colour may be. Many a young nut fell a victim to our appetites while in New Guinea, the fruit itself being very palatable besides the juice. The agility with which a native will climb a tree 50 to 60 feet high is remarkable.

Sir Wm. MacGregor is a strong advocate for planting cocoa palms on the islands and other suitable places on the Queensland coast, and his experience carries considerable weight. Apart from the economic aspect of the question, these palms, rising as they commonly do to a height of 60 and 80 feet, would be of great assistance to mariners at night or in thick weather. But, as Sir William points out, it is useless to enter upon such a work unless the plantations are under proper supervision, as the people for whose benefit they are chiefly intended are the very ones most likely to assist in destroying them. Some expense was incurred a few years ago by the Queensland Government in this direction, the result being very small for the very reason assigned by His Excellency.

Returning another route we reach the ship shortly before 6 o'clock. Lord Lamington and the Bishop go ashore with the Governor and sleep at Government House.

Mediocrity fairly describes the physique of the Port Moresby natives. Nearly all the women wear the ramie, a grass petticoat, reaching slightly below the knees, the men merely a string, which possibly had its origin in some superstitious prohibition, but which the natives can give no explanation of. When asked about it they simply say, "Our fathers and grandfathers did it, therefore we do it." As a rule, the hair is a thick matted mass several inches long, a natural "friz," which, without the aid of tongs or pins, would delight the heart of many a white maiden. A wooden comb, with several long sharp prongs, is always worn, which also serves for scratching. The common head ornaments are shell earrings, of which some of the natives wear a large number, the lobe of the ear being invariably pierced and the hole extended as wide as practicable. The septum of the nose is also made to carry a thin piece of bone, shell, or reed, and here and there you may see a native wearing feathers. Armlets and leglets, which serve the purpose of pockets, are common, and on festive occasions more and finer armlets, feathers of cockatoos, parrots, and cassowary, and ribbons of the pandanus leaf are brought into use.

Skin disease is very prevalent, the most common being *Tinea desquamans*, a kind of ringworm which covers the whole body. Even young children are covered with it; it causes great irritation, and at first has a very repulsive appearance, but one sees so much of it that this feeling soon dies out. It is easily cured, and was not so frequent on the east coast.

TUESDAY, APRIL 23.—This morning we inspected the police quarters, a commodious building a short way from Government House, fitted up with comfortable bunks, tables, seats, &c. It is far better than many shearers' quarters in Australia. Each policeman is supplied with a painted canvas bag, about 2 feet 6 inches long and 10 inches in diameter, in which he carries blanket and all other necessaries when travelling. These are made in the port at a low price, and are a capital invention, being quite waterproof and handy. Shoulder satchels and gun-covers are made of the same material. The men are armed with Snider rifles, and on being put through the manual drill by the Commandant, acquitted themselves most creditably, although several of them had only been recruited a fortnight previously. They are engaged for two years, their pay being 10s. a month during the first year, 20s. during the second, with rations of rice, tea, sugar, tinned meat, and occasionally a pig. The establishment of long-service pay is under consideration. They are a fine set of fellows physically, are thoroughly reliable, and are good shots at 200 yards. A target for practice is on the ground. The development of bone and muscle during six months' European diet is very marked. Their uniform is neat, serviceable, and cheap. In fact anything approaching extravagance or luxury is unknown in the New Guinea Government Service, the management of such an enormous territory with such a large population for about £15,000 a year necessitating the strictest economy.

The next item in the programme is a trip to the Astrolabe Range, a distance of about 18 miles. All arrangements had been made beforehand—some twenty carriers, mostly from an Astrolabe village, having been sent ahead with flies, hammocks, blankets, food, &c. Fine athletic fellows they are, equal to carrying heavy weights at a good pace over this difficult country. But the loads borne by the women are astonishing. As among all uncivilised people, the women do all the drudgery, though in some districts in New Guinea the men do a good deal of the heavier work, such as house-building, fencing, and the starting of gardens. Of course they do all the hunting and fishing. The women's share consists in carrying wood and water, cooking and keeping the house and village clean and the gardens in order, so that there is something like a division of labour. The women also share in carrying the camp baggage, suspended by a strap or band which passes round the forehead and down the back. To see a big "lord of the creation" piling up articles after articles on the back of his small spouse until the bulk was nearly as great as herself seemed very ungallant, to say the least of it, to our civilised vision, but it is the custom of the country—the women are trained to it from early childhood and take it as a matter of course. In many cases their load is increased by a human burden in the form of a baby, which she carries in a dillybag in front. The youths, too, are early broken in to carrying.

Our party consisted of Lord Lamington, Sir William, the Bishop, Mr. Mackay, and Mr. Gilligan, who, mounted on horses and led by George Belford, an experienced New Guinea traveller, made a start at about 10 a.m. from Government House. Sir Hugh, true to his Treasury instincts, preferred inspecting the Government Offices and the port generally, under the guidance of the Commandant; and Mr. Bailey thought he would be able to do better service by interviewing the local vegetation than by scaling mountains nearly 3,000 feet high. A short cut across the hills brought us to a well-made track following the contour of the sea-shore and affording a picturesque view of the hills, islands, and miniature bays and sheltered nooks along the route. Passing through several native villages, by 11:30 we reach Romana, the chief resident of which, Peter Lifu, has a considerable block of land under creditable cultivation. A native of Lifu, he has knocked about the world a little, speaks good English, and is a pushing, steady fellow. He has 50 acres altogether, principally under cocoanuts, and is now clearing for cotton, which ought to do well. He carries on operations with the aid of native labour, and appears to be regarded as a fair master. The houses are clean and comfortable, and Mrs. Lifu, in her neat, loose, flowing gown and kindly intelligent face, made us welcome. While we were being refreshed with limes, lemons, and cocoa milk, some of the carriers whom we had passed came up, and set to work on sago and boiled wallaby, the latter dark and not very tempting to the European epicure, but just the reverse to his coloured brother. Here a bright young native, named Tamassie, about 14 years of age, an orphan adopted by Peter, was told off to attend Lord Lamington. He left us at Cooktown to return home.

By a quarter to 2 we arrived at the junction of two clear running creeks, distant about 11 miles from town, and distinguished by the polysyllabic name Taramauhata. The carriers were just finishing their midday meal, and in a short time were humping their swags onward. We were soon engaged in stowing cold mutton and fowl and other necessaries into a space where they could be more easily carried than they had been, and had to experience our first little taste of roughing it. The knives and forks had gone on ahead, so "toll it not in Gath!"—we remembered that "fingers were made before forts," and used them. The sugar, too, was among the forward packages, but still the tea "went well," and anyone so disposed could regale himself with saccharine juice direct from mother cane.

Mounting again at 2:30, in a shower of rain, we push on, for although we have only 7 miles to go, it is by far the most difficult part of the journey. So far the country has been lightly timbered, chiefly with dwarfed and rather sickly eucalyptus and small belts of scrub. The grass, while very coarse and long in places, ought to support cattle. Now, as we penetrate into more mountainous regions, the grass is finer, and the vegetation everywhere is more dense, even to the mountain tops. Moving along a properly-cleared road, the more difficult parts of which had been made comparatively easy

easy by native prison labour, we suddenly come upon a curious spectacle—four native houses perched at the extreme point of the razor-like crest of mountain spur about 1,000 feet high, to which access appeared almost impossible—at least extremely difficult. The object of this appears to have been security from attack by hostile tribes, but thanks to the advent of civilisation, the necessity for such precautions is rapidly disappearing.

Our course now became very rugged and sinuous. At one time we are climbing the side of a mountain spur; a few minutes later we are descending the slippery bank of a creek at an angle so sharp as to tempt one, for very safety's sake, to dismount and negotiate the danger on foot, regardless of mud and slush and a certainty of wet extremities. But no! every man stuck to his steed, which with cautious but unerring step carried him with a rush up the precipitous bank on the other side. Later on we meander among gigantic conglomerate boulders—masses of large pebbles and other stones welded together in Vulcan's mighty forge with a peculiar-looking dark cement, and scattered about as if by "Titans at play." Most of them are surmounted by ferns, orchids, lichens, and like plants, which find root-holes in the crevices which have become filled with vegetable mould from the surrounding forest or scrub. But we are only now in the ante-chamber, so to speak, of the ascent. Soon we arrive at a point where we can see our destination about 1,000 feet above us in almost perpendicular line—great rocks and crags, all verdure clad, wherever seed can find sustenance, towering above and at times overhanging us, and reminding us how infinitesimal we are physically in the presence of Nature's majestic towers. Some of our horses proved the truth of the aphorism, "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak," for though good at heart, their strength—probably owing to deterioration from continuous in-and-in breeding—was not equal to the strain, and walking was the result. Most of the party, however, were not driven to this extremity, but reached the summit after dismounting once or twice over particularly difficult bits of road. This road, which follows the crest of precipitous spurs or is cut into their sides, reflects great credit on the engineering skill which planned it and the manner in which the work has been done—all the latter by prison labour, remember! To mount over 1,000 feet in about half-a-mile is no easy task, but here we have the antidote to the pessimistic thought of man's littleness in the subjugation of the mountains to his purpose. By continuous zigzagging, mostly at severely sharp angles, by excavations, by filling up or bridging small chasms, by stoning the steepest and most slippery places, a roadway averaging about 5 feet in width enables the traveller to attain the summit of Warriratta, the most western spur of the Astrolabe Range. What a change this piece of work has made to the traffic of this portion of the country! Even now the journey is not devoid of danger, and one can easily imagine what it was when—"A slip, and both horse and rider would fall to a hideous fate."

A light drizzling rain—common to this part of New Guinea in the afternoons—set in about 3:30 p.m., making things unpleasant for both horses and riders; but our rendezvous was reached about an hour later. Here we found a small native camp, in which were some fine-looking men—tall, straight, supple, and strong. Most of them were congregated in a sort of open kitchen, cooking their food—taro, sago, wallaby, &c. Three chiefs put in an appearance, the principal of whom, arrayed in crimean shirt—not over clean—and loose dungaree pants to match, and old straw hat set rather back on his head—not unlike latest fashion for ladies in Brisbane—called to mind a "Jack Tar" of the old school. He was very slow in his movements and his speech—presumably the attributes of kingly dignity in the Astrolabe. His ornamented lime-pot and carved stick—ultimately secured by Lord Lamington as a souvenir of the occasion—were in constant use. One of his fellow chieftains, not remarkable for physique or intellectual physiognomy, paraded, to his own evident satisfaction, in all the glory of a crimean shirt and an old tall opera hat, probably the gift of some humorous employee of Burns, Philp, & Co. The effect was ludicrous, and yet saddening. The whole scene recalled memories of the earlier and happier days of our Australian natives, when, innocent of drink and all its consequent devilry and devildom, they held a place in the land. This trifling incident threw into bold relief the degradation of that race through all its wretched stages of declension, and prompted an earnest though silent prayer that the New Guinean may for ever be guarded against this, a worse demon than the worst their most powerful sorcerers could conjure from the vasty deeps that surround their isle. Strange that we should make stringent laws to prevent the destruction of a barbarous race by this force, and yet place it within easy—far too easy—reach of our own people.

But reverie, avaunt! Sir William has his instruments fixed and is taking observations. Life is stirring around us. Flies—i.e., tent-covers—and hammocks are being erected; carriers are coming in—most of them women carrying heavy loads, while the men condescend to hump the lighter swags. All around is a sea of thick mist, which, however, lifts anon, and gives a glimpse of the valley of the Laloki River, with its undulations of hill and vale dwarfed into littleness from our elevated vantage ground. Masses of snow-like cloud are scattered here and there, and in the distance, looking south and west, Port Moresby and its neighbouring islands and reefs, set as it were in a sea of glass, are plainly visible. To the north, and trending to the west, the eye is at once attracted by the Owen Stanley Range, the loftiest and grandest of which has been named by Sir William after our beloved Queen, as emblematic of the sublime height of power, and nobility, and purity at which she stands as Ruler on whose dominions "the sun never sets." Although this mountain has been described as a single pyramid, Sir William walked over 20 miles along its rugged crest. Towering heavenwards nearly 14,000 feet, it is frequently enshrouded in cloud, and at times—as when its peaks stand out above the mists in clear outline against the blue sky—it is hard to believe that it is indeed solid earth. Seated thus in majesty, it seems appropriate that it should have as attendants such Titanic masses as Mount Huxley, Mount McIlwraith, Mount Service, Mount Scratchley, &c.—each over 10,000 feet high. The country between Warriratta and the foot of the main range is, as might be expected, very broken. The heights in other places would be called mountains, but here, overshadowed by the main range—

"So huge, so mighty, and so free,"

they are designated "hills." The valleys, too, though of considerable depth and extent, might more properly be styled glens when compared with the abysmal-like depressions which characterise the mountain country—the 10,000 feet gorge, for instance, which separates Mount McIlwraith from Mount Victoria.

The chief sent us a good-sized pig as a present, which Sir William insisted should be killed outside the precincts of the camp. The natives also brought us yams and taro, which, either roast or boiled, are a good substitute for potatoes.

Captain Curtis and Mr. Gors were expected at about 6 o'clock. The former, accompanied by Mr. Brown (representative of Burns, Philp, & Co., in the absence of Mr. Gors, who was not well), arrived shortly after that hour, and spent the night in camp. Refreshed by a hearty meal, tired nature soon called for—

"Sleep, gentle sleep,"

and though the surroundings were strikingly unique—the fly open at both ends, the unsafe looking but well stretched and strongly stayed hammock, the camp fires, dark forms gliding about with noiseless tread, sometimes with a firestick like a lurid ribbon of fire, the murmur of a Babel of native tongues in the distance—we were all soon in dreamland. During the night the temperature in Lord Lamington's tent stood at 66.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27.—We are all up soon after break of day, and get a clear view of the gap in the Main Range, 7,000 feet high, through which a road to the east coast will probably be made some day. Already a road has been cleared about 25 miles from Port Moresby to the Brown River, and is being continued by prison labour along the bank of this stream, it being considered safer to follow this route than to risk taking to the hills and very likely getting "bushed" in their intricate ramifications. Besides being of importance as a means of opening up the country, this road across the gap, which will be available for horse traffic, will be of great assistance to miners, and very useful for administrative purposes. Following the sinuosities of the route it will be between 120 to 150 miles from Port Moresby to the gap. Of course making a road over such rough country will take considerable time and cost a good deal of money.

It is understood that Peter Lifu is to be appointed Government Agent in this district. His principal duty will be the pacification of tribes at present hostile to each other, and to bring the natives to see the advantages of conforming to the laws established by the Government. The way has been well paved for this, as most of the fighting tribes say they have had enough of hostilities. Therefore, his task ought to prove easy of accomplishment.

After breakfast we got a splendid view of Mount Victoria and its satellites, which looked particularly grand in the early sunlight.

The chief sauntered leisurely into camp about 8 o'clock a.m., carrying in his hand several pieces of a kind of nettle, which he distributed among his followers, who at once commenced to flagellate their arms, shoulders, and legs with it. Inquiring the reason for this, we were informed that it is regarded as a remedy for rheumatism.

At Mr. Brown's suggestion we rode round the ridges to a picturesque bit of scrub where ferns were plentiful, and through which a rapid stream of deliciously cold water tore its way downwards. The descent to this spot was alarmingly precipitous and slippery, some of our horses sliding yards without a stop. To ensure safety, all but Lord Lamington dismounted. On the way we had a look at Burns, Philp, & Co.'s new storehouse, which is to form the centre of their coffee and cotton cultivation, and which will no doubt become the trade emporium of the district.

The

The return from Warriratta was performed in rather desultory fashion. Sir William and Mr. Mackay started soon after breakfast, having a lot of business to attend to at the Port. Lord Lamington, the Bishop, and Mr. Gilligan at about 10 a.m., and the others later still. As illustrating the steepness of the descent, it may be mentioned that Lord Lamington's aneroid registered a descent of 650 feet in twenty minutes, the distance in a straight line being less than half a mile. Making a short stay at Bomana, where Mrs. Lifu's hospitality was again enjoyed, the second section of the party arrived at the Port about 3:30, and spent the afternoon inspecting the native village. The rest dropped in by degrees, but up to a late hour the carriers had not arrived with our swags. In fact, some of them did not come in until next morning.

During our absence Sir Hugh, with Captain Butterworth as "guide, philosopher, and friend," inspected the public offices, Burns, Philp, & Co.'s store—a large one and well stocked—visited the native village, and saw pottery in process of manufacture. This port was at one time the chief centre of this industry, the natives bartering their wares for sago and other necessaries with other tribes along the coast. We had the pleasure of seeing a "lokotai" starting on one of these trips, which sometimes occupy months. This vessel is generally constructed of three large canoes lashed together, covered with flooring, on which is erected a strong wooden frame. This is overlaid with palm-leaves sewn together, so as to form a good protection against the weather. A platform between 2 and 3 feet wide is run around the vessel, which enables the crew to work. A sail shaped like a crab's claw is the propelling power, and the steering is done by three or four paddles at the stern. The trips are usually made when the trade winds are suitable.

Sir Hugh, accompanied by Messrs. Winter and Musgrave, also took a run up Fairfax Harbour, and called upon a Malay settler who has a fine garden, which shows that the climate and soil are capable of producing several tropical products. This man, who lives in a European-built house, is the happy (?) possessor of two wives and a numerous family—a condition unique in this country, polygamy not being recognised by the natives as the proper thing. When at Burns, Philp, & Co.'s, Sir Hugh was shown samples of sandal-wood, one of the principal items of export, also various kinds of rubber, the collection of which from indigenous trees and vines promises to become an important industry.

In the evening Sir William entertained his visitors at dinner at Government House, the other guests being His Honor Judge Winter, the Hon. W. H. Gors, the Hon. A. Musgrave, Captain Butterworth, Captain Curtis, Mr. Mackay, and Mr. Gilligan. This pleasant function over, Sir William set to work with Captain Curtis and arranged our "itinerary," but as it was not strictly adhered to, it is useless to place it on record. Then His Excellency was off to his observing-post, where he remained absorbed in stellar observations and calculations until after 11 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 25.—This morning the visitors made a round of the settlement, and at 11:15 we start eastward in the "Merrie England" on our peregrinations coastwise. Our company is now enlarged by the presence of Judge Winter, Captain Butterworth, and Mr. Guibanetti, an experienced New Guinea naturalist and explorer, whose services proved of great value later on.

Our first stoppage (12:25 p.m.) was the village of Tapusuelei, which a few years ago was the largest marine village on the coast. It is now semi-marine, the inhabitants—no longer in terror of massacre by the hill tribes—gradually taking to the land. Observing that the piles which had supported no longer existing aquatic domiciles were very thick and heavy, and had been driven into the submerged earth so securely as to stand for years the strain of wind and wave, we inquired as to the mode of sinking them into the soil. This we learned was done by sharpening the end of the pile, and working it by hand as far as possible into the ground. Then, at high tide, a canoe filled with water—in some cases, stones—was lashed on to each side of it, and as the tide fell the weight drove the pile firmly into the earth. Rather a good piece of rough engineering skill!

The village is now the home of 700 or 800 natives, and is one of the stations of the London Missionary Society. The teacher, a native of Tonga named Sunia, one of the oldest in the service of the society, is said to be very successful in his work. Unfortunately, he can speak very little English, the aid of an interpreter being necessary. The mission-house is a fairly substantial building, built of native woods, and thatched in native fashion; it has been erected about twelve years, and was re-roofed about six years ago. The surrounding country is undulating and well grassed.

After salutations, the bell was rung, and in a few minutes nearly 100 children assembled in the church, which is also used as a schoolroom, scriptural texts and pictures and other evidence of the teachers' art hanging on the walls.

As a rule the children looked clean and healthy, the female teachers being dressed in frocks of coloured stuff falling loosely from the shoulders. These dresses are made by themselves, and the sewing is good—more strong than neat. The average daily attendance at school is about thirty-six. Discipline seemed to be well maintained, and we were led to understand that Sunia's influence is attributable to the fact that he does not follow "cast-iron" rules, but allows an elasticity by which his system accommodates itself to the habits and capacity of his people. Having sung a hymn in a very creditable manner, and with a heartiness which would put to shame some of our Sunday school classes, prayer was said, during which all knelt, closed their eyes, and assumed an appearance of earnest devotion. Then the elder scholars read a chapter from the Gospel of Mark, in the native tongue—Dr. Lawes having prepared and published a translation for the use of the natives—after which the whole assembly sang "God Save the Queen" in passable English, winding up with "Hip-hip-hurrah."

The party then walked through the village, which is laid out in narrow streets. The houses, raised about 8 feet from the ground, each with its verandah or porch in front, are well built. The usual mode of ascent to the houses here, as elsewhere in New Guinea, is a stout sapling or small log placed sideways at an easy angle. In some cases the log is upright with notches cut into it, and in others, but more rarely, a rough ladder. In the centre of the village we noticed four posts 14 or 15 feet high, and about a foot square, nicely carved. These, which we learned are simply used for ornamentation, are called "dubu," and show that the people take some pride in their settlement.

Bidding farewell to Tapusuelei we steam on to Kappakappa, off which we anchor at 5 p.m. Here the London Missionary Society have their headquarters in British New Guinea, the most important feature of which is the college for the training of native teachers. We can see the building from the deck of the ship about a mile distant "as the crow flies." On the top of a pretty wooded height it commands—as we discovered later on—a splendid view, and is one of the best houses in New Guinea. The station is in charge of the Rev. Dr. Lawes, one of the few left veteran missionaries, and his charming wife, whose unflinching zeal, tireless energy, and large-hearted hospitality have made her esteemed and revered by "all sorts and conditions of men."

Dr. Lawes, accompanied by Mr. English, the Government Agent, came off to the ship in his strongly-built and well-equipped boat the "Hisin-Bada," *Anglive* "Morning Star," manned by a stalwart crew in neat uniform bearing the letters "H.B.," the initials of the name of the boat. Introductions are followed by brief general conversation, after which we put off in boats for the shore. Part of the village is in the water, but the main portion is on land, and the houses are of the substantial New Guinea type. Everything is clean and orderly, and the people appear happy and blithe. A good number have donned holiday attire, and the scene is rather festive. Our attention is directed to a couple of young "bucks"—*alias* "mashers," or "dudes"—who were certainly dressed "to kill." In head-dress, armlets, noselets, ear ornaments, feathers, &c., they paraded arm in arm with jaunty air, well satisfied with themselves and the world at large, and no doubt to the admiring gaze of "the weaker sex," for whose captivation their regalia had been donned.

A buggy and saddle horses are at the service of the visitors, who are driven about a mile over the Government road, which is by no means as good as the portion—nearly another mile—which comes within the superintendence of the mission. This is well formed and drained, and is a creditable piece of work. Ascending a gentle slope we come to the foot of a much steeper hill, which is ascended on foot. On each side of the avenue, which is about 40 feet wide, the residences of the students are placed, the name of the donor of each being painted over the door. To explain this, it should be stated that each house, which consists of dwelling and kitchen, substantially built of indigenous materials, costs £5, and each subscriber of that amount has his or her name inscribed as stated. Near the crest of the hill, on the right-hand side, is the college, of European build, some 60 feet by 40, including verandahs, fitted up with desks and all other schoolroom requisites. It may here be mentioned that the curriculum includes English—a most important item—but the older students are very slow in acquiring it. Most of the female tuition falls on the shoulders of Mrs. Lawes—no light task, considering the patience and perseverance it requires. The average number of students, most of whom are married, is twenty-five. On the apex of the hill stands the missionary's residence, "Valorata," entirely of European design, and constructed of imported timber. One of its most admirable features is its 12-foot verandah all round; another, its open dining-hall in the centre of the building. These are especially suited to the climate.

Introduced to our amiable hostess and a lady visitor from Cooktown, we give the latest news from the outside world, and are supplied with much interesting information by our host and Mr. English, who also showed us a number of very good photographs taken by himself of native people, places, and things.

Inter alia, the rubber industry formed a leading topic, the increasing demand for that article causing special attention to be directed to it. The trees and vines are common to all the New Guinea scrubs, and cultivation is carried on in some places by getting the natives to bring in young trees of approved kinds, which, when planted out, grow very vigorously and rapidly. For instance, some in this district have grown from 30 to 35 feet in two years. They will also grow from cuttings and seed. Mr. English has from 15 to 20 acres under trees, the species called "Maki" being most favoured. This does not grow more than 5 miles from the coast. The trees ought not to be tapped under three years of age.

The African oil palm, cocoa, and vanilla are being tried on the flats, and do well, but vanilla would probably do better in the back country. Tea and coffee—in fact, almost any tropical produce—will grow well on the flats.

A substantial dinner, during which we were waited upon by native boys smartly attired in white trimmed with red, relieved our well-whetted appetites, and we started shipward shortly after 9 o'clock. As we descend the avenue an unusually pretty sight awaits us. At the bottom, arrayed in holiday attire, and each carrying a lighted lantern, stand all the students, who sing a hymn and the National Anthem in good style. Lord Lamington, through Mr. Lawes, complimented them on their good singing, and thanked them for the pleasant surprise they had given us.

Arrived at the beach, after a little difficulty owing to tide being far out, we are carried on board our boats, and safely deposited on the "Merrie England."

FRIDAY, APRIL 29.—This morning we pursue our eastward course in the face of a strong head wind and heavy sea, which compel us to again struggle with the eccentricities of the "Merrie England." Half-past 3 brings us off Paramana Point, in Keakaro Bay, where we land amid a number of friendly natives, who accompany us along the beach to Maopa, the principal coastal village of the Aroma district. On our way we came across some very large canoes lashed together *a la lakatoi*, and were struck by the ingenious method of stepping the mast. A stout sapling with several projecting lateral roots is chosen, and the latter are securely tied with strips of rattan cane to the deck. The tightness and strength of these canoes and other lashings is remarkable. These canes are also used as anchor lines, and are said to be made hundreds of yards long by splicing. The canoes themselves are generally dug out of trunks of the Marava tree, a fine-grained wood which the cobra insect will not touch, and which is also suitable for furniture. All canoes are fitted with outriggers and platforms, and will carry heavy loads. The village contains about 1,500 persons, and is the site of a mission station conducted by a Tahitian teacher named Taputu, and his wife and her sister, all of remarkably good physique, and evidently kind and amiable people. They had just completed a new mission-house, about 40 feet by 20, built of lime plaster on laths, and surrounded by a 6-foot verandah. The roof is thatched with unusual neatness and skill. The main portion of the building is used as church and schoolroom, the remainder as dormitories. The floors are covered by well-made mats of native manufacture, and the coverlets of the beds, worked in star pattern patchwork with bright colours, reflect great credit on the needle craft of the makers. Here, as at all the other London Missionary stations we visited, a photograph of Mr. Thompson, the energetic secretary, finds a conspicuous place.

A splendid cocoa palm grove belongs to the village, and here we first noticed "taboo." The trees belong to individuals or families, and anyone wishing to preserve his fruit plait a palm-leaf around the trunk. It is then "taboo," and no other native will touch it. The right of private property is also religiously observed in gardens, which are generally fenced or otherwise apportioned to the families who cultivate them, and so with other property. Sometimes a general "taboo" is ordered by the chief in a scarce season, or on the approach of a festival, so that the greater part of the crops—all that is not absolutely necessary for daily sustenance—is preserved.

All affairs of public importance are settled by the chief and headmen, so that they have practically a system of local government.

The people, as a rule, are of medium height, fairly well nurtured, and the crowd of children is amazing. The females all wear the "ramie," even the youngest toddler; the men the T string. They have always been a very strong and powerful tribe, and were frequently at war with neighbouring tribes. A few years ago they killed several Chinese traders who camped near them, the reason assigned being that they interfered with their women. Previous to Sir William MacGregor's first visit to them he received several messages to keep away, being warned that if he came there he would not see the sun for spears, that the sand would swallow him up, and that they would surely kill him. Yet by tact, determination, and kindness, he won a bloodless victory over 5,000 pugnacious people—i.e., the 1,500 inhabitants of the village and those of the surrounding district—an achievement of which he and the nation to which he belongs may well feel proud. But this is only one of many similar triumphs of his. These people now count among the strongest friends of the Government. The late chief, Koapona, a powerful man physically and mentally, led the way in this respect. He died about five years ago, and, as showing the esteem in which Sir William is held by his relatives, on the occasion of our visit they presented him with the most valuable memento they possessed, an ornamented bowl carved from a single piece of wood by the deceased himself. Sir William had previously given his widow a present. Among the crowd we observed a few natives in mourning, which in this portion of New Guinea consists in painting, or rather smearing, the body with black.

It may be well to enter a protest here against the New Guineans being called "blacks" and "niggers," as they are sometimes by Australians. They are not black. They are bronze or copper coloured of various shades, some so light as to suggest the idea of half-caste, but we did not notice one in the Possession who could be placed in that category. The only "black" we saw there was a native of Australia, who had come across from Thursday Island. In intelligence the New Guinea native is far ahead of the aboriginal of Australia.

The houses are peculiar in shape—a kind of elongated dome—not unlike the bottom of a small schooner turned upside down, only deeper. They are arranged in narrow streets, rather irregular as to alignment, and some of them stand from 25 to 30 feet high. All have the front platform, the sleeping apartment above, and eating accommodation below, a few feet from the ground. The village is kept clean and free from offensive smells.

We arranged foot races for the boys and girls, but the latter were so bashful that it was difficult to get them to enter the lists; we also distributed tobacco, which the youngsters clamour for as white children do for lollies. A scramble for the same delicacy caused lots of fun. The people have a good supply of pigs, some imported and of good breed. They exchange these with neighbouring tribes for other necessaries, such as large canoes, even as far as 60 miles away. Boars' tusks when grown so as to form as nearly as possible a complete circle are very valuable, and special efforts are made to get them to grow in this form. Their principal items of food are coconuts, bananas, peas, wallaby, taro, and other roots; also a little fish, the heavy surf on the beach being a bar to much fishing. After tea we had evening service, which consisted of singing hymns, in very good style too, the boys taking seconds with true musical instinct, then Scripture reading and prayer by Taputu. News was then brought that the villagers had arranged a dance for our entertainment, but heavy rain delayed the performance until after 9 o'clock. However, as soon as the sky cleared we marched to the centre of the village, where some hundreds of natives of both sexes were assembled. Lord Lamington and his friends were provided with a "private box," the verandah of one of the houses. Natives crowded everywhere, youngsters clambered into all accessible points to gain a view, and a few lamps assisted a pale moon to cast a dull light o'er the weird scene. Soon the entertainment began by some twenty male dancers in fanciful dress—armlets, anklets, crownlets of feathers, flowers, greenery, and streamers of ribbon made from pandanus and other fibrous plants—entering to the music of several native drums, also ornamented, and dancing to a monotonous chant. By-and-by a few girls, also gaily dressed, joined in. Very neat and graceful they looked, and certainly more modest in their movements than many a ballet-dancer. In fact, throughout the entertainment nothing occurred to arouse the susceptibilities of the most fastidious prudist. All kept excellent time, and the proceedings appeared to rehearse some incident in life. The tune was varied occasionally, and so were the movements, but the repertoire of the company seemed to be limited, and the performance gradually became tedious to the European onlooker. Not so, however, to the native, for we were told that once a dance is started it usually lasts all night, and sometimes longer at feast times.

Accepting the invitation of Taputu, we took up our quarters in the new house, and the hospitality of our host and hostess was taxed to the utmost to supply us with sleeping accommodation. However, they managed to make us very comfortable, and we enjoyed a good night's rest.

SATURDAY, APRIL 30.—After a refreshing cup of tea we take leave of our kind entertainers, and wend our way to the boats, escorted by a crowd of natives. As we pushed off from shore a pathetic little scene was enacted. One or two of our crew were taking leave of wives and relatives, and quivering lips, tearful eyes, and a look that never wandered from the boats, betokened the strength of feeling which stirs the hearts of these simple people. They show great affection for each other in ordinary life; their domestic relations are generally good, and they have strong love for the localities to which they belong. This is one of the difficulties of emigration. Snakes are reported to be troublesome in this district; natives are frequently bitten, generally on the instep, and seldom recover. The cause is attributed to sorcery, which is great source of mischief and evil throughout the island. Every misfortune, every trouble, every death was formerly set down as the work of evil spirits brought into action by means of sorcery. Of late, thanks to the missionaries and the establishment

of a regular form of Government under European magistrates and other officials, this serious root of violence and crime is losing some of its force, especially in the more settled districts, but the process is slow, and it will be many years before it will be eradicated. It seems almost impossible to neutralise it in the minds of adults, and the hope of the future lies in the education of the rising generation, to which every possible effort should be directed.

We parted from Mr. English here, and were sorry to have to do so, for his many years' residence in New Guinea has made his mind a perfect storehouse of information, which he is ever ready to impart to others, and that, too, in a most interesting way. It was 8 o'clock before we cleared the Aroma beach and again faced a fresh breeze and head sea on the "Merle England," which by this time we began to regard as "home." We steamed through the Two Cable Passage about 1.30 p.m., to the great relief of all on board, and anchored at Dedele, *alias* Dedere Point, the eastern extremity of Cloudy Bay, an hour later. The anchorage is good and well protected, being inside the second or shore line of reef. Several fair-sized rivers, which run right to the mountains, debouch in this bay. The soil is splendid; rubber-trees abound, and several white men are engaged collecting it. The natives are employed in this work in various places, but so great has been the destruction of trees through ruthless cutting that an Ordinance has been passed for their protection. For many years the natives of Cloudy Bay had an evil reputation, owing to several massacres having been committed by them, but under Sir William's *regime* all murderers and other criminals have had to be given up, and good order prevails. A trader named Anderson has taken up 650 acres at Dedele Point, where he has already a good grove of coconuts, and a garden growing magnificent pineapples, sugar-cane, taro, sweet potatoes, pawpaws, and he has recently put in cotton-seed, which is springing vigorously.

Although Sir William states that he has been urging people to come to New Guinea to take up land and settle, comparatively little has been done in that direction. But there is a movement which if carried out will probably prove an immense factor in settling the country. In December last year a provisional agreement was entered into between His Excellency the Governor and "The British New Guinea Syndicate," by which the Company have the right to purchase "suitable land"—i.e., land suitable for agricultural and mining purposes—to the extent of 250,000 acres at 2s. per acre, payable 6d. per acre deposit on application, and the residue in eight annual instalments of 2½d. per acre. During the first two years 6d. per acre is to be spent on improvements, and during the next six years a sum equal to 3d. per acre. When declared open the Company have for six months the prior right of selection, and the general right to acquire the 250,000 acres extends over eight years, provided that the total has not been put under offer to them in the meantime. The Company has sole property in all products of the lands, a royalty of £2 10s. per cent. being payable on all gold and metals of the platinum group obtained. An Ordinance covering this agreement has since been passed, and it is expected that the Company will soon commence operations. [Note.—This was written in New Guinea before anything was heard of the agitation respecting the Syndicate.] Taking into consideration the peculiarities of soil and climate, and the habits of the natives in regard to labour, the taking up of land is hardly likely to be remunerative without the expenditure of large capital, and even then success is problematical.

Lying on the beach we saw a large number of logs of the *Alzelia*-Byuga tree—a very heavy, close-grained timber of unusual hardness, with the valuable property of being white ant and cobra proof, and of great durability in water. For piles it is considered one of the best timbers in the world. It is called "Bedella" by the natives in this locality.

Having fixed an observation post on the point, Sir William revelled in constellations, degrees, and minutes and seconds, meridians, circum-meridians, &c., until he had piled up material for no end of calculations. He could not be induced to leave this "happy hunting ground" until after 10 p.m. This business is a great mystery to the natives, and even to Sir William's own retinue, one of whom was recently heard to remark to another, "When he be get in all stars, where he put 'm"? In the meantime Lord Lamington and a small party spent a couple of hours pigeon-shooting, and made a good bag.

A curious incident occurred here, which serves to illustrate native superstition. We had on board three Mambare men who had been arrested for complicity in the murder of Mr. Green, the Government Agent at Tamata Station, last year, and who were now being returned to their village—no "trac bill" having been filed against them. The cook's assistant, a bright, hardworking lad, had a few false teeth in front which he could move about. He had often puzzled the natives by doing so, and frightened them by removing and replacing them. On this occasion he had no sooner taken them out than one of these men in-had at him in terrific rage, and would have seriously injured, if not killed, him, had he caught him, which of course he was not allowed to do. He seemed to think that he was "devil-devil."

SUNDAY, MAY 1.—Sunday is, of course, closely observed on all mission stations; in fact, the question arises whether it is not too closely observed. For instance, this is what was told us as an outline of how the day is spent in some places: At 7.30 a.m. prayer at the teacher's house; then service in the church, which lasts over an hour; then another prayer meeting at the teacher's house occupying fifteen to twenty minutes, after which the teacher asks questions respecting the service held in the church. At about 9 a.m. another service in the church for about an hour and a half, followed by another prayer meeting in teacher's house. At 12 o'clock Sunday school; at 4 p.m. another service; another at 7 in the house or the church. Without opening up the Sabbatarian question, the thought arises whether such a curriculum is not too severe, especially in the case of natives who heretofore have enjoyed almost perfect freedom. Though prompted by the most laudable intentions, is it not calculated to weary, if not disgust, these "children of nature" and have a reactionary effect? In fact, it is said that the strain is so great that native teachers themselves, who have had most careful training and have entered upon their work with enthusiasm, have become lax and to some extent failures. Another weakness of the present system seems to arise from irregular, and in some cases infrequent, visitation of outside stations by superior officers. We all—even the best of us—know how easy it is to become lax, or rather how hard it is to keep from laxity when not in constant touch with fellow-Christians, and can we blame these people if they are "tempted to their fall"? *Forb. sup.* Service is also held on Wednesday and Friday mornings about 7 o'clock. School is held every day of the week but Saturday, which is allowed for recreation and to enable the children to assist in getting wood and water for the Sunday.

In their ordinary condition the natives appear to realise the adage "Time was made for slaves." They keep no account of it, and in making arrangements with a party—of carriers, for instance—to go a long journey, the practice is to tie on a string a number of knots representing the number of days it will occupy. On the return journey they cut off a knot for each day travelled, and at the last they should be at their destination.

This introduces the matter of counting, which is a source of trouble to Papuans as it is to Australian natives. We had an instance of this later on when a native of Yeva was trying to tell us how many of his people had been killed in the recent massacre. Having exhausted his fingers, he resorted to his toes until he got the required number, fourteen. What he would have done had his toes had not proved sufficient it is impossible to imagine.

Shortly before 8 a.m. we up-anchor and pursue our course through Orangerie Bay, which presents some pretty coast scenery. A noticeable feature is the "sail rock" which in the distance bears a marked resemblance to a ship under canvas. Passing close to the Orange rock, a small wood-crowned island usually frequented by lots of pigeons, we anchor at about 5 o'clock near Isikkoira, under the lee of Muguia, *alias* Dufere, *alias* Bona Bona Island, which rises 1,820 feet from the sea. Here one is amazed at the almost inaccessible ridges upon which natives cultivate gardens—places where white men would find a difficulty in getting foothold. These sites are generally selected on account of the fertility of the soil, of which dense scrub furnishes proof. Numerous instances of the same kind occurred during the trip. A peculiar aerial effect was observed here. Running along the crest of a sharp high ridge were a number of arica palms, whose slender stems were invisible in the distance, so that their graceful heads appeared as if suspended like "Mahomet's coffin," in mid-air. Several canoes full of natives, who are somewhat lighter in colour than their western brothers, came alongside the ship, amongst them the chief Magu, who is also the village policeman. They were all singing, apparently in high spirits, and shook hands on stepping on board. This European mode of expressing friendship is rapidly superseding the native fashion of rubbing noses, a by no means pleasant operation to the white man. The natural oleaginousness of the native, which is especially marked in their olfactory organ, is rather repulsive to the European, and when to this is added a dab or two of black or red paint, the performance is still more objectionable. Some of the natives delight in painting their faces with red and black paints in very fanciful and grotesque designs. As affecting their general appearance the use of the betel-nut, which is common throughout all parts of the islands that we visited, plays an important part. When chewed with lime and the root or bark of the pepper-tree, the teeth in course of time become quite black, the saliva and interior of the mouth are tanned to a blood-red colour, so that the *tout ensemble* is rather unpleasant. The chief Magu was presented by Sir William with a tomahawk, and tobacco was distributed among his attendants. The natives are rather short, but well nourished and sturdy, and have the reputation of being good workers. Landing at the village we found their houses substantial, but closer to the ground than at places previously visited.

The cemetery, we were told, was 200 or 300 yards from the village. The burial of the dead has been a troublesome matter to deal with throughout the territory. The most common burial-place used to be under or close alongside the house occupied by the relatives of deceased, generally about a foot or so in the earth. Sometimes the body was tied up like a mummy, and placed in a kind of wicker basket made of rattan canes tightly bound together, which was kept in the house or placed in the arm of a tree, the method varying in different localities. After a time the bones were secured and carried about as charms. Now the law is that the dead have to be buried in public cemeteries, and the natives in the settled districts conform to it pretty well, although they endeavour to evade it. The wearing or keeping of skulls or other human bones is also prohibited, but, no doubt, both are practised. To show the pertinacity with which the natives cling to old customs in this connection—whether from love or reverence for the deceased or superstition—we heard of a case where they kept the dead body in the house and made pretence of burial in the cemetery by substituting stones for it. This reaching the ears of the missionary of the village the "myrmidons of the law" were put in motion, and the unearthing of the false body was attended with some fine acting on the part of the natives, who pretended to be unable to proceed with the work on account of the smell. Of course this *ruse* did not succeed. The law had to be carried out.

At this village the house ornamentation consisted of painting the main supports in white rings, while the chief's dwelling was adorned with very crude representations of boats and animals. A cuscus, or New Guinea monkey—a light-coloured animal which gives the idea of a cross between an opossum and a native bear—was brought on board by some natives to-day in a cane cage, and was purchased from them. Another younger one was caught later on, but it died.

The Bishop conducted divine service on the fore deck, and preached a sermon on the building up of character, which was worthy of a cathedral congregation.

Guilhanetti busy getting ready to accompany Lord Lamington overland from head of Mullen's Harbour to Milne Bay on the north-east coast. They are to take six police and about twenty carriers.

MONDAY, MAY 2.—The natives came alongside the ship soon after daylight with bananas, fish, spears, and other trade. They seem a remarkably happy, merry lot—young and old.

The steam-launch started soon after 7 a.m. with the overland party, her destination being some 18 miles distant, Mullen's Harbour running into the land that distance. She did not return until nearly 2 p.m. During the interval our venerable botanist, upon whom our genial captain has bestowed the humorous appellation, "the gay and festive lycopodium," went ashore and delivered a lecture to the natives on plant life. The sandy beach was utilised as a sketch ground, and "the gay and festive" revelled in polysyllabic words and combinations to the great amusement of his audience, who understood not a word. But his diagrams, gesticulations, and the magnifying powers of his pocket lens conveyed to their minds the characteristics of certain plants he was anxious to get.

Two policemen were recruited here, the practice being to get men from as many different localities as possible, so that they may serve as interpreters. One "boy" who was returning home had a box full of a most heterogeneous lot of "trade," of which he was very proud.

It rained heavily during the night.

TUESDAY, MAY 3.—Still raining heavily. The natives brought us plenty fruit and vegetables. We started for Samarai at 7 a.m., and soon sighted the Eagle Rock, which, in the distance, very much resembles a dismayed vessel flying signals of distress, cocoa palms serving the latter purpose. Passed through some very pretty islands and coast scenery in the vicinity of Su-a-n Harbour, which affords splendid shelter to vessels. Just before 3 p.m. we open out Kwato Anglican Mission Station on Rogeia or Heath Island, which rises some 1,215 feet above the sea. It is in charge of the Rev. Mr. Abel and his wife, who are doing good work. Amongst other things they make a special point of teaching the natives English. A few more strokes of the propeller and we sight Samarai, the most important business centre in the Possession. In extent it is about 60 acres, with very pretty beaches and rocky foreshore; also a number of well-wooded heights and knolls in the background, the more convenient of which have been selected for residence sites. The principal business establishment is owned by Burns, Philp, & Co., who are practically the bankers of British New Guinea. They have something over £2,000 of paper money in circulation. As in Port Moresby, they have constructed a fine jetty here, with tramway right into their stores. Whitton Brothers also do a good general business. A few years ago Samarai had rather a bad reputation for malarial fever, the product of some 12 acres of swamp a few yards from the shore. This has been remedied by filling in the swamp with material from the surrounding hills by prison labour, and the site is now laid out as a recreation ground, including lawn tennis courts. A wide well-kept gravel walk lined with rows of cocoa palms forms, as it were, the principal street, and very charming it is. This leads up to the Government quarters, which are enclosed with a native fence—*i.e.* made of saplings lashed together with strips of rattan cane, nails being an "unknown quantity" in native architecture. The Government residency is on one of the hills, but the Resident Magistrate, the Hon. M. H. Moreton, being at present a bachelor, has good-naturedly handed it over to Mr. Symonds, Collector of Customs, &c., who is a married man. Mr. Moreton at present occupies a large native-built house, which is far from being in good repair, within the enclosure. Here also are the gaol buildings, police quarters, &c. A stone jetty is in course of construction; a retaining wall is also being erected—all by prisoners, of whom there were about sixty-five on the island at the time of our visit. The custom-house and court-house, close to Burns, Philp, & Co.'s jetty, are of galvanised iron, and a school of arts has recently been erected, the funds being raised by subscriptions. Brilliantly coloured crotonus abound; so do shade trees. Indeed it is surprising to see such luxuriant vegetation on what appears to be nothing but sand. There must be a large amount of vegetable humus in the soil. Some of the cocoa palms here attain a great height, one that was blown down during a recent storm measuring over 100 feet. Altogether Samarai is one of the prettiest islands in these waters. No shooting is allowed, so that birds make it their home. While here we saw a prisoner in a sulphur bath for removal of the skin disease so common in the country. Each bath occupies about twenty minutes, and about four or five applications effect a cure. We also saw five unfortunate women awaiting trial for breaking sepulture and eating part of a dead body. This is the outcome of some superstition, by which the sisters of a deceased person are supposed to gain strength or power by partaking of portions of the body. These ladies were sentenced to six months' imprisonment for the luxury.

We had also the opportunity of hearing part of the trial of a white man for the murder of a native by shooting. The scene—it was at night—was bereft of nearly all the formality attached to such a case in Queensland. The Judge was attired in ordinary dress, and the taking of the evidence—in this instance through two interpreters—was a simple though rather tedious process. The shooting was done to some extent in self-defence, and as the offender had been about six months awaiting trial, he was let off with a fine of £4.

Here, too, we saw a canoe of very different type and build from the ordinary outrigger dugout. She was over 40 feet long, constructed of thin planks sewn together, and caulked apparently with some mixture of rubber and clay. Her sides were painted with red and white bands, and further ornamented with representations of birds and fishes and clusters and strings of shells decorated her stem and stern. She hailed from the Engineer's group.

At Burns, Philp, & Co.'s store we saw a tempting ingot of Sudest gold, 117½ oz., worth £3 12s. per oz., the produce of reefing, which is still being carried on. Some Mambare gold was also shown to us—very coarse, and got evidently not far from the reef.

Here, too, we heard a tale which illustrates the fearful price gold costs to unearth. Four men started out in New Guinea. Two, then three, were taken very ill with fever; their mate spent most of his time nursing them until death relieved them of their suffering and him of his sad task. Result: 40 oz. gold. Cost—three lives, twelve months' labour, besides expenses of outfit, &c.

Among their many other ventures, Burns, Philp, & Co. have had prepared some bales of very fine flax, made from the long aerial roots of the pandanus tree, the same material from which the natives make their fishing lines and nets, which are very strong. Offered for sale in Sydney it did not realise expectations, so Mr. Ambouin, the Samarai manager of the firm, is sending samples to England.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4.—Before breakfast, a few of the party circumambulated Samarai, "the gay and festive lycopodium" intent on botanical business, the others absorbing as much of his interesting disquisitions as was compatible with mental digestion, or searching among the rocks for conchological specimens, of which none of any value were obtained. Later on Sir Hugh and another section ascended to the highest point on the island, from whence a very fine view of the surrounding scenery was gained. At the same time stores on board the ship were being replenished, last letters and telegrams (the latter to be sent to Cooktown by first opportunity) written and posted to await first mail, and shortly after 2 p.m. we were steaming through the picturesque China Straits. A few hours later we enter Tanawarra or Milne Bay. This is a 27-mile indentation of the coast, with sharp-ridged hills from 1,000 to 1,500 feet high; some scrub-timbered in the glens and gullies, others well grassed and not unlike enormous pale-green velvet cushions. The various shades of verdure, an occasional cascade indicated by a silver thread, clouds and sunshine, and clear blue sea combine to form an attractive picture.

picture. Smoke, clearings, clumps and groves of cocoa-trees, and other evidences of cultivation mark native villages, which are numerous and populous. Arriving at the head of the bay at sundown, Sir William and his faithful private secretary are landed at a small island, where they remain for several hours "catch him star." At the same time Captain Butterworth proceeds by boat up a narrow and tortuous creek to the Miawarra villages, the place arranged to meet His Excellency Lord Lamington and Mr. Gulianotti. They had arrived there about 4 o'clock after a very rough trip. It rained most of the time, and the greater part of the march was through a jungle swamp, where walking was rendered very difficult by the water concealing a network of roots. It was not until the third day that they left level ground. One of the adventures of the trip was rafting over a river that was in high flood, which tried temper and muscle alike. The shooting was poor. Only two birds of paradise were got, but more could have been shot only His Excellency disliked killing them when not wanted particularly, much preferring to see them flying about. At Miawarra, Captain Butterworth—ever on the alert as to his staff—tried hard to get a fine native to join the police, but the missionary, who was present, evidently dissuaded the half-converted recruit. Returning to the ship, the wanderers, after narrating experiences and being duly refreshed, soon joined the somniferous brigade.

As this part of the Possession enjoys a regular and copious rainfall, it is well suited, when capital is available, for the cultivation of tea, cocoa, and like tropical products.

THURSDAY, MAY 5.—Up anchor soon after daybreak, and visit Mita village, which is presided over by a chief of rather Hibernian cast of feature, called Yokaba, who has been for nearly ten years a strong friend of the Government, having stood by them ever since the Ansell murder in 1850. Here also we were shown one portion of the process of ornamenting the palm-leaves that are used for mats. This is done by a sharp bit of shell, the pattern being traced rapidly and somewhat artistically by the women, after which the mat is placed in the sun. We were told that another stage is worked with boiling water or a firestick, but our visit was too short to see this. Yokaba manifested his regard for Sir William by presenting him with a drum, club, &c., which gifts were duly reciprocated. We rounded East Cape at about noon, and a few hours later we anchored within about 100 yards of the village of Awaiama, in Chad's Bay. This is an Anglican Mission Station, in charge of a teacher named Fred Menena, who keeps a boarding-school for boys. He is assisted by two other native teachers. The village is clean, the houses strong and neat, and the church, built native fashion (which is also used as a school), fairly commodious. The chief, Borogie, has a powerful face and figure, but the natives are of only average stature, and practise painting the face with thin black lines, curves, and circles, which produce a grotesque, in some instances a very comical expression. One novelty was the school bell—a hollowed log, the sound of which when struck with a heavy stick could be heard a considerable distance. Another was an unusually large platform or dubu under a shady tree, apparently a meeting-place—perhaps of the local Parliament. The youngsters, recognising Bishop Stone-Wigg, formed a strong but not very orderly bodyguard during his stay. Our inspection occupied about half an hour, and we proceeded on our way. As we did so the coastal range grew in boldness and rugged grandeur. If one could imagine the storm-whipped waves of the Atlantic rising 3,000 to 4,000 feet, then being thrown at a sharp angle and becoming instantaneously petrified and clothed with thin verdure, it would give some idea of the picture.

Taupota, a somewhat straggling village of 700 to 800 people, was our next calling-place. The mountains run down so close to the sea that only a narrow fringe of cultivable land is available, and further on it disappears almost entirely; population, of course, diminishes in proportion. The gardens at Taupota, however, are very prolific of native food; pigs are numerous, and the people in good condition. Their houses, some of which are habited on the ground floor, are comfortable, and we saw several meeting-places—each a circle of stones under a fine umbrageous tree.

Rounding the bold headland, Mount Curomeo, *alias* Cape Frere, at about 7 o'clock, we run into Bartle Bay, pass the village Wamira, which accommodates about 500 people, and anchor off Wedau, of somewhat smaller population. This is the headquarters of the Anglican Mission. The mission-house, named Dogura, a very fine solid structure of wood, roofed with galvanised iron, occupies the top of a plateau some 150 feet high, which appears to have been submarine at some remote period; and being itself elevated 10 feet from the ground, it presents a pretty picture from seaward. That great desideratum in a tropical climate, a 12-foot verandah, surrounds the house. The chapel, a neatly-furnished apartment—in which, in addition to Scriptural quotations in English and native languages, is a fitting mural entablature of brass in memory of the Rev. A. A. Macfaen, B.A., who established the mission in August, 1891, and fell a victim to malarial fever a few months later—is located in the centre of the edifice, being surrounded by the dormitories and other necessary accommodation for the missionaries and teachers. These, including the Bishop, number fourteen—seven white and seven coloured. Six additional white teachers and one more coloured were expected, and have probably joined the ranks since our visit. Some idea of the extent of the work of this mission may be formed when it is stated that the area of operations extends from Cape Ducie to German New Guinea, about 300 miles of closely-peopled country. This is exclusive of the more difficult mountain work. Homes for the native teachers and boarding accommodation for pupils are at the rear, the space between being used as a recreation ground where games are played, football being a great favourite. The pupils number thirty, a bright, intelligent lot. Some have been here six, some twelve months, and others two years, with home holidays occasionally. They sang us a hymn, chanted the 23rd Psalm, and expressed their loyalty by rendering "The National Anthem" in English. Day-school is conducted at the villages, but the great drawback to advancement here, as elsewhere throughout the Possession, is irregularity of attendance. It is spasmodic and intermittent, and adds very considerably to the labour of teaching, which at the best is a severe trial of patience and endurance. But since the advent of lady teachers here an improvement has taken place, and perhaps this experience will be taken as a guide by others engaged in this noble work.

The first native marriage, according to the rites of the Anglican Church, had been celebrated shortly before our arrival, the bride being about 15 years of age, but seemingly younger—a girl just entered her teens. Yet we were told that had it not been for the advice and influence of the teachers she would have been married a year or two before. Another girlish-looking woman had been married about eight years. These early marriages are common in New Guinea, and may account in some measure for the small stature which characterises certain tribes. The statements we heard re courtship indicate that human nature here varies little from its characteristics in other parts of the world. A boy and girl of the same village take a fancy to each other; this grows into a stronger passion: parents and relatives are consulted, and on betrothal the girl is tattooed on the thigh, the "boy" assisting in the operation, and sharing the blood which is collected with his intended bride. Then as soon as the "boy" is able to pay the price fixed for his bride, the marriage is celebrated by a feast. The marriage ceremony differs in various places, but one feature is each taking a bite of the same food and in other ways indicating a blending of their lives. Until a girl gets married she is allowed a good deal of freedom as to where she draws the line from a moral point of view, but after marriage infidelity is most vigorously punished.

The gardens produce plenty of food, the natives utilising the mountain streams for irrigation when required.

FRIDAY, MAY 6.—We make an early start—3 a.m.—and daylight ushers in a lovely view—

mountains
 "A sea of glass;"
 " — tipped with gold ;
 Line o'er line, terrace o'er terrace,
 Even to the blue heaven."

Out seaward, Sir William points to an island which emphasises the desperate straits to which the coast natives were at times driven by their savage and merciless foes—the hull-men. This part of the coast—Goodenough Bay—and Collingwood Bay were notorious a few years ago for massacres of this kind, and the survivors of one tribe at last took refuge on this precipitous island, and made themselves secure by drawing the ladders up after them—the same as is done by the tree-house natives. Now all this is changed. Peace and prosperity—which to the native means plenty of food and security from attack—prevail. As we go forward the coast hills recede, giving a deeper shade and more cultivation. Mount Victory, an active volcano, 5,080 feet high, is seen in the far distance, ejecting jets and small clouds of steam, with "Trafalgar" (4,000 feet) to the right. Our next anchorage is Phillip's Harbour—native, "Sinapa"—the site of the new Anglican Mission Station. What a comparison between the reception of the "Minnie England" to-day and her first visit! The voyagers were then regarded as celestial beings; the natives were in terror lest the masts would fall and crush them; they refused to taste the white man's food, fearing that it would cause death. One of the crew happening to light a lucifer match, the natives fled in the greatest fear! Now canoes come round, ready to trade, and the natives are perfectly fearless and happy.

Here we met the Rev. Mr. King, who had preceded us from Bartle Bay in the small missionary vessel, to superintend the erection of the mission-house, the material for which had just been imported from Sydney. The site is low and rather swampy at the back, but we were informed that it was the best they could get for their purposes in the locality, and that there had been protracted official delay in getting it granted—that, in fact, the matter was still hanging fire. However,

here

here they were going to settle, and one could commiserate with them in their task, for a more chaotic scene could scarcely be imagined, everything lying about higgledy-piggledy as landed from the boats. But no doubt the Rev. Mr. King with his twenty Bartle Bay students, aided by the carpenter, Mr. Tomlinson, would soon put a different appearance on things. A short service was held on the beach in the evening, the boys singing the hymns lustily.

The chief of the village, Bogagi, was among the visitors to the ship, and was invested with the customary shirt and red sarong. The natives are of slightly-better physique than those we recently visited, and they use canoes with unusually long outriggers and large platforms. Taking two boats, we start in tow of the launch, and after a couple of hours' run we arrived off Wanigala, where our approach was greeted with loud cries of "Oro! Oro!" by a crowd of wiry-looking villagers dancing and prancing about, one of whose peculiarities is that the hair is a mass of pipe-like ringlets, in some instances well plastered with mud. This is equivalent to "Peace! Peace!" Though friendly, they were at first uncertain as to our intentions; no females appeared on the scene, but the males brought us fruit, traded with us for curios, and gradually became familiar. On the way back to the ship we called at Maisina, the inhabitants of which had been notorious for making raids and committing outrages upon the villages to the eastward, but now, under the influence of the Government and the missionaries, all this is at an end. But travellers are now entering a region not so safe as that we have come through, and, however friendly the natives may appear, it is well to travel in fairly strong parties, and to be always on the alert for treachery. And the further north-west they get the greater grows the necessity for caution.

SATURDAY, MAY 7.—About 10:30 we wish our missionary friends success in their good work, and steer for Cape Nelson, a curious promontory formed of several deep fiords, the intervening country consisting of low grassy hills, wooded here and there on the slopes, and running down to the sea. Having to pick our way amid reefs in water beclouded with what looked like animalcula, our careful captain slackened speed, and passing inside the reef which bears his name, dropped anchor in Porlock Harbour at 6:30 p.m. Being quite close to Mount Victory we get a good view of that interesting spectacle. The slopes are wooded nearly three parts of the way to the top; then there appears to be a wide chasm from which springs an immense mass of barren perpendicular rock, on the rugged summit of which are cone-like protuberances and deep cauldron-like openings emitting jets and light clouds of steam which at times form into dense masses. We saw several canoes as we rounded the cape.

SUNDAY, MAY 8.—Another early start—4 a.m. Passing along, Sir William points out that one of the peculiarities of the rivers hereabouts is that they open out on sandspits instead of in the bays, consequently they may be overlooked by explorers. These spits are probably the result of frequent heavy land-slips and other debris carried down in flood-tide. There is said to be a large area of good agricultural land between the shore and the mountains, and a good many villages. The first striking object of interest was "Mitre Rock," which for some time was looked upon as on the 8th degree of latitude, and consequently the starting-point of our boundary, but this has been found by Sir William MacGregor to be some distance to the north. Mitre Rock, including vegetation, stands about 60 feet above the sea, by which it is pierced for nearly half its height. It is the home of numerous pigeons and cowrie shells, as we found later on. At 2:45 p.m. we anchor at the mouth of the Mambare River, of which we have heard a good deal lately, owing to the recent murders there. A small schooner, the "Wana Wana," owned by Whitton Bros., is at anchor, and on shore we see the Government store, a small galvanised-iron building, and two or three native-built houses occupied by police and prisoners, who cultivate a patch of garden. The foreshore is low, but the hills rise to a fair height a short distance back, and are well wooded. Mr. Shanahan, the Resident Magistrate, comes off and reports, *inter alia*, that there are about 30 diggers on the Gira River, all getting coarse gold equal to wages, including a 5-oz. and a 3-oz. nugget. These miners employ about 130 natives, chiefly as carriers, and as a rule treat them well. Any reliable reports of harshness generally result in the refusal of a renewal of the license to employ; and conviction of absolute cruelty is followed by penal consequences. These carriers are recruited from different parts of the coast, and after a while the feeling of nostalgia becomes so strong that they sometimes desert and start a journey of hundreds of miles along the coast to reach their villages. We picked up two who had been fed and cared for by the natives of foreign villages, who were openly praised and well rewarded by Sir William for their kindness. We heard of other runaways who had been similarly treated along the coast, and saw several at Tamata who were undergoing imprisonment for the offence. These had apparently undergone considerable privation. Cases of desertion from service are numerous, and suggest the question whether native labour is "cheap" in the ordinary acceptance of the word. It costs £4 to engage a "boy" for six months; you have to pay him 10s. a month, keep him in food, supply him with medicine and necessaries when sick, and he may "clear" before one-third of his term has expired. Then the process has to be repeated.

Here we learn full particulars of the murder of Mr. Green, the Government Agent and Assistant Magistrate at Tamata, the head station on the river, in January, 1897. It appears that Mr. Green, who had had considerable experience in New Guinea, was very kindly disposed towards the natives, and treated them with a confidence which, alas! cost him his life. He had some natives assisting him in clearing the site of the new station at Tamata, and in the erection of the residence and store. The night before his murder the natives told some of the police that they were afraid to come in to work because the police always carried their rifles, and that more would come in if the rifles were put away. Mr. Green, not dreaming of this cunningly-devised plot, ordered the police to lay aside their firearms. The natives came in in considerable numbers next day, and at a prearranged signal speared him as he was on the roof, and killed him on reaching the ground. They also killed four of the armed constables, three prisoners, and a native servant, the others escaping with difficulty. Then the place was looted, and this is supposed to be the primary object of the outrage. Some of the murderers or their accomplices have been arrested; so have several of the wives of others who are still at large; but a notorious scoundrel named Dumi, an ex-policeman, who has been "wanted" for nearly two years, and is supposed to have instigated this atrocity, is still at large.

The Yeva massacre, a full account of which we also gleaned here, affords a strong illustration of how crime begets crime. Probably encouraged by their success in the murder of Green, the Monata tribe got a number of the Apochi, Omi, Peu, and Koeni tribes together in council at their village. The visitors tried to persuade the Monata men to go and kill the police at Tamata. The Monata men said, "No; no good try kill police; always on watch. Let us go and kill the Yeva; they been acting as guides to the police." This was agreed upon, with the result that a night attack was made on these unguarded people, of whom fourteen were killed, while ten of their women were carried off.

As showing some of the ramifications of these tribal wars, the Yeva people sent word to friends of the Gira of what had happened, and the reply came back, "Never mind. We will come and kill the Koeni people; kill plenty."

We had almost forgotten that it was the Sabbath when the church-like toll of the ship's bell called us to service on the foredeck at 8:15 p.m. His Lordship the Bishop conducted the service, and once more gave his hearers much material for thought and the formation of good resolutions. It was a lovely night, the star-crowded dome above and pale moonlight making one feel that verily "the heavens declare the glory of the Lord."

We had exchanged some police, and, judging by the earnest talk and lively gesticulations of the Mambare "boys," they were painting a vivid picture of "the battles, sieges, fortunes" they had undergone.

MONDAY, MAY 9.—"The morning shone all clear and gay," and by 7:20 we cast off from the ship's side to enter upon the new experience of camping out in New Guinea, and to see what four days and nights on the Mambare will bring forth. The party were distributed in this order:—

Steam-launch—Guilianetti and Shanahan;
First boat—The two Governors, the Bishop, and Mackay;
Second boat—Sir Hugh, Captain Butterworth, and Gilligan.

Each boat carried at its bow a red flag, the New Guinea emblem of peace. Just before starting we saw four prisoners brought in by the police, charged with being concerned in Green's murder or the recent massacre.

There are three entrances to the Mambare, each with a bar, so that at the sea the magnitude of the stream is not apparent. The banks at the mouth by which we entered are low and covered with dense vegetation, in which the Nipa palm, with its magnificent leaves, stands out prominently. Innumerable vines, of varied hue and description, have climbed from tree to tree to the topmost branches, and, falling in graceful festoons or a lace-like veil of greenery, relieved by an occasional flower—such as that of the brilliant D'Albertis creeper—or bright autumnal leaves, produce a charming effect. Alternately with this, and indicating where the set of the current has recently cast up new and still growing banks, are patches of pampas-like grass 12 to 15 feet high, the efflorescence of which is very like that of sugar-cane.

Further on we come to thick, almost impenetrable, tropical jungle where the axe and knife of the settler or timber Vandal have not been at work. We have similar scenes in Queensland, but they lack the strength and grandeur that characterise the New Guinea picture. Pandanus trees grow to a height of 50 and 60 feet, and their aerial buttresses extend halfway up the stem.

About 3 miles steaming brings us to the main stream, which varies in width from 150 to 250 yards. Now and then we come to a fine reach, but as a rule the windings are tortuous, and snags are numerous, necessitating careful navigation, especially on the up trip, as their most dangerous points lie down stream. The banks show traces of a recent rise in the river, and although it is now pretty near its normal condition, the current is so strong that we do not make more than 4 or 5 miles an hour. As we ascend the banks rise gradually. We pass numerous clumps of sago-palm, a large proportion of which is ready for the axe, as indicated by the peculiar shrub-like flower that springs from its top. Fig and rubber trees and vines abound all along the banks, and breadfruit is abundant.

At one spot our attention is attracted by a loud twittering to a high tree, in which a number of swallow-like birds have built their nests, some fixed and others pendant. It may be mentioned here that the quantity of bird life seen on the rivers was disappointing. Two or three very small flocks of duck and a heron or two comprised the water-fowl, although the marshy country which is known to exist in the district would appear to be a capital breeding-ground. We saw a few flocks of small parrots, some hornbills, a number of pretty bronze brown hawks, with white neck and breast, similar to its Queensland congener, and heard the call of a pigeon or a pheasant at long intervals. More frequently we heard the note of the bird of paradise, this being what is called its "dancing season." Selecting a pretty high tree with open branches, they fly and jump about, flapping their wings, and uttering a shrill cry—not unlike the movements of our native companion when at play. But we startled from their daily slumbers two or three colonies of that abomination, the flying-fox.

Shortly after 11 a.m. we reach a deserted village, where we devote an hour to gastronomy in a mild form. About five hours later we arrive at another deserted village, Pen, where Sir William decides to make our first camp. From the number of houses, which are small and about 3 feet above ground, it must have had a large population in its day. In a few minutes nearly everyone is busy erecting flies and hammocks, and preparing for the night, under the able direction of Butterworth. Guilianetti is in charge of the commissariat and the culinary department, and a capital *chef* he made.

No one is allowed to go into the scrub without firearms, and at night we have an armed guard. One of the "boys" shot a well-plumed bird of paradise, which Sir William presented to Sir Hugh. A warm hearty meal made everyone happy with himself and his neighbour, and this followed by a smoke and chat, diversified by repelling the musical and vivacious mosquito, terminated the day.

TUESDAY, MAY 10.—Last night's supper was only efficacious in a temporary suspension of appetite, for at break of day we are delighted to see Guilianetti again studying something over the fire, and a little later on our admiration for him has further increased. At 7:30 we are again afloat, and pass several villages and gardens from which the people have fled for fear of the consequences of their recent treachery and crime—a self-inflicted punishment which should prove a warning to all evil-doers. At 11 a.m. we pass the village of Yeva, the scene of the recent massacre, now deserted of course. Comfortable dwellings and a large garden show that it had a fairly large and contented population. At 1:30 we lunch at Apochi village, of which Guilianetti, who is also our artist, took a snapshot. Started again at 2:15. The banks have now risen considerably, all fine alluvium; but as we approach the mouth of the Tamata, a small tributary of the Mambare, rock formation shows itself and increases as we ascend.

At the bend of the river opposite the Junction the survivors of the Yeva tragedy have started a new village. Their late terrible experiences have induced them to construct a high stockade around their dwellings, and being in close proximity to the Government Station they feel that they are safe under the aegis of its protection.

On entering the Tamata River Mr. Shanahan fired four shots as a signal to the station people of our approach. A sinuous course of a few miles against a strong current brings us in sight of the headquarters of civilisation on the Mambare. This palatial edifice is situated on the top of a ridge about 40 feet high, and commands a good view, which, however, is restricted to the cleared ground—some 20 or 30 acres—and the river bend. It is of galvanised iron, about 30 feet by 14, with verandah or balcony back and front. The dwelling and offices are some 10 feet from the ground, the lower portion being used as a store. A good-sized native-built house does duty as a kitchen. The other buildings are the gaol, of stout timber, and the police quarters, a large native structure. About 100 yards off, across a ravine, are about a dozen very strongly-built log huts—erected by permission of the Administrator—belonging to miners who, having made this their headquarters, have gone away to the Gira, leaving everything fastened up, but not sufficiently so as to be secure from the natives were the place not in sight of the police station. Whitton Brothers have also a store here, and amongst their ventures they brought nine horses here for carrying purposes. They were conveyed by steamer to the mouth of the river, and then rafted in batches of four and five to Tamata. One has died, and so far the others have not been utilised, the track to the Gira not being suitable for them at present. A log cabin of unusual strength and comfort is occupied by Mr. Clunas, who has had eight years' mining experience in New Guinea, and looks remarkably well. He regards the present field on the Gira as pretty well worked out, and was preparing to take a prospecting trip to the Zeddo Valley. He subsequently started, having arranged with Sir William for police protection. He regards the natives about here as a bad, treacherous lot, who are worse now than they were three years ago. "The best thing," he said, "you can do is to send them to Queensland for six or seven years, and civilise them." He has two fine dogs upon which he sets great value as protecting him from a surprise by the natives. At the Gira, Whitton's storekeeper says some of the miners still believe in it, and all are making wages; so that opinions vary. As to health, the miners suffer more from dysentery than fever, probably caused by working so much in the cold water. Some of them are turning their attention to rubber collecting as a means of augmenting their income, getting the natives to do the work. At Tamata several acres are under cultivation, European style, and more is being prepared—all being done by prison labour. It should be explained that, as a rule, the natives in making a garden do not clear out the stumps and roots as we do, but simply cut the trees down a foot or two from the ground and plant between. The digging process is performed by a number of natives of both sexes forming in a line on their knees, and turning over the soil with sharp sticks. The products here are sweet potatoes, taro, sugar-cane, pawpaws, limes, bananas, coconuts, melons, and pineapples; but the rich chocolate soil seems capable of growing anything tropical. In fact the dense vegetation which characterises all the low country of New Guinea, especially its river banks, which are subject to frequent inundation, justifies the opinion that the soil could be cropped for a long period without help from the "stercoraceous mound" or other fertiliser. The native system of cultivation affects only a few inches of the surface, and that for only a comparatively short time, as they frequently abandon one garden site for another. The Mambare country, Mr. Shanahan says, is pretty much the same all along the river, except close at its mouth—a strip of low land runs a few chains back and falls into swamp; then good country and more swamp alternate until the foot hills of the ranges are reached.

Our arrival caused quite a flutter, and on landing all the police on the station (four) formed a guard of honour. Again we have to thank Guilianetti for a hearty meal, soon after which we seek rest and sleep, and find both in our hammocks.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11.—Leaving Sir William engaged in business, the rest of the party start in the launch and one boat to further explore the Mambare. At the Junction we call at the new village of the Yevas, who were very pleased to see us. Among them were several men of fine physique, and their women, notably their queen, were also exceptionally well proportioned. Their hair is in small ringlets, the men wear the T string, the women the sarong; there is little or no tattooing, but the arms and portions of the body are ornamented with raised cicatrisation, and they wear armlets, leglets, necklets, and chest ornaments. Several of them were in mourning—i.e., the body and head being smeared with clay, and the women wearing a hood and keeping secluded. Captain Butterworth—"Barua" in native tongue—was made much of as an old friend; in fact one of the leading men had named a child after him. We noticed a remarkably strong pig-net, also some well-designed and well-made fishtraps, and gothic-shaped shields. Running up the Mambare for two hours we arrived at the island Boka, nearly 50 miles from the mouth, where, despite the terrors of scrub itch, of which Guilianetti warned us, and the difficulty of scrambling up an almost perpendicular bank 9 or 10 feet high, we land, collect some botanical specimens for "the gay and festive," while Butterworth's stentorian, "Oro! Oro!" proclaim to the wilderness and its occupants that our mission is "Peace." The result of the gallant captain's vociferation is that before we have finished lunch a canoe is seen approaching carrying three natives of Umi village, accompanied by one of the scouts who had been sent out. One was a very handsome young man, admirably proportioned, and apparently of superior caste. The others were older men of good frame and condition. They kept calling "Oro! Oro!" and on coming alongside Butterworth, who they seemingly knew well, explained to them through an interpreter that the great desire of the Governor of New Guinea, and of the "Big fellow Governor of Queensland," was to get all the people to live peaceably and happily together; that if they did so they would be protected by the Government against all comers. We then sent them off with a present each. As they moved away another canoe came forward, and numerous natives, previously hidden in the long grass and other

other places, showed themselves, and "Oro! Orokaiva!" echoed on all sides. This Umi tribe has been a source of trouble for a long while, even before Green's murder, and it is suspected that one of the men who came alongside was concerned in his death. As far as could be gathered, all now want peace with the Government, but once let the cupidity of these people be aroused, and any party numerically weak or weakly armed would stand a poor chance. Our return to Tamata was made in good time.

THURSDAY, MAY 12.—Oshimbu, chief of the Omi tribe, and a great friend of Butterworth, came in this morning, accompanied by a newly-appointed village policeman, and received a present. He is a man of great physical power, and his massive head and commanding features would point to equally strong mental powers. Starting from Tamata at 9 a.m., the down trip was made rapidly—about 10 miles an hour. Nothing of interest occurred, except that at a few places the natives showed themselves and appeared less frightened than on the up trip. It should be stated that on the up journey every possible care was taken not to create any alarm, and no doubt the generally peaceful character of the visit had a good effect. Let us hope it will be permanent. We reached the mouth of the river at 5 p.m., and "home" shortly after. The evening was spent in preparing for the trip up the Gira.

FRIDAY, MAY 13.—In the morning it rained very heavily, and this continued until the afternoon, necessitating a postponement of our trip to the Gira until the weather cleared. Sir William being otherwise engaged, the majority of the party went to the Mitre Rock on a pigeon shooting-cum-oyster gathering expedition. We got some good oysters and cowrie shells, and sixteen pigeons, some of the latter being shot on the mainland.

SATURDAY, MAY 14.—The mouth of the Gira is only about 5 miles distant, so the steam-launch was used to tow the party in three boats—their Excellencies and Mackay in the first; Sir Hugh, Guilianetti, and Gilligan in the second; the Bishop and Butterworth in the third. There being a pretty heavy break on the bar, which would not admit in any case of the entrance of the launch, the party landed in a bight about 3 miles inside War Song Point, and walked to the river, where it was arranged we should meet the boats. By 9.30 this was accomplished, and being reminded that we were now in Kaiser Wilhelm's Land we forthwith drank "health and happiness" to that distinguished Monarch, the two Knights adding appropriate musical honours. No time was lost, for rowing up a river against a strong current is a slow process, and we wanted to see as much as possible of these "fresh fields and pastures new." Our crews on this occasion, as on all others when rowing had to be done, were the police. Running nearly southerly, the river enters British territory about a mile from its mouth. About 3 miles further it protrudes a sharp bend back into Kaiser Wilhelm's Land, then returns and continues in the Possession to its source. It has been proposed by Sir William that the middle of the river should be the boundary "from the sea to the most westerly point at which the river last crosses the 8th degree of latitude before entering into British territory," from which point it should continue along the 8th degree; and that navigation should be free to both colonies. It is probable that this will be agreed to, if it has not been already. For some distance from the mouth the land is low and swampy, but improves gradually. We soon get into country in which sago is very plentiful, and about half a mile up we pass an abandoned garden. Passing several empty canoes, we sight a tenantless village and push on as fast as five strong rowers with four "relieves" can propel us. "Fast" is perhaps the wrong word to use, for so strong is the current that we cannot make more than 2 miles an hour. The river is not so wide as the Mambare, but the vegetation and scenery are very similar. Perhaps the narrower stream, with equally lofty vine and creeper-clad trees and shrubs, presents the prettier picture. About 5 miles up the country assumes a more open aspect, and this characteristic is observable in a stronger degree higher up. One explanation offered is that the population being dense they have gradually denuded the river banks of the higher trees by frequently shifting their gardens, when the abandoned ground soon becomes overrun with young trees, which take many years to attain the height of the original forest. Sir William remarked, *apropos* of this, that there is scarcely an acre of virgin forest on the river, and probably he is right. On arriving at the village "Tetu" we found traces of a hasty flitting—fires burning, food cooking, and property of various kinds in the houses. Leaving a piece of red cloth as a peace-offering, we pass onward. We saw a good number of canoes fastened to the banks, and no doubt the late occupants were watching closely every move of ours from their hiding-places. Snags were even worse here than in the Mambare; the large boat had a narrow escape from capsizing on one. Had she done so, the result would probably have been serious, as the water was about 10 feet deep and "running like a mill stream" round a corner. On sighting Tobe village, Butterworth went ahead to try and get a talk with some of the natives. Again his stentorophonic "Oro! Oro!" proclaimed the object of our mission, but without practical result—at present. We pitched camp not far from the village shortly after 4 p.m., the operation being very similar to that on the Mambare, and with like results. While we were at tea some natives on the opposite bank hailed us, and a loudly shouted dialogue took place between them and some of our police. The former said they wanted peace, but were afraid that we wanted to arrest them. Shanahan had arrested four only a day or two ago, so that their suspicions were reasonable.

SUNDAY, MAY 15.—The natives on the opposite bank renew their vociferations, and we direct them to go on to the next village, and we will follow. Eight o'clock finds us "all aboard," and as we come in view of the village we see natives clearing off in three canoes, but those on shore make signs of peace—*i.e.*, putting the fingers in the ears, swaying the body to and fro, dancing a few steps, and crying "Oro! Oro! Orokaiva!" which at some places was varied by "Beggabegga-awari-begga" and "Tapo." Some of them brought coconuts and betel-nuts, but as we approached the bank fear became their master, and they all "cleared" but one fine young fellow, who was rewarded with a red sarong and given a shirt for the chief. We did not attempt to land, lest we should increase the alarm of the hidden. No sooner had we moved off than they again became brave, and we saw the chief don his shirt. As we went on the natives kept abreast of us on the banks, which they could easily do, our progress against the current being so slow. Gradually they gained confidence, and at Taututu village we did some trade with them, in which they showed keen business habits. At 9.30 a.m. we came to Dowata, where we did more trading, the natives from the villages we had passed still keeping up with us. Digada we found deserted; so was Evire, a neat, clean village on a small creek. One man, however, came forward and did some trade with us, and later on some others did the same. We lunched here, which occupied three-quarters of an hour. Pressing on, to relieve the monotony and heavy strain of rowing, about 3 o'clock the "boys" landed and towed the boats wherever the bank admitted of so doing. Our artist took occasional snapshots. Passing Wore village the river forms an extensive elbow, or loop, with what is apparently its old bed, and is about 400 yards wide. At 4 p.m. we camped at Tabara; dense black clouds to the south-west giving warning of a storm, or at least heavy rain. The natives from the village were very friendly, their chief, Jewaba, and others giving us a helping hand, but we kept a sharp eye on them, lest their education as to the rights of property had been neglected. Tomahawks and large scrub knives are a great temptation to natives, so for fear of accidents they were ordered to their village before dusk might add to their temptation. The rain came upon us before the camp was quite fixed, but it was lighter than we expected, and we did not suffer much. Butterworth camped in the native village, where there were about fifty men, but no women or children.

MONDAY, MAY 16.—Raining steadily, which makes things generally uncomfortable; but then "variety is charming." While the camp is being struck—of course, after a Guilianettian breakfast—most of the party, led by Butterworth, proceed to the village. Passing through a fine garden they came to a high stockade, entrance to which was through a small gateway which, when closed, was secured by a heavy log. Then other evidence was at hand that these Tabarains live in a state of continual fear of their neighbours. Inside the enclosure, and so arranged as to afford protection to all the houses, were thirteen fighting platforms, some of them fully 30 feet high, and provided with spears and other missiles to drive off the enemy. Access was by rough but strong ladders. The village was remarkably clean, and the tenements good, but alas! it was tenantless. Whether the natives had taken fright or were annoyed at their treatment last night it was impossible to say, but they had flown; and although we could hear them a short distance away, all our "Orokaivas" and "Beggabeggas" proved useless to induce them to come forward for a long time. At last one man—and he turned out to be a Mambare "boy"—made his appearance, and we purchased one or two articles from him. What a story this man will probably tell to his fellows—how he faced the powerful fire-eating white invader! "Alone I did it," he could truly say.

As an instance of the extraordinary growth of vegetation in this climate and soil, it may be stated that a kind of palm which was cut down last night showed new growth of nearly 2 inches this morning.

On the return journey the natives generally were much less timorous, and proclaimed their desire for peace. We bought considerable quantities of food from them; also a few curios, and no doubt the visit will lead to the establishment of better relations than hitherto prevailed.

Arrived at the mouth of the river at 2 p.m., and the party, with the exception of Sir Hugh, leave the boats, so as to lighten them for crossing the bar, and walk about 3½ miles towards the anchorage. Then Sir William took to the boat again, Lord Lamington, Guilianetti, and Gilligan walking the remainder of the distance, about another 3½ miles. They reached the station about the same time as the boats arrived at the ship, 4.20, and were glad to be "home" again.

TUESDAY,

TUESDAY, MAY 17.—Engines at work again at 7:30, and at 9:15 we anchored to allow Sir William to take observations opposite Mitre Rock. Several of the party landed at the same place, and went shell-hunting, &c., whilst others went up Douglas Harbour, a lovely spot, nearly semicircular in shape, with plenty of deep water, and thickly wooded hills all round. They got some orchids. This occupied us until 11 a.m. Arrived at the Ope two hours later. This river is on the southern side of Gumboro Hill, 600 feet high, and has rather a deceptive entrance around an acute-angled sandspit. It is only a small stream, but the scenery is very beautiful. The view from the mouth embraces a dense row of nipa palms along the left bank until terminated by a bend. Sweeping round a curve, the right bank exhibits a luxurious growth of trees, palms, ferns, creepers, interlaced in most graceful confusion. For long distances the festoons have become interwoven into beautiful masses, which hang like a curtain from the topmost branches of the highest trees even into the water. Others are like pendant streamers, and convolvulus blossom, white flowers, hibiscus, and coloured leaves assist in completing the picture. This continues all the way up, except where interrupted by villages or native gardens. The first native village, Diri, is less than half a mile up, the houses being raised about 4 feet from the ground, substantial-looking and clean. At the rear of this village is a pretty little precipitous hill, nearly 100 feet high, tree-clad and banana-capped. Behind this, with an intervening valley, is a much higher and more extensive hill, called Singora, also well-timbered and banana-crowned. This, it is understood, Sir William has offered to the Bishop as the site for a mission station. The second village is Dedora, where we saw three large canoes in process of being dug out. The third village, Kiara, is situated on a most picturesque reach of the river and at the foot of a very steep hill, from 400 to 500 feet high. This is so close to the water as to leave only a narrow strip for settlement.

It was observed at the entrance here, as also at the Mambare, Gira, and Kumusi, that the casuarina and other trees were decaying. This is due, probably, to a subsidence of the coast. For Sir William stated that a point at the mouth of the Mambare, where he camped some years ago, is now submerged by the sea.

On landing, the natives, led by the chief Tabe, made a great fuss over the party, especially Sir William, who decorated Tabe with shirt, red sarong, and leather belt. They were all ready to trade with us, and rather a touching incident happened in this connection. A young fellow was tempted to part with an ornament which probably carried with it the memory of some dear one, for he kissed it tenderly three times before parting with it. Another instance of strong feeling was shown by a native who embraced and kissed on each cheek one of the police "boys." Here also we found a runaway carrier, for whom the tribe appeared to have a great regard, he being well nourished and decorated with herbage and flowers. Whether this had been done with the hope of reward is not known. Let us hope not.

Sir Hugh amused the natives greatly by showing them his watch, and on this occasion he created everlasting friendship on the part of an old warrior by decorating him with a piece of red cloth. The old fellow was "at his heels" everywhere.

Lord Lamington, accompanied by one policeman, went up the river in a canoe paddled by a native. At the first village the people were friendly enough, calling out "Orokiava," while their women and children were running about. At Dedora the villagers were equally friendly, and he had got into conversation (through an interpreter) with a large crowd of men, when three natives suddenly made their appearance in warpaint and with spears, and put themselves in a threatening attitude. The policeman at once raised his rifle, and after shouting and yelling and much language on the part of the policeman the natives disappeared. His Excellency then turned back, and met Sir Hugh and one or two others in one of the boats going on a similar errand to his own—to see what was to be seen. He trans-shipped, and the boat went up to the same village, but no natives were to be seen. Pigs and dogs and fowls were running about, food cooking, "household gods" unmoved. The only semblance of protection to the latter was a mat or some other obstacle drawn or placed across the doorway. We had seen this at other deserted villages. We placed the recognised emblem of peace on a pole, and were pulling off when one of the natives emerged from his hiding-place and held conversation with our interpreter, who assured him of our peaceful intentions. Others, including some of those we had met on the beach, then came to the water's edge, and supplied us with coconuts, betel-nuts, bananas, taro, &c., *ad lib.*, receiving, of course, a *quid pro quo*. We were moving away again when Tabe came down stream in a canoe, and expressed a wish that we should visit his house. We followed him up the river a short distance, and stopped at the landing-place of his village, Kiara—apparently a large and clean one—but did not land. Our stock of coconuts was here further augmented, and we left, each party pleased with the other. It was subsequently explained that the natives who made the warlike display were visitors from a neighbouring tribe, and that they really meant fight.

On returning we found that the "Merrie England" had gone back to the Mambare with Butterworth, who is to take stores for a two months' patrol in these regions. The large steam-launch "Ruby," bound for the Mambare, passed about 4 p. m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18.—After breakfast Sir William, Lord Lamington, Sir Hugh, the Bishop, and Gilligan went up the river by boat. During the trip Tabe came on board with his four-year old son, who was decorated with a coloured sarong, and later on the Bishop presented him with a tomahawk; he was also given some beads. The poor little fellow did not seem happy in the presence of so many horrid white men, and was no doubt glad to get ashore. There he was soon surrounded by his playmates, who eagerly examined his gifts. We rowed about 4 miles up the river, most of the time in very heavy rain. On the run down we witnessed the native process of extracting sago from its native element. Sitting astride a felled tree, over a foot in diameter, was a native cutting away with great vigor and accompanying grunts the fibrous pulp, the instrument used being a round piece of hardwood about an inch and a half in diameter, fixed in a handle like a native tomahawk. This wood is made concave at the cutting end, so that the pulp is smashed up as well as cut off in small pieces at each stroke. It is then lifted by another native into an elevated sloping trough made out of a dug-out log. He next lifts water from the river by one of the most primitive buckets ever seen—a palm-leaf sewn together so as to form a rough triangular cone, and bound to the end of a stick—and pours it over the stuff, which is well stirred about so as to loosen and separate the fine sago. At the end of the trough is a strainer—the skeleton of a piece of old palm-leaf through which the macerated product passes. It then passes through a second trough and strainer, into a third, where it settles, and is afterwards taken out and prepared for food.

Shortly before 2 o'clock the "Merrie England" returned, and we learnt that the "Ruby," which had taken nine days to come from Samarai, had broken down completely, through her boiler-tubes leaking. She had several miners on board, and a considerable quantity of stores and material for Mambare station. These had to be taken on by the "Merrie England" subsequently.

We steam down to the mouth of the Kumusi, and anchor there about 4:15. The coast is very low, with swampy background, and the river has a double entrance, an island having been formed at its mouth. The upper one is similar to that of the Ope, but we found better water on the lower one. We camped on the best site available, but it was not very inviting. The swamp was too close. Finding, also, that we were short of "flies," Sir Hugh, the Bishop, and Bailey returned to the "Merrie England."

The natives—only men were to be seen—were a well-built, athletic-looking lot. They wore the leaf covering, and the hair mostly in small ringlets. We saw no tattooing, but some had cicatricial ornamentation. Though friendly with us, they gave the impression of being treacherous. They were already "cheeky," and, having a reputation for kleptomania, we kept them gently but firmly out of reach of mischief of that kind. The "Merrie England" left during the night for the Mambare, taking, besides the members of the party named above, Butterworth and Shanahan, to the latter of whom we bade farewell.

THURSDAY, MAY 19.—The small launch made an ineffectual attempt to cross the upper bar, but succeeded in getting round the island later on.

While waiting for her, a policeman showed us one of the native methods of producing fire. Taking a stout round stick he levelled a few inches of its surface, and rubbing it briskly up and down for a few minutes with a sharpened stick, first smoke, then fire appeared. One of the party tried it afterwards with like result.

Sir William being absorbed in calculations, Lord Lamington, Guilianetti, and Gilligan went up to Gopa village. All the natives fled at their approach, and the village proved the dirtiest and most malodorous that had been visited. Two graves, enclosed with small oblong framework covered with palm-leaves, were close alongside two houses, and part of a human skull was noticed among a heap of pig bones. The visitors were not sorry to take their leave, which was a signal for the return of the natives. Two or three followed us to the beach, and Lord Lamington bought a fighting spear and model canoe from one of them. On returning to the Kumusi a fresh start was made—Lord Lamington and Sir William in one boat (towed by the small launch), Guilianetti and Gilligan in another towed by the "Ruby," which had been patched up a little. Numbers of natives were seen, but on the boats steering for the shore they took to the bush. A landing was, however, made at Dingba, a small and rather poor village as far as houses were concerned. The natives were very friendly, and the chief was decorated in the usual fashion. One novelty noticed here was packets of very small prawns made up

in palm-leaves and baked in the ashes. Only a short distance further had been covered when the "Ruby" again became incapacitated. This involved rowing the second boat, and correspondingly slow progress. Large numbers of natives followed her along the beach, making the customary manifestations of peace and inviting the occupants to land, which they declined for the present. As the next large village—Basabua—was neared most of them turned back. Here we found Sir William seated on a public platform with the chief, whom he had just presented with a tomahawk as a recognition of the kindness of the tribe in extending hospitality to a runaway carrier. The natives seemed an active lot, and sharp traders. The party camped at a point near the Basari River, where some pretty orchids were got. The "Merrie England" had returned and anchored about half a mile off. Sir William stated that when he camped here a few years ago there was not a village within 5 miles. Now there are houses right up to the point. While taking observations Sir William and his private secretary felt a slight shock of earthquake. A few pigeons were shot among the mangrove islands. Sir Hugh complained of not feeling well; thought he had caught cold.

FRIDAY, MAY 20.—After taking more observations, Sir William and the shore section of the party returned to the "Merrie England," and her head was pointed to the mouth of the Musa.

Arrived off the Musa, Lord Lamington, Judge Winter, and Guilianetti proceed in a boat towed by the small launch up the Musa, the "Merrie England" going on to Porlock Harbour, with the "Ruby" in tow.

Sir Hugh still unwell; symptoms somewhat similar to bilious attack.

SATURDAY, MAY 21.—Aroused this morning by cries of "Orokaiva," and we are favoured by the visit of a canoe full of natives, one of whom, named Chiki, has a history. He was shot in the thigh by the police while taking part in a cannibal feast on the Mambare some years ago, and taken prisoner. The injured limb was set by Sir William on board the "Merrie England," and when able to get about Chiki was returned to his village, at the back of this harbour. He is lame, which may serve to accentuate his punishment for cannibalism, but he seems to enjoy a good reputation, is village constable, and generally gets a present when the "Merrie England" comes along.

After an early breakfast Sir William and Mackay start on a surveying tour, the captain and Butterworth assisting. Some of the party go ashore and have a rough experience among the mangrove trees and roots, evil-smelling swampy creeks, and stiff hill-climbing. Portion of the crew went ashore and got a good number of orchids.

The Musa explorers returned early in the evening, without having had any very interesting experience beyond shooting a few Gowra and other pigeons, hornbills, and ducks.

Sir Hugh about the same as last night.

SUNDAY, MAY 22.—Sir Hugh feels slightly better this morning. Proceeding towards Cape Nelson, the steamer anchored at 10 a.m. off a small river—the Duru—close to the foot of Mount Trafalgar, which Lord Lamington, who was accompanied by Guilianetti, made a traverse of. Our next anchorage (3 p.m.) was at Port Hennessy in 28 fathoms of water, about 100 yards from the shore. This is a beautiful fiord-like harbour, running into the land about a mile. Several small promontories, covered partly with grass and partly with scrub, project into it, forming charming nooks and inlets at its nearly semi-circular head. The afternoon was spent in exploring and collecting botanical specimens. The captain and Butterworth came aboard about 4 p.m. very tired.

Sir Hugh worse. It looks like fever.

MONDAY, MAY 23.—Learning from natives who came up the harbour in two canoes that there was a village not very far off, Lord Lamington determined to visit it. Taking with him Guilianetti and Gilligan, and a few police, they pulled to the head of the harbour, where they found some natives clearing land on the side of a very steep and stony hill. These undertake to act as guides. A walk of about 2 miles partly up the rocky bed of a small creek, and partly over a well-beaten track across the summit of grassy hills, brought them in view of an inlet very similar to Port Hennessy, and a further journey of nearly half a mile down an unpleasantly sharp declivity, at the base of which they had to negotiate a small creek and some patches of swamp, brought them to the village, the name of which was understood to be Tincaro. The natives as a rule were friendly. Some of their women and children were in sight, but a few of the men, one especially, looked dangerous. They were a well-made people and well nurtured. A few curios were purchased, and the party were about to depart when a strong effort was made to induce them to remain and take part in a taro feast, preparations for which had been made. The invitation was, however, declined, and the visitors returned "home."

A very convenient waterfall was found a short distance from the steamer, from which a fresh supply was procured for the remainder of the trip.

The afternoon was again spent in adding to the botanical collection. Sir William returned in the evening, and prescribed for Sir Hugh, who was much worse.

TUESDAY, MAY 24.—Sir William off again at 7:30 a.m. to continue survey, taking Butterworth with him. Captain Curtis remained to make a sketch of the harbour.

Sir Hugh is very ill indeed—a clear case of malarial fever—temperature, 104½. Others of the party complain of not feeling well, and several of the police are suffering from fever.

Leaving Port Hennessy at 9:30 a.m., we steamed into the most easterly inlet of Cape Nelson, a more expansive piece of water than Port Hennessy, surrounded with higher hills and equally impressive scenery. The water here, as all round the cape, is remarkably clear, and the "coral gardens" at the bottom are very beautiful. The bottom can be seen clearly at 39 feet.

A section of the party explored the various nooks and corners, which were very similar to those already mentioned. The natives were most friendly. The ship was completely surrounded with trading canoes, and the chattering amounted to a perfect babel.

Sir William returned about 5 p.m., and found Sir Hugh so ill that it was determined to return to Samarai with all possible speed, and then see how matters stood.

It being the birthday of Her Most Gracious Majesty, after tea all the party, together with the officers of the ship, assembled on the fore deck and drank "The Queen! God bless her."

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25.—Sir Hugh is slightly better this morning; temperature 3 degrees less than yesterday.

The screw is at work shortly before 8 a.m., and we cry "Barnatauka"—good bye—to the natives, who keep on trading until the last moment.

We anchored at Yasaia in the afternoon, and a few of the party went ashore, some to the village, which is very friendly, and others to explore a river close by, which, however, proved to be only a sharp indentation of the coast.

The Bishop, who had been ailing for a couple of days, was taken with fever this evening.

Sir Hugh is much worse. Everyone concerned and anxious.

THURSDAY, MAY 26.—Sir Hugh had a bad night. Temperature about the same. Sir William gave him more quinine. The Bishop, who had also taken quinine, had a good sweat during the night, and is slightly better.

Starting at 6:30 a.m., we arrive at Wedan, Bartle Bay, at 10:20. Here we say "Good-bye, and God bless you and your work," to the Bishop, whose condition, combined with Sir Hugh's serious attack, is rather dispiriting to us all. Pushing on as fast as steam and the intricacies of the navigation of these waters will permit, we arrive at Samarai at 8:30 p.m. Fresh milk is at once procured from the Kwato Mission Station for Sir Hugh, whose temperature stands at 102½.

The Queensland mail having been distributed, everyone is soon absorbed in letters or newspapers.

This morning Lord Lamington and Sir William visited Kwato, and were well pleased with the place and the work of the mission.

FRIDAY, MAY 27.—Sir Hugh is still seriously ill. At first it was proposed that he should remain here until convalescent so as to gain strength for the sea trip to Cooktown, and that during the interval, Lord Lamington should visit the D'Entrecasteaux Islands; but this was at once abandoned on Sir Hugh representing that he would rather get to Cooktown as soon as possible. Arrangements were made accordingly.

Mr. Bailey was stricken down suddenly about noon with fever; temperature 104. Mr. Gilligan was also found to have contracted a slight attack, and the chief engineer, Mr. Corfield, was ailing. The anxiety concerning Sir Hugh's condition in relation to what promised to be a rough trip in the "Merrie England" was so great that Sir William engaged the services of Dr. Vaughan, of Melbourne, who happened to be in port, to accompany the vessel to Cooktown.

SATURDAY, MAY 28.—Our farewell to Sir William and our Samarai friends was said about 10:30 a.m., and although we had been most hospitably treated, and had had a most interesting and pleasurable trip until the last few days, we were glad to feel that we were "homeward bound."

The trip across to Cooktown was rough, and attended with all the inevitable consequences when on board such a vessel as the "Merrie England," but Sir Hugh stood it fairly well—in fact, better than was expected.

MONDAY, MAY 30.—Made fast to the wharf at Cooktown at about 7:30 p.m., and at once took up quarters at the "Great Northern Hotel."

Sir

Sir Hugh soon showed signs of improvement, but was extremely weak up to the time of leaving for Brisbane. Mr. Bailey's attack was somewhat intermittent and not severe, and considering his age—71—he stood it and the sea trip well. Mr. Gilligan had a renewal of his attack at Cooktown, but it was very light.

During his stay at Cooktown His Excellency the Governor visited the hospital and public schools and addressed a few sentences of encouragement to both patients and scholars.

THURSDAY, JUNE 2, TO TUESDAY, JUNE 7.—The party returned together per s.s. "Maranoa," as far as Keppel Bay, where His Excellency transhipped to the "Lucinda," in which Lady Lamington had come north to meet him. They passed through the Narrows, travelled by special train from Gladstone, and arrived in Brisbane at 5 a.m. on Tuesday, 7th June. Sir Hugh and Messrs. Gilligan and Bailey continued their journey in the "Maranoa," and reached Brisbane at 8:30 p.m. on 6th June.

HOW IT STRIKES A STRANGER.

What strikes the visitor first and most is the gigantic fact that this immense colony, embracing over 90,000 square miles and a population, according to latest computations, of 350,000, has been brought under the direct control of British government within the last decade. It must be admitted that the way for this was prepared to some extent by noble-hearted self-sacrificing missionaries, but so far their labours have been confined to a narrow fringe of the coast-line, chiefly the south. In no case do they appear to have carried their work into the inland districts to any appreciable extent. There may be many reasons for this; perhaps the most potent has been their numerical weakness. "The harvest is great, but the labourers few." Giving the missionaries full credit for their work, still the great fact remains that nearly the whole of this warlike, savage, and cannibal race has been subjugated to a civilised form of government within some ten years by peaceful means. This is an achievement unprecedented in the world's history, one worthy of nineteenth century civilisation, and one which reflects the highest honour upon those by whom it has been accomplished, and the nation to which they belong. Their great motive power has been "Peace, Peace!" The principle underlying all their operations has been the desire to humanise, and the essential elements to the attainment of this object—sympathy, kindness, compassion—have been practised with eminent success. Physical force has only been resorted to in actual self-defence, and has always been abandoned the moment the occasion for its use has disappeared.

There is no doubt that this remarkable change is due almost entirely, if not quite so, to the energetic, determined, yet sympathetic policy pursued by the Administrator. The natives have come to learn that murder and outrage will no longer be tolerated, that the rights of property must be respected, and that all offenders must be surrendered to be dealt with under the law. Potent factors in Sir William's constitution and character are his utter fearlessness, his indomitable courage, and his great physical strength. This combination excites the admiration of the savage perhaps more so than that of his civilised brother, and backed up by tireless energy, by kindness to the natives in sickness and in health, and by rewarding kindness on their part to others—these appear to have been the elements of his great success.

Then the laws so far introduced are simply a means to the enforcement of right and the punishment of wrong—the protection of the natives from each other and from white men—and they have come to regard them as such and also to appreciate the vast change their operation has wrought in their conditions of life. An instance: Not long since a visitor to British New Guinea said to a native, "Suppose I go into your garden and take pawpaw when no one there?" The native said, "All right, you leave tobacco." "Suppose I no leave tobacco?" "Oh! I go yarn along Government about you." In other words, he would lay an information against him for theft.

Then, again, the application of the law appears to have been guided by the principle "*Festina lente*." There has been no hurry, no violent wrenching of old habits and customs. Even the burial regulations, which the natives, who are strongly conservative in most matters, at first disliked and endeavoured to evade, have come to be approved, at any rate on the south-east coast, on account of their sanitary advantages.

The administration of justice is bereft of nearly all formality. All the proceedings are fully explained to the parties concerned. The judge in the highest court sits in his ordinary dress, and takes the evidence in a most painstaking manner, judging by the one instance which came under notice, and the people seem to have confidence in him, and, as a rule, in the magistrates also.

The armed constabulary, composed entirely of natives under a European commandant, is an efficient body, good shots up to 200 yards, faithful and reliable in any emergency; and their discipline and training reflects great credit on their chief, Captain Butterworth, whose eight years' service in the Possession certainly deserves promotion. They are also capital boatmen, and sometimes do very hard work on the rivers, rowing, fixing camp, &c.

That the gaol should be made the school for the education of police seems an anomaly to the British mind, but the practice has worked with manifest success in New Guinea. A convict, during his term of imprisonment, is instructed in the ways and customs of Europeans, and also in the laws of the Possession, and on being returned to his village he is often appointed village constable. By this means a good knowledge of the laws is disseminated, and as a rule the policeman proves faithful to his trust. But this plan is not resorted to when the chief of the village is a desirable man to be appointed village constable; and where there is an opportunity for selection among the convicts, the most intelligent and otherwise suitable man is appointed.

The weak point in the present administrative system is the paucity of officers numerically.

The main coast-line measures 1,728 miles, the island frontages 1,936 miles = 3,664. To govern this extent of country there are about eleven officers, viz., the Administrator, Judge, Commandant, Resident Magistrates, and agents. There are a few other officers, but their duties are mostly clerical. To give some idea of the nature of the work to be performed, it may be mentioned that during the year ended 21st March, 1897, the "Merrie England" was under steam 180 days, consuming 800 tons of coal, and covering 16,250 miles. In addition to this there are two steam-launches which do a good deal of river and coastal work; these consumed 68 tons of coal in the same period. The cost of this branch of the service was £7,313 for the year. To further illustrate the position it may be stated that the district of the resident magistrate at Samarai extends from Magulu right up to our boundary, a coast-line of hundreds of miles thickly populated, to say nothing of inland work.

Then there are explorations into the interior—some scientific, others for the pacification or controlling of the natives—all of which cost time, labour, and money.

As a rule the natives we saw were of fairly good physique, those on the north-east being somewhat taller than the average on the south-east coast. They live in passably comfortable dwellings. Most of their villages are clean, and they are free from venereal and other serious diseases, the most common being a skin disease, which easily yields to the use of the sulphur bath. On the whole, now that tribal wars and massacres of coast dwellers by hillmen have ceased, the condition of the native is a tolerably happy and contented one.

Smoking is common all through the Possession, the natives using the wild tobacco leaf, but preferably the manufactured "trade" article when procurable. The pipe, or bau-bau, is a very different instrument from that in use among white people, and is far more economical. It is usually a piece of bamboo from 1 to 2 feet long and over an inch in diameter, one end being partially open, the other closed by being cut off close to the joint. Near the closed end is a small hole, like the aperture of a flute. Into this the native places his tobacco, which is rolled up in the leaf of a particular tree—or in paper if procurable—lights it and draws at the open end of the pipe until it is filled with smoke. He takes a few whiffs, and then the pipe is passed round to all who desire it, the smoker in most cases swallowing the smoke. In this way a little tobacco goes a long way. Their other luxuries are betel-nut and sugar-cane.

The land question is an important one, but that New Guinea will ever become closely settled by white people seems highly improbable. The country between the seashores and the mountains consists of agricultural and grazing land, and considerable areas of swamp or marshy soil. The river banks, especially towards the coast, are subject to frequent floods, which render them ill-fitted for cultivation, except it be of vegetation which can stand considerable moisture. Rubber-trees and vines abound, and the swamps would probably grow rice. The higher lands, also the valleys and plains, are suitable for tropical agriculture generally, while the pastures should support cattle, but sheep are not likely to thrive, strong spear-grass being too prevalent. But the climatic conditions, the heavy cost of clearing for European cultivation, and, above all, the liability to malarial fever of a severe type, are serious drawbacks. Unhealthy as is the climate in its normal condition, the overturning of the soil for European cultivation is certain to result in prostrating and long-continuing fever, perhaps in great mortality. The great local preventive and remedy is quinine, of which the residents take what elsewhere would be considered enormous doses—as much as 30 and even 40 grains a day. Then 2s. an acre for this land is not cheap, considering the price at which land can be procured in Queensland and other parts of Australia by small settlers, and if conditioned with another 2s. an acre expenditure in improvements the comparison is still more unfavourable, and this is leaving out all considerations of the hardships which must attend opening up a new country.

The

The inducements, therefore, to farmers from Australia or elsewhere to rush to take up land in New Guinea are infinitesimal. The only factor that will develop the country is capital, and plenty of it; and even then the return will be problematical for some years. Rubber is the only article likely to yield a present profit. Coconut and its products are almost unsaleable, and then, unless the trees are already on land purchased from the natives, they will have to be grown, which means several years waiting for fruit. Gold is always an "unknown" quantity, respecting which it is impossible to give any forecast; but it is safe to say that in New Guinea it has cost far more in labour, suffering, and life than it is worth. Osmiridium has been found, but in very small quantities. In fact, everything but rubber points to hard work, heavy expenditure, and accumulated compound interest before profit can be hoped for. The distant future may, however, present a brighter picture, but, as connected with every phase of pioneering and agriculture, the risks are great.

Another difficulty is the matter of labour. The native is a stranger to anything like regular daily toil. His wants are few, and almost all of them are supplied with very little exertion on his part. Coconut, sago, taro, bananas, and yams are his principal food, being varied occasionally by pig, wallaby, fish, and dog. Coconuts grow everywhere and yield fruit continuously and abundantly. Sago, bananas, and taro are plentiful, growing wild in many places. Most of the root foods have to be cultivated, but a few days' labour in the planting season—about July—is all that is necessary. Therefore, the native has no occasion to work regularly, and is not likely to be induced to do so even for wages unless it is pretty high. Their labour is certain to be spasmodic and intermittent, and not very hard. Of course, the rising generation might be trained up to systematic work.

The following figures will show the growth of the trade of the colony during the last nine years:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1888-89	11,108	5,943	17,051
1889-90	16,104	6,455	22,559
1890-91	15,530	8,434	23,964
1891-92	23,755	11,289	35,044
1892-93	23,261	14,966	40,227
1893-94	28,501	14,952	43,453
1894-95	28,367	16,215	44,582
1895-96	34,521	19,401	53,922
1896-97	51,391	35,654	95,737

Eighty-five vessels (exclusive of Government vessels), representing 13,650 tons, entered during 1896-7; 65, representing 15,174 tons, cleared. Total tonnage, 28,824, as against 19,759 tons in 1895-6.

The revenue has increased from £2,679 in 1888-9 to £10,663 in 1896-7.

The expenditure, which is limited by the Act to £15,000 a year, has grown from £10,769 in 1888-9 to £16,223 in 1896-7. The excess expenditure in this case, £1,228, was—as in all similar cases—sanctioned by the guaranteeing colonies.

NAMES OF EASILY RECOGNISED PLANTS OBSERVED BY LORD LAMINGTON'S PARTY DURING NEW GUINEA TRIP.

Some of the trees planted in the streets of Cooktown.

Tarocephalus cordatus (Leichhardt-tree), *Brassia actinophylla* (Umbrella-tree), *Poinciana regia*, *Wormia alata*, *Alstonia scholaris*.

LIZARD ISLAND.—*Stephania hernaudiifolia*, *Capparis nummularia*, *Polycarpea breviflora*, *Thespesia populnea*, *Canarium australasicum*, *Carapa moluensis*, *Indigofera euncaphylla*, *Cosalpinia Bonducella*, *Acacia Cuminghamii*, var. *Melaleuca leucadendron* (Tea-tree), *Drosera indica* (Sundew), *Melastoma Malalathricum*, *Scævola Koenigii*, *Hoya Keyssii*, *Tournefortia argentea*, *Justicia procumbens*, *Premna obtusifolia*, *Boerhaavia diffusa*, *Achyranthus aspera*, *Aristolochia indica*, var. *Excoecaria Agallocha* (Milky Mangrove), *Macaeranga Tanarius*, *Dendrobium undulatum*, *Curcuma australasica*, *Thysanotus tuberosus*, *Commelina ensifolia*, *Cyperus polystachyus*, *Arundinella nepalensis*, *Perotis rara*, *Sorghum plumosum*, *Anthistina ciliata* (Kangaroo-grass), *Diplachne loliiformis*, *Darallia elegans*, *Notholana vellea*.

PORT MORESBY.—*Polanisia viscosa*, *Bombax malabaricum* (Silk Cotton-tree), *Micromelum pubescens*, *Cardiospermum Halicacabum*, *Zornia diphylla*, *Canavalia obtusifolia*, *Crotalaria linifolia*, *Crotalaria trifolium*, *Sesbania aegyptiaca*, *Cassia mimosoides*, *Eucalyptus platyphylla*, *Eucalyptus papuana*, *Morinda citrifolia*, *Tournefortia argentea*, *Josephina grandiflora*, *Vitex trifolia*, *Euphorbia pilulifera* (Asthma Plant), *Hernandia peltata*, *Tacca pinnatifida*, var. *Sporobolus virginicus*, *Cynodon dactylon* (Couch-grass), *Anthistina ciliata* (Kangaroo-grass), *Heteropogon contortus* (Bunch Spear-grass), very abundant here and other parts.

FISHERMAN'S ISLAND.—*Heritiera littoralis* (Red Mangrove), *Melhania incana*, *Portulaca australis*, *Sesuvium portulacastrum*, *Jasminum*, sp., *Evolvulus alsinoides*, *Ipomea Pes-caprae*, *Oplismenus compositus*.

OPEE.—*Tacca pinnatifida*. Sir Wm. MacGregor says that the natives plait the fibre of the leaf-stems, and make it up into straw hats. *Hiatula winnice* (the Green-light Fungus).

KUMUSI.—Found a beautiful specimen of *Dictyophora tahitensis*, and on the logs a great quantity of *Guepinia spathularia*.

ASTROLABE RANGE (April 28).—*Pholidota imbricata*.

KAPPA-KAPPA (April 28).—*Cycas papuana*.

DEDILE (April 30).—*Calophyllum inophyllum* (Ndilo). This excellent timber, which I am told is to be obtained in quantity, is shipped to the various New Guinea settlements. A stack of logs was on the beach awaiting shipment at time of our visit. On the beach were some large trees of *Terminalia catappa* and *Erythrina indica* (Coral-tree), as well as *Hibiscus tiliaceus*, and the other common coast trees.

DUFAGRE ISLAND.—*Vitex trifolia*, *Cordia cordata* (a handsome useful shade-tree bearing showy flowers). Sir William MacGregor describes the wood, which is streaked with black and yellow, as very beautiful. *Leea sambucina*, *Artocarpus incisus* (Bread-fruit), *Pongamia glabra*, *Ocimum sanctum* (Holy Balm), *Triumfetta rhomboidea* (Chinese-burr), *Sophora tomentosa*, *Wedelia biflora*, *Orthosiphon stamineus*.

SAMARAI.—*Thuarea saunterosa*. This common coast-grass makes an excellent sward under the coconut trees, and thrives on spots where coal has been stacked. Shade trees—*Cordia cordata*, *Barringtonia acutangula*, *Calophyllum inophyllum*, &c.

MILNE BAY TO MULLIN'S HARBOUR.—Collected by Lord Lamington—*Curcuma australasica*, *Acanthus ilicifolius*, *Hoya australis*.

CHAD'S BAY.—The grasses about the landing-place were—*Eleusine indica* (Crow's-foot), *Oplismenus compositus*, *Thuarea sarmentosa*, *Panicum sanguinale* (Summer-grass), *Panicum distachyum*, *Panicum trichoides*. A large tree of *Erythrina indica* (Coral-tree) which had been cut down; the trunk measured 5 feet in diameter.

PHILLIP'S HARBOUR (May 6).—the only plant noticed here that had not met with at other places was *Smilax australasica*.

MAMBARE.—Some time before we reached this place the coast had the appearance of being covered with tall, erect Cypress Pines. These trees, however, proved to be only the normal upright growth of *Casuarina equisetifolia*, the wide-spread She-oak. Here we noticed *Caryota* (?), *Rumphiana*, and several other palms, specimens of which could not be obtained for examination, except the *Nipa puticans*, which densely lined the sides of the mouth of the river. *Ocimum sanctum* (Holy Balm), *Hibiscus tiliaceus*, *Scævola Koenigii*, *Thuarea sarmentosa*, *Eutana scandens* (Matchbox-lean), but only noticed on small green pod; *Phragmites communis* (the Common Bean), *Cesalpinia nuga*, *Paspalum scrobiculatum*, *Cynodon dactylon* (Couch-grass), *Centotheca lappacea*, *Panicum sanguinale* (Summer-grass), *Panicum distachyum*, *Imperata arundinacea* (Blady-grass), *Kyllingia monocephala*, *Pimbristylis miliacea*, *Jussiaea suppuritica*, *Acanthus ilicifolius*, *Vitis cordata*, *Flagellaria indica*, var. *Cordylone terminalis*, *Modceca populifolia* (?), *Nasturtium palustre*, *Albizia procera*, *Dalbergia densa*, *Asplenium nidus* (Bird's Nest Fern), *Acrostichum scandens*, *Polypodium acrostichoides*, *Canavalia obtusifolia*, *Mucuna pruriens*, var.

PORT HENNESSY (23rd May).—*Nepenthes Kennedyi* (Pitcher-plant).
 DOUGLAS HARBOUR.—*Tacca pinnatifida*, *Flagellaria indica* (probably a distinct form).
 HOLDICOTTE (20th May).—*Myrmecodia Altonii*, and a *Hydnophytum* in abundance. *Darallia solido*. On a small island near I saw for the first time in New Guinea, *Aricannia officinalis* (the White Mangrove).
 MUSC RIVER.—*Phaleria Blumci*, var. *Latifolia*, *Leca Tambucina*, *Coix Lachryma* (Job's Tears), *Ancilema giganteus*, *Pterolobium*, sp.
 BAYS AT FOOT OF MOUNT TRAFALGA.—A *Spathoglottis* in abundance; three species of *Hoya*.
 PLANTS NOTICED AS BEING USED IN A FRESH STATE BY THE NATIVES TO DECORATE THEMSELVES.—*Cesalpinia pulcherrima*; bright flowers. *Vitex trifolia*; scented foliage. *Anisomeles salvifolia*; ditto. *Orthosiphon staminens*; flowers. *Ocimum sanctum*; scented foliage. *Melastoma malabathricum*; bright flowers. *Evodia hortensis*; scented foliage. *Gomphrena globosa*; bright flower-heads. *Amaranthus*, several bright-coloured varieties; variegated leaves.
 F. MANSON BAILEY,
 Colonial Botanist.

Brisbane, 10th June, 1898.

Telegram from The Premier of Queensland to The Premier of New South Wales.

2 July 1898.

AFTER very careful consideration of the question of the New Guinea Syndicate concessions I am of opinion that the issues involved which include the whole subject of the future administration of New Guinea are so numerous and of so complicated a character that any attempt to deal with them by correspondence must result in confusion and delay. The most satisfactory method of arriving at a solution of the important questions at stake appears to me to be by a Conference of the Premiers of the contributing colonies and I earnestly commend the suggestion to your favourable consideration. If you agree the place of meeting is immaterial so far as I am concerned but in view of the meeting of our Parliament on 26th instant it is desirable from my standpoint that the Conference should be held as soon as possible. I have telegraphed in similar terms to the Premier of Victoria.

THOMAS J. BYRNES.

Telegraph that the General Election in New South Wales is so near that a Conference before it is practically impossible. Send copy to Victoria.

G.H.R.

Telegram from The Premier of New South Wales to The Premier of Queensland.

(Copy sent to Premier of Victoria.)

6 July 1898.

Your telegram suggesting a Conference of Premiers *re* New Guinea matters. Our General Election is so near that a Conference before it is practically impossible.

Telegram from The Premier of Queensland to The Premier of New South Wales.

5 July 1898.

I HAVE received following telegram from Sir George Turner *Re* proposed New Guinea Conference. I cannot well leave Melbourne at present as House is in Session and I have to prepare for several important Bills Financial Statement and Loan Proposals for Public Works. Monday 17th would suit me if you can arrange for Mr. Reid to be in Melbourne on that date but this may be difficult in view of his General Election being so close and his House in Session. I shall be glad to learn your decision as soon as possible.

GEORGE TURNER.

Telegram from The Premier of Queensland to The Premier of New South Wales.

11 July 1898.

As there appears no chance at present of arranging a Conference to discuss the British New Guinea questions I am writing you to-day formally referring to you in terms of clause 20 of amended proposals the Ordinance under which the concessions are granted and requesting you to favour this Government with your views regarding its provisions as they are desired to be amended by the Secretary of State. I shall be glad to receive your reply at the earliest possible date.

Reply Much regret impossible to confer just now. Will give best attention to your letter New Guinea.

G.H.R.

The Premier of Queensland to The Premier of New South Wales.

Sir,

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane, 11 July, 1898.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 6th instant, informing me that in view of the near approach of the General Election in New South Wales, you will be unable to take part in the Conference suggested by me of Prime Ministers of the contributing colonies on the question of the concessions to the British New Guinea Syndicate and that of the future administration of the Possession. I have also received a telegram from the Prime Minister of Victoria in which he states that owing to Parliamentary business he would be unable to attend such a Conference before the 17th instant, which would bring the meeting too near the date of the opening of the Queensland Parliament.

As it accordingly appears practically impossible to carry out my suggestion, I consider it necessary, in order to avoid further delay in dealing with the subject of the concessions to the Syndicate, to formally refer to the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria, under clause 20 of the amended proposals for the administration of British New Guinea, the Ordinance under which the concessions are granted, and to request that you will, at the earliest possible date, favour this Government with your views regarding the provisions of the Ordinance referred to, as they are desired to be amended by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.,

THOMAS J. BYRNES.

Telegram from The Premier of Queensland to The Premier of New South Wales.

11 July 1898.

STRICTLY confidential I understand you have been advised of the name of the gentleman proposed to be nominated by the Imperial Government to succeed Sir William MacGregor May I request that you will at your earliest convenience furnish this Government with your views regarding this proposal.

See reply attached.

Reply have concurred in nomination of the Home Government of successor to MacGregor.—
G.H.R., 12.

Telegram from The Premier of Queensland to The Premier of New South Wales.

12 July 1898.

Re nomination of successor to Sir William MacGregor I fear that by some inadvertence the proper procedure has in this case been departed from I do not think that your Government should have expressed its concurrence without consulting Queensland especially when I had sought your advice in the manner that has quite recently been claimed by New South Wales and Victoria as the correct course I hope that your concurrence may be withdrawn or suspended until we have interchanged ideas.

Telegram from The Premier of New South Wales to The Premier of Queensland.

12 July 1898.

HAVE concurred in nomination of Home Government of successor to MacGregor.

Telegram from The Premier of Queensland to The Premier of New South Wales.

13 July, 1898.

CONFIDENTIAL Referring to previous telegrams as the Administrator of British New Guinea is also practically the Legislative authority it seems to me of paramount importance if these Colonies are to continue to exercise any responsibility in connection with the Government of the Possession that whoever is appointed should have some acquaintance with Australasian affairs and should be in touch with Australian sentiment So far as I can learn the gentleman now suggested does not possess these qualifications and for this reason I am not disposed to concur in the nomination.

Telegram from The Premier of New South Wales to The Premier of Queensland.

18 July 1898.

CONFIDENTIAL When I concurred in Imperial nominations I was not aware of your intentions I can see now that I made a mistake in not conferring with you and Turner first Will see what can be done.

Telegram from The Premier of New South Wales to The Premier of Victoria.

18 July, 1898.

THE Imperial Government sounded us as to our willingness to concur in appointment of certain Imperial official We concurred Since then Byrnes told me of his wishes I know nothing about either man I propose to make independent inquiries about Dicken's qualifications and the other nominees and will acquaint you with result.

Telegram from The Premier of Queensland to The Premier of New South Wales.

15 July 1898.

CONFIDENTIAL I propose to submit name of Mr. C. S. Dicken C.M.G. at present Secretary to our Agency-General in London for appointment as Administrator of British New Guinea in succession to Sir William MacGregor Mr. Dicken has held a commission in the Army is a barrister-at-law and has been in the Public Service of this Colony for thirty-five years He is 57 years of age hale and vigorous and his administrative capacity and intimate acquaintance with Australian affairs would I am sure fit him to fill the position with credit to himself and with advantage to the Possession I hope you will see your way to support my nomination.

Telegram from The Premier and Colonial Treasurer, Dubbo, to The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade, Sydney.

20 July 1898.

PLEASE cable Cooper asking speedy confidential inquiries concerning qualification of Dickens Queensland Agent's Office London for position of successor to MacGregor in New Guinea.

Cablegram from The Premier of New South Wales to The Acting Agent-General, London.

21 July 1898.

MAKE inquiry speedily and confidentially concerning qualifications Dicken Secretary Agent-General for Queensland for position of successor MacGregor Administrator New Guinea Report to me by telegraph.

Telegram

Telegram from The Premier of Queensland to The Premier of New South Wales.

20 July 1898.

I HAVE just received through His Excellency the Governor a despatch from Mr. Chamberlain in reference to Sir Hugh Nelson's letter on the results of the Conference held in Melbourne in January on the subject of the future administration of British New Guinea. A copy of this despatch will be at once forwarded to you but in the meantime I think it expedient to inform you that the Secretary of State says he is unable to recommend any further grants from Imperial Exchequer but trusts that the colonies may be induced to continue their contributions so far as may be necessary with the aid of the accumulated fund to support the existing administration including the maintenance of the steamship "Mervie England" until such time as the dependency is self-supporting it is apparent from the tenor of the despatch that the Imperial Government wish to throw upon the Australian Colonies the whole responsibility of dealing with New Guinea and under these circumstances a new light is cast both upon the question of the New Guinea concessions and upon that of the recent nomination to the Administratorship. It seems impossible as I before stated to arrive at any satisfactory conclusions unless we meet and confer but the Secretary of State is pressing for an expression of our views on the subject of the concessions. May I accordingly urge that you will as soon as practicable reply to my letter of 11th instant. I have wired in similar terms to the Prime Minister of Victoria. New South Wales.

THOMAS J. BYRNES.

Telegram from The Premier of Queensland to The Premier of New South Wales.

22 July 1898.

I HAVE received the following telegram from Sir George Turner New Guinea. Some approximate statement should be prepared showing the probable amounts required from each colony during the next five years. It will be difficult to get our Parliament to agree to provide money as there is a strong feeling as to the Syndicate. Will send the formal objections early next week. (Signed) GEORGE TURNER. I have replied in following terms. British New Guinea. The revenue for the past financial year is estimated at £10,000 the expenditure being as usual £15,000 plus the £4,000 granted from the accumulated revenue fund towards the expenses of the "Mervie England". It will of course be preferable to set apart from the fund if the proposals of the Melbourne Conference are given effect to the whole sum requisite for any one year's expenditure leaving the revenue to accumulate as heretofore and to be used at the same rate until the Possession becomes self-supporting or the fund is exhausted and we have placed on our Trust Funds Estimates under the heading of "British New Guinea Accumulated Revenue Fund" a sum of £12,500 for the ten months September to July next the question as to whether so far as we are concerned any Parliamentary authority is required for the expenditure other than the formal Vote on the Estimates is a debatable one but I am of opinion that the Vote will be sufficient. It would however appear worthy of consideration whether it would not be advisable for your Parliament to formally place under our control subject to the conditions as to the administration of the Possession laid down in the amended proposals your colony's share of the accumulated revenue and I shall be glad to learn your views in the matter. I have communicated the purport of this telegram to Mr. Turner.

THOMAS J. BYRNES.

Telegram from The Premier of Queensland to The Premier of New South Wales.

23 July 1898.

CONFIDENTIAL. In view of the decision of the Imperial Government as conveyed in Mr. Chamberlain's despatch of 8th June not to contribute any further towards the expenses of maintenance of the s.s. "Mervie England" it appears to me matter for serious consideration as to whether we should consent to assume any further responsibility in regard to the Government of British New Guinea. I am prepared on behalf of Queensland to undertake the sole control of the territory if it be attached to this colony and I am confident that it could be administered under these conditions without difficulty. The present system is however so fraught with complications that I should be exceedingly reluctant to be a party to its continuance and in view of the present attitude of the Home Authorities I am of opinion that failing the alternative suggested the Possession should be taken over by Great Britain and administered as an ordinary Crown colony pending a decision of the three Governments. I feel disposed to convey an intimation to this effect to the Secretary of State and to withdraw my formal nomination of Mr. Dicken for the Administratorship. I earnestly beg that that you will at the earliest possible moment favour me with an expression of your views on the general question which will enable us to arrive at a definite agreement. I have telegraphed in similar terms to the Prime Minister of Victoria.

THOMAS J. BYRNES.

The Premier of Queensland to The Premier of New South Wales.

Sir,

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane, 20 July, 1898.

I have the honor to confirm the following telegram which I forwarded to you to day, and to enclose a copy of the despatch from the Secretary of State therein referred to, relative to Sir Hugh Nelson's letter on the results of the late Conference on the subject of the future administration of British New Guinea:—

"I have just received through His Excellency the Governor, a despatch from Mr. Chamberlain in reference to Sir Hugh Nelson's letter on the result of the Conference held in Melbourne in January, on the subject of the future administration of British New Guinea. A copy of this despatch will be at once forwarded to you, but in the meantime I think it expedient to inform you that the Secretary of State says he is unable to recommend any further grants from Imperial Exchequer, but trusts that the colonies may be induced to continue their contributions so far as may be necessary with the aid of the accumulated fund to support the existing administration, including the maintenance of the steamship 'Mervie England,' until such time as the dependency is self-supporting. It is apparent from the tenor of the despatch that the Imperial Government wish to throw upon the contributing colonies the whole responsibility of dealing with New Guinea, and under these circumstances a new light is cast upon the question

question of the New Guinea concessions and upon that of the recent nomination to the Administratorship. It seems impossible, as I before stated, to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion unless we meet and confer, but the Secretary of State is pressing for an expression of our views on the subject of the concessions. May I accordingly urge that you will as soon as practicable reply to my letter of 11th instant? I have wired in similar terms to the Prime Minister of Victoria."

I have, &c.,
THOMAS J. BYRNES.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies to The Governor of Queensland.

My Lord,

Downing-street, 8 June, 1898.

I have given very careful consideration to your telegram of the 16th February respecting the future administration of British New Guinea, and to the memorandum by Sir H. Nelson which you have since forwarded.

2. I understand the present proposals of the Premiers referred to by Sir H. Nelson to be that for the present the system under which British New Guinea is administered should be continued, but that the contributing colonies should stop their annual contributions, placing the accumulated fund of about £30,000 at the disposal of the Government of Queensland in aid of the revenue of the Possession for the next three or four years, by which time it is hoped that it will be self-supporting. At the same time a hope is expressed that Her Majesty's Government will be able to continue for a time a contribution of £3,000 a year towards the upkeep of the "Merrie England."

3. Further, it is stated that the Australian Colonies are not at present prepared to undertake responsibility for the government of the British Solomon Islands.

4. In dealing with these questions it must not be forgotten that British New Guinea was annexed only in response to the unanimous demand of Australia, and on the understanding that the Australian Colonies would pay for the administration of the new dependency, which was to be to all intents and purposes an Australian possession.

5. It is true that Her Majesty's Government have since materially contributed to the expense of the administration of the dependency, but each year it is becoming more difficult for them to induce the House of Commons to vote money for the administration of a Possession in which the taxpayer of the United Kingdom has so little direct commercial interest; it is felt that the time has come when the grant in aid which has been made for so many years should cease.

6. At the Conference last year of the Premiers of the self-governing colonies I reminded them that the Mother country had always a great deal on its shoulders, and that the colonies could not expect it to bear burdens which were properly theirs.

7. Now, in the case of British New Guinea, it is practically certain that if the Possession is to be developed it will be by Australian capital and enterprise. What trade it at present does—amounting to less than £40,000 a year—is carried on with Australia. Experience in Fiji shows that the only enterprises which have been successful on a scale worth mentioning have been those of Australian companies or individuals, and it is unlikely that the fate of New Guinea will be different. The Australians are practically on the spot, and they have unlimited command of capital. The Australian living in a sub-tropical country takes more kindly to tropical life and work than the native of the United Kingdom. Similarly, the trade of Fiji is wholly with Australia, and although, no doubt, some part of it is in goods from this country, or for export to this country, there is not, and probably never will be, any direct trade between the United Kingdom and Fiji. The distance is too great, and there is a sufficient market in Australia both to buy in and to sell in.

8. The interest of the English exporters, therefore, in the Pacific market is only indirect. It is part of the market of his Australian customer, and it is on the Australian intermediary that he must rely for the exploitation of that market. It is too small to make it worth his while to establish a direct trade, especially when he might thereby offend a large and influential supporter.

9. Nor is there in any case a prospect of an early market of any sort in British New Guinea, which is peopled at present by some 300,000 savages, perhaps one in a thousand of whom has begun to acquire the wants of civilisation. It has been suggested that the Government might introduce coolies, but such a suggestion does not take account of the difficulty of settling them. In ten years Sir William MacGregor has found some 25,000 acres of land suitable and available for settlement, and has hopes in another eight to make the amount up to 250,000 acres. The pacification of the country must precede settlement, and it advances slowly with such a primitive race of savages. The coolie is, moreover, adapted to produce rather than consume, and though he is better in the last respect than the Papuan, little in the way of a market for English products can be expected from him. Before coolies can be introduced there must be the capital to introduce them and to find them employment when they arrive, and I fail to see what there is to attract capital from this country to New Guinea rather than to the many other tropical possessions of the Crown, over which New Guinea has no special advantages to compensate for its remoteness.

10. Again, if, as seems not improbable, the territory should turn out to be a gold-producing centre of some importance, there can be no manner of doubt that the rush to it will come from Australia, and inevitably tend to link it more closely to Australia.

11. While, therefore, I have no objection to the continuance of the existing administrative arrangements for a time, I feel that as the Australian Colonies will reap all the direct and immediate benefit from the development of the territory, and there are numerous and pressing calls on the Imperial Exchequer for the development of territories in which this country is more immediately interested, I am unable to recommend that any further Imperial grants should be made towards New Guinea, towards which Her Majesty's Government have already contributed for seven years longer than they engaged to do.

12. I trust, therefore, that the contributing colonies may be induced to continue their contributions so far as may be necessary with the aid of the accumulated fund to support the existing administration, including the maintenance of the steamship "Merrie England," until such time as the dependency is self-supporting.

13. As regards the Solomon Islands, I will not for the present press further the proposal that the colonies should relieve Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.,
J. CHAMBERLAIN.

The

The Premier of Victoria to The Premier of New South Wales.

Sir,

Premier's Office, Melbourne, 26 July, 1898.

I have the honor to forward herewith, for your information, a copy of a letter which I yesterday addressed to the Honorable the Premier of Queensland, setting forth the objections entertained by this Government to the proposed concession to the British New Guinea Syndicate.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE TURNER,
Premier.

The Premier of Victoria to The Premier of Queensland.

Sir,

Premier's Office, Melbourne, 25 July, 1898.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, formally referring to this Government, under clause 20 of the "Amended Proposals for the Administration of British New Guinea," the Ordinance No. 1. of 1898, "to enable certain persons to acquire and occupy Crown lands not exceeding in the aggregate 250,000 acres in area, and for other purposes subsidiary thereto," and asking for an expression of the views of this Government regarding the provisions of that Ordinance, as they are desired to be amended by the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

After having given the matter very careful consideration, I regret to have to inform you that this Government is unable to approve of the Ordinance, either as originally passed or as now proposed to be amended.

The reasons for such disapproval are as follows:—

1. Under the Ordinance the Syndicate interested is granted a monopoly of land selection, since it is to be allowed, for six months after any suitable lands may have been from time to time declared available for occupation, the *sole* right to acquire any of such lands up to the maximum of 250,000 acres. This concession would practically allow it to take the best parts available, leaving only the inferior and useless portions for others. An Australian pioneer, for instance, after discovering a piece of land would, upon its being, at his request, thrown open for selection, probably find such land, if really worth anything, taken by the Syndicate. Thus his trouble, risk, and expense in exploring would result practically in providing the Syndicate with a piece of good land, and that body would acquire the land without any labour, responsibility, or even expense beyond the payment of a very small sum to the Government. This policy would inevitably lead to the discouragement, if not the total suppression, of Australian enterprise, notwithstanding the fact that these colonies have contributed, and are expected to continue to contribute, largely to the cost of the government of a territory which is naturally and geographically a part of Australia, and which should be open in an especial manner to Australian enterprise.

2. The concession, too, is not simply that the Syndicate is to be at liberty to take up a large area of land, but that it is further to be allowed eight years during which to enjoy its monopoly and to acquire the choicest parts of the Possession. Nor is even this all; for if, within eight years, sufficient land has not been declared available to allow of selection up to the maximum permitted under the Ordinance, then the Syndicate's prior right of selection is to continue until such an area has been so declared available. The extent of territory of which the Administrator has obtained possession up to the present time is stated to be only 40,000 acres, and of that area probably a large portion is not such as could be declared suitable for occupation under the terms of the Ordinance, so that it is extremely doubtful whether the Syndicate's claims could be satisfied for very many years; meanwhile all other persons would be shut out, and could only look on while the Syndicate exercised its priority of choice. This is the position of affairs, even if the Ordinance be amended as suggested by Mr. Chamberlain; but under the terms of the enactment as originally passed the Syndicate was given the sole right to purchase lands until it had purchased the total area obtainable, a practically indefinite period.

3. The Syndicate, too, is a British one, with doubtless views of its own as to the development of the country. Those views may not, however, be at all in accord with Australian ideas. The arrangement proposed would practically hand over enormous powers to a company having its headquarters in London, and not animated in any way by Australian feeling, thus reducing to a shadow Australian influence in the Possession. The land policy which, in a new country like that of the Possession, is of peculiar importance, would be largely dictated by the Syndicate. The affairs of the Possession, instead of being conducted (as Mr. Chamberlain himself said in his despatch of 22nd March, 1897, they should be), "in accordance with Australian rather than English ideas," would be dominated by a powerful English corporation. The result of thus depriving the colonies of the control of the development of the Possession might be that they would ultimately be obliged to contribute even more largely to its maintenance, while on the other hand there is no provision requiring the Syndicate to share in any way in the expense of such maintenance. Surely Australian interests, supported by Australian contributions, should secure an adequate share of real Australian control.

4. Moreover, the Administrator has discouraged other applicants for large land privileges. One such applicant appears to have been informed that it was contrary to the policy of the Government to give exclusive exploiting privileges to anybody, but that if he would specify any particular part he wished to lease or purchase, steps would be taken to ascertain if it could be made available. The applicant then indicated an area of 100 square miles for which he was willing to negotiate, but Sir William MacGregor replied that it was perfectly hopeless to obtain 100 square miles in any part of the Possession, because it was not the policy of the contributing Governments to sell land for speculative purposes. That was a very different policy from the course which, without any concurrence on the part of the contributing Governments, is proposed in the case of the Syndicate.

5. The monopoly includes the right of mining subject only to payment to Her Majesty of a royalty. Mining is a form of enterprise in which Australians are especially interested, and as to which Australian Governments are particularly careful in the granting of rights. The resources of New Guinea in this direction may prove most valuable, but by the proposed concessions Australians would be absolutely prevented from participating in the benefit of any discoveries.

6. The abovementioned terms of the Ordinance are, it will be observed, all in favour of the Syndicate and all against the public. They do not allow, as they should, an equal opportunity to all who may desire to try their fortune in New Guinea, but instead they establish a monopoly.

7.

7. The Syndicate, too, appears to be merely a speculating body. Its capital is only £5,000, and the total purchase money to be paid for the land is only £25,000. The smallness of the risk clearly indicates the character of the undertaking. Powers are given which are manifestly intended to be exercised at the first favourable opportunity, of leasing or assigning to others any land acquired under the Ordinance, giving the lessees or assignees the same rights as those of the Syndicate itself. There is no power reserved even of controlling its actions, the appointment of its directors, or the transfer of its rights to improper persons, or even of preventing those rights from ultimately falling into the hands of foreigners. It is certainly not the policy of Australia to sell lands to any company for speculative purposes, much less to consent to concessions which might possibly have the effect of permitting any portion of the Possession to be acquired by people of other nationalities. Did the Syndicate intend itself to develop the lands, the concession, though open to objection as being a monopoly, would not be so dangerous as they become when there is an evident intention on the part of that body to dispose of its lands at a profit, and when there is nothing to prevent lands so disposed of by it from passing into unknown and, perhaps, highly objectionable hands.

8. There is no power reserved in the Ordinance to compel the Syndicate to do anything with the land after acquiring it, except to spend a very small sum in undefined improvements.

9. The power given to raise money may result in the lands originally obtained passing into the hands of mortgagees.

10. The permission given by clause 19, sub-clause A, as to the purchase of land from the natives (even with the proviso that such purchase is to be subject to the approval of the Administrator) is objectionable, and would certainly lead to trouble. At the Conference on New Guinea affairs held in Melbourne on 24th January last, Sir William MacGregor said: "One principle that we have always observed is that we will not take from the natives any land of which they are in occupation, and we do not buy land from them if it is land that we think they require, or that they are likely to require in the near future. No European or other person can buy land from a native, only the Crown can buy land. If a settler goes there and wishes to take up land, he has to go to the Crown to obtain it." But the very right which Sir William MacGregor, according to the extract quoted, declared was never given to private persons, is now proposed to be bestowed on the Syndicate or its transferees, and thus, unless the supervision of the Administrator were most vigilant, natives might be induced for entirely inadequate or even improper considerations to part with land which they occupy, and this would, in all probability, lead to misunderstandings.

11. By clause 19, sub-clause A, the Syndicate or its transferees are also given power to apply for other lands. Some arrangement should be made to prevent the grant of such other lands without the consent of the colonies.

12. I assume that the power conferred by clause 19, sub-clause C, to construct defences, does not mean naval or military defences; but if it does, it is decidedly one that should not be given.

I can only add, in conclusion, that although ample opportunities were available, Victoria was not consulted before the bargain was made with the Syndicate, and, therefore, is not bound now to concur. The interested colonies, too, are unanimous in condemning the proposals, and under these circumstances it will be difficult, if those proposals be persisted in, to induce the people of Victoria to further contribute to the maintenance of the Possession, as it is evident they can hereafter derive little if any benefit from such expenditure.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE TURNER,

Premier.

Cablegram from The Acting Agent-General, London, to The Premier of New South Wales.

25 July 1898.

HAVE made inquiries Dicken is held in great esteem High character Consider eminently fitted for position in every way See Colonial Office List for career.

Telegram from The Premier of Queensland to The Premier of New South Wales.

1 August 1898.

REFERRING to my telegram of this morning I am anxious to make a statement to Parliament to-morrow on the subject of the New Guinea Syndicate concessions I shall therefore be greatly obliged if you will at once telegraph informing me whether you concur in the objections set forth in Sir George Turner's letter of 25th July whether you agree to them in any modified form or whether you hold other views on the matter and if so what is the nature of those views.

THOMAS J. BYRNES.

Telegram from The Premier of Queensland to The Premier of New South Wales.

1 August 1898.

BRITISH New Guinea Can you inform me when I am likely to receive your statement of objections to the Syndicate concessions I have received a letter from Sir George Turner setting forth the views of his Government and I am only waiting to hear from you before sending my reply to the Governor The delay is most embarrassing and unfortunate I notice in this morning's Press telegrams that Mr. Chamberlain has been in communication with Lord Hampden on the subject of the concessions This is I assume in reply to some representations made by you and I think it necessary to point out that the Queensland Government has always been hitherto recognised as the medium of communication between the contributing colonies and the Imperial Government in regard to New Guinea Any departure from this understanding appears to me likely to seriously weaken the controlling influence exercisable by the colonies.

THOMAS J. BYRNES.

Telegram

Telegram from The Premier of New South Wales to The Premier of Queensland.

(Copy of same also sent to Sir George Turner.)

2 August 1898.

CONFIDENTIAL. Would like short conference between yourself Turner and me on the subject of the British Syndicate Ordinance and future control of New Guinea. Could be arranged so as not to interfere with Parliamentary work if at end say of next week. I am entirely with Sir George Turner in the views expressed in his letter of twenty-sixth July. Have sent copy of this message to him.

Minute by The Governor of New South Wales to The Premier of New South Wales.

4 August, 1898.

WITH reference to your request for authority to print and lay upon the Table of both Houses of the Legislature the whole of the correspondence on the subject of the New Guinea Land Syndicate, I have to state that the Secretary of State for the Colonies has informed me by cable that he has no objection to the adoption of this course.

HAMPDEN,
Governor.

Minute by The Governor of New South Wales to The Premier of New South Wales.

6 August, 1898.

THE following telegraphic despatch has reached me from His Excellency the Governor of Queensland, viz.:—"Her Majesty has been pleased to appoint Le Hunte British New Guinea. Inform Prime Minister. While giving due weight to his objections I consider Le Hunte's varied administrative experience rendered him in other respects exceptionally qualified. I am confident he will make every effort to carry out wishes of Government of Queensland with regard to British New Guinea. Repeat this telegram to Governors of New South Wales and Victoria. Signed Chamberlain."

HAMPDEN,
Governor.

Telegram from The Premier of Queensland to The Premier of New South Wales.

10 August 1898.

NEW GUINEA Syndicate. I have received through His Excellency the Governor the following telegram from the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—"London eighth August referring to my telegram of thirteenth June to Government of New South Wales as to New Guinea Syndicate remind Ministers that Ordinance having been assented to by Lieutenant-Governor is now in force if amendments are desired in addition to those required by me I should be glad to have them as soon as possible. Signed Chamberlain." I have replied stating that I have no knowledge of the telegram to the Government of New South Wales of thirteenth June but that I am considerably surprised at attitude now assumed by Mr. Chamberlain who in his telegram to our Deputy-Governor of twenty-fourth May as well as in his despatch to Governor of third May and in Colonial Office letter of that date to Minet Pering Smith and Company distinctly stated that when the Ordinance was amended it would be submitted for Her Majesty's approval. Governments of contributing Colonies have in consequence assumed throughout correspondence that as amendments had not been passed assent had not been given. I requested Governor in forwarding Mr. Chamberlain's despatch of third May to Sir William MacGregor to instruct him not to proceed with amendments until views of contributing colonies had been ascertained these views have now been expressed and are found to be opposed as well to Ordinance itself as to suggested amendments the position of affairs would be most extraordinary if it were found that all that has been done amounts to work of supererogation having no ultimate effect in regard to proposed concessions. I conclude by requesting Governor to telegraph Secretary of State informing him that contributing colonies object most decidedly to Ordinance and to amendments and that they desire that Her Majesty be advised to disallow the proposed measure.

THOMAS J. BYRNES.

Treasury Minute.

Subject:—The New Guinea Land Syndicate proposals and Minute of Sir Hugh Nelson, dated 18th June, 1898.

The Treasury, New South Wales, Sydney, August, 1898.

THE pressure of public business, and occurrence of a General Election, have prevented me from making any comments at an earlier date upon the above minute. I now propose to do so.

In the first place, I assert most distinctly that the proposals of the Syndicate were never brought under my notice in any business-like way during the time I was in London. Sir Hugh Nelson's letter to the Colonial Office, dated 7th July, 1897, abundantly confirms this statement.

Had I received adequate information, the whole project would not have been a complete surprise to me, as it certainly was when its true nature was brought out two or three months ago, through the Press.

I consider it simply extraordinary that, during the Conference held in Melbourne in the early part of this year between Sir William Macgregor, the Administrator of New Guinea, Sir Hugh Nelson, Premier of Queensland, Sir George Turner, Premier of Victoria, Sir John Forrest, Premier of Western Australia, and myself, not one word respecting this important concession was said by Sir William Macgregor or by Sir Hugh Nelson. I asked several questions respecting the spread of settlement and the introduction of capital, but none of these questions seemed to suggest an allusion to this vital concession. Sir Hugh Nelson says the matter was one of notoriety at that time. It is very strange that I never heard of it. It is also very strange that a well-known New Guinea explorer, Mr. Bevan, who saw me several times about opening up New Guinea to British capital and enterprise, knew nothing about it either.

Sir

Sir Hugh Nelson, admitting that the concession should have been submitted to the other contributing colonies, states that the practice was that anything in the nature of an Ordinance was not so submitted, it being submitted to the Government of Queensland alone prior to introduction.

That practice raised no objection, because so far the Ordinances themselves did not seem to call for interference.

In his minute under notice Sir Hugh Nelson says, "Having given the matter the fullest consideration since my return from New Guinea, I have arrived at the conclusion that in accordance with the spirit of the second Schedule, the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria should have had an opportunity of influencing the opinions of Queensland before action was taken, although such a course would have been contrary to the practice established and invariably adhered to." Long before Sir Hugh's "return from New Guinea," that is, in his letter of 7th July, 1897, to the Colonial Office, he says, "I have assured the members of the Syndicate that if the Lieutenant-Governor is favourably impressed with their ideas, the Government of Queensland will give the most careful consideration to the whole project, and will consult with Governments of the other contributing colonies, with a view to submitting some definite recommendations to the Imperial Authorities."

It was Sir Hugh Nelson's forgetfulness of this course of action which he marked out for himself at the right time (when in London) that has caused all the trouble.

It is obvious then, upon the practice which prevailed, that the return of the Ordinance to Queensland from the Colonial Office, places Queensland in a position to obtain our views.

Sir George Turner has gone fully and critically into the matter, as his despatch to the Premier of Queensland, dated 25th ultimo, shows. I have carefully considered his views and find myself unable to differ, in any material respect, from his conclusions.

However, now that the Ordinance has come back, I confidently look to the Premier of Queensland to see that it does not go back to England in its present shape.

Send copy to Sir George Turner and Mr. Byrnes.—G.H.R.

G. H. REID,
August 6, 1898.

Telegram from The Premier of Victoria to The Premier of New South Wales.

9 August 1898.

NEW GUINEA Conference I can leave Melbourne by express on Friday evening 19th inst. reaching Sydney on Saturday 20th but I must leave Sydney on Sunday 21st so as to be back in Melbourne on 22nd Please say if this will suit.

GEORGE TURNER.

Telegram from The Premier of Queensland to The Premier of New South Wales.

10 August 1898.

SATURDAY 20th will suit me for proposed New Guinea Conference I shall probably leave Brisbane by steamer on Wednesday next and hope to stay some days in Sydney.

Telegram from The Premier of New South Wales to The Premier of Victoria.

15 August 1898.

We expect you on Saturday and propose to meet as soon as you like.

The Premier of Queensland to The Premier of New South Wales.

Sir,

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane, 11 August, 1898.

In further reference to your telegram of the 2nd inst., I have now the honor to enclose, for the information of the Government of New South Wales, a copy of a letter, dated the 3rd inst., which I have addressed to His Excellency the Governor, containing an expression of the views of this Government with regard to the concessions proposed to be granted under Ordinance No. 1 of 1898 of British New Guinea to the British New Guinea Syndicate.

I have, &c.,

THOMAS J. BYRNES.

The Premier of Queensland to The Governor of Queensland.

My Lord,

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane, 3 August, 1898.

Having at length received from the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria an expression of their views with respect to the provisions of the British New Guinea Ordinance No. 1 of 1898, as they are desired to be amended by the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, I now do myself the honor to forward for your Excellency's information, and for transmission to Mr. Chamberlain, a copy of a letter, dated 25th July ult., from Sir George Turner, setting forth the objections of the Government of Victoria to the concessions granted under the Ordinance in question, and to inform your Excellency that I yesterday received from Mr. Reid a telegram stating that he entirely agrees with the views expressed in Sir George Turner's letter.

I beg now to submit for your Excellency's consideration the following remarks on the subject of the Ordinance, and I would ask that they be conveyed to the Secretary of State, as embodying the opinions of this Government on the question. I may premise that I concur in every respect in the objections raised by the Prime Minister of Victoria. Sir George Turner has very fully dealt with the monopolistic character of the concessions proposed to be granted, with the prejudice which they must inevitably cause to Australian interests, and with the complications which may arise by reason of the powers given to the Syndicate to lease or assign their interests. I do not, therefore, propose to refer further to this phase of the subject.

During

During my absence in the northern part of the colony in May last, Mr. Dickson, who was acting as Chief Secretary, wrote to the Deputy-Governor, pointing out that considerable popular excitement existed both in the Southern Colonies and in Queensland, in regard to the concessions, and suggesting that, as the provisions of the Amended Proposals for the Administration of British New Guinea, which require that the Government of Queensland shall consult the Governments of the other contributing colonies in all matters other than those of ordinary administration had apparently in this instance not been complied with, steps should be taken to delay the final completion of the Ordinance under which the concessions were granted until the return from New Guinea of Sir Hugh Nelson, who was Prime Minister at the time when the negotiations between Sir William MacGregor and the Syndicate were concluded, and who, it was thought, might possibly be able to throw more light on this particular phase of the subject.

Sir Samuel Griffith accordingly telegraphed to the Secretary of State on the 20th May, requesting that the exercise of Her Majesty's power of disallowance be reserved until an opportunity had occurred for the Governments of the contributing colonies to express an opinion on the provisions of the Ordinance, and on the 24th May Mr. Chamberlain replied that the draft Ordinance did not appear to him to sufficiently protect the Government, and that he would require certain modifications, the purport of which had been communicated to the colony in a despatch dated 3rd May.

The Secretary of State said that he did not see that this Government could now oppose the allowance of the Ordinance without breach of faith, and added that he presumed Sir Hugh Nelson and Sir William MacGregor had, at the Conference held in Melbourne to consider the question of the future administration of New Guinea, fully informed the Prime Ministers of New South Wales and Victoria of the agreement with the Syndicate, which was a matter of notoriety, and was, he had been informed, fully discussed by the agents of the Syndicate with prominent men and Ministers at Sydney and Melbourne.

This telegram was at once communicated to the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria, and on the 10th June Mr. Chamberlain's despatch of 3rd May was received from your Excellency, and copies were forwarded to the contributing colonies on the same date.

On the 14th June, on Sir Hugh Nelson's return to Brisbane, I forwarded to him a copy of the correspondence which had taken place on the subject of the concessions, and requested him to favour the Government with any observations he might desire to offer, more especially with regard to the contention of the Prime Ministers of New South Wales and Victoria that they should, under Clause 20 of the Amended Proposals, have been consulted in regard to the agreement in virtue of which the concessions are granted.

In his reply, dated 18th June, Sir Hugh Nelson stated that the proposal had been brought under the notice of Mr. Reid and Sir George Turner in London last year; but they were not consulted at the later stages of the proceedings, because the matter dealt with required legislation, and "in no instance since the establishment of the Possession have the other colonies been consulted in respect of any proposed legislation." Sir Hugh Nelson explains that when, in writing to the promoters of the Syndicate, he assured them that if the Lieutenant-Governor were favourably impressed with their ideas, the Government of Queensland would give the most careful consideration to the whole project and would consult with the Governments of the other contributing colonies with the view of submitting some definite recommendation to the Imperial Authorities, he was under the impression that if the Administrator favoured the project he would be able to make a draft agreement under the existing Ordinances of the Possession, which as an act of other than ordinary administration would have been submitted as stated. As, however, the Administrator found it necessary to proceed in the matter by legislation the other colonies were, following the usual practice, not consulted. He proceeds to state that, having given the matter the fullest consideration, he has arrived at the conclusion that, in accordance with the spirit of the Second Schedule, the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria should have an opportunity of influencing the opinions of Queensland before action was taken, although such a course would have been contrary to the practice established and invariably adhered to.

I may at once state that I am strongly of opinion that the Amended Proposals under which the Possession is administered require that the contributing colonies should be consulted in all matters other than those of mere administrative detail, and especially in regard to proposals necessitating legislative sanction. That they have not, except in isolated instances and in matters involving expenditure, been so consulted, I am prepared to admit, but the practice adopted has probably arisen from the fact that Ordinances hitherto passed have dealt with no questions in respect to the policy of which doubts could exist as to the attitude of the several colonies.

In Mr. Chamberlain's telegram of 24th May above referred to, he presumes that the Premiers of New South Wales and Victoria were consulted by Sir Hugh Nelson and Sir William MacGregor, and I naturally inferred that the Secretary of State shared the opinions held in Australia, that this was a matter in which the colonies should have been consulted. We have since learnt that the matter was never alluded to at the Melbourne Conference, and so far from its being one of notoriety, as assumed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, it was treated in the most confidential manner, even Queensland Ministers not having been informed of it, and the public Press having been kept in entire ignorance of the proceedings. I was greatly surprised to see it announced in the newspapers on Monday last that the Secretary of State had telegraphed to the Governor of New South Wales that the matter of the Ordinance was one of ordinary administration, and that the Queensland Government was not, therefore, strictly bound to consult the Governments of the other contributing colonies, though he assumed the Melbourne Conference had fully considered the matter. It seems scarcely possible to reconcile this statement with the opinion first expressed by Mr. Chamberlain, and I should be glad to know that the Secretary of State's message to the Governor of New South Wales is in this respect otherwise than as it has been reported.

If, as the Governments of the contributing colonies contend, the matter was not one of ordinary administration, it is obvious that the Ordinance passed by the Legislature of British New Guinea cannot be regarded as giving legal effect to the agreement entered into between the Administrator of the Possession and the Syndicate. It is equally apparent from the action of the Secretary of State in withholding the Royal Assent from the Ordinance, that the transaction is in no sense complete, and now that the views of the Governments interested have been ascertained, there would appear nothing to prevent Her Majesty from being advised to disallow the measure.

I am, I confess, quite unable to see why the Secretary of State, in replying to Sir Samuel Griffith's telegram, should have thought it necessary to use the words "I do not see that your Ministers can now

oppose allowance of Ordinance without breach of faith." Up to the present time, I may point out, the views of the Government have never been placed before the Secretary of State, all that has been done having been to request delay in order that the views of the other colonies might be ascertained. But as the words have been used, and as I now desire to urge the disallowance of the Ordinance, I may say that we are unable to regard our attitude as involving in any sense a breach of faith, inasmuch as leaving out of the question the change of Ministry which has recently taken place, the matter was never considered or approved by the members of the Queensland Government. To summarise the position, therefore, I would remind your Excellency that the Ordinance was never approved by your Ministers, that the Governments of the contributing colonies were never consulted in the matter, and that the Ordinance has not been approved by Her Majesty. The Governments and the people of the contributing colonies are unanimous in condemning the concessions, even with the modifications suggested by the Secretary of State, and I would accordingly request your Excellency to be good enough to urge the Secretary of State to advise Her Majesty to exercise her power of disallowance in respect of the Ordinance, so that, if necessary, the preliminaries that should have been adopted in the first instance may be observed, and the whole scheme duly considered by the contributing colonies in conjunction with the question of the future administration of the Possessions.

In conclusion, I may inform your Excellency that a Conference of the Prime Ministers of New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland is being arranged to take place in Sydney during the week after next, and I hope at its conclusion to be in a position to advise your Excellency of the conditions under which the Governments of the colonies referred to will be prepared to make further contributions towards the cost of administering British New Guinea.

I have, &c.,

THOMAS J. BYRNES.

Conference of Premiers, Sydney, 20 August, 1898.

THE Conference affirmed the decision already communicated to the British Government, to the effect that the concession to the New Guinea Syndicate met with the strongest disapproval of the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria, and reiterated a request that Her Majesty should be advised to disallow the Ordinance giving effect to the concession.

1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

MONTHLY RETURNS OF ACCIDENTS.
(RETURN RESPECTING.)

Printed under No. 14 Report from Printing Committee, 1 December, 1898.

RETURN to an *Order* of the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated the 21st September, 1898, That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

“Monthly returns showing the number of accidents, fatal and non-fatal, and the cause thereof:—(a) Upon vessels belonging to New South Wales; (b) Upon vessels belonging to other countries whilst within the jurisdiction of New South Wales; (c) On wharfs, wool stores, factories, workshops, mines, quarries, buildings in course of erection, and on railways.”

(*Mr. Smith.*)

RETURN showing Accidents which have occurred during the Month of October, 1898, to persons employed directly by the Department of Public Works, or on works carried out under the supervision of the Department.

Date of Accident.	Name.	Employed by—	Capacity.	Work on which engaged.	Alleged cause of Accident.	Result.
RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY CONSTRUCTION BRANCH.						
1898. 1 Oct.	H. Skelly	Government	Pile-driver ...	In charge of pile machine, Moree to Inverell Railway.	Three fingers of left hand jammed by monkey falling upon them.	Non-fatal.
15 "	J. Crimmins	" ..	Water-carter..	Drawing water to the side-cutters' camp, Moree to Inverell Railway.	Horse started, and tank on the dray fell over and crushed him.	Fatal.
24 "	Thomas M'Carthy ..	Contractor...	Driver	Horse and dray work	Horse slipping, cutting M'Carthy's head; started work following day.	Non-fatal.
ROADS AND BRIDGES BRANCH.						
25 "	Thomas Hardy.	Government	Ganger	Road Bald Nob, <i>via</i> Dundee, to Emmaville, Glen Innes District.	Foot crushed by log rolling on it in fixing causeway; will, probably, be off work for a fortnight.	Non-fatal.
8 "	J. M. Hegarty	" ..	Maintenance man.	Goulburn Road District	Knees injured whilst loading drain-pipes on to dray; off work for three days.	"
17 "	P. Cummins	" ..	Ganger	" "	Left thigh wounded whilst loading timber; off work for ten days.	"

Date of Accident.	Name.	Employed by—	Capacity.	Work on which engaged.	Alleged cause of Accident.	Result.
HARBOURS AND RIVERS BRANCH.						
1898.						
27 Oct.	R. Clarke	Government	Seaman	Dredge "Acton"	Laying anchors; position of gear gave way.	Non-fatal.
27 "	W. Langan	"	Loader.....	Ballina Harbour Works	Chain sling jammed his finger	"
27 "	H. Powell	"	"	"	Slipping of stone from shng	"
6 "	W. Secomb	"	Labourer.....	Macleay District Harbour Works.	Struck by a stone.....	"
6 "	T. Houlahan.....	"	"	Woolloomooloo Bay	Slipping from bulk-head of punt	"
14 "	D. Hegarty	"	"	Glebe Island Quarry	Ballast falling on hand	"
25 "	J. M'Donald	"	Nipper.....	Glebe Island Causeway	Fall over the face of quarry	"
23 "	B. O'Grady	"	Labourer	"	Ballast falling on leg	"
31 "	J. Condon	"	"	Darling Island	Ballast falling on finger	"
4 "	W. Blake	"	Fitter	Fitzroy Dockyard	Cut with a sharp tool	"
4 "	M. Bennett	"	Labourer.....	"	Piece of wood falling on head	"
5 "	W. Hart	"	"	"	Cut with shears	"
6 "	R. Green	"	Shipwright	"	Piece of steel entering the hand...	"
8 "	J. Martin	"	Labourer.....	"	Blow with dock shove	"
10 "	M. Hayes	"	Shipwright	"	Blow with hammer	"
12 "	J. O. Hihcr	"	"	"	Blow with adze	"
12 "	C. Baucy	"	Boy	"	Caught in machinery	"
17 "	H. Nell	"	Moulder	"	Burns with caustic soda	"
18 "	J. Darlington	"	Fitter	"	Blow with hammer	"
19 "	J. Martin	"	Labourer.....	"	Caught within two pieces of timber	"
21 "	H. Morris	"	"	"	Blow with a piece of iron	"
24 "	H. Scott	"	Fireman	"	Burned whilst firing at boiler	"
24 "	M. Ross	"	Labourer.....	"	Blow with piece of wood	"
25 "	A. Partridge	"	Fitter	"	Blow with hammer	"
25 "	J. Gibson	"	"	"	Cut by piece of iron	"
25 "	P. Whitfield	"	Boilermaker..	"	Plate falling on hand	"
27 "	J. Blackie	"	Labourer.....	"	Torn with piece of tool	"
28 "	R. Farrell	"	Boy	"	Struck over the eye with piece of tool.	"
28 "	E. Henderson	"	Labourer.....	"	Edge of plate in hand.....	"
31 "	J. Harrington	"	"	"	Struck with a piece of iron	"

ROBT. HICKSON,
Commissioner for Roads.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

MONTHLY RETURNS OF ACCIDENTS.

(RETURN RESPECTING.)

Printed under No. 15 Report from Printing Committee, 15 December, 1898.

RETURN (*in part*) to an Order made by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly, dated 21st September, 1898, That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

“ Monthly returns showing the number of accidents, fatal and non-fatal, and the cause thereof,—(a) upon vessels belonging to New South Wales; (b) upon vessels belonging to other countries whilst within the jurisdiction of New South Wales; (c) on wharfs, wool stores, factories, workshops, mines, quarries, buildings in course of erection, and on railways.”

(Mr. Smith.)

RETURN to an Order of the Legislative Assembly, dated 21st September, 1898, showing fatal and non-fatal accidents which have occurred on the New South Wales Government Railways and Tramways during the month of October, 1898.

Date of Accident.	Locality.	Names of Persons Injured.	Servants of Department.	Nature of Injuries.
1898.				
1 Oct.	Blacktown	Mrs. Woods	Gatekeeper	Injured. Struck by gate.
3 "	Boggabri	G. Nelson	Labourer	Fatally injured. Struck by falling tree.
4 "	Eveleigh	S. Fisher	Driller	Hand injured. Caught in machine.
4 "	Harris Park	W. Morrison	Guard	Injured. Struck by brake-van door.
4 "	Darling Harbour	E. Whitney	Junior porter	Injured. Crushed between cases in loading truck.
5 "	Rose Bay	P. Pickin	Conductor	Slight injury through falling off tram.
7 "	Eveleigh	A. Stanfield	Labourer	Foot injured by timber falling on it.
7 "	Bathurst	A. J. Smith	Cleaner	Hand crushed between trucks.
8 "	Currahubula	E. Parker	Labourer	Injured through explosion of loose powder.
8 "	"	C. Kinnard	"	"
8 "	"	T. O'Neill	"	"
10 "	Eveleigh	J. McCulloch	"	Arm fractured by fall from truck.
10 "	335 miles 40 chains south-west.	T. Brown	Guard	Injured. Falling from brake-van.
10 "	Hamilton	T. Day	Shunter	Hand injured. Crushed by coal waggon.
14 "	Schofield's Siding..	G. Durbin	Guard	Injured falling from waggon.
15 "	Bridge-street	Perry Fergus	Motor-driver	Injured. Struck by passing tram.
16 "	Eveleigh	G. A. Roach	Labourer	Hand hurt in fall.
21 "	Strathfield	J. Schofield	Junior porter	Hand injured. Crushed between cask and platform.
21 "	Flemington	J. Fuller	Guard	Injured through fall whilst stunting.
23 "	Eveleigh	T. Neville	Fuelman	Hand crushed tipping truck.
24 "	Waterfall	A. W. Threlkald	Probationer	Injured. Crushed by rails in truck.
25 "	Darling Harbour	E. Garrett	Fettler	Hand injured. Crushed between rail and wharf.
27 "	Bathurst	P. Cleary	Cleaner	Injured. Crushed between engines.
27 "	Forbes	J. B. McGeorge	Porter	Injured. Bale of wool falling on him.
27 "	Parkes	J. D. Butler	"	Foot bruised through iron pipe falling on it.
31 "	Redfern	P. C. Doyle	"	Injured. Knocked down by carriage.

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[580 copies—Approximate Cost of Printing (labour and material), £2 10s. 4d.]

RETURN to an Order of the Legislative Assembly, dated 21st September, 1898, showing fatal and non-fatal accidents which have occurred on the New South Wales Government Railways and Tramways during the month of October, 1898.

Date of Accident.	Locality.	Names of Persons Injured.	Persons outside Department.	Nature of Injuries.
1898.				
2 Oct.	King-street	Dr. Kiernander		Severe shaking. Knocked down by tram.
2 "	Necropolis	F. Davis		Hand injured. Jambled in carriage door.
4 "	Near Thornton	Garvan Houston		Fatally injured. Run over by train.
5 "	Bullock Island Dyke	A. Johanson	Stevedore	Injured through breaking of chain of crane.
7 "	Eveleigh	T. Harrison		Injured. Fall from platform.
8 "	Darlinghurst	A. Brockstein		Slight injury to head and face. Struck by tram.
12 "	Glenmore Road	Miss R. Caper		Slight injury. Knocked down by tram.
17 "	Bathurst-street	R. Atkinson		Fatally injured. Run over by tram.
20 "	Liverpool-street	Woman (unknown)		" " " " " "
24 "	Newtown	J. Preston		Slight injury. Vehicle colliding with tram.
25 "	86½ miles north	A. Cox		Badly injured. Run over by engine or train.
29 "	Tunnel at 70 miles 40 chains, Kiama.	E. Johanson		Fatally injured. Run over by train whilst trespassing.
31 "	Riley-street	Mrs. Jessop		Injured by sulky colliding with tram.
31 "	Ashfield	W. Wood	Schoolboy	Injured through leaving train in motion.

RETURN showing number of accidents to persons at Public Wharfs and on Ships lying thereat for the month of October, 1898.

Name.	Nature of Accident.	Name of Vessel where Accident occurred.	Whether New South Wales or Foreign Vessel.	Cause.	Fatal or Non-fatal.
Wm. Davis, 40, Cowper-street, Glebe.	Arm bruised and slightly cut.	S.S. "Prinz Regent Luitpold."	Bremen, Germany.	Chain slipping whilst passing it under a sling of iron.	Non-fatal.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

BOARD OF EXPORTS.

(RETURN RESPECTING.)

*Printed under No. 14 Report from Printing Committee, 1 December, 1898.**[Laid upon the Table in answer to Question No. 6, Votes No. 41, 23 November, 1898.]*

Question.

(6.) Mr. Chanter asked the Secretary for Mines,—

- (1.) On what date was the Board of Exports appointed?
- (2.) Who are the members of the Board?
- (3.) What are their duties?
- (4.) How often do the Board meet?
- (5.) What is the record of their individual attendances at each meeting since their appointment up to 30th June, 1898?
- (6.) What are the total costs incurred by the Board up to 30th June, 1898?
- (7.) From what Fund have such costs been defrayed?
- (8.) What speculations have the Board gone into, and with what net results?
- (9.) Are any of the members of this Board paid by salary or fee; if so, what is the nature of same, and the amount paid to each?
- (10.) Is there any staff connected with the Board; if so, what number and at what total cost to the 30th June, 1898?
- (11.) Have the members of the staff been taken from the Public Service, and with the approval of the Public Service Board; what are their respective salaries?
- (12.) Have the members of the Board or staff received any allowance for travelling by rail, steamer, or otherwise; if so, how much, and to whom paid?
- (13.) Have the Board made any report tabulating the various articles dealt with, and formulated any rules for the conduct of any trade or product; if so, will he cause a copy to be laid upon the Table of the House?

Answer.

- (1.) 4th November, 1895.
- (2.) G. Skelton Yuill, Esq., Chairman; The Hon. A. Kethel, M.L.C., Vice-Chairman; George Maiden, Esq.; Henry W. Lee, Esq.; Chas. F. Lindeman, Esq.; Thomas Jessep, Esq., M.L.A.; John Wildridge, Esq.; Thomas C. Worboys, Esq.; John L. Thompson, Esq.
- (3.) To act as a Board of Advice in assisting the Government to promote the interests of the producers of the Colony in British, Colonial, and Foreign markets.
- (4.) Weekly or fortnightly, as required.
- (5.) G. S. Yuill, 33 meetings; Hon. A. Kethel, 59 meetings; Thos. Jessep, 65 meetings; Geo. Maiden, 69 meetings; J. L. Thompson, 56 meetings; C. F. Lindeman, 47 meetings; T. C. Worboys, 33 meetings; H. W. Lee, 34 meetings; J. Wildridge, 53 meetings; Secretary, 90 meetings.
- (6.) £3,750, including salaries, rent of cold storage premises, and all contingencies.
- (7.) The Consolidated Revenue.
- (8.) An experimental shipment of oranges, which resulted in a profit of £143 13s. 7d. Since then further experiments, at a total cost of about £350, have been made in shipping mutton, poultry, eggs, fruit, preserves, &c., with a view to testing various methods of preserving, shipping, and finding fresh markets for produce. The Board also managed the large shipments which have been made of rabbits, hares, poultry, &c.
- (9.) Members are allowed a fee of £1 1s. per sitting to defray expenses, with the exception of Messrs Kethel, Jessep, and Thompson. No further allowances are made.
- (10.) The Staff consists of Secretary, paid to 30th June, £650; poultry expert and grader, paid to 30th June, £238 6s. 8d.; total cost of staff—2½ years—£888 6s. 8d.
- (11.) The Secretary was appointed before the Public Service Board was instituted; his present salary is £300 per annum. The expert and grader was selected by the Public Service Board from a number of applicants, for his special qualifications; his salary is £200 per annum.
- (12.) Country members get free railway passes to attend the meetings; officers get the usual Public Service Board allowances when in the country engaged on Departmental business. The only other allowance made was a sum of £14 incurred in travelling expenses by the Hon. A. Kethel, when visiting Victoria and Tasmania on the Board's business in 1896.
- (13.) Yes, and full particulars will be found in the report on the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, laid upon the Table of the House in June last.

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

PROGRESS REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

ESTATE OF THE LATE S. M. SWIFT,
OF PETERSHAM;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE,

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND

APPENDIX.

Printed under No. 18 Report from Printing Committee, 22 December, 1898.

SYDNEY: WILLIAM APPELGATE GULLICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1899.

1897.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VOTES No. 51. TUESDAY, 24 AUGUST, 1897.

11. ESTATE OF THE LATE S. M. SWIFT, OF PETERSHAM:—Mr. Hughes moved, pursuant to *amended* Notice,—
- (1.) That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into and report upon the alleged evasion of probate duty in connection with the estate of the late S. M. Swift, of Petersham, squatter.
- (2.) That such Committee consist of Mr. Brunker, Mr. Perry, Mr. McFarlane, Mr. Wood, Mr. McLean, Mr. Dick, Mr. Parkes, Mr. Thomas, Mr. McGowen, and the Mover.
- Debate ensued.
- Question put and passed.
-

1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

EXTRACTS FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VOTES No. 49. TUESDAY, 13 DECEMBER, 1898.

18. ESTATE OF THE LATE S. M. SWIFT, OF PETERSHAM:—Mr. Hughes moved, pursuant to Notice,—
- (1.) That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into and report upon the alleged evasion of probate duty by the executors in the estate of the late S. M. Swift, Esq., Petersham.
- (2.) That such Committee consist of Mr. Brunker, Mr. McLean, Mr. O'Sullivan, Mr. McFarlane, Mr. Thomas, Mr. McGowen, and the Mover.
- (3.) That the Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence of the Select Committee of Session 1897 be referred to such Committee.
- Question put and passed.
-

VOTES No. 54. THURSDAY, 22 DECEMBER, 1898.

6. ESTATE OF THE LATE S. M. SWIFT, OF PETERSHAM:—Mr. Hughes, as Chairman, brought up the Progress Report from, and laid upon the Table the Minutes of Proceedings of, and Evidence taken before, the Select Committee for whose consideration and report this subject was referred on 13th December, 1898, together with Appendix.
- Referred by Sessional Order to the Printing Committee.
-

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1898.

(SECOND SESSION.)

 ESTATE OF THE LATE S. M. SWIFT, OF PETERSHAM.

 PROGRESS REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed on 13th December, 1898, "*to inquire into and report upon the alleged evasion of probate duty by the executors in the estate of the late S. M. Swift, Esq., Petersham,*" and to whom was referred on the same date "*the Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence of the Select Committee of Session 1897,*"—have agreed to the following Progress Report:—

Your Committee have examined the witnesses named in the List,* have *See List, p. 6. resolved, owing to the advanced period of the Session, to report the evidence to your Honorable House, and, in view of the startling nature of such evidence, to recommend that the inquiry be resumed early next Session.

No. 1 Committee Room,
 Legislative Assembly,
 22 December, 1898.

W. M. HUGHES,
 Chairman.

1897.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

WEDNESDAY, 13 OCTOBER, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Hughes,	|	Mr. McGowen,
Mr. McLean,		Mr. Parkes,
	Mr. Thomas.	

Mr. Hughes called to the Chair.

Entry from Votes and Proceedings, appointing the Committee, read by the Clerk. Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till to-morrow at fifteen minutes past Two o'clock.]

THURSDAY, 14 OCTOBER, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Hughes in the Chair.		
Mr. McFarlane,	|	Mr. McGowen,
Mr. McLean,		Mr. Parkes.

Mrs. Elizabeth Swift called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness handed in attested copy of the will of the late Samuel Moffit Swift, of Petersham (*Appendix A1*); extract from the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 22nd February, 1884—notice of application for probate of the will of the late S. M. Swift (*Appendix A2*); copy of Affidavit sworn and lodged with application to obtain probate (*Appendix A3*); statement of S. M. Swift's liabilities and assets at the time of his death (*Appendix A4*); statement showing the total assets in the estate of the late S. M. Swift to be £376,225 (*Appendix A5*).

Witness withdrew.

[Adjourned till Wednesday next at fifteen minutes past Two o'clock.]

WEDNESDAY, 20 OCTOBER, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Hughes in the Chair.		
Mr. Dick,	|	Mr. McLean,
	Mr. Thomas.	

William Thomas Ball (*Accountant*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

[Adjourned till Tuesday at fifteen minutes past Two o'clock.]

TUESDAY, 26, OCTOBER, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Dick,	|	Mr. McGowen,
Mr. McLean,		Mr. Thomas.

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. McGowen called to the Chair, *pro tem*.James William Johnston (*Solicitor*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Thomas William Garrett (*Registrar of Probates*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

William Alexander Balcombe (*Chief Clerk in Equity*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

William Thomas Ball recalled and further examined.

Witness withdrew.

Re-assembling of the Committee to be arranged by the Chairman.

[Adjourned.]

THURSDAY,

THURSDAY, 28 OCTOBER, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Hughes in the Chair.

Mr. McFarlane,	|	Mr. McLean,
Mr. Thomas,	|	Mr. Wood.

The Clerk, by direction of the Chairman, read a letter from James Wm. Johnston, intimating that neither the present firm of Johnston, Minter, Simpson, & Co., nor its predecessors, ever acted for Mr. Swift or his executors or executrix.

William Alexander Balcombe recalled and further examined.

Witness withdrew.

Re-assembling of the Committee to be arranged by the Chairman.

[Adjourned.]

THURSDAY, 18 NOVEMBER, 1897.

MEMBER PRESENT :—

Mr. Hughes.

In the absence of a quorum, the meeting called for this day lapsed.

WEDNESDAY, 24 NOVEMBER, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Hughes in the Chair.

Mr. McFarlane,	|	Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Thomas,	|	Mr. Wood.

The Clerk having informed the Committee that Mr. John M'Donald, the witness summoned for to-day, was not in attendance,—

Resolved (on motion of Mr. Wood),—"That the non-attendance of Mr. John M'Donald, who was summoned to attend to-day, be reported to Mr. Speaker."

Ordered,—That Mr. John M'Donald be summoned to give evidence next meeting.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next at *half-past Two* o'clock.]

TUESDAY, 30 NOVEMBER, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Hughes in the Chair.

Mr. Dick,	|	Mr. McGowen,
Mr. McLean,	|	Mr. Thomas.

John M'Donald called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Mrs. Elizabeth Swift recalled and further examined.

Witness *handed in* copy of memorandum of agreement of a partnership between John M'Donald and S. M. Swift, dated 8th February, 1881 (*Appendix B1*); copy of letter written by M'Donald to Hann, stating that original memorandum was drawn up by himself (*Appendix B2*).

Witness withdrew.

John M'Donald recalled and further examined.

Witness withdrew.

[Adjourned till To-morrow at *half-past Two* o'clock.]

WEDNESDAY, 1 DECEMBER, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Hughes in the Chair.

Mr. McFarlane,	|	Mr. Parkes,
	|	Mr. Thomas.

John M'Donald recalled and further examined.

Witness withdrew.

Mrs. Elizabeth Swift recalled and further examined.

Witness withdrew.

John M'Donald recalled and further examined.

Witness withdrew.

[Adjourned till Wednesday next at *half-past Two* o'clock.]

WEDNESDAY, 8 DECEMBER, 1897.

MEMBER PRESENT :—

Mr. Thomas.

In the absence of a quorum, the meeting called for this day lapsed.

1898.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

THURSDAY, 15 DECEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. McFarlane, | Mr. McLean.

In the absence of a quorum, the meeting called for this day lapsed.

FRIDAY, 16 DECEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Hughes, | Mr. McFarlane,
Mr. McLean, | Mr. Thomas.

Mr. Hughes called to the Chair.

Entry from Votes and Proceedings, appointing the Committee, and referring the Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence of Session, 1897, read by the Clerk.

Resolved (on motion of Mr. Thomas),—“That the Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence of the Select Committee of Session 1897, be adopted by this Committee.”George Sandell (*Chartered Accountant*) called in, sworn, and examined.[Adjourned till Tuesday next at *Eleven o'clock*.]

TUESDAY, 20 DECEMBER, 1898.

The House continuing to sit during the time appointed for the sitting of the Committee, no meeting could be held.

THURSDAY, 22 DECEMBER, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Hughes in the Chair.

Mr. McLean, | Mr. McFarlane,
Mr. O'Sullivan, | Mr. Thomas.

George Sandell recalled and further examined.

Witness withdrew.

Chairman submitted Draft Progress Report.

Same read and agreed to.

Chairman to report to the House.

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1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE

THE SELECT COMMITTEE

APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO

ESTATE OF THE LATE S. M. SWIFT, OF
PETERSHAM.

WEDNESDAY, 14 OCTOBER, 1897.

Present:

MR. HUGHES,
MR. MCFARLANE,

MR. PARKES.

MR. MCGOWEN,
MR. McLEAN,

W. M. HUGHES, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

Mrs. Elizabeth Swift called in, sworn, and examined:—

1. *Chairman.*] Are you the widow of the late Samuel Moffitt Swift? Yes.
2. What was he? He was a squatter. He died at "Hill Crest"—his private residence—Petersham, on the 18th February, 1884.
3. *Mr. McGowen.*] Did he leave considerable property? Yes; there were eight stations—Mungie Bundie, Boolooroo, Gravesend or Yaggaba (as it was known in the Lands Office), Baden Park, Mimosa, Browley, Snubba, and Tooma Falls.
4. Did he leave a will? Yes; I have a copy of it with me.
5. In that, did he set forth that he was the full owner of this estate? Yes; he did not make any provision for any partnerships.
6. *Mr. McLean.*] Who were the executors appointed under that will? Phincas Hann, Charles Hawthorne Croaker, and myself—Elizabeth Swift. We were the trustees and executors.
7. Do you produce a copy of the will? Yes; this is a copy of the will, duly attested. [*Appendix A1.*]
8. Did you in conjunction with these executors, apply for probate of your husband's will? May I give an explanation. My husband died on the 18th February, 1884; he was buried on the 20th. On the 22nd, without my hearing the will read, or knowing anything of it, they applied, through Messrs. Abbott and Allen, solicitors, for probate. Hann and Croaker put in an application, dated 22nd February, 1884, without my knowledge. I produce an advertisement that appeared in the *Sydney Morning Herald*. [*Appendix A 2.*]
9. Do Messrs. Abbott and Allen notify there that they apply on behalf of the three executors? Yes.
10. Do you swear you gave them no instructions to apply on your behalf? I had never seen Abbott and Allen, to my knowledge, and I never stood in their office. I took the advertisement which I have produced from the *Sydney Morning Herald*, in the library, a few days ago.
11. Did you see that advertisement in the *Sydney Morning Herald* at the time it appeared? No; I have only seen it within the last month.
12. Were you aware that application was being made for probate? No; and I had not heard the will read then.
13. *Chairman.*] At that time, I suppose you were entirely ignorant of business matters? I was, with regard to the will, because I never had any experience in a matter of that kind. My husband had taught me his business after we were married. With him I went through almost everything, and knew everything he was doing up to the time of his death. I had a good personal knowledge of all his affairs and assets and his transactions. He taught me to answer telegrams, and assist him in his business when we were living in Tumut.
14. *Mr. McGowen.*] When he died, did you know that you were appointed an executor? I knew, because he told me before his death.

Mrs. E. Swift.

14 Oct., 1897.

15.

- Mrs. E. Swift. 15. Did you know at that time that they had to apply for probate? No; I did not know what means they took when applying for probate.
- 14 Oct., 1887. 16. *Mr. McLean.*] At the time, or immediately after your husband's death, did you consult a solicitor or any other person as to what steps you should take? No; I did not know that that was necessary. I only knew afterwards that they should have brought the will to Hill Crest, opened it, and read it in my presence.
17. *Chairman.*] Did your solicitors not remind you of it, and notify you of it? To the best of my knowledge it was a month after that when I heard the will read. I was communicated with—I could not say exactly whether by Hann and Croaker or from Mr. Abbott's office—and asked to go to Mr. Abbott's office. I drove there one afternoon and Mr. Allen read the will for me.
18. The fact remains that you did not apply for probate? I did not apply personally, and I did not know they were applying in my name. I did not know what applying for probate was.
19. Did not the officials of the Ecclesiastical Court, when application was made by Hann and Croaker, and not by you in conjunction with them, send any official communication to you? No; not for a long time afterwards. I daresay the date could be ascertained in the Stamp Office. I then signed some paper in connection with the Stamp Office, but it was long after probate was granted.
20. At this time I suppose you had no reason to doubt but that the estate would be administered for your benefit and the benefit of your children in the usual way? It never entered my mind that anyone could take the estate from us, because it was left by my husband to myself and children wholly, and I had a good idea of what it consisted.
21. *Mr. McGowen.*] How many children did your husband leave, and what were their ages? Six children—four girls and two boys. The eldest then was, I think, about 12 or 12½ years; the youngest was 18 months or thereabout. There were about two years between each of them.
22. *Chairman.*] Has the estate been administered? No.
23. As far as you know? If it was administered we would have got the proceeds.
24. *Mr. McLean.*] Have you taken any part in the management of the estate since probate was taken out? They never allowed me to take any part. I think it was about the 18th October, 1884, that Hann and Croaker sent me down a mortgage given on one of the stations by them, and signed by them, to the Bank of New South Wales. They asked me to call at the bank and sign it. I wrote back and said I thought that under the will we, as trustees, had no power to mortgage any portion of Mr. Swift's property; that the instructions in the will were only to realise and invest it as the will directed; but that I would consult a solicitor and see if I was right. In the meantime I would not sign it. I asked to have the mortgage for a few days until I looked through it. I got the mortgage and took it to Mr. Abbott. Mr. Abbott wrote a letter to me saying that we had no power to give a mortgage over any of the property. I think that was the first time they asked me to take any prominent part in the estate matters.
25. *Mr. McFarlane.*] Did the executors request you to do that? Yes.
26. Was that done by letter? Yes; I can produce the letter. I have the letter-book.
27. Was it signed by the two trustees? No; it was a letter from Mr. Hann.
28. Have you got that letter? I believe I have. If not, I have a copy of it in Mr. Hann's letter-book in his own writing.
29. *Mr. McLean.*] Subsequent to that, did you sign any papers or take part in the management of the estate in any way? Not that I am aware of. I believe I have not signed any papers; in fact, I believe I can conscientiously swear that I did not.
30. With reference to the filing of these accounts, as to the value of his assets at the time probate was taken out, were those accounts submitted to you before they were filed in the Court? No; and I was never asked a question as to Mr. Swift's property, or anything in connection with it. Afterwards, I said that an accountant should be appointed; that Mr. Swift's properties were very large; that an accountant should collect all the assets and make up the accounts before probate was asked for, because how could two strange men living up at Wagga Wagga come down to Sydney and understand within a fortnight, or a few days, the extent of Mr. Swift's transactions and his properties. They could not possibly do so. There is not an accountant in Sydney who could have put his assets and properties and accounts together under at least three months.
31. When was that account filed? Probate was granted on the 5th April. I cannot tell when it was filed. They applied for probate on the 22nd February, and it was granted on the 5th April.
32. *Mr. McGowen.*] You did not take any steps, and you were not consulted until October? I was not consulted even then.
33. I mean in the administration of the estate? No.
34. You stated that, after consulting your solicitor, you refused to give your consent to the mortgage;—what happened then? The mortgage remained, and I believe the bank registered it.
35. Then the mortgage was effected? I believe so, because the bank still holds that station and that mortgage.
36. When you refused to sign the mortgage, did you know that probate was taken out? I knew, as far reports in the paper were concerned, that probate was taken out; but I did not understand what probate really was.
37. What was the next step? I may be allowed to go back to about May in 1884. I felt that, as they were not consulting me about the estate matters, that they might not quite understand all the things. They had sold 22,000 sheep in Queensland at what I considered to be under their value. They sold them for 14s. a head when they should have got £1 a head at that time when stock was very high. Then I inquired from one and another what was being done. I wrote a note to the General Manager of the Bank of New South Wales—Mr. Shepherd Smith. I thought that as my husband had such large banking transactions he would be the best one to assist me if anything was going wrong. He wrote a note to me, which I have, saying that he would be happy to see me at any time that I could make it convenient to call on him. I called on him some time in May, 1884, and he said he would be very happy to assist me in any way he could. Afterwards, when I called on him again, he said that he thought I had better go home and nurse my children, and let two honest men look after and administer my estate, and that I should not meddle in it at all.
38. Did you get any money? They opened an account for me at the bank, and paid in £100 and £50 at a time. They gave me, extending over two years, about £2,000. Mr. Shepherd Smith would never see me again after that.

39. Did you try to see him? Yes; the bank, of course, and Hann and Croaker managed the banking matters in connection with the estate. In July, 1884, I went up to Wagga Wagga to see Hann and Croaker, and to see what they were doing with the estate. I remained there a few days, and Mr. Hann promised to give me accounts of what he had realised, and what he had done up to that time. Afterwards he sent me accounts, and then I went to Mr. Abbott. I consulted him for a number of years in the estate matters, as they were going wrong. Mrs. E. Swift
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40. *Mr. McFarlane.*] Was Mr. Shepherd Smith managing the bank when this mortgage was lodged? Yes; he was the General Manager.
41. Was he managing the particular branch of the Bank of New South Wales where this mortgage was lodged as security? I suppose so.
42. That was the bank he was in? Yes; he resided at the bank in Sydney.
43. You understand the mortgage is the one they wanted your signature for? Yes. Then I had a communication from the bank over that mortgage, which I can produce. The manager of the bank wrote to me because I refused to sign the mortgage. The effect of the letter was that I was thwarting the winding up of my husband's estate by my obstinacy, and could not the solicitors for the bank and my solicitors confer together over it. Then I think Mr. Abbott replied to that. At any rate he directed me what to do in regard to that. I never signed the mortgage.
44. *Mr. McLean.*] Can you tell us when the stamp duty was paid in connection with this estate? Yes; I produce the cheque which was drawn. I cannot tell from what source it is drawn, or on what account it is drawn; but the cheque I produce is the one they paid the probate duty with.
45. Did you get that cheque from the bank? Yes; together with other cheques of Mr. Swift's on various accounts.
46. Is it signed by Hann and Croaker as executors? Yes.
47. *Mr. McFarlane.*] Have you any knowledge as to what was done with the money collected in the estate? It was paid into the bank.
48. By Hann and Croaker? Yes; and a greater portion of that which I realised I also paid into the bank.
49. To the same account? That I cannot say.
50. What account did you pay it into? Into an account which was supposed to be opened for the estate moneys in the bank.
51. Can you say whether it was a Trust Account? To the best of my knowledge, I do not think it was.
52. In what bank was it? The Bank of New South Wales, Sydney. I also produce a copy of the affidavit sworn and lodged with the application to obtain probate. [*Appendix A 3.*]
53. *Chairman.*] Was there not accompanying this a detailed list of assets and liabilities? Yes; I produce it.
54. *Mr. McFarlane.*] Were you ever consulted before that cheque was drawn out? No.
55. It is signed by the two other executors? Yes.
56. *Chairman.*] Are these the details of the accounts filed with them? Yes.
57. Are these the full details as supplied to the Court? That is all that has been supplied to the Court as far as I know.
58. That purports to be the whole explanation of the estate, as supplied to the Probate Court? Yes.
59. And it was upon that that probate duty was declared and paid? Yes; the figures in the assets correspond with the figures in that affidavit.
60. Probate duty was paid on how much? £46,914 18s. 7d.
61. Do you propose to show that this does not contain the whole of the items in your husband's estate? Yes.
62. This divides the estate of Mr. Swift into three portions? Yes.
63. One portion is the private estate of S. M. Swift, another is Swift and Hann, and the third is John McDonald & Co.? Yes.
64. Do you declare that this is not an accurate statement of the estate? It is not by any means.
65. The private estate of Mr. Swift shows a balance of £2,996;—is that accurate? No.
66. Not even the private estate? No.
67. In what direction is it not accurate;—ought there to be more? I can hardly explain that. It is like the partnership accounts. They cannot be understood unless you go through the whole of them and get proper accounts, but I can prove some of these that are not correct.
68. Does this statement make the total of Mr. Swift's private estate less than it ought to be? Yes; very much less.
69. *Mr. McLean.*] Had you any knowledge of these partnership transactions prior to your husband's death? Yes.
70. Did you know he was in partnership with Hann? Yes, in some transactions; but I can prove that they were all settled in my husband's lifetime.
71. Did you know of any partnership existing between Mr. Swift and Mr. Hann at the date of Mr. Swift's death? No.
72. Did you know of a partnership existing between Mr. Swift and Mr. McDonald at the time of Mr. Swift's death? No.
73. *Chairman.*] Did you know of any arrangement or agreement tantamount to a partnership? No; as far as Mr. Swift's property is concerned.
74. But you would not like to say, with reference to other assets of Swift and Hann, and Swift and McDonald? There were partnerships in certain transactions; but those were finished, and the money paid over to them before Mr. Swift's death.
75. *Mr. McLean.*] They were joint speculations really? Yes; outside the properties.
76. *Chairman.*] What kind of transactions were these, according to your personal knowledge? They were purchases of stock, and Mr. Swift invariably paid all the money. He financed the transactions, and the droving and expenses altogether were taken out of the money first after the stock was sold, and then what was left was divided into two or three shares, as it might be, and Mr. Swift sent his cheque to Hann, or whoever it might be.
77. Who furnished the money for these transactions? Mr. Swift entirely.
78. As far as your personal knowledge is concerned, were all these transactions financed by Mr. Swift? Yes.
79. Do you hand in a statement of Mr. Swift's assets and liabilities at the time of his death? Yes. [*Appendix A 4.*]

- Mrs. E. Swift. 80. *Mr. McLean.*] Do you hand in a statement showing the total assets in your husband's estate to be £376,225? Yes; and as we go along I can produce vouchers to show that there are a great many more assets, but I could not put them in and swear to them when I made up that statement. [*Appendix A5.*]
- 14 Oct., 1897. 81. The total assets shown in this estate amount to £376,225, and the liabilities to £138,475? Yes; as far as I know the liabilities.
82. Showing a surplus of £237,750? Yes.
83. You have handed in an inventory of assets and liabilities in your late husband's estate, upon which stamp duty was paid showing a surplus of £46,914? Yes.
84. The difference between that amount and the amount shown in your own statement is £190,735;—is that the amount upon which you say the Government have really been defrauded of stamp duty? Yes; and more to be added to it.
85. That is the lowest amount, according to your account, that we can estimate the Government have been defrauded of stamp duty upon? Yes; these assets actually existed at the time of my husband's death.
86. Where did you get the values that appear in this statement? I have documentary evidence for all but the stations. One station was sold for £5,000, and that would be the value of it. That money was paid into the bank.
87. *Chairman.*] Do I understand that the items in this list that you have ticked in red ink are the items for which you have documentary evidence with you? Yes.
88. *Mr. McLean.*] There are a number of items such as this at the end of your account—No. 70—35,000 acres freehold, cost 45s. per acre, £78,750;—do you simply put that down as the cost price? Exactly; I just took it what it cost.
89. Are you in a position to say whether it was worth more or less at the time stamp duty was paid? I am in a position to say so with regard to a few months afterwards.
90. What is your own opinion as to the value of that? I was offered £4 an acre for it a few months after my husband's death, but I do not put that value down for it in the list. I thought it was better to put down what it really cost. That was 25s. to the Government, and £1 an acre for improvements. I took all the purchased land at that. To-day, if it was offered, I am sure more than £4 an acre could be got for it.
91. *Chairman.*] With reference to the accounts passed by the Court, do you think that their judgment in the matter is to be considered final? May I explain that Hann and Croaker, or the Trustees, never filed accounts in the usual way until 1889. That was four years afterwards. They then put in before Mr. Garrett a form of accounts that you had better get in order to see the particulars. After that no accounts were put in until they were asked to supply accounts to the children, and to administer the estate in that way. They put in balance-sheets before the Master in Equity as directed by the Judge. At one meeting before the Master in Equity I got Mr. James Robertson to go in and show the Master that there was a difference in those balance-sheets of about £18,000. One balance-sheet finished on the 18th February, and the other commenced on it—that was three years before and three years after 18th February, 1884. No partnership accounts were ever made up until Mr. Ball made them up afterwards. When Mr. Robertson appeared before the Master and showed the difference in the balance-sheets, the Master directed Mr. Robertson to make up true accounts of Mr. Swift's estate. Mr. Robertson said he was an auditing accountant, and told me to go to Mr. Ball, who would go through and search into the accounts, and make up true accounts. It took Mr. Ball three months to make up the accounts. He made up the partnership account (the banking account) of Swift and Hann in about three months, and he made an affidavit to the effect that S. M. Swift paid in £50,000 odd into that account out of his own private money, and that Hann never paid in a penny, and that there was no partnership in it. Then Mr. Ball went to the Court and filed these accounts as ordered by the Master, but the Master, because the word "surcharged" was not on the back of them, refused to allow them, and he threw the whole lot out and shut up the case. Those are all the correct accounts that have ever been before the Court.
92. *Mr. McLean.*] Were you represented at that time by counsel or attorney? Yes.
93. Before the Master? Yes; but the Master would not hear him, and would not hear anyone for me. I went to the Equity Court, and the same thing occurred there. The Judge would not hear me, or anyone for me. He said it was taking up the time of the Court, and that I should do something else besides what I had done. Hann and Croaker came to the Court then to compel me to sign a release to McDonald on his supposed partnership.
94. *Chairman.*] Was that in reference only to the McDonald-Swift account? Yes. I refused to sign the release. I said that the accounts of the supposed partnership were never made, and that he had no ownership in it. I would not sign it. I could not conscientiously sign any release to them, for that release meant that we, the trustees, were to bind ourselves to prevent the children from ever taking any action against McDonald for any portion of Mr. Swift's estate. Therefore I did not feel justified in signing such a document and defrauding my children. Then the Court put me in gaol. I went to gaol.
95. What for? For not signing, I suppose. They did not know how to state it when I went there.
96. *Mr. Parkes.*] I suppose they called it contempt of Court? I suppose so. However, I went to gaol, and stayed there a month. Then the same Judge, Judge Owen, made an order that I was to get out of gaol. I was to bind myself to enter an action against McDonald, and support that action until it was carried through, or completed. I had to pay about £58 costs. I paid it. Messrs. Russell and Russell entered an action for me, and appeared for me from time to time; that went on until the suit was to be heard against McDonald. McDonald entered a defence, and in that he swore that the purchase money for Mungie Bundie station was supplied by his brother-in-law, J. H. Spiller, that J. H. Spiller gave McDonald his share of the purchase money, and that he also gave Swift his share of the purchase money. Then my solicitor subpoenaed Mr. Spiller. Mr. Spiller's evidence was taken by the Chief Clerk in Equity, because he wanted to go to England. We were willing to have his evidence taken, and to allow him to join the boat. That was about, I think, the Easter holidays. Mr. Spiller swore that he never supplied any money to Mr. Swift, and that he never supplied any money to Mr. McDonald. Then, on the Monday after that, our case came on for hearing, and the first thing Mr. McDonald's barrister—Mr. A. H. Simpson, now the Judge—asked was that he might withdraw that paragraph in the statement for the defence where McDonald swore about the purchase money of Mungie Bundie, and the Judge said he could not allow him to withdraw it. Then he raised three points of law why I should not be heard in the suit, and the Judge decided that they

they would argue those points before they would hear the suit. They argued the three points of law for three and a half days, and the Judge decided that because Hann and Croaker had already signed the release it was quite sufficient without my signing it, and yet I had been sent to gaol to compel me to sign it. I was not heard, and I have not been heard since. McDonald has the release signed by those two men.

Mrs. E. Swift.
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97. *Chairman.*] McDonald was not a trustee, and how did he come in? Hann swore that he was a half partner.

98. You must have known something, if not much, of the transactions of your husband with Mr. McDonald; what was he? He was a drover for my husband. He was employed by my husband. My husband opened an account with the Bank of New South Wales, at Tumut, and paid money into it. McDonald went and bought cattle, drove them, and sold them. As Mr. Swift directed him, he drew on that account. My husband supplied him and the account with the money.

99. Did he do that on more than one occasion? That extended over two years.

100. On the face of it, would it not seem rather improbable that he was a half partner? He was not an owner at all. He had no money of his in with Mr. Swift. There was no money of McDonald's in Mr. Swift's transactions, and there was no money of Hann's. I can prove this. Now I would like to refer to the probate. I will show you a few wrong things in this, and I will be able to show you more. For instance, with regard to the ownerships. They say that it is the deceased's half share. They do not say that it is theirs. He was the owner of the half share and the owner of the whole of it. They think they will get out of it by saying that it was Mr. Swift's half share. It was the same thing with regard to Swift and Hann. Mr. Ball's accounts will show that. With reference to the books and papers in my husband's estate, Hann and Croaker took them to Wagga, and they have not returned them. In fact, there are none of Mr. Swift's books to the fore. I would have no trouble if I had those books in showing the whole of Mr. Swift's transactions and assets.

101. Has Mr. Hann got them? I really believe he has. And I believe he is keeping them away on purpose.

102. How do you propose that the Committee should assist you? The Committee can make an order to produce them.

103. *Mr. McFarlane.*] Who took away the books and papers? Hann and Croaker took nearly all the books.

104. Where did they take them from? From Mr. Swift's office in Sydney.

105. About what time? Just about the time probate was granted.

106. *Mr. Parkes.*] Where was Mr. Swift's office? At Pitt, Son, and Badgery's, in George-street. Hann and Croaker told me I could not touch those books until the probate matter was gone through—that they actually belonged to the Court, and that I must not touch them until then. Hann and Croaker were down in Sydney over the probate matters when it was granted. That was about April. Mrs. Spiller was staying with me at the time, and I went to the railway station to see her off to Juneee. Hann and Croaker were going in the same train. I saw them take a box that came back afterwards to the Court with some papers in, and when I went in the next day to Mr. Swift's office to get the papers, they were all gone to Wagga; yet when I said to them at the railway station, that I supposed I could go in to-morrow and take the papers, they said, yes, I could; and at the same time they had them with them in the train. I drove into Pitt, Son, and Badgery's office, and to my surprise there was not a paper or book in it.

107. *Mr. McFarlane.*] Did they ask you for the books prior to the time they took them away? No; they came to Hill Crest; Mr. Swift had a room upstairs with a desk in it. I let them go there, not having any idea that they would destroy or do anything to the books and papers.

108. Do you say that they took the books and papers? I let them go into his room and his office, and they commenced to tear up papers. Then I objected, and would not let them touch any more papers at Hill Crest. They had a few papers that they took before from Hill Crest. Then they went and took all the papers from the office.

109. Did they ask you anything in connection with the books in the office? No; they told me at the railway station that I could go in next day to the office and get them. They never told me they were taking them with them.

110. How came it to your knowledge that they took the books from the office? When I went in the next day, the books were gone. I wrote to them, and I received a letter from Mr. Hann and another from Mr. Croaker, saying that they were only old papers and were only fit to be destroyed. I wrote and told them that if they destroyed any of them I would hold them both responsible, although I hardly knew at that time what I was saying.

111. I would like a direct statement as to the proof that it was they and no others who could have taken the box? I saw them with this box, and now I have this box in my possession; I can swear to that box; I can swear I saw them lift the box into the van at the railway-station.

112. It does not follow that Mr. Swift's books were in the box? They gave them back as Mr. Swift's papers.

113. Was it Mr. Swift's box? No; they bought it at Lasseters, and charged it to the estate.

114. *Mr. Parkes.*] When they returned it had it any books in it? No books of Swifts; only a few papers.

115. Were they from Mr. Swift's office? I do not know, but they related to Mr. Swift's business. They might have been from Hill Crest.

116. *Mr. McFarlane.*] Did you ever get any acknowledgment in writing, or verbally, that they had the books belonging to Mr. Swift? Yes.

117. An acknowledgment that they took the books? Yes; I have got the letter, or I can produce their letter-book, with a copy in it.

118. *Mr. McLean.*] Did Mr. Swift employ any secretary or clerk in his office? We lived in the country up to 1880, and then he had an office at Pitt, Son, and Badgery's.

119. *Mr. Parkes.*] Was not Mr. Muckeridge his clerk? Yes; originally; but he is now one of the firm of Pitt, Son, and Badgery, and they will not give me any information, because I have one or two heavy charges to make against them.

120. *Mr. McLean.*] You say you are very conversant with Mr. Swift's business matters? Yes.

Mrs. E. Swift. 121. Did he keep a complete set of books relating to his business transactions? He did not keep accountant's ledgers, because he had such a fearfully big business. He merely made entries of the different transactions, and to my knowledge I can swear to three large books that he had in his possession. I have made entries in them myself.

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122. Are you aware whether he kept a cash-book relating to his banking business—cash receipts and bills? He must have, because I fail to see how he could conduct a big business without a cash-book.

123. Did he have more than one banking account? He had about nine. I can produce all his pass-books for those accounts, and he financed them all himself. I have the pass-books from the beginning up to his death.

124. *Mr. Parkes.*] Do you know of two cheques of Mr. Hann's that went into his private account which were estate cheques? They belonged to the account of Swift and Hann, and should not have gone there.

125. Do you positively state that they went into Mr. Hann's private account? Yes.

126. Was that prior to Mr. Swift's death? One cheque was drawn by Hann—an open cheque—purporting to be for a drover's account. That was paid into Hann's private account within twelve or fourteen days of Mr. Swift's death.

127. Have you those cheques? Yes. Another cheque, purporting to be drawn to pay for rams within a few days of Mr. Swift's death, and that was paid into Hann's private account. Those two cheques together were an asset in Mr. Swift's estate, and Hann should have accounted for them when he was applying for probate, and he should have paid them back. While the action was going on in the Court for the release, my solicitor applied for a discovery order to get hold of those books. It was served on Hann and Croaker, and on McDonald, and they replied by affidavit. I suppose that they had no books other than what they had put into the Court. Then Mr. Russell served a subpoena on the book-keeper of Mungie Bundie. Mr. Granger, the solicitor, went out and searched, and took an inventory of the books in the office at the time, and I have that here. Although McDonald swore he had no books there are a great number shown.

WEDNESDAY, 20 OCTOBER, 1897.

Present:—

MR. DICK,

MR. McLEAN,

MR. THOMAS.

W. M. HUGHES, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

William Thomas Ball, Esq., called in, sworn, and examined:—

W. T. Ball.

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128. *Chairman.*] Are you a professional accountant? Yes.

129. Have you gone through all the papers in connection with the Swift and Hann account? Yes.

130. *Mr. McLean.*] What connection had you with this estate, and in whose interest did you become connected with it? I think it was on behalf of the late Mr. Swift's children.

131. Who retained you? Mrs. Swift.

132. Who paid you? I have not been paid anything yet.

133. Did you undertake the work on behalf of Mrs. Swift and her family? Yes.

134. Did you make a thorough investigation into the accounts? Yes; into the whole matter of the partnership of Swift and Hann—into all their dealings. I have got copies of the accounts I made up, and which were lodged in the Court.

135. Is this the balance-sheet on which they swore probate? That is a copy. I had a copy from the Court to compare with the statement I was preparing. I have a statement prepared after investigating all the books. I have a statement of assets and liabilities at the time of Mr. Swift's death; that is, for Swift and Hann.

136. *Mr. Dick.*] Can you make a general statement in reference to that matter? I have hardly had time to refresh my memory. It is three or four years since I did this work.

137. *Chairman.*] Here is an item, Baden Park station, £50,715? That is the valuation I put on it.

138. *Mr. McLean.*] That is to say, your valuation of Baden Park station corresponds with the valuation which was made for probate? Yes.

139. *Chairman.*] It is alleged that half this estate belonged to Hann;—have you any idea how Baden Park station was purchased? I have not the information at present, but I will produce it at another meeting.

140. Take the Snubba property;—how was that purchased? It was purchased for £600 by Mr. Swift.

141. Was that unstocked? Mr. Swift had rented it before that, and he had paid £200 on account of rent. I reckon the station cost him £800.

142. *Mr. McLean.*] When did he pay that? A cheque was given by Mr. Swift on 1st August, 1877; it went through his bank at Tumut. That was for £300. The other payment was a promissory note, dated 1st August, 1877, for twelve months, for £300. That is the way it was bought.

143. At the date of that purchase—1st August, 1877—were there any business relations to your knowledge between Swift and Hann? No.

144. They were not in partnership at that time? No; the partnership occurred afterwards.

145. Did Hann have any business relations of any kind that you know of with Swift? Not that I know of. There is nothing in the books and documents to show that there was.

146. What books and documents had you access to that would throw any light upon the partnership, if there was any? I had all the bank-books, cheque-books, and deposit slips. I have gone through the whole of them. I have a summary of them. I can show where everything paid into the bank came from, either from Mr. Swift or the sale of wool.

147. *Mr. Thomas.*] Were you in any way connected with Mr. Swift before his death? No; I did not know him. Mrs. Swift was the first I knew, and she came to me.

148. *Mr. McLean.*] Were those books which you had in your possession or had access to made up to the time of Mr. Swift's death? Yes, I think they were. I have not seen them for a long time. It must have been made up from the information we got from them—the bank-books especially. They were all right. There were a few small books there that you could not make head or tail of—they were sheets of foolscap pinned together.

149. Was there anything in connection with the accounts of Snubba run which you gathered from the books that would lead you to believe that Mr. Swift was in partnership with anyone else in connection with that property? No; nothing that I can remember.

150.

150. Was there any account of any kind from Mr. Hann in the books of that Snubba run? I cannot answer that question just now from memory. I do not think so; but I cannot speak from memory. W. T. Ball.
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151. Was there ever a distribution of profits in connection with that particular property? No; there was no distribution of profits in connection with any of the properties.
152. *Chairman.*] In your professional experience have you ever come across a case where one man put in all the capital and divided the profits with anybody else? I have known a case, but only in a small way, where a man would provide the capital and another man would provide the brains to carry on the business.
153. Have you any reason to believe that it was so in this case? No.
154. *Mr. McLean.*] In the course of your investigation did you come across any document or any information that would lead you to believe that Mr. Hann had any interest in these properties? No.
155. *Chairman.*] To the best of your knowledge and belief, did you have access to all the important papers? With regard to Swift and Hann, I had as far as the banking account would show you, and any books Mr. Swift had.
156. Is it the usual custom for a firm to pass all the moneys through a bank? Yes.
157. *Mr. Thomas.*] In your investigation, were you assisted at all by Mr. Hann? I never saw Mr. Hann.
158. In this inquiry, had you any standing which would enable you to demand any papers? Yes; we got all the cheques and deposit-slips from the bank.
159. But supposing Mr. Hann had any papers in his possession—could he refuse to show them to you if he chose? Certainly.
160. Did you ever ask him for any papers? There was an order from the Court for the production of all papers in the case "Swift and Hann."
161. Who obtained that order? Mr. Parsons, for the children.
162. Did you apply for papers yourself? I used to instruct the solicitor as to what papers I wanted, and he would apply to the Master for an order for their production.
163. Was he able to get every paper you asked for? I do not think so.
164. Can you tell us about any of those papers? We wrote on the 25th May, 1893, for the following books and papers:—All settlements sent by drovers, all orders drawn by drovers, a copy of Hann's pass-book, his accounts, and his dealings with the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney, at Wagga, from January, 1878, to January, 1893. Those we could not get.
165. Did you write to Hann for them? Mr. Parsons wrote, I suppose. I gave Mr. Parsons a memo., but he was unable to get those papers and books. I sent in the order for the production of books and papers.
166. You actually got an order of the Court for the production of these papers, and still you could not get them? Yes.
167. Was there any reason given by those people? The order was served on them, and the course would be to produce them at the Master's office. We sent up there, and found they were not deposited.
168. Did you take any further action? No.
169. *Chairman.*] As the Court ordered Hann to produce those papers, and he did not do so, I suppose the presumption is that they were not likely to be particularly favourable to Hann's contention? It would bear that construction.
170. *Mr. McLean.*] Did your people take any action when those papers were not produced? No; I attended the Court for some time, to see if they had been deposited there.
171. Was the attention of the Court called to the fact that its order was not complied with? I do not think so, but I cannot say positively. It would be for the solicitor to do that.
172. What was your reason for asking for all Hann's banking transactions from January, 1878, to January, 1893, to be produced? The desire was to go through them and see what moneys had passed through his account, and where they came from.
173. Why did you take the 1st January, 1878? That was the date the partnership was supposed to start from.
174. What partnership? The supposed partnership of Swift and Hann.
175. Did Hann produce any document at all showing that there was a partnership? No, not that I know of; I never saw such a document, and I never heard of one.
176. There are four station properties mentioned in this balance-sheet of Swift and Hann, having a total value of £100,365 10s.;—were they under mortgage to the Bank of New South Wales, or to any other bank? I cannot answer that question right off. There was an overdraft at the bank, which, presumably, would be for that. It amounted to £47,000.
177. You are not aware whether these properties were mortgaged? I could not say which of them, if any, were mortgaged.
178. Have you inspected any mortgage securities held by the Bank of New South Wales? No.
179. Have you endeavoured to inspect any of them? I asked for certain information at the bank, but I always got the cold shoulder—they would not recognise us.
180. *Mr. Thomas.*] Not after the orders of the Court? They produced whatever the Court ordered. We did not ask for mortgages. From what I gathered, some of the mortgages were given after Mr. Swift's death.
181. *Mr. McLean.*] I suppose there were considerable freehold properties in connection with those stations as well as the ordinary leasehold areas? Yes; but I could not give any definite information about that, except what was paid.
182. Did you ever see any deeds in connection with those properties? No; evidently the account would be in the name of Swift and Hann. This account at the Bank of New South Wales was in the name of Swift and Hann—that is, from 1878 up to the time of Mr. Swift's death. I have got all the amounts here which were paid into the bank, showing from what source the amounts came. They were paid into the credit of Swift and Hann with the bank at Wagga Wagga.
183. Does the debit balance of the Bank of New South Wales correspond with the amounts shown in the liabilities of the firm? The debit balance was £47,838 13s. 7d.
184. On what date? Up to the date of Mr. Swift's death.
185. That balance stood to the debit of the firm of Swift and Hann? Yes.
186. *Chairman.*] Do you know what Hann was doing on any of those properties? I cannot say.

- W. T. Ball. 187. *Mr. McLean.*] In your opinion, would this account, standing in the name of Swift and Hann at the Bank of New South Wales, and showing a debit balance of £47,638 13s. 7d., make Mr. Hann jointly liable with Mr. Swift for that indebtedness to the bank? That would all depend whether he signed the security or not. Mr. Swift would arrange the account, and say he was going to trade as Swift and Hann. Mr. Swift could choose to trade in the name of Swift and Hann, without Hann being necessarily a partner.
- 20 Oct., 1897 188. But is it not an established principle in connection with the law of partnership that a man who allows himself to be published as a partner in a concern becomes liable for the debts of the firm? There is no doubt about that. I might make a statement of this kind. It appeared to me, in going through the books, that Swift and Hann had been in the habit of dealing in cattle and sheep. That is how I think the partnership originated. They used to buy mobs of cattle and flocks of sheep, sell them off, and divide the profits. The cheques paying these profits to Hann were S. M. Swift's cheques on his private account.
189. Have you seen any accounts of their cattle-dealing transactions? I can produce them.
190. *Mr. Dick.*] Have you any evidence concerning the account of Swift and Hann in the Bank of New South Wales? Yes.
191. Can you give us the particulars from 1878 up to 1884? Yes; I have a copy of the payments made from May, 1878, up to 31st March, 1880. The amounts paid into the Bank of New South Wales at Tumut, where the account was kept at first, were as follows:—Moneys advanced by S. M. Swift, £18,204 1s. 7d.; proceeds of wool, sheep, &c., £37,983 18s. 1d.; proceeds of sale of corn and sundry other things, £7,465 18s. 3d.—total, £63,653 17s. 11d. From 31st April, 1880, to the 31st December, 1880, moneys received from Mr. Swift, £731 10s.; from sheep and wool, £26,095 13s. 8d.; from corn and sundries, £3,791 18s. 4d.—total, £30,619 2s. 1d. From 1st January, 1881, to 31st December, 1881, from S. M. Swift, £8,491 16s. 7d.; from sheep and wool, £53,672 4s. 8d.; corn and sundries, £7,241 12s. 3d.—total, £69,405 13s. 6d. From 1st January, 1882, to 31st December, 1882, from S. M. Swift, £5,319 15s. 9d.; from sheep and wool, £104,565 9s. 5d.; corn and sundries, £7,102 9s. 7d.—total, £116,987 15s. 1d. From 1st January to 31st December, 1883, from S. M. Swift, £9,618 0s. 5d.; from sheep and wool, £63,992 10s. 9d.; corn and sundries, £10,101 9s. 9d.—total, £83,692 0s. 11d. From 1st January to 11th February, 1884, S. M. Swift, £273 13s. 11d.; sheep and wool, £229 14s. 8d.; corn and sundries, £1,754 7s. 5d.—total, £2,257 16s. There were further amounts paid into the account of Swift and Hann with the bank in Sydney. The figures I have given were paid in at Wagga Wagga and Tumut, where they had the accounts. The following moneys were paid into the bank at Sydney from 9th September, 1882, to 4th January, 1884; S. M. Swift, £8,055 14s. 10d.; sheep and wool, £10,069 1s. 10d.; corn and sundries, £1,122 5s. 2d.—total, £19,947 1s. 10d.
192. *Chairman.*] In this account I see that the capital put in by Hann is nil? Yes.
193. *Mr. McLean.*] The amounts you have put down as coming from Mr. Swift were advances on capital account? Yes. Swift's own cheques paid in to Swift and Hann.
194. Have you traced his own cheques from his own banking account corresponding with those amounts? Yes; I have done that.
195. *Chairman.*] There are some big transactions here; how were they completed—with bills or what;—here is one item, 5th December, 1879, £3,499, made up of seventy-one items, "Sale of sheep and wool"? That was James and Spratt's bill for sheep sold. It was a bill.
196. Here is another item, 5th August, 1879, £3,813 10s.? That was for sheep sold; 6,917 ewes at 10s., 142 rams at 50s.
197. *Mr. Dick.*] There is an item of £3,441 5s. 6d., 18th August, 1882—what is that? That was S. M. Swift's cheque.
198. Was that paid into the account of Swift and Hann? Yes.
199. *Chairman.*] Did both Swift and Hann operate on this account? I think both of them did.
200. What were the signatures on the cheques? I produce a cheque—it is signed "Swift and Hann."
201. *Mr. McLean.*] Whose signature is on that cheque? Looking at the different documents, I think it is Hann's signature.
202. From your knowledge of the documents signed by Mr. Swift, is it his handwriting? No; he writes a different handwriting altogether from the signature on this cheque.
203. *Chairman.*] In any of the accounts with reference to this Swift and Hann statement, have you any evidence as to a division of profits? I can show that with reference to cattle and sheep.
204. What kind of division was there? I think it was an equal distribution between them of the profit. I have all those figures.
205. *Mr. Thomas.*] Have you any evidence of profit from the stations being divided? No; simply in the dealings with cattle and sheep.
206. *Chairman.*] Will you be able to give evidence at the next meeting with regard to Baden Park and Mimosa properties? Yes; I will get the particulars.

TUESDAY, 26 OCTOBER, 1897.

Present:—

MR. DICK, | MR. McLEAN,
MR. THOMAS.

J. S. T. MCGOWEN, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

James William Johnson called in, sworn, and examined:—

- J. W. Johnson. 207. *Chairman.*] Are you member of a firm of solicitors in Sydney? Yes; senior member of the firm of Johnson, Minter, Simpson, & Co.
208. Is that the firm which took out probate of the will of S. M. Swift? I really could not tell you.
209. Can you identify this memo.? Not in the least. All I can say about it is that I believe Mr. F. G. Fosbery was a clerk in our office in 1889, but he left us some years ago, and is now practising in Melbourne.
210. Then, as a matter of fact, it is not your firm that took out probate of that will? I do not know anything about it. All this document says is that probate was lodged, and was delivered to Mr. Fosbery in January, 1889. It also says that probate was lodged by my firm—that is, a previous firm of Want, Johnson, & Co. I was in England in 1889. I know nothing about this matter.
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J. W.
Johnson.
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211. Although at that time Mr. Fosbery was a clerk in your office? I think so.
212. Would it be possible for your firm to do the business while you were absent in England? Quite so.
213. Cannot you find anything in the records of your office? No. When I got this notice, I spoke to two or three clerks as to what this was about. I said I knew nothing about it. I am called upon to produce the probate of the will. From the inquiry I have made, we have not got it. We have not got it now, if we ever had it.
214. *Mr. McLean.*] Have you any knowledge of the affairs of this estate? None whatever.
215. Have you ever been professionally connected with the executors of this estate? No; I daresay my firm have. There were at that time four members of the firm, and we all have different work to attend to.
216. Were you a member of the firm in 1889? Yes.
217. Under whose special department would this business come? I cannot tell, we have a very large staff, something like thirty, besides the partners.
218. Is it possible that this might have been done in your office without your knowing it? Yes; quite possible.
219. Can you inform us what partner or officer of your firm would be likely to give us any information about it? No.
220. If your firm took out probate, in whose department would it be? I can name eight or ten clerks, in the hands of each of whom it might have been. Probably it would have been in the hands of this Mr. Fosbery. That is most probable.
221. I presume some member of the firm would have some information about the probate? I do not think it is very likely. In a matter of this kind Mr. Fosbery would be the solicitor. It would be given to him to attend to, and he would attend to it.
222. Was he an employee or member of the firm? He was an employee.
223. In that case the firm would be responsible for any of the acts of Mr. Fosbery? Certainly.
224. This probate, I presume, belongs to the trustees; and as the matter has been transacted by your firm, would it not naturally follow that some member of the firm would know something about it? I do not think that would follow.
225. Is it the custom in your firm to allow clerks to transact business in this manner, without any of the firm knowing anything about it? Yes; when it is in the hands of competent clerks, especially when they are solicitors. We have six or seven solicitors in our firm. We do not employ anyone unless we know he is thoroughly competent, and we take all responsibility.
226. *Mr. McLean.*] Do you swear that this probate is not in the custody of your firm at present? To the best of my belief.
227. Do you swear you never saw the document? Yes; and I swear, also, that I know nothing about the matter.
228. *Chairman.*] If the transaction was carried out in the manner you have indicated, even by a qualified solicitor in your office, would not your firm receive some monetary consideration for the services of that solicitor? There would be a book containing entries of any cash we received; but that would not show what was done with the documents. It would show all the disbursements and receipts.
229. Have you looked in your books for January, 1889? No.
230. *Mr. McLean.*] Did Mr. Fosbery keep a diary of his transactions on behalf of the firm? He would, appertaining to his own work.
231. That, I presume, is in the possession of the office still? I am not so sure of that. We do not keep those diaries for ever. They are destroyed in about six years.
232. Would it be possible for you, by looking up the books, to be sure whether this transaction was carried out in your office in 1889? Yes; I have every reason to believe that the memorandum which you have put into my hands is correct. I do not suppose anybody would write a falsehood there.
233. This is an extract from the Registrar-General's Office, and that is why we are somewhat surprised that you, as head of the firm, have no knowledge of the transaction? It is quite possible that this is correct, namely, that probate was delivered to Mr. F. G. Fosbery on the date mentioned; that is on or about January, 1889; but I know nothing about that, as I was in England. Even if I were not in England I would not know anything about it. If you will tell me what you want I will be happy to supply it.
234. We want you to identify this memo.? I will take a note of it. I am not aware that we acted for S. M. Swift. I will look up the matter, and send you an official communication.

Thomas William Garrett called in, sworn, and examined:—

T. W.
Garrett.
26 Oct., 1897.

235. *Chairman.*] What position do you hold? Registrar of Probates and other offices.
236. Do you know anything about the Swift estate? I have the papers in that estate.
237. Have you the papers with regard to the application by the executors of the estate of Samuel Moffitt Swift? I have the application for probate.
238. Do you produce it? Yes.
239. Would a document of the kind I show you, signed at Wagga, come to your head office? Yes; this is copied from our office. As far as this document is concerned, it is only filed for the purpose of the assessment of duties, and not for the purpose of probate.
240. Will you state what the estate consisted of and what duty was paid? I cannot tell you that. The Commissioner for Stamps is the only person who can deal with that. No duties are paid to our office.
241. Can you briefly tell us the particulars of the estate? I have made a statement from the Stamp Commissioner's affidavit, showing the different portions of the estate and the amount on which duty was paid.
242. When was the application made for probate? On the 9th April, 1884, it was granted. Mr. Swift died on the 18th February, 1884. It was granted to Phineas Hann, Charles Hawthorne Croaker, and Elizabeth Swift.
243. In April, 1884, was probate granted to those three executors? Yes.
244. Did they have to sign any document in your office? They swore an affidavit to well and truly administer the estate, and the ordinary affidavits to support it.
245. In this case did the three executors do that? Yes.

T. W.
Garrett.
26 Oct., 1897.

246. *Mr. McLean.*] Were those affidavits sworn on the same date by each of the executors? These are merely the ordinary affidavits setting forth the death, the execution of the will, and that they will well and truly administer the estate. Only one copy of the stamped affidavit was filed. That was forwarded to the Stamps Commissioner. Two years afterwards a rule was passed that the affidavit should be filed in duplicate.
247. *Chairman.*] Were those three affidavits signed by the executors under the will? Yes.
248. On the strength of that, as far as your office was concerned, was probate granted? Yes; there is an affidavit as to the due execution of the will.
249. In a case of that kind does your office look to them to file accounts? Yes; they file accounts at the expiration of twelve months. Accounts were filed in this case in 1889.
250. Then it is not imperative that they should file accounts? Before 1890, when the Probates Act was passed, it was not imperative.
251. Has there been any other account furnished except this one? Not in our office.
252. Is it not required? I fancy that the accounts were subsequently filed in the Equity Court.
253. Who furnished the accounts? It is sworn by Hann and Croaker.
254. Does the Act compel you to take the three executors or a majority? Neither. The affidavit of one executor binds them all, except on the ground of fraud.
255. Supposing one executor furnished an account at the end of twelve months, and you did not hear anything from the other two, would that be satisfactory? Yes, unless exception was taken by the other two, or by any person beneficially interested in the estate. These accounts were taken by me, and I think Mrs. Swift attended on the passing of the accounts.
256. Was that in 1889? Yes.
257. Was Mrs. Swift there? Yes.
258. *Mr. McLean.*] Did Mrs. Swift enter any objection? Mrs. Swift did not. There was a letter from Want, Johnson, & Co., on behalf of the Australian Mortgage, Loan, and Finance Company, and Mr. Minter attended.
259. *Mr. Dick.*] Did Mrs. Swift make any appeal in person? I am only speaking from memory. I think she was before me on several occasions, and I fancy she objected to the accounts; but there were no formal objections filed.
260. *Chairman.*] You say an objection was made by Want, Johnson, & Co.;—look at this memo., and see if it has anything to do with that? No; this memo. is in connection with an application under the Real Property Act. That is signed by the Deputy Registrar-General.
261. *Mr. McLean.*] Have you any knowledge as to the position of this estate at the present time? Not the faintest.
262. Is it still in the Probate Court? No; as soon as probate is granted, we are finished with it. Then the accounts are filed.
263. Are these accounts of 1889 final accounts? No; before the passing of the Probates Act of 1890, there was no way of compelling executors to file accounts, and the Probate Court had no jurisdiction over trustees, and it has not now, except the jurisdiction voluntarily given by trustees.
264. And at the same time the executors may not be discharging their trust? No; they do not accept a trust. Trustees accept a trust. There is a thin line between the two, which to the lay mind is very imaginery. These accounts have never been passed by the Court; they were passed by me.
265. Do you put in these papers? Yes; if they are required. I have made a rough extract from the stamped affidavit.
266. Will you hand in that extract? It is endorsed on the papers. The estate was divided into three different portions. The private estate was valued at £26,021 10s. 9d.; private debts, £23,024 15s. 7d.; leaving a net credit of £2,996 15s. 2d. to the private estate. Partnership, Swift and Hann: total assets, £51,392 4s. 2d.; debts, £33,723 17s. 9d.; leaving a net credit balance of £17,668 6s. 5d. Partnership, Macdonald and Swift: assets, £53,250; debts, £27,000; balance, £26,250; leaving an aggregate balance in the whole estate of £46,915 11s. 7d. on which duty was paid.
267. Are these the exact figures from the stamp affidavit? Yes.
268. *Chairman.*] Have the three executors furnished you with any statement beyond what you have mentioned since 1889 as to what was done with the balance of £46,914 18s. 7d.? No.
269. As far as you know did your office or the stamp office demand such a statement from them? No.
270. Did you say that those accounts have not been through the Court? These accounts have not been passed by the Court. Vouchers were produced to me by the executors for the different payments, but the accounts were never passed by the Court.
271. Does that mean that they could not operate on them until they were passed by the Court? No; it only means that the formal allowance by the Court of the accounts passed by me has not been given.
272. But the executors could operate on the estate? Yes; the moment probate was granted.
273. *Mr. Dick.*] In that statement of accounts does it set forth the operations of the executors up to the date of the statement of the accounts? It sets forth the operations of the whole estate, I presume.

William Alexander Balcombe called in, sworn, and examined:—

W. A.
Balcombe.
26 Oct., 1897.

274. *Chairman.*] What position do you hold? Chief Clerk in Equity.
275. Do you know anything with regard to the estate of S. M. Swift? No.
276. Have you been informed as to what you were required to give evidence about? No; I had a note to produce the papers in the case. There are several matters in the Equity Court with regard to Mrs. Swift, Swift and Hann, and Swift and McDonald. There are an immense number of books and papers—in fact about 1 cwt., and to bring them down is rather a large undertaking. If there is any way of singling out the papers or books required, I will produce them at once, or if all of them are required, I must be supplied with the means of getting them here. I can send for them. I laid the matter before the Judge, and he instructed me to produce the documents, but they are to be returned to the office every time the Committee rises.
277. Can you tell me what suits are pending in the Equity Court? I think they are all finished. The books were lodged in the office under the direction of the Master in Equity during the time the accounts were

were

were being taken. The suit has been disposed of. I was going to suggest that Mrs. Swift or the parties entitled could obtain an order for the books to be given up. Then they could go back to the proper owners, who could do what they liked with them. While they are in the custody of the Court we have to take care of them.

W. A.
Balcombe.
26 Oct., 1897.

278. If the Chairman gives an order as to what books are required, I suppose that is all that will be necessary? Yes.

279. *Mr. McLean.*] Can you give us particulars as to the equity suits and the decisions? Yes; I will bring down the pleadings and the decrees.

William Thomas Ball recalled and further examined:—

280. *Chairman.*] Have you any further evidence to tender? The only evidence I can give definitely is with regard to the partnership accounts of Swift and Hann. I have the accounts that I made up myself. I hand in a copy of the affidavit which I filed when I filed the accounts.

W. T. Ball.
26 Oct., 1897.

281. Have you been all through the books? I have been all through the books and documents that I could get—the bank-books and cheque-books.

282. Did you come across any record of the partnership other than the one between Hann and Swift? No.

283. Did you come across anything about a partnership with McDonald? I did not go into that. I only dealt with the Swift and Hann matter.

284. *Mr. Thomas.*] Last week you were asked some questions which you said you would reply to on this occasion? Yes; one was with reference to Swift's capital account. There does not appear to be any capital account in any of the books I had. The only things I can trace are the cheques drawn, and which went through the bank. They show that there was no capital paid in by Hann.

285. *Mr. McLean.*] Do you remember that at the last meeting you were not able to give any particulars about some of the properties? The only particulars I can give are about Snubba and Mimosa. I have nothing with regard to Baden Park. Baden Park must have been owned by Swift when the partnership of Swift and Hann commenced. On the last occasion I produced two cheques of Mr. Swift in payment for Snubba station. One cheque was for £300, dated 1st August, 1877, and a promissory-note for £300, dated 1st August, and due twelve months afterwards. Both of these are Swift's. There is a cheque for the overdue rent of Snubba, £200, payable to Robert Downey. In reference to Snubba station, in going through the correspondence, I have made certain extracts. On 21st January, 1884, Hann writes to S. M. Swift: "I have no money or desire to buy Snubba. I do not want the use of Tooma Falls. You refused to let or stock Snubba, and only wanted to sell." It appears from that there must have been some intention to sell Snubba. I will give you all the reference I have to Mimosa. It appears that on 5th December, 1877, Swift sent Hann a cheque for £1,500. This, with the letter following, seems to have been an offer as a deposit on the property. On the 30th January, 1878, Swift sent a cheque to Wagga Wagga for £2,500 to pay for Mimosa. Then, on the 23rd January, 1878, there appeared in the *Sydney Morning Herald* a telegram from Wagga, as follows:—"The Mimosa run, embracing an area of 53,000 acres, and which is considered just now one of the best watered runs in the district, was sold to-day by the mortgagees for 19s. a head, with 8,800 sheep." On 31st January, 1878, the following paragraph appeared in the *Sydney Morning Herald*: "Elliott, Fosbery, & Co., sold Mimosa West station to Mr. S. M. Swift, with 8,900 sheep, at 19s. The sale was forced by the mortgagees, and most people say the run has been absolutely thrown away at the price."

286. *Chairman.*] In that transaction the name of Hann does not appear? No; the report in the *Herald* says it was sold to Swift.

287. *Mr. Thomas.*] And Swift signs the cheque? Yes. About the time this transaction took place, Hann was in partnership with Wilkinson. The firm was Wilkinson, Hann, Minchin, & Co. They were stock and station agents. I produce the delivery note, and the cheque for the purchase money of Mimosa station. I produce the extracts I have referred to from the *Sydney Morning Herald*. There are further extracts from the papers with regard to Mimosa. "7th February, 1878. Wilkinson, Mann, Minchin, & Co. sold 2,000 maiden ewes and 5,000 toothed to S. M. Swift." That shows Hann was still in partnership with Wilkinson, and the sheep were sold to Swift. I think that is all the information I can give about those two stations.

288. *Mr. McLean.*] Have you any information about Baden Park station? No; I found no record in the books at all.

289. Have you seen all the books and accounts relating to Swift and Hann? All that were produced to the Equity Court.

290. You can find no record with regard to Baden Park station? No.

291. Have you a copy of the balance-sheet of Swift and Hann put in with the affidavits lodged with the application for obtaining probate? I have the copy made up by the executors at the time probate was granted.

292. Do you see an item in the assets "Baden Park station, as per valuation, £50,715";—have you any evidence to show that that station was worth more than is set forth in that affidavit? No.

293. Then, for all you know, that may have been the true value of the station? Yes; as far as I know.

294. Then there is the item "Mimosa station, as per valuation submitted, £29,123";—have you any evidence to show that that valuation is wrong? No.

295. Have you any evidence as to the value of the Browley and Snubba properties? No.

296. Then, as far as you are concerned, you cannot question the values set down in this balance-sheet? Not with regard to those stations. I have a record of the promissory-notes.

297. Were those valuations in the balance-sheet of Swift and Hann, presented at the time the application for probate was made, taken from the books of Swift and Hann? I cannot say whether they were taken from them, or whether a separate valuation was made for probate.

298. Have you ever seen a valuation? No.

299. I asked you a question last time about the overdraft on the liability side of that account, Bank of New South Wales, £47,581 15s. 11d.;—do you know exactly what was the nature of the security given, or have you found out anything regarding that since? No; I mentioned last time that the bank could produce the mortgages, and that that would settle the matter.

300.

- W. T. Ball. 300. *Chairman.*] Do I understand that you have gone through all the books and papers that were filled in the Court? Yes.
- 26 Oct., 1897. 301. In going through those, did you see anything about a partnership existing between Mr. Swift and Mr. Hann? No; except in name. I have made out a statement here showing the moneys paid into the account of Swift and Hann.
302. As far as you could see by going through the books there is no account of Mr. Hann paying anything into the credit of the firm? No; not one penny.
303. *Mr. McLean.*] Did he ever lend any money to the firm? Yes; Mr. Hann lent a sum of £6,000 to the firm of Swift and Hann. It was drawn out about two years afterwards.
304. Did he receive interest on that money? On the 14th October, 1881, Hann lent £6,000 to the firm. On the 15th February, 1883, Hann drew out the £6,000. On 19th April, 1882, Hann received an account of interest, £180; and on the 16th February, 1883, £114 7s. 4d. on account of interest.
305. *Chairman.*] Does it not appear from the evidence you have given that, in looking through the books, at certain periods Mr. Swift used to pay Hann a certain sum of money? Yes.
306. How do you account for that if you have no record of a partnership? These amounts are obtained by going through Swift's banking account. I produce cheques drawn on Swift's private account. These are all cheques payable to Hann. There are also promissory-notes. These date from December, 1887, to February, 1883, and they amount to £4,979 17s. 9d.
307. *Mr. McLean.*] Do you say that these cheques represent payments made to Hann as his share of the profits on certain transactions? Yes; outside of the stations. Here is a settlement of one lot. The balance paid was £78 17s. 3d., which is included in the cheques I have mentioned.
308. *Chairman.*] As far as you have traced them, are all those cheques made payable from the private accounts of S. M. Swift? Yes.
309. In your opinion there must have been some speculations in buying and selling stock between Mr. Swift and Mr. Hann, which they shared jointly? Yes.
310. *Mr. McLean.*] Was there anything like a cash-book kept in connection with Swift and Hann? No; I never saw one.
311. Then the whole of your accounts were compiled from the bank pass-book? Yes; I got them from the bank pass-book, the butts and cheque-book, and the deposit slips.
312. Were any payments made out of that account, so far as your knowledge goes, that showed there had been any distribution of profits at any time? Not with regard to the stations.
313. Were there any cattle-dealing transactions represented by payments made from the Swift and Hann account? No; not that I remember.
314. Were there any advances made either to Swift or Hann from the Swift and Hann account? No; Swift had his own private account at the time this account was running.

THURSDAY, 28 OCTOBER, 1897.

Present:—

MR. HUGHES,	MR. THOMAS,
MR. MCFARLANE,	MR. MCLEAN,

MR. WOOD.

W. M. HUGHES, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

William Alexander Balcombe, Chief Clerk in Equity, recalled and further examined:—

- W. A. Balcombe. 315. *Chairman.*] Have you all the papers and documents in the Equity suits which have been heard in connection with this case? Yes.
- 28 Oct., 1897. 316. Are you in a position to say how many Equity suits were instituted? There was the suit of Swift and Hann. There was afterwards the suit of Swift and McDonald, which was dismissed, I think, for want of prosecution or some technicality. Another suit was stated of Swift and McDonald, which went to a hearing, and afterwards to the Full Court on appeal. I have brought the documents in connection with the two suits which went to a hearing.
317. *Mr. McLean.*] What was the suit Swift and Hann? It was a suit brought by Margaret Moffitt Swift, Agnes Winnie Swift, Mary Elena Swift, Elizabeth Jane Swift, Samuel Moffitt Swift, and Richard Dean Swift, infants, by John Brown, their next friend, against Phineas Hann, Charles Hawthorne Croaker, and Elizabeth Swift, defendants. In that suit they prayed that an account may be taken of the trust property and effects which have, or but for their wilful default and neglect, might have been received by the defendants, Phineas Hann and Charles Hawthorne Croaker, or either of them. That, if necessary, an account may be taken of all partnership dealings and transactions between Samuel Moffitt Swift, the said testator, and the said defendant, Phineas Hann, and that the said defendant, Phineas Hann, may be decreed to pay to the credit of the estate of the said testator what shall, on taking such accounts, be found to be due by him. That the defendants may be removed from being trustees under the said will, and that the trusts thereof may be carried into execution, and the real and personal estate of the said testator administered under the direction of this Honorable Court, that the defendants, Phineas Hann and Charles Hawthorne Croaker, pay the costs of this suit, and that the plaintiff may have such further relief, &c.
318. What was the date of that suit? It was filed on the 28th August, 1889.
319. How was the suit disposed of, and what was the decree? What I have read was the prayer of the statement of claim. The defendants, Hann and Croaker, put in a defence to it. It came on for a hearing to the 26th March, 1890. The following is from the decree: This Court doth order and decree that the following inquiries and accounts be made, that is to say:—(1.) An account of the personal estate not specifically bequeathed of Samuel Moffitt Swift, the testator in the pleadings named come to the hands of the defendants, Phineas Hann and Charles Hawthorne Croaker, or either of them, or to the hands of any other person or persons by the order or for the use of the said defendants. (2.) An account of the testator's debts. (3.) An account of the testator's funeral expenses. (4.) An account of the testator's legacies and annuities (if any) given by the testator's will. (5.) An inquiry what parts (if any) of the testator's said personal estate are outstanding or undisposed of, and it is ordered that the testator's personal estate not specifically bequeathed be applied in payment of his debts and personal expenses in a due course of administration, and then in payment of the legacies and annuities (if any) given by his will. And it is ordered that the following further inquiries and accounts may be made and taken, that

that is to say:—(6.) An inquiry what real estate the testator was seized of or entitled to at the time of his death. (7.) An account of the rents and profits of the testator's real estate received by the defendants, Phineas Hann and Charles Hawthorne Croaker, or either of them, or by any other person or persons by the order or for the use of the said defendants. (8.) An inquiry of what incumbrances (if any) affect the testator's real estate, or any and what parts thereof. (9.) An account of all dealings and transactions between the said Samuel Moffitt Swift, the testator, and the defendant, Phineas Hann, as copartners; and it is further ordered that on the taking of the aforesaid accounts, the accounts mentioned in the defendant's statement of defence as filed in the Ecclesiastical Court, and the accounts as investigated by Mr. R. J. Mackenzie and by Messrs. Peel, Borrodaille, & Co., as in the said statement of defence mentioned, be received as *prima facie* correct, except as to items not vouched by the said Mr. R. J. Mackenzie and Messrs. Peel, Borrodaille, & Co., and in the Ecclesiastical Court; and that the plaintiffs be at liberty to surcharge and falsify any of the items and charges so vouched in any and all of the accounts as they shall be advised. On that decree the Master proceeded on the accounts, and certified the result to the Court. This is from his certificate:—That the defendants, Phineas Hann and Charles Hawthorne Croaker, two of the executors of Samuel Moffitt Swift, the testator, have received personal estate not specifically bequeathed, or there has come to their hands personal estate of the testator to the amount of £34,175 4s. 9d.; that they have paid or are entitled to be allowed on account thereof sums to the amount of £41,139 10s. 9d., leaving a balance due to them of £6,964 6s. on that account. That is the personal estate. The debts of the testator (with the exception of the two items referred to in the preceding paragraph) have been allowed as brought in by the said defendants, Hann and Croaker. They amount to £24,991 9s. The whole of the debts have been paid, with the exception of the item "amount owing by testator to Messrs. Pitt, Son, & Badgery, stock agents, Sydney, on an account stated, £350." The funeral expenses amount to £123 15s. 9d., which is allowed. The legacies and annuities given by the testator's will amount to £750, and, with interest thereon, remain due to the persons therein named. The outstanding personal estate of the testator consists of £4,436 16s. 1d., now lying to the credit of John McDonald & Co., at the head office of the Union Bank of Australia (Limited), Sydney. Now, this amount represents the testator's interest in the station properties, known as Mungie Bundie, Gravesend, Boolooroo, resulting from the realisation of the said properties, and consists of the particulars set forth in the balance-sheet prepared by Peel, Borrodaille, & Co., and shown in the first schedule thereto. He certifies that on the appointment to proceed with the accounts before him, on 10th August, 1892, all the parties were represented, and consented to the said sum being paid into the Court to the credit of this cause; and he approved of the authority of the three executors of the said deceased being given to John McDonald to pay the sum into Court to the credit of the cause. Then he certifies as to the real estate of the testator, that is contained in a schedule—"Hillcrest," the private residence of testator, Petersham, near Sydney. This, at the date of the testator's death, was under mortgage to the London, Liverpool, and Globe Insurance Company, to secure £2,400, and interest at 6 per cent. It was sold by order of the mortgagees, and realised £3,000. Thus producing a surplus which was, however, absorbed by the Australian Mortgage Land and Finance Company under an attachment. This property was leased for six months by the defendant, Elizabeth Swift, who received the rent and applied it to the maintenance of the testator's family. The amount of the rent was not known to the defendants, Hann and Croaker. Then there were 23 acres of land, part of the King's Grove Estate, situated at Cook's River, near Sydney, and held by the testator at the date of his death, and since sold by the defendants to John McDonald for £900. Mungie Bundie, Boolooroo, and Gravesend.—Testator was possessed of an equal half interest with John McDonald in the abovenamed station properties situated in the Gwydir district, near Moree, consisting of freehold and leased land. These properties have been mortgaged since testator's death by the surviving partner, John McDonald. These properties had been under mortgage to the bankers of the firm John McDonald & Co., for a number of years, and part of them, Mungie Bundie and Boolooroo, were sold by order of the mortgagees on or about 8th August, 1888, and realised the sum of £76,036 15s. 1d., the remaining property, Gravesend, was sold on or about 22nd May, 1889, and realised £11,020 9s. 5d.. Both these purchase amounts were made payable by bills extending over periods of four years and three years respectively. Those bills were retired under rebate as per sale contract before maturity and on the statement of accounts between the testator and his partner, John McDonald, as prepared by Peel, Borrodaille, & Co., the accountants of the firm: It is shown that the balance of £4,436 16s. 1d. remains in the hands of the said John McDonald to the credit of the estate of the testator. Baden Park, Mimosa West, Browley, and Snubba.—Testator was possessed of an equal half share and interest with the defendant, Phineas Hann, in the above pastoral properties, which comprised freehold and leasehold lands. These properties had been mortgaged by the testator and the defendant Hann. Testator was also possessed of one-third share or interest with Frank Badgery and W. Piper in the Tooma Falls run. It was eventually sold by the Sheriff under a writ of *fi. fa.* for a nominal sum. Since the death of the testator the properties known as Browley and Snubba have been sold by the defendants. Browley was sold on the 1st May, 1884, and Snubba on the 12th January, 1885. Shortly after the death of the testator the Bank of New South Wales, as mortgagees, went into possession of the properties known as Baden Park and Mimosa West, and are still in possession. The rents and profits were allowed as in the accounts. He certifies that the accounts of the partnership have been correctly kept as between Swift and Phineas Hann. They were properly vouched before the Master, and he allowed them. He certifies that these documents have been investigated by Mr. R. J. Mackenzie, professional accountant, from the beginning of the partnership to the testator's death, and by Messrs. Peel, Borrodaille, & Co., professional accountants, from the date of the testator's death, on the 18th February, 1884, up to the 18th February, 1887. Both accountants, Mackenzie and Peel, appeared before the Master and disposed on oath as to the mode of their investigation and its correctness, and they agreed in certifying that the partnership accounts for that period were correct. He certifies that the accounts of his dealings with the assets of the partnership have been carried by the defendant, Phineas Hann, from the 18th February, 1887, to September, 1888, when the properties were taken possession of by the Bank of New South Wales under their mortgage. The plaintiffs have not succeeded in establishing any surcharge or falsification in respect of the accounts for any of the periods mentioned. Afterwards there were applications to the Court to vary this certificate. Eventually, on the 20th August, 1897, the Court made a decree. (Decree read.)

320. Are Hann and Croaker still the executors of this estate? Yes, they have never been removed.

TUESDAY,

W. A.
Balcombe.

28 Oct., 1897.

TUESDAY, 30 NOVEMBER, 1897.

Present:—

MR. HUGHES,	|	MR. THOMAS,
MR. MCGOWEN,	|	MR. DICK,
MR. MCLEAN.		

W. M. HUGHES, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

John McDonald sworn and examined:—

- J. McDonald.
30 Nov., 1897.
321. *Chairman.*] You have been called to give evidence in connection with an allegation by Mrs. Swift, as to an evasion of the probate duty; do you know anything of it? No; I know nothing at all of the probate duty.
322. Did you know Mr. Swift personally? Yes, very well.
323. Were you engaged in any business transactions with him? Yes.
324. Of what nature were they;—were you a partner of his? Yes.
325. Was there ever a deed of partnership drawn up between you? Yes.
326. Is it, or a copy of it, in existence? I have no doubt there is; Mrs. Swift would have them.
327. Have you any objection to tell the Committee what chiefly were the transactions between yourself and Mr. Swift;—were they stock dealings? Principally stock dealings—stock and station matters.
328. For what length of time were you a partner of or engaged in transactions with Mr. Swift? I should think for about twenty years.
329. Then you would have rather an intimate knowledge of Mr. Swift's business transactions in general? Yes.
330. Were you, during the whole of the time you have mentioned, a partner of Mr. Smith? I think a deed of partnership was drawn out at a date subsequent to that at which we first started to deal.
331. Were you ever, during any part of this time, an employee of Mr. Swift? No, never.
332. You were all the time either a partner or were in business relations with him as an agent? Yes.
333. It is alleged by Mrs. Swift that a large portion of the estate of which her husband was seized when he died, and which should have come to her and her children, has not been administered, and that she has received nothing;—do you know anything at all of the matter? I know nothing about it.
334. Are you acquainted with her co-trustees, Mr. Hann and Mr. Croaker? Yes.
335. But you know nothing of the matter of your own personal knowledge? I know nothing of their business relations; I only know that they are trustees.
336. You are aware, of course, that Mrs. Swift has been engaged in litigation in the matter? Yes, I am aware of that.
337. Have you been before the Court in that connection? Yes; several times.
338. What was her object, or purpose, in calling you before the Court;—what did she hope to do? She challenged the accounts.
339. The accounts of the partnership between Swift and McDonald? Yes.
340. She asked you, I believe, to produce the books? Yes; they were produced.
341. You produced them? Yes.
342. I see that according to her statements a number of books were produced in Court;—were they the whole of the books in your possession in connection with the estate? Yes.
343. You have never had, in your possession, any other books relating to your partnership except those covered by your affidavit? I have only the books connected with the partnership between Mr. Swift and myself.
344. You have no other books? None relating to the accounts except those which I handed over.
345. I see from the Equity Court proceedings that you handed in some books and papers held by Peele, Borradaile & Co, in connection with Mungie Bundie;—do you remember that? I remember that that firm of accountants were appointed by Mrs. Swift, as they had had some business relations with her late husband. They audited the accounts for and on behalf of Mrs. Swift and her co-trustees. The books necessary for that purpose were handed to them by me.
346. I see that the receipt of the Equity Clerk for these books is dated the 5th September, 1890;—we may presume, therefore, that they were handed in? Yes.
347. There was one ledger containing entries from 1884–85 until 1890 in connection with the estate, and one cheque-book containing also a journal of entries from the years 1884–85 to 1890; there was also one station-ledge, one transaction-book, and four pass-books—three of the Union Bank of Sydney, and one of the Bank of New South Wales, Moree? Yes.
348. I see that your affidavit, after alluding to the books I have just enumerated in the schedule marked "A," says:—"I further say that according to the best of my knowledge, remembrance, and information, and belief I have not in my possession, custody, or power, or in the possession, custody or power of my solicitors or agents, or in the possession, custody, or power of any other person or persons on my behalf, any deed, account-book of accounts, voucher, receipt, letter, memorandum, paper or writing, or any copy of, or extract from any such document, or any other document whatsoever relating to the matters in question." So that according to your affidavit these were the only books or papers you had in your possession, or knew anything at all about? Yes, they were all I knew of.
349. It appears that on the 3rd April, 1896, Mr. Grainger, a solicitor at Moree, went to Mungie Bundie to subpoena a Mr. Jones and a Mr. Harkness in connection with this matter,—do you know those persons? Yes.
350. Who is Mr. Harkness? He was an employee of mine.
351. It appears that while subpoenaing Mr. Harkness, Mr. Grainger took a list of the following books in connection with this matter:—A wool-book, from 1875 to 1883, which was not included in your affidavit, and which it is alleged has some connection with the Swift-McDonald accounts;—do you know anything at all about that book? No.
352. In addition to that it is alleged that he found five day-books, dating from the 18th September, 1888, to 31st March, 1894, and that part of some of these books had something to do with the Swift-McDonald accounts;—do you know anything of them? No; and if I may be permitted to say so, it seems rather an absurd thing that a man going out to serve a summons should take particulars of these books.

353. It is alleged also that there was one store-book, dating from 26th August, 1876, to August, 1878; a J. McDonald. day-book dating from the 1st January, 1884, to the 18th February, 1887; a shearing-ledger dating from 1888 to 1893; a general ledger dating from 1879 to to 1880; "F. S. Falkiner," dating from 1889 to 1890; a ration-book dating from 1880 to 1888; a ledger for 1876, '77, and '78; part, 1888, '89, and '90; day-book (Gravesend), dating from 1883 to 1889; Letts' Diary, 1874; a bills receivable-book, day-book, March 1st, 1876, to December, 1878; land-book, showing lands purchased by Mungie Bundie, at Government auction sales, from 1875 to 1882; ditto, land improved; and a journal dating from 1879 to 1883. There were also, it is alleged, numerous stock returns, and papers connected with the station. It is further alleged that these books, or some of them, are wanted in connection with this matter, and that according to your affidavit you have not them in your possession. I should like to know from you—if you want any particulars as to the books you can have them—whether any of these books, or all of them having any relation to the Swift-McDonald accounts, may have been in your possession at that time? There were no books whatever relating to those accounts beyond those which I handed over. I handed over all the books bearing upon those accounts to the accountants. 30 Nov., 1897.
354. Were you connected with Mr. Swift in 1875? Yes.
355. At that particular time did you carry on business wholly or partly as a partner of Mr. Swift, or partly on your own account? There were three partners at one time.
356. Who was the other partner? Mr. Spiller.
357. The whole of the transactions were carried on for the joint benefit of the three partners? Yes.
358. Were you then carrying on business on your own account? No.
359. Supposing there is a wool-book, dating 1875, having to do with transactions of Mungie Bundie in and during that year, to what transactions can that book allude other than to those with which you, Mr. Swift, and Mr. Spiller were concerned? I have no idea without seeing the book.
360. You said just now the book had no connection with any matters between yourself and Mr. Swift. You were quite positive about that; Mr. Grainger's letter, under date 3rd April, 1896, is addressed to Messrs. Russell and Russell, solicitors, 359, George-street, Sydney. He gives a list of books which I have already read to you, and in the list is that wool-book dated 1875;—have you any recollection of a ledger covering the years 1876, 1877, and 1878, other than the book you put in in reply to the subpoena of the Equity Court, and covered by your affidavit? No; I do not remember any.
361. The affidavit mentions a ledger covering a period of 1884, 1885 to 1890, but there is no further mention of any ledger? There may be some explanation of this kind, although I do not know whether it would apply. When we bought Spiller out we had the accounts audited up to that date.
362. *Mr. McLean.*] About what year was that? I do not know. It was a long while ago.
363. Was it previous to 1884? Yes.
364. *Chairman.*] It was somewhere between 1875 and 1884? Yes. So that with the auditing of the accounts after Mr. Swift's death, one would necessarily begin from the point up to which we had settled. It is possible that there may have been old books not bearing at all upon the accounts as between Mr. Swift and myself. There will be accounts, for instance, applying to the period of the partnership between Mr. Swift, Mr. Spiller, and myself. All the books bearing upon the accounts between Mr. Swift and myself were sent to the auditors.
365. Cannot you fix a date with approximate accuracy when you and Swift went into partnership? There was the partnership between Mr. Swift, Mr. Spiller, and myself.
366. What was the date of your partnership with Mr. Swift only? There was none until Mr. Spiller joined us.
367. During the whole time you, Mr. Swift, and Mr. Spiller were in partnership you kept a joint account? Yes.
368. With regard to this general ledger dating from 1879 to 1880, does it cover any portion of the time in which Mr. Spiller, Mr. Swift, and yourself were in partnership? I really could not say unless I saw the dates.
369. Will you discover the date from which you and Mr. Swift alone were in partnership? It would be from the date when Mr. Spiller went out.
370. You could furnish us with the date when Mr. Spiller went out? I think I could.
371. At this moment you cannot say whether the general ledger, covering the period from 1879 to 1880, embraced operations during a period when you and Mr. Swift only were in partnership? I could not say. I can only repeat what I said before—that all the books relating to the partnership between Mr. Swift and myself were handed in to the auditors, and the accounts were made up from them.
372. The books enumerated cover a period from 1875 to 1893—a period of eighteen years; that is a good long time; but you are not prepared to say to-day during what portion of that period you were in partnership with Mr. Swift alone? We were certainly in partnership during portion of that period.
373. Any book covering transactions in connection with Mungie Bundie station can refer only to transactions between yourself, Mr. Swift; and Mr. Spiller, or between yourself and Mr. Swift, during that period? That is probably the case; but I could not say definitely without seeing the books.
374. Did you say that Mr. Hann had in his possession any of the books for which you were asked? I do not think he had, but I could not say definitely, at all events all the books bearing upon the accounts were handed over to the accountants. Mr. Hann and Mrs. Swift were constantly with the accountants. Both Mr. Hann and Mrs. Swift had access to the books, but the accountants could tell you more of that matter than I could.
375. I notice that under date of March 18th, 1887, in a note from yourself to Messrs. Peele, Borradaile, and Co., you say that you forwarded all the books or vouchers that they are likely to require;—are we to infer from that that you did not send all? I have just explained to you that Mr. Spiller was bought out; consequently, any transactions in the books previous to his being bought out would not be likely to be required for the purpose of auditing the accounts. It was only after Mr. Spiller being bought out—between that date and the date of Mr. Swift's death—that any of the accounts would be of use. We necessarily had to go into the accounts when we bought Mr. Spiller out to arrive at the value of the estate.
376. You do not think it possible that of the transactions in which Mr. Spiller was engaged can bear upon the matter? I feel sure they cannot.
377. You had a settling-up when you bought Mr. Spiller out? Yes.

Mrs. Elizabeth Swift recalled and further examined :—

Mrs. E. Swift. 378. *Chairman.*] We have here an affidavit by Mr. McDonald from which it appears that he handed in to your accountants a number of books and papers in connection with the estate? Yes; that was on a discovery order obtained by my solicitor before my case was heard in the Court.

30 Nov., 1897.

379. We have also a letter written by Mr. Grainger, a solicitor, of Morce, to Messrs. Russell and Russell, solicitors, of Sydney, in which he says that having to go to Mungie Bundie station to subpoena a man named Harkness, he made a list of books of which he furnished a list: we have asked Mr. McDonald about those books, and although he was unable to give us accurate information, the matters having transpired so long ago, he seemed to think that they were in connection with the partnership of Mr. Swift with Mr. Spiller and himself;—did you know anything of that partnership? Yes; at the end of 1873 my husband sent for Mr. McDonald who was then droving for him.

380. You mean to say positively that in 1873 Mr. McDonald was droving for Mr. Swift? I do; in that year and in 1872. I can produce the accounts at that time. Here are a few of the leaves of the accounts kept by Mr. McDonald when he was droving.

381. *Mr. McGowen.*] Do you swear that Mr. McDonald was in your husband's employ as a drover in 1872, 1873, and 1874? No; at the end of 1873 he went out and bought Mungie Bundie.

382. May he not have been droving and yet have been a partner of your husband? No; he was not a partner at that time. Mr. Swift opened an account at the branch of the Bank of New South Wales at Tumut, for Mr. McDonald's purposes as a drover, as he did also in the case of other drovers. He paid money out of his private account into that account. I have the pass-books showing the accounts, and I could produce to-morrow also the affidavit of the bank manager.

383. Who is Mr. Spiller? Mr. McDonald's brother-in-law. In the early days Mr. Spiller was a general hand on Tubbo station.

384. Was he working for your husband? No. Tubbo station belonged to Mr. John Peters, a wealthy man in England. Mr. McDonald's sister was a housemaid there and she married Mr. Spiller. The manager got killed and after some time Mr. Spiller was made manager; then Mrs. Spiller sent for her brother and he came out. He was for some years on Tubbo station carrying and doing all kinds of rough work.

385. How did Mr. Spiller come to leave the partnership? Mr. McDonald ran away from his sister and went on the roads droving; then he turned up at Ellerslie station near Adelong, close to where Mr. Swift was living. The station belonged to Messrs. Petersen and Sargood, of Melbourne. They sent home for their nephew to manage it, and when he came out Mr. McDonald was sent away. He then came on to Mr. Swift's station as a drover. He went out and inspected cattle and sheep and bought them. Mr. Swift paid the money into the account and McDonald drew upon it and paid the accounts.

386. Had Mr. Swift any other drovers in his employ whom he treated in the same way? Yes.

387. Can you name any? Yes, a number. There were Thomas Miller, B. P. Radford, J. M. Flanagan, and S. M. Byrnes. I could give you a whole list.

388. Did Mr. Swift pay into an account at the bank money upon which these men could operate in the same way as he did in the case of Mr. McDonald? Yes.

389. *Chairman.*] Can you prove it? Yes; from the pass-books.

390. Could you produce them to-morrow? Yes; I have every one of them.

391. You are sure Mr. Swift paid money into the account of each of these men in exactly the same way as he paid money into Mr. McDonald's account? Yes. They were in charge of the stock and they had generally two or three men under them. When they sold the stock they sometimes received money which was always paid into Mr. Swift's private account, and never into their own accounts.

392. The transactions as far as you are aware, between Mr. Swift and Mr. McDonald, were identical with the transactions with the other men you have named? Yes.

393. *Mr. Thomas.*] You have never seen any deed of partnership drawn up between them? I have seen what purported to be a copy of a deed of partnership, but I think that when you see it you will not be able to say what it is. Mr. McDonald refuses and has always refused to produce the original.

394. He said in his evidence this afternoon that you had it? Yes; I may mention that during the fourteen years my husband was in business, commencing in 1870-71 he paid into his own private account and his other accounts no less a sum than £1,374,548 2s. 8d. Those figures are compiled from the books. I mention that to show that he did not want any money from Mr. McDonald—to show you that he really was possessed of money.

395. *Chairman.*] What we want to arrive at is the nature of the books to which Mr. Grainger refers in his letters. For instance, there is the wool-book covering transactions from 1875 to 1883;—was your husband a partner with Mr. McDonald for any portion of the period between 1875 and 1883? He was. Perhaps it was thought at another time that he was a partner, because, it being difficult to communicate between Tumut and Mungie Bundie under two or three months in those days, when there was no railway and nothing but the boat and the coach which often broke down, Mr. Swift often gave him a power of attorney. Mr. Swift directed him what to do.

396. Can you prove that Mr. Swift gave him a power of attorney? Yes; if you will give me time, but I do not think I could do so by to-morrow.

397. You hand in a memorandum of agreement of a partnership between Mr. McDonald and Mr. Swift under date of 8th February, 1881? Yes; it is in Mr. Hann's handwriting. [*Appendix B1.*]

398. In whose handwriting was the original? According to what Mr. McDonald says in one of his letters it was in his own handwriting.

399. You hand in a copy of a letter which Mr. McDonald wrote to Mr. Hann, in which he states that the original memorandum was drawn up by himself? Yes;—[*Appendix B2.*]—he says "I will hunt up the partnership memo., for such it was, drawn up by myself; I think it is either with A. and A. or bank; will find it and send you copy."

John McDonald recalled and further examined :—

J. McDonald. 400. *Chairman.*] The Committee would like you to bring, to-morrow, the date of the partnership between yourself, Mr. Spiller, and Mr. Swift? I could get the date when Mr. Spiller went out; but as to any other dates, I am doubtful.

30 Nov., 1897.

401. You said early in your evidence that there was a deed of partnership between yourself and Mr. Swift? Yes.

402.

402. Will you be able to obtain a copy of it? Mrs. Swift has it; she will give you all the papers and dates. J. McDonald.
30 Nov., 1897.
403. Is the original document lodged with the Bank? I do not know where it is.
404. I suppose it was drawn up by solicitors? Yes.
405. *Mr. McGowen.*] You have no copy? No.
406. You have not the original? No; when the equity suit was on, I gave up the whole of the books and papers I had bearing upon the partnership.
407. *Mr. Thomas.*] You say a firm of solicitors drew up the deed? Yes; Messrs. Pigott and Trickett.
408. *Mr. McGowen.*] You had at one time a copy of the deed? Yes; some years ago.
409. Did you not send a copy to Mr. Hann? I think it very likely; I do not know where it is now. I handed in the whole of the papers in the course of the Equity Court proceedings.
410. Was it the original draft that you sent to Mr. Hann? I could not say whether or not it was the original copy. I do not know that I did send it to him; but it is very likely that I did. I have no recollection of having sent it. The date of the deed would be when Spiller was bought out.
411. Have you any idea of the terms of the agreement between yourself and Mr. Swift in reference to Mr. Spiller being bought out? I know that we bought him out between us.
412. Have you any idea what you agreed to pay him? I think it was £16,000.
413. Mrs. Swift has handed us a number of cheques; here, for instance, is a cheque upon the Bank of New South Wales, drawn 10th February, 1881, in favour of John McDonald & Co., for £1,950, signed by Mr. Swift;—have you any recollection of the receipt of that large sum of money? It would be impossible for a man to carry all these things in his memory; I dare say I could give you a possible explanation of a number of these things: Mr. Swift was a very large dealer, and he used often to be in monetary trouble, and on those occasions I used to assist him. Probably he would get a p.n. from me, and he might redeem it before the due date. Probably many of these things would be explained by transactions of that sort.
414. Were you in the habit of doing that sort of thing for Mr. Swift;—did you occasionally take his liabilities in that way? Yes.
415. He was a large speculator, was he not? Yes.
416. None of these cheques had anything to do with the purchase of stock or of Mungie Bundie station? No; the dates would show that.
417. Was the deed of partnership between yourself and Mr. Swift drawn in 1881? No, I think it must have been drawn in 1870.
418. Are you sure of that? As sure as a man can be of anything which has happened so long back.
419. Have you anything else which will help to fix the date in your mind? I believe the place was bought in 1874: consequently, the deed must have been drawn some time thereabouts.
420. I suppose you would not like to swear that it was not in 1881 that the deed of partnership was drawn. I would not.
421. Suppose the deed was drawn on the 8th February, 1881, two days from the date of the cheque I have shown you, would not the inference be that the £1,950 had some connection with it? It might have, taking that view of it.
422. But to the best of your knowledge and belief the date of the agreement was removed by some years from the date of the cheque? Yes.
423. *Mr. McGowen.*] Before entering into your partnership with Mr. Swift, you were in his employ as a drover, were you not? No; never.
424. Were you not droving for him in 1872 and 1873? No; for myself, and him occasionally.
425. Were there any other men—for instance, Miller, Radford, Flanagan, and Byrnes, working as drovers with Mr. Swift? That was years afterwards.
426. You say that in 1872 and 1873 you were not in Mr. Swift's employ as drover? I was never in my life in his employ.
427. Were you working in conjunction with him? Yes.
428. In what way? I used to buy fat stock and take them to Melbourne, and at other times store cattle, and take them to other places.
429. What interest had Mr. Swift in those transactions? He had one-half.
430. Was there a partnership? Yes; but there was no deed of partnership before Mr. Spiller joined us.
431. Mr. Spiller was not in partnership then in the droving business? No.
432. But you say that in 1873 you were buying cattle for yourself and Mr. Swift? Yes.
433. Did you also find men to buy the cattle? Yes.
434. And the transactions with Mr. Spiller came on much later? Yes.
435. Did you give any evidence in this case to the effect that Mr. Spiller supplied you with money with which to purchase Mungie Bundie station? I do not think so; although I believe Mr. Spiller found part of the money. I could not, however, say for certain. I know that there was some difference in the money transaction which was adjusted later on.
436. Did you enter any defence when Mrs. Swift was attempting to fight you as to the existence of any partnership in Mungie Bundie station—that your share of the purchase money of Mungie Bundie was supplied to you by your brother-in-law, Mr. Spiller? No; some bungling was made by my solicitor in that matter. We rectified that afterwards.
437. Did Mr. Spiller, as a matter of fact, supply you with the money? No.
438. The previous transactions between yourself and Mr. Swift in the purchase of cattle and the delivering of them to market for sale were transactions in a *bona fide* partnership? Yes.

WEDNESDAY, 1 DECEMBER, 1897.

Present:—

Mr. HUGHES,		Mr. McFARLANE,
Mr. VARNEY PARKES,	|	Mr. THOMAS.

W. M. HUGHES, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

John McDonald recalled and further examined:—

- J. McDonald. 439. *Chairman.*] Have you tried to obtain the information which I asked you to get? Yes. I find that the information is most likely to be found in the Equity Court. I thought I could get it through the bankers. The nearest I could get was that it was 1880 or 1881 when Mr. Spiller was bought out.
- 1 Dec., 1897. 440. Can you fix a date for the earliest partnership transaction between yourself, Swift, and any other person? I should say it was about 1870.
441. Are you fixing the date by any transaction? No; from recollection.
442. Have you given any thought to those other books;—is there any other explanation which you can offer, except that which you gave yesterday, as to what Mr. Grainger speaks about? No other explanation.
443. You believe they were books connected with the joint partnership of McDonald, Swift, and Spiller? I think that is probably what they would be.
444. Was that account wound up in 1880 or 1881? When Spiller was bought out.
445. So that whatever they contained they cannot bear upon the Swift-McDonald account? No.
446. Have you any recollection as to who audited the accounts when you bought out Spiller? Spiller, Swift, and I had a meeting. We mutually arrived at the assets and liabilities.
447. Are you quite sure there was never any relationship between you and Mr. Swift as employer and employee? Quite sure.
448. Are you disposed to tell the Committee who found the capital of the stock transactions between you and Swift, before Spiller joined you? Swift and I had each our joint capital; in fact, any capital there was in it originally, I had it. Swift was a civil servant, and had little or no capital.
449. At the time you and Swift had the original transactions was Swift not a man of means? He was quite the reverse.
450. Was he a very smart business man? Yes, he was a good business man.
451. When you, Spiller, and Swift were together did Spiller bring any capital into the business? Yes, he brought his one-third.
452. You put in an amount of capital, and drew out a separate proportionate return? Yes.
453. Do you still own Mungie Bundie station? Yes.
454. Did you come to an arrangement with the trustees with reference to that property? No; the bank took possession and sold it.
455. Did you buy it? No; I bought it subsequently from the party who bought it at the sale.
456. Was the property sold for an amount equivalent to what it was valued for probate purposes? I do not know what it was valued at.
457. For what amount did the bank sell the property? £75,000, as near as I can remember.
458. Was it security for an overdraft or mortgage? It was necessarily an overdraft, or they could not take possession.
459. What was the amount of the overdraft? That I cannot remember; but that will be seen in the pass-book in the Equity Court.
460. Do you say that you never, during any portion of your time, were an employee of Swift's, and that all the transactions in which you and Swift, and you and Spiller and Swift, were engaged, were transactions in the nature of an ordinary partnership? Yes.
461. That although a deed of partnership was not drawn up between you and Swift in your early transactions, yet they were of that nature? Yes.
462. The nature of the partnership was that the capital was supplied either by both parties equally, or originally by yourself alone? Yes.
463. And that at the first stage Swift had no capital at all? Yes.
464. What was he? He was a Crown lands bailiff.
465. In reference to an item in 1872 and 1873, it is alleged that you were droving for Mr. Swift, and in support of that it has been sworn that there was an account opened by Mr. Swift with the Bank of New South Wales at Tumut;—do you know anything at all about that? I could not tell you; I know I was not droving for him. Who makes that allegation?
466. Mrs. Swift? What support has she got for the allegation?
467. The only support we have seen is an extract from a ledger or day-book in which there was an account opened in the Bank of New South Wales, at Tumut, by Mr. Swift, which was operated upon by you? Very likely; if I remember rightly, we each had an account at Tumut.
468. *Mr. McFarlane.*] Had Mrs. Swift any intimate knowledge of Mr. Swift's business? Up to the time of his death, to the best of my knowledge she did not know anything about his business. To the best of my belief, when I was with him she knew nothing at all about his business.
469. Would she have any knowledge of the partnership or banking account? No; only what she may have picked up since she got crazy about this matter. She is a woman of indomitable courage; when she gets an idea into her head she goes right at it.
470. Would she have a knowledge of the value of station property prior to Mr. Swift's death? She could not have any knowledge of it; she never lived on a station.
471. Was she in the habit of visiting the station properties? No.
472. She made certain statements that there was no partnership further than joint business transaction concerning certain speculations, and that there was no fixed partnership? Up to the time Spiller joined us.
473. Was Spiller a partner? He was a partner, as Swift and I. When he joined us we had a proper deed of partnership drawn up, because he would not join us in the loose way of business we had. We trusted each other with anything. When Spiller joined us we went on a business footing.
474. Has that deed of partnership been produced? It is in the Equity Court.
475. Was the Mungie Bundie property sold by auction? Yes.

476. Did it realise the amount for which the firm were liable to the bank? Yes; there was a credit balance. J. McDonald.
477. What became of that balance? It was divided in proportion to the right of the estate to it. The balance was handed over to the trustees of Swift's estate. ^{1 Dec., 1897.}
478. *Mr. Parkes.*] Have you any idea whether the property of Swift's estate, when it was wound up, realised the amount on which probate was paid? To the best of my recollection, probate was paid on a greater value than the estate was worth.
479. That is, it was paid in anticipation of the estate being of a certain value, which it did not actually realise? Yes. Moreover, the trustees had probably an object in making it as valuable as possible.
480. Might it not be that for financial purposes they made it of greater value? Yes; that was the impression given to me at the time.
481. Was Mrs. Swift paid £2,000? I do not know.
482. Did you know anything of the trustees' business? No.
483. At the time you were under the impression that they paid more as probate duty than the estate would realise, and that they did that for financial purposes? Yes; that was my opinion.
484. *Chairman.*] This is a copy of your account with the Bank of New South Wales at Tumut;—how do you account for the fact that cash is paid in uniformly by Swift and not by yourself into this account; there are various amounts all paid in by Swift;—what is your explanation of that? We each had an account, and I would want to see a copy of the other account.
485. Here is your private account covering £926 8s. 6d.;—£600 in this private account of yours corresponds with this deposit slip of Mr. Swift's for the purchase of Mungie Bundie? That is the kind of thing I should like to look into. I cannot remember what occurred twenty years ago.
486. Here is your partnership account presumably, in which all the cash is paid in by Swift? This is one and the same account; there is no private account in either of these. They are both private, as far as my business with the bank is concerned, yet they are both partnership accounts.
487. How do you account for it that in your private account the cash is paid in uniformly by Swift;—where is the contra account? Show me Swift's account with the same bank, and you will probably find me paying into his credit.
488. Is that your explanation? That is the way we used to work in those days.
489. *Mr. McFarlane.*] Do you remember operating on this account at the Tumut branch of the Bank of New South Wales;—I see it is in your name, John McDonald? Yes.
490. In making these deposits, were they made by you in Swift's name? No; it was put in my own name, and he kept his own account in his name.
491. Am I to understand there were two banking accounts in this bank at Tumut? Yes; one of his, and one of mine.
492. Did you operate on Mr. Swift's banking account? No; on my own.
493. Would Mr. Swift operate on his own account? Yes.
494. You did not operate on each other's accounts? No; every now and again we used to have a straightening up. I used to pay to him, or he used to pay to me, as we finished each transaction or speculation.
495. In the event of a sale of property or stock, would the money be first paid into one account in the bank? Very likely; it might be paid into my account, and I would give him a cheque, or he would give me a cheque.
496. Would you adjust it before paying it in? No. We did not keep any books; we used to trust each other. I used to give him money if he wanted it, or he might give it to me. I bought a station from a man named Ryrie. At that time Swift was a stock and station agent. He, of course, sold the place for Ryrie, and I bought it. That accounts for Ryrie's name appearing in these banking accounts. I gave Ryrie so much in cash and the rest in bills. The promissory-note appearing in the account calls that back to my recollection.
497. *Mr. Parkes.*] Did you travel about very much? Yes, a good deal.
498. Did Mr. Swift travel about? Yes.
499. Was there any arrangement between you as to one doing the clerical work and the other doing the actual travelling? No.
500. There would not be one partner who would pay in constantly? No.
501. *Chairman.*] Here are some leaves from a book;—are they in your handwriting? Yes.
502. Was that a petty cash-book, or what was it? I could not tell you.
503. Anyhow, it is a book you kept, and it is dated 1873? Yes.
504. Were you in partnership with Swift at that time? I can hardly say whether I was or not. It seems to be very mixed up memoranda. There are men mentioned here who I had in my employ, and it refers to transactions at this place of Ryrie's.
505. You must have been in partnership with Swift at that time? Not in this station. He had nothing to do with this place. It was a place at Little River, near Yass—Cooradigby.
506. Some of these dates coincide with the banking account during the time you were operating on the account at Tumut? These are so mixed up that I cannot explain them, and I am sure nobody else can.
507. Here is a cash entry for a dog? Possibly, I bought a cattle-dog; that is twenty odd years ago.
508. According to these entries somebody was droving? It was a cattle station, and we had dogs to get the cattle.
509. Did you ever travel with mobs of your own cattle? Yes.
510. During 1873 there was an account opened;—were the operations on that account entirely out of the hands of Mr. Swift? Yes; he had nothing to do with that station except that he sold it. He used to sell stock off it for me. It was after I sold that place to which those figures relate that I joined Swift.
511. *Mr. Parkes.*] There is an item of £3,000 odd in that account;—can you throw some light on that? You mean the item £3,417?
512. Was that a deposit by Swift and yourself conjointly? Yes; that was when we bought the place that I am now on; that was the deposit money.
513. Paid by whom? Paid by both of us. The whole of the money that Swift and I had, to the best of my recollection, was lying to Swift's credit. I went up North to see if I could see any place suitable, and I saw this place then and arranged on a proper business footing that Swift, Spiller, and myself should

- J. McDonald. buy it. This, as far as I can see, was a transfer to the head office in Sydney of the Bank of New South Wales of our cash to pay this deposit on the property.
- 1 Dec., 1897. 514. That would be paid out of Swift's account, being the conjoint money lying to Swift's credit? Yes, at Tumut.
515. For convenience? Yes.
516. Would that account for all the deposits being in Swift's name? Yes. Spiller paid in his proportion independently.
517. *Mr. McFarlane.*] How long was the partnership in existence between yourself, Spiller, and Swift? It started about 1874, and ran on until about 1880 or 1881, when Spiller was bought out. He was dissatisfied with Swift's speculative propensities. He got frightened, and finally he offered to sell his share for, I think, £13,500. Swift and I bought him out.
518. During the time of the partnership, how often would you have a settlement of accounts, either before or after Spiller left? Pretty well every year before Spiller went out.
519. In adjusting the different shares, was everything amicably arranged, or was there any dispute? We never had a dispute.
520. Was Mr. Swift always perfectly satisfied with the adjustments made in connection with the partnership? Yes; it was only Spiller that was dissatisfied. Swift and I never had a word. We trusted each other with anything and everything.
521. Did he take sufficient trouble to see that the accounts were correct? I think he did so, because I remember the books being sent down here. I insisted on their coming down to some accountant he had in Sydney, so that there should be no doubt about it.
522. What was the result of that? He returned the books. He was perfectly satisfied. I forget who was the accountant, but it was one of his own.
523. Was it agreed upon by both of you to submit the books to an accountant? He did not want to bother about it, but I insisted upon it.
524. Was it merely an audit? Yes.
525. Were you both satisfied? Yes.
526. Did the partnership extend to all the stations? Yes, to all the operations we had; but he was in lots of places that I had nothing to do with. When I was moderately successful where I was, he got in with other partners. He got in with a man named Hann, and they got stations down near Wilcannia and Wagga. I had nothing to do with those transactions; in fact, he got into all sorts of speculations.
527. Was he successful generally in his speculations? Yes; he was very successful up to a point.
528. What point was that? Until within a few years of his death.
529. Did you meet with losses after that? No end of losses. The drought set in. He had a lot of stock floating all over the colony. He dragged me into one speculation much against my will, and to relieve the trustees I took his interest and my own also. There was a third party in it. I lost £4,000 by my good nature.
530. It has been previously stated that the accounts were operated upon after Mr. Swift's death for partnership accounts? Yes; the properties were carried on a year or two after his death by the trustees and myself.
531. The trustees represented the estate of one of the partners and yourself? Yes.
532. Would the moneys that would be received in connection with the sale of stations and stock be treated precisely in the same way as if Mr. Swift was alive? Yes.
533. Was his estate credited with the amount due to it? Yes.
534. Are there books to show exactly the nature of those transactions and the result? Yes; every transaction.

Mrs. Elizabeth Swift recalled and further examined:—

- Mrs. E. Swift. 535. *Mr. Parkes.*] How do you know that the amount paid into the banking account at Tumut was Mr. Swift's money? Because my solicitor, for the purpose of the suit that was coming on, searched out every payment by Mr. Swift from the beginning of his account up to his death.
- 1 Dec., 1897. 536. Who was that solicitor? Mr. Russell. He got the bank to come in and make these affidavits with regard to that. The very interest on account of McDonald is charged to my husband's private account.
537. Where did the money come from that was paid into that account? Out of Mr. Swift's private account.
538. Have you got that private account? Yes.
539. Do you know whether Mr. McDonald paid any money into Mr. Swift's private account, and trusted him to hold the lot? I know of my own knowledge that Mr. McDonald never had any money, and never paid any money into my husband's account, or to him personally.
540. What proof can you give beyond your statement? The bank pass-books right through.

John McDonald, Esq., recalled and further examined:—

- J. McDonald. 541. *Chairman.*] Here is a list of items of Mr. Swift's account in Mr. Swift's handwriting; here is an item—John McDonald, drover, £30 5s. 9d.;—can you explain that? He may have paid a drover of mine; I cannot say.
- 1 Dec., 1897. 542. Do you still adhere to your statement that you were not droving for him, and that the money was not paid to you as an employee? Yes.
543. We examined you with regard to the account at Tumut, in which moneys were paid in by Swift; you said that Swift's account would very likely prove that you had paid money into his account; here is Swift's account;—what is the explanation? The only explanation is that which I have given, that he was a stock and station agent, and in selling stock he used to frequently sell them on bills, and here is a proof of that in the entries for discount.
544. How do you account for the fact that in all banking transactions with yourself and Swift, Swift is the man whose name appears as paying in the cash? Not in all cases; if he sold the stock he would naturally get the cash.
545. You say that in the original transactions you advanced money to Swift to start it? I say that any money we had, I had it.

J. McDonald.

Dec., 1897.

546. Did you pay it into any account? No; we bought stock with it.
547. Did it pass through the hands of any banker? Yes; the Tumut bank was where we operated.
548. In whose name was that account opened? I had an account there, and he would have one if he had any money.
549. Who opened the account for him;—did you pay in the money? I suppose he had an account of his own in a small way before we got into a large way.
550. What do you call a small way? I presume he had nothing; I lent him money once before I joined him. I never go into a man's private business to ask him what he has.
551. Have you any recollection as to how many sheep were on Mungie Bundie when Mr. Swift died? No; but the accounts will show that.
552. Here is a copy of a report made by yourself to the trustees in May, 1887, in which you state there were on the station 85,241 sheep at the date of Mr. Swift's death? Yes.
553. Here is a return made by you, under the Stock Protection Act, in which you state that on Mungie Bundie and Gravesend there were 42,000 sheep;—how do you account for these figures not tallying? One of these returns was for 1887, and I think the other was for 1884.
554. How do you account for the increase from 42,000 to 85,241? The property consisted of two stations; one return would go to one office, and the other return would go to another office.
555. Here is a copy of a memo. of yours;—is it in your own handwriting? Yes.
556. It is addressed to Hann and Croaker; you here state that there are 60,000 sheep on the stations Mungie Bundie, Gravesend, and Boolooroo;—how do you account for the difference between 85,000 and 60,000? There must be a further explanation of these figures. There is no date to that; you cannot tell whether it refers to another date or not.
557. There were 85,000 sheep on the stations at the time of Mr. Swift's death; this document has to do with what happened at the time of Swift's death, at which time, according to this statement of yours, there were 60,000 sheep; you say that at the time of Swift's death there were 85,000 sheep;—which of these statements is correct? I see what you mean now; but you should read the whole of the report. I say there:—
- I will commence my report by referring to the returns of sheep, cattle, and horses with which I have furnished you copies. At sheep, in the year 1883 I sheared 60,204 sheep, and my returns show that 24,657 lambs were marked during that year. After adding 7,480 ewes purchased, and deducting 7,100 sold, there were 85,241 sheep on the properties at date of death of late S. M. Swift. Starting from that point it will be seen from my detail statement that amongst the sheep purchased in 1884, 911 rams are shown. Those rams, I may explain, were originally bought by the late S. M. Swift as a private speculation on his own account. They were taken over from Hann and Croaker as his trustees by our firm; 202 were afterwards sold to Messrs. W. Armstrong and Co., of Milroy, at a profit on the original price paid. The sales after 1884 shearing aggregated 8,771 sheep, and do not call for any comment. You will, however, notice that I show 1,629 sheep to have been lost over an exchange with Messrs. Swift and Hann. I sheared the 10,309 sheep and kept the wool and their lambs as a set-off against the deficiency in numbers received from Mercadool.
- It is a long account, but it shows here that the losses were very heavy.
558. Is that the explanation? Yes; there must have been loss according to my report.
559. Do you adhere to your statement that you advanced Mr. Swift the original capital, or found the original capital, to start these transactions? I did not say I found the original capital to start these transactions. I said whatever capital was there he and I found it, but neither of us had very much. We were not millionaires in those days.
560. Are you quite sure he did not find the capital? Quite.
561. You are quite sure you did not drove for him? Quite; I did not drove for him.
562. Your explanation in reference to this account is that it was a joint account, operated upon jointly;—although his name is at the bottom of the deposit-receipts we are not to assume that he paid in the money any more than you did? No; it was joint moneys.
563. *Mr. McFarlane.*] Were you at any time engaged on a salary from the time you first joined Mr. Swift? No; never at any period.
564. That is, a salary for services in connection with working the stations? I charged a salary as against Swift and Spiller, and if I went away I put a man in my place.
565. Was that when the three of you were in partnership? Yes. I credited myself when the three of us were in partnership with a salary for looking after their business.
566. *Mr. Thomas.*] Did you simply pay yourself so much for managing for the three partners? Yes.
567. That was on behalf of yourself and the other two? Yes; it was so arranged.
568. *Mr. Parkes.*] If you were absent would your substitute be paid? Yes.

1898.
(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE

THE SELECT COMMITTEE

APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO THE

ESTATE OF THE LATE S. M. SWIFT, OF
PETERSHAM.

FRIDAY, 16 DECEMBER, 1898.

Present:—

MR. THOMAS, | MR. MCFARLANE,
MR. McLEAN.

W. M. HUGHES, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

George Sandell sworn and examined:—

1. *Chairman.*] What are you? A chartered accountant of England and Wales.
2. I understand you know something of this case; will you explain how you propose to proceed? I propose to exhibit the accounts in the same form as they were formerly submitted to your Committee. I refer to the accounts filed by the executors under the A.B.C. Statements. I have filed an account on much the same lines.
3. *Mr. McFarlane.*] What is your competency to investigate these accounts—have you been any length of time engaged in the capacity of chartered accountant in England? I have had upwards of twenty-five years practical experience in my profession.
4. Have you had any experience in New South Wales? Yes.
5. Have you undertaken to examine the accounts in the estate of S. M. Swift? Yes.
6. Did you go into these accounts from an accountant's standpoint? Yes, most minutely.
7. In what state did you find the accounts generally? I have had a large mass of evidence, books, papers, and documents presented to me from which I have constructed an account which I say should have been the account, and should have taken the place of that prepared by the trustees.
8. Have you seen the accounts prepared by the trustees? Yes, they are inaccurate, misleading in numerous instances, the assets were undervalued, and there has been great concealment of assets therefrom.
9. How does that statement compare with the result of your investigation—that is in the first place, with regard to the amount declared by the trustees to the Probate Court? The total surplus as per filed accounts by the trustees was £46,000 odd. I make a surplus of £236,268 5s. 8d.—roughly speaking £190,000 in excess of what they filed.
10. Did you go carefully into these accounts? Most minutely.
11. Are you prepared to swear that their statement is incorrect? The executors filed accounts are absolutely incorrect.
12. On what did you base your investigation;—what are the facts that induce you to swear so positively that the accounts are incorrect? After my examination of the books and documents I found that the executors suppressed a large number of assets belonging to the estate, and the greater portion of the assets which they did bring into the estate were undervalued. I also found that some of the assets of the estate entered in the statement made for probate as liabilities; that has had a double effect.
13. Seeing that it is some time since these valuations were made—how did you arrive at the fact that they were under valuations? I have examined the executors' letter books, the executors' account filed in the equity suit, and have estimated all the figures upon their further accounts; therefore, no valuation that I used in my accounts is my own manufacture; it is entirely the valuation of the executors themselves.

G. Sandell.
16 Dec., 1898.

G. Sandell.

Division A.—Under-valuation of the Estate Assets.

1. I have carefully inspected and examined the original valuations filed by the said executors, Mr. P. Hann and Mr. C. H. Croaker, with the application for probate, and that I find as follows:—
Baden Park and Moira Plains were supposed to have been valued by James Smith Lavender and H. Webb; Mimosa West, Browley, and Snubba, by Harvey Welman and Thomas Hodnett; and Mungie, Boolooroo, and Gravesend, by Mr. R. M. Pitt and Mr. H. S. Badgery.

The Valuator's connection with Mr. P. Hann.

The said valuator, James Smith Lavender, was a former partner of the said Mr. P. Hann's, *vide Gazette* notice, 6th September, 1878: "Mr. P. Hann retired from the firm of Messrs. Wilkinson, Hann, Minchin & Co. Witness—Hy. Berkley Fitzhardinge, solicitor, Wagga Wagga"; that the said Henry Webb was an employee in the services of the testator; that the valuator, Harvey Welman, was also a former partner of the said Mr. P. Hann, *vide Gazette* notice, 10th March, 1880; "Mr. P. Hann retired from the firm of Messrs. Welman, Hann, & Co. Witness—Hy. Berkley Fitzhardinge, solicitor, Wagga Wagga"; that the valuator, Thomas Hodnett, was also an employee in the services of testator. The said valuator, Messrs. R. M. Pitt and H. S. Badgery, had for many years prior to testator's death extensive business dealings, and at the time of his death testator occupied chambers in the same house of business. I am of opinion that these valuations were arranged by the executors, Mr. P. Hann and Mr. C. H. Croaker, with the object of under- valuing the estate.

Baden Park and Moira Plains Valuation, mortgaged after Testator's death by Mr. P. Hann and Mr. C. H. Croaker.

2. Extract from station press-letter copybook, No. 11, page 365, written by the said Mr. P. Hann to the said valuator:—"James Smith Lavender, 24th March, 1884. My dear Lavender,—I must get the assets certified to and valued by two competent disinterested persons. Now, I wish to know if you, from your general knowledge of the Baden Park country and stock, are willing to give a valuation for me, if I supply full details and particulars for you to do it on. Can you find another person about there who would do the same? Perhaps some person may be travelling through. Boulton, as sole valuator, would not do it without inspection of the station freeholds, &c. You might see Webb; he would be the very man."

Extract from press-letter copybook, No. 11, page 377, written by Mr. P. Hann to valuator, J. S. Lavender:—"26th March, 1884. My dear Lavender,—I have your message *re* Baden Park valuation, and have replied offering to send all particulars by wire if you can arrange with Webb to act as valuator with you, and I will send all particulars and my view by wire."

Extracts from press-letter telegraph book, No. 5, page 175, written and sent by Mr. P. Hann to valuator, Henry Webb, a station employee:—"26th March, 1884. See Lavender about particulars for valuation; he will explain." Same book, page 176, same date, telegram written by the said Mr. P. Hann to the said valuator, J. S. Lavender:—"Webb explains leaving to-morrow. If will act value with you, will supply all information by wire to complete to-day."

Extract from same book, page 177, same to same, same date:—"Baden Park, known as Moama Blocks S and T, Moira Plains A, worked together as one station, comprising an area of 208,000 acres; rental £75 per annum; fenced and improved; divided into eleven sheep paddocks and three small paddocks, one well, twenty-four large and small tanks, house, woolshed, huts, and buildings, working plant, including horses worth £1,800; stock, £31,000, as follows:—3,141 aged ewes, 7,032 four-tooth ewes, 9,124 two and four tooth ewes, 4,038 two-tooth wethers, 6,948 weaners, 200 ration sheep, value £50,000, with everything given in; 100 bales of wool, £1,000. 120 words."

Copy of J. S. Lavender and Henry Webb's valuation, filed by said executors, Messrs. P. Hann and C. H. Croaker.

Estimated value of Moira Plains and Baden Park station, the property of Swift and Hann:—

	£	s.	d.	
Sheep	15,000	0	0	
Country	17,000	0	0	
House, Working Plant, and Woolshed	5,130	0	0	
General improvements, Tanks, &c.	13,085	0	0	
				£50,715 0 0
	£	s.	d.	
Tanks, 105,900 yards at 1s.	5,295	0	0	
Fencing, 121 miles at £45	5,445	0	0	
" 67 " £35.....	2,345	0	0	
	£13,085	0	0	

(Signed) JAMES SMITH LAVENDER,
HENRY E. WALL.

Witness—C. H. ROOFE, Solicitor, Hay."

(No particulars or details of land or sheep.)

Copy of original in handwriting of Mr. P. Hann.

"Baden Park—Sheep shorn	23,382
" Expected stragglers.....	400
" Lambs.....	13,000
	<u>36,782</u>

Cattle and a number of Horses not wanted for working the place that Webb thinks ought not to be given in—Price £65,000.
Terms—Half-cash, balance 1 and 2 years, bearing 7½ per cent. per annum."

The following extract from Mr. P. Hann's letter to the Testator, dated 2nd May, 1883 (see press-letter copybook No. 31, page 153) —

	£	s.	d.
"Baden Park, 128,000 acres with 21,000 sheep at 40s.	42,000	0	0
Moria Plains with 12,000 sheep at 35s.	21,000	0	0
	<u>£63,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Points to the fact that the arranged valuation was an under valuation

Extract from Mr. P. Hann's letter, press-letter book No. 11, page 398, 29th March, 1884, to Valuator J. S. Lavender:—"Dear Lavender,—I have yours of yesterday with the Baden Park valuation, and thank you for being so prompt. I think the first memo. of Webb rather a high valuation, and should be glad to see such come out of the place. I find you did not estimate the value of about 100 bales of wool that Webb thought was on the place; and as your views exceeded mine by about £700, I am going to leave the wool out of the schedule altogether."

Extract from original letter written by Mr. R. M. Pitt, 9th April, 1884, to Mr. P. Hann:—"I have a buyer for Baden Park if you are willing to sell. I mentioned £50,000 as the probable price."

Extract from press-letter book No. 5, page 200—Telegraph from Mr. P. Hann to Mr. R. M. Pitt, 10th April, 1884:—"Want sixty thousand Baden Park; left map in room; if you cannot find it, advise; will bring mine down."

Extract from press-letter book No. 11, page 455, 10th April, 1884,—Mr. P. Hann to Mr. R. M. Pitt:—"My dear Pitt, Yours of the 9th to hand. I wired you to-day £60,000 for Baden Park. Lavender and Webb for valuing the place went into figures and brought it a little over £60,000 in its present state; with a change, and favourable season, it should bring £75,000 to £80,000 with 60,000 sheep on it."

Extract from press-letter copybook No. 12, page 63, written by Mr. P. Hann to Messrs. F. Bacon & Co.:—"Gunnedah, 20 June, 1884. Dear Sirs.—Your favours of the 12 and 16 to hand. Baden Park—I am not inclined to sell this property yet, as I consider season and everything else against doing so profitably just now. Although only 31,000 sheep now on it, and never having had stock losses there worth mentioning, still the property has cost me over £60,000, and no buyer would care to give £70,000 for it."

Extract from press-letter copy book No. 12, page 304, written by Mr. P. Hann to Mr. W. Bates, of Melbourne:—"15 June, 1885. Dear Sir,—Baden Park is for sale. I want £70,000 for it." Can

Can Mr. P. Hann state that this property was over-valued for business or financial reasons? I venture to say that G. Sandell. the valuation was improperly arranged, and that it was under-valued fully 25 per cent. 16 Dec., 1893.

3.—Mimosa West Valuation for Probate (see press-letter copy book No. 31, page 3), viz. :—

“Mimosa”—Rental, £50 per annum.

Original area, 49,500 acres, now reduced by conditional purchases; but we hold by Crown and other leased lands about 43,500 acres.

960 acres freehold land, cost	£1,043	0	0
320 „ conditional purchase	80	0	0
Fenced and subdivided into 13 large and small paddocks, 21 tanks, woolshed, huts, house, outbuildings, stables, hay shed, &c.; furniture and stores, £200; 14 horses, £114; 10 head cattle, £25; 28,000 sheep of about the following specifications (19,200 ewes, 8,400 weaners, 455 rams). Value of the run with improvements, 28,000 sheep, furniture, horses and cattle given in	28,000	0	0
	<u>£29,123</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

(This valuation was written out by Mr. P. Hann and signed by the Valuers—Harvey Wellman and Thomas Hodnett.)

The probable value of the property.

Extract from Mr. P. Hann's letter to the Testator, 2nd May, 1883, see press-letter, copy book No. 31, page 157 :—

“Mimosa, 49,500 acres. 14 paddocks with 23,000 sheep at 25s.	£28,750	0	0
To this amount add difference in the number of sheep between dates, viz. : 2nd May, 1883, and 18th February, 1884, being an increase of 5,000 at 10s.	2,500	0	0
Land outside—in station interest—see Mr. Hann's letter-press copy book No. 31, page 437, 3rd Oct., 1883, not included in amount, £28,750.			
Mimosa—Land—Freehold, 960 acres.			
C.P.'s. S & H to Freehold, 640 acres.			
C.P.'s. outside 3,848 acres in S & H interest.			
I.P.'s. applied for 1,280 acres.			
“ ” ” pre leases 1,520 acres.			

Also add land taken up between 3rd October, 1883, to 18th February, 1884—date of Testator's death—making together the following :—

960 acres of Freehold, 45s.	2,160	0	0
640 „ C.P. to Freehold, 32s.	1,024	0	0
“Dummyings”—			
Austin's 400 acres C.P. 5s. deposit and 5s. improvements, 10s.			
Behan's 640 „ „ „ „ „			
Cody's 320 „ „ „ „ „			
Davies' 400 „ „ „ „ „			
Frayne's 320 „ „ „ „ „			
Gore's 640 „ „ „ „ „			
Halloran's 640 „ „ „ „ „			
Yourall's 640 „ „ „ „ „			
4,000 „ „ „ „ „	2,000	0	0
Gore's 96 acres M.C.P. paid	96	0	0
Hanson's 120 „ „	120	0	0
Mitchell's 80 „ „	80	0	0
1,280 acres I.P.'s.' improvements, 20s	1,280	0	0
1,520 „ „ pre-lease, 2s.	152	0	0
	<u>6,912</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Less value of lands included in Probate Account	1,123	0	0
	<u>5,789</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>£37,089</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

March 28, 1885.

Alienated land on Mimosa West. (See Letter Book 12/503 in P. Hann's writing.)

Swift and Hann ...	Freehold blocks Nos. 10, 9, and 11	960 acres.
	Pre-lease and A.C.P., in virtue of No. 9	960 „
	Pre-lease, in virtue of No. 11	960 „
	I.P.'s, Nos. 34, 5, 19, and 22, not called up or paid for yet	430 „
W. J. Gore	C.P., No. 30	640 acres.
	Pre-lease, No. 82/47	1,920 „
		<u>2,560 acres.</u>
M. Cody	C.P., No. 30	320 acres.
	A.C.P., applied for (194 allowed)	320 „
	Pre-lease, No. 83/72	960 „
		<u>1,600 acres.</u>
T. Yourall	C.P., No. 16	640 acres.
	Part of Pre-lease 83/131, about	200 „
		<u>840 acres.</u>
W. Payne	C.P., 14 and part No. 16, about	500 acres.
	Pre-lease 79/22	960 „
W. Mitchell	C.P., No. 17	80 acres.
	Pre-lease applied for but not granted.	
H. Lee	C.P., about	80 acres.
	Pre-lease, 84/24	1,200 „
		<u>1,280 acres.</u>
W. Fisher	C.P., No. 14	640 acres.
T. Keenan	„ „ 6 and 12	640 „
		<u>1,280 acres.</u>
J. Elliott	C.P., No. 4 and 16	360 „
A. R. Orr	„ „ 7	320 „
H. Austin	„ „ 9	400 „
J. Hanson	„ „ 21	120 „
W. J. Gore	„ „ 13	96 „
W. Purser	„ „ 23	640 „
H. Wellman	„ „ 4	40 „
		<u>14,386 acres.</u>

G. Sandell.
16 Dec., 1898.

IMPROVEMENTS.

Cost of fencing, per Mr. P. Hann	£3,178 15 0
Do tanks ,, ,,	950 0 0

£4,128 15 0

C. Hale and Hale, junr., are not allowed for, as they are not surveyed. 1,280 acres.

Compare this with the filed valuation;—can Mr. P. Hann say he did not conceal the land from probate? And in further confirmation that land was concealed I quote and refer to Mr. Hann's letter to Messrs. Wilkinson, Graves, and Lavender, 1st May, 1884; press-letter book No. 12, page 9, per following extract:—

960 acres freehold land;
640 ,, conditionally-purchased; and
7,516 ,, secured in different parts by selections, improvement purchases, and measured portions.

Can Mr. P. Hann state that this property was overvalued for financial and business reasons?

4. Browley valuation for probate, filed 5th April, 1884, see press-letter book No. 51, page 4, as follows:—

Browley, 12 miles from Narandra—

6,824 acres conditionally-purchased land;	
40 ,, freehold.	
6,864 ,, @ 30s.	£10,296 0 0
10,500 sheep, viz.: 3,700 aged ewes, 6,600 5-year old overflow wethers, poor, 200 mixed young ewes and rams, at per head for the whole 5s. 6d. ..	2,887 10 0
2 horses, £16; 6 head cattle, £18	34 0 0
Furniture and sundries	100 0 0
	£13,317 10 0

The land is all fenced, divided into several paddocks; three wells on it; six tanks; house, woolshed, huts, and drafting yards.—Wagga Wagga, 26 March, 1884.

(Note.—3,600 and 1,500 acres of pre-leases are not included in this valuation.)

The above property was sold 2nd April, 1884, three days prior to the filing of the probate account, to Messrs. A. and J. Mack, and the following are the particulars of such sale, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
6,824 acres C.P.	12,012	8	9			
40 acres 1 rd. freehold—35}				634	11	4
Interest.....						
	12,647	0	1			
Less Commission.....	218	9	5			
	12,428	10	8			
5 horses, £34; 14 cattle, £81 10s.; and furniture, £82 7s. 2d.	197	17	2			
8,508 sheep (6s.)	2,552	8	0			
				15,178	15	10
5,132 ,, unsold (6s.).....				1,539	12	0
				16,718	7	10

Messrs. J. and A. Mack paid—

Cash	7,197 17 2.
Bill, 12 months	1,000 0 0
„ 24 „	4,012 8 0
„ for interest	634 11 4
„ for sheep, 6 months	2,552 8 0

Can Mr. P. Hann state that this property—sold before he filed his application for probate—was overvalued for financial and business reasons?

Extract from letter written by Mr. P. Hann to Messrs. C. L. Griffiths & Co., Albury, vide press letter copy book, No. 11, page 235, 28th February, 1884:—“Dear Sirs,—Browley.—I had a buyer wanting to inspect the lot for £14,000, but I declined, as, at our price, it is at present the cheapest place in Australia.” Same to same, 15th March, 1884, same book, page 307:—“At 35s. per acre it is the cheapest place offering in the Colony.”

Extract from letter written by said Mr. P. Hann to Mr. S. Payne, 3rd April, 1884, same book, page 418:—“The Messrs. Mack have bought Browley, and will, I think, take delivery in fourteen or fifteen days.”

Extract from letter written by said Mr. P. Hann to Messrs. Mack, 3rd April, 1884, vide same book, page 419:—“Dear Sirs,—In accordance with your wish in yesterday's second telegram, I have to-day had prepared, by Messrs. Fitzhardinge and Coleman, the agreement for the purchase and sale of Browley property and stock to you.”

Extract from letter written by said Mr. P. Hann to Mrs. Swift, 5th April, 1884, vide press letter copy book, No. 7, page 378:—“I have this week sold Browley and the stock to Messrs. J. & A. Mack, of Victoria, which will reduce the account £15,000 more.”

5. Snubba valuation for probate (see press letter book, No. 51, page 5, as follows:—

Snubba, or Head of Gilmour Run, area unknown (say) about 30,000 acres; rental, £45 per annum; partly fenced and improved. 1,060 acres of conditionally-purchased land, costing £624 sterling.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Value of run, including selection	2,500	0	0			
5,500 2-tooth wethers, at 6s.	1,650	0	0			
7,200 2-tooth ewes, at 8s. 6d.	3,060	0	0			
				7,210	0	0

The valuation is in the handwriting of Mr. P. Hann, and signed by valuers.

This property was sold 6th October, 1884, as per Messrs. Pitt, Son, & Badgery's sale note, at ..

5,000 0 0

Interest thereon

262 10 0

5,262 10 0

Less Commission.....

131 15 0

5,130 15 0

Mr. P. Hann, writing to Mr. Flanagan, on 24th March and 12th April, 1884, says: “I have 24,000 sheep on Snubba.”

7,410 from Mimosa.

5,560 } from Tyson, McPherson, and McFarland.

4,400 }

90 rams.

6,800 Hann's.

24,260

ON ESTATE OF THE LATE S. M. SWIFT, OF PETERSHAM.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
5,512 sold to Pope (Bates' 111)	1,792	6	0			
8,614 ,, Winter (Bates' 108).....	4,522	7	0			
1,000 ,, Halloran (Exs. 69)	425	0	0			
163 ,, ,, ,,	31	0	0			
6,800 Hann's						
90 rams unsold	188	0	0			
2,081 sheep unsold	780	7	0			
				7,739	0	0
24,260						
Realised.....				£12,869	15	6

G. Sandell.
16 Dec., 1898.

Mr. F. S. Falkiner, per Pitt, Son, and Badgery's sale-note, gives the following as the settlement:—

	£	s.	d.
Cash	2,368	5	0
P.N., 12 months	1,250	0	0
P.N., 24 months.....	1,250	0	0
Interest, bills	262	10	0
Advertising	6	15	0
Commission	125	0	0
	£5,262	10	0

Can Mr. P. Hann state that this property was overvalued for financial and business purposes?

6. If further confirmation of my statement that the following estate properties were undervalued is necessary, I refer to Mr. P. Hann's letter of 2nd May, 1883, written to testator, *vide* press letter copy book, No. 31, page 157, in which he gives the value of the properties as follows:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
"Baden Park, with 21,000 sheep.....	42,000	0	0			
Morra Plains, ,, 12,000 ,,	21,000	0	0			
				63,000	0	0
Mimosa West, ,, 23,000 ,,				28,750	0	0
Browley, ,, 37,700 ,,				13,714	0	0
Snubba, none				2,500	0	0
	59,770			£107,964	0	0
Add thereto increased number of sheep at 18th Feb., 1884, 101,074						
Less, included in above	59,770					
	41,304	at 7s 6d.	15,489	0	0	
Additional value, Mimosa West.....			2,000	0	0	
Undervalue of Snubba			2,500	0	0	
				19,989	0	0
				£127,953	0	0

These various properties were represented by Mr. P. Hann and Mr. C. H. Croaker, as per their application for probate, on the 5th of April, 1884, to be of the value of £100,365 10s., or nearly 28 per cent. under his own statement of May 2nd, 1883.

Mungie Bundie, Boolooroo, and Gravesend Valuation.

7. Extract from letter of said Mr. P. Hann to Mr. John McDonald, Station Manager, March 19th, 1884, *vide* press letter copy book, No. 7, page 373:—"Dear McDonald,—To-day I have yours of the 14th from Boonook. I think it would have been much better to have talked over matters, and we could then have made out the statement of the station accounts necessary before we can ask for probate."

Extract from original letter of Mr. John McDonald, "Oxford Hotel," Sydney, March 20th, 1884, to said Mr. P. Hann:—"Dear Hann,—Herewith I send you approximate statement of our places, which you can make out to your own liking; these are quite near enough."

"Total leasehold, 190,000 acres, fenced and improved. Original freeholds on whole, 35,000 acres.

Sheep	60,000
Cattle	4,000
Horses	200
Plant, &c., worth (say)	£2,000

Extract from letter of said Mr. P. Hann to Mr. H. S. Badgery, March 24th, 1884, *vide* press letter copy book, No. 11, page 364:—"My dear Badgery,—You and Pitt kindly offered to give me the Mungie Bundie valuation, and if you are still prepared to do this I should be glad. Enclosed I send all the particulars that McDonald sent me to work upon, and I trust they will be sufficient for you."

Extract from original letter of Mr. R. M. Pitt, Sydney, to said Mr. P. Hann, 28th March, 1884.—"My Dear Hann,—Valuation of the station is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Land.....	45,000	0	0
Sheep	24,000	0	0
Cattle	8,000	0	0
Horses	1,000	0	0
Runs.....	10,000	0	0
Plant	2,000	0	0
	£90,000	0	0

"Do you consider this too low? If so, wire in the morning. I don't think it would realise any more just now even if as much, but with rain, of course, it would be worth considerably more."

Extract from letter of said Mr. P. Hann to Mr. R. M. Pitt, March 29th, 1884, *vide* press letter copy book, No. 11, page 393:—"I have yours of yesterday, and I think you are altogether too low in your valuations as a whole: separately they are right enough, but at least £10,000 more has to go on for value improvements on the freeholds and leasehold lands, and £3,000 to £5,000 more on the sheep. I think you overlooked the improvements; the bare cost of 35,000 acres of land at 25s. would nearly be £45,000. We had better put a reasonable value on, so as not to have any questioning over the matter, and I do not think that undervaluing will do the estate and partners good generally."

Extract from letter of said Mr. P. Hann to Mr. H. S. Badgery, 29th March, 1884, *vide* press letter copy book, No. 11, page 395:—"My dear Badgery,—I have your wire about wanting the separate quantities of freehold and selected lands on Mungie Bundie, Gravesend, and Boolooroo, and have wired McDonald to send them direct to you. I do not see any reason for specifying the acreage of each block and on each run, as it entails so much trouble and gives no better result. You can only give a general value of the land, and not separately value each block. The whole of the 35,000 acres is freehold. If they had any selections there in other names they could not place a value on them, and must treat them only as private leased lands. I am also writing to Pitt, as the valuations are too low. You only allow cost price for the land, and nothing for the value of improvements over the whole freehold and leasehold lands."

Extract

G. Sandell.
16 Dec., 1898.

Extract from original letter of Mr. H. S. Badgery to the said Mr. P. Hann:—"31st March, 1884. I have made the valuations, and handed them to Abbott and Allen."

After arrangements, the following appears agreed upon, and, as such, was filed by the executors, Mr. P. Hann and Mr. C. H. Croaker:—"31st March, 1884. We, the undersigned, hereby certify that we have personal knowledge of the runs hereunder mentioned, in which the late Samuel Moffatt Swift was interested at the date of his death, and that the fair and reasonable values of the same and the stock thereon are as hereafter set forth:—

"Mungie Bundie, Gravesend, and Boolooroo Stations, county of Couralie, Gwyder district, New South Wales.

"Total original leaseholds, about 190,000 acres, all fenced and improved.

"Freeholds land, about 35,000 acres, at 30s.....	£52,500
"Leaseholds and improvements thereon.....	15,000
"Plant and belongings	2,500
"60,000 sheep, more or less, at 9s.	27,000
"4,000 cattle, more or less.....	8,000
"200 horses, more or less	1,500
	£106,500"

The valutors never inspected the stations, and no details of the various portions of lands were given.

On the 4th May, 1887, Messrs. Peele, Borradaile, and Co., of Sydney, prepared a statement of accounts, made up to the 18th day of February, 1884. This said statement was signed by the said firm and Mr. John McDonald, with following certificate:—"The above balances have been taken from the ledger accounts prepared by us from the books and vouchers of Messrs. John McDonald and Co." The value of the freehold lands being therein stated to be 45s. per acre.

Extract from letter of testator to Mr. Maiden, 26th August, 1882, *vide* press-letter copybook, page :—"Testator's valuation of these properties, with 75,000 sheep and 4,000 cattle thereon, was £150,000."

There can be no doubt that the number of sheep on the stations was improperly stated, and in place of 60,000 sheep there should have been 85,211, the cattle being also under-stated as to numbers and values.

Extract from report written by Peel, Borradaile, & Co., and signed by said John McDonald, 4th May, 1887 (see press-letter copy):—"There were 85,211 sheep on the properties at date of death of late S. M. Swift," and this is confirmed as per original stock assessments made on the station returns—

42,000 sheep on Mungie Bundie, and
37,000 " on Boolooroo.
79,000

closely agreeing with the number given in the report of 4th May, 1887, proving John McDonald withheld 25,211 from the number stated to the valutors; there were also other properties withheld from the valuation, and will be found in Division B, Nos. 41 to 54, which should have formed part of the testator's estate and upon which duty should have been paid, bringing the total net value of this portion of the estate to £173,250 11s. 2d., instead of £106,500 as in the filed account for Probate—under Schedule B.

Can Mr. P. Hann say that these properties were over valued for financial and business reasons?

Division B.—Concealed Estate Assets, &c.

	£	s.	d.
1. Credit bank balance at Head Office, Bank of New South Wales—entered on the filed accounts as a liability, diverting probate duty double the amount, viz., £798 8s. 10d. (see Equity suit 5060, page 3)	399	4	5
2. Credit bank balance, Blackall branch, Bank of New South Wales—credit of T. Miller, <i>vide</i> Mr. P. Hann's letter, 5 August, 1884, page 352	232	0	0
3. Credit bank balance, at Wilcannia, credit Edward Luttrell, Commercial Banking Company of Sydney	100	19	7
4. 7,900 ewes purchased by testator, 11 October, 1883, of Mr. W. Bates, acting agent for vendors, Messrs. T. Brown & Co., for which testator gave his P.N., due 14 July, 1884; 7,580 of these ewes were sold by Mr. Bates, and delivered to Messrs James and Martin, for £4,614 17s. 6d. less commission (Mr. Bates' ledger is in my possession proves this statement)	4,490	0	3
5. Statement of the late Mr. Swift's horses, &c., left at Mungie Bundie by Halloran (see press-letter copybook, B 694), as follows:—			
1 Bay horse.....	12	0	0
1 Chesnut and roan	10	0	0
1 Chesnut	8	0	0
1 Bay draught mare	25	0	0
1 " horse	20	0	0
Cart and harness.....	10	0	0
2 Saddles	4	0	0
2 Tents, 35s.; 2 axes, 10s.; oven, 5s.	2	10	0
Sundries	0	10	0
			92 0 0
6. The following are admitted as having been received by Executors—Mr. P. Hann and Mr. C. H. Croaker—and entered in the "Receipts" portion of the account filed in the Equity suit 5060 (see pages 62 and 63). Not one of these assets were included in the accounts filed for Probate:—			
W. Sloane, 22 October, 1884	87	12	7
" " 5 August, 1885	55	5	9
Broade, 30 April, 1885	299	16	8
Wilkinson, 28 July, 1895	188	15	0
Leeds, 7 July, 1885	70	4	0
" 7 " 1885	118	14	8
2 cows and 2 calves, 23 July, 1884	75	0	0
1 horse, 10 October, 1884	67	3	6
1 " 4 November, 1884	15	10	3
Frauenfelder, 28 March, 1884	3	4	0
Brown Bros.	1	18	0
Eddy, 4 horses	82	13	9
Horses	35	0	0
Drover's plant	18	0	0
"	83	17	6
Horses, Whittenham.....	6	12	0
McDonald	14	17	0
Menzies and Martin	8	18	6
Mortgage, horses and plant.....	44	16	0
"	65	13	8
Buggy and 2 horses, Hann and Croaker	50	6	10
Refund	77	0	0
Stock sold to Hann and Croaker.....	44	16	0
Stock, Hann	8	8	0
	6	3	0
	1,530	6	8

G. Sandell.
16 Dec., 1898.

	£	s.	d.
40. Mimosa West lands; not included in valuation. See Division A, No. 2 (at end)	5,789	0	0
41. Mungie Bundie and Boolooroo sheep, not included in valuation. See Division A, No. 7 (at end) ...	12,605	10	0
42. Mungie Bundie, Boolooroo, and Gravesend cattle, understated and undervalued. See original Stock Assessments for 1884	13,586	0	0
Mungie Bundie.....	450	head.	
Gravesend	3,217	..	
Boolooroo	1,330	..	
	4,997	..	
Less horses	200	..	
	4,797	..	
Average selling price on station—£4 10s.....	£21,586	0	0
Less entered on valuation.....	8,000	0	0
	£13,586	0	0

43. Mungie Bundie wool in transit at Testator's death.....	1,814	18	7
Extract from letter of Testator to Mr. Sharp, of Newcastle, December 27, 1883. <i>Vide</i> press-letter copy book, marked B, page 609:—"Dear Sir,—Enclosed memo. refers to balance of Mungie Bundie clip of 1883. Please send me bills for it as soon as shipped and oblige." Clip of 1884 commenced October, 1884. See station ledger folio. On September 23, 1884, the Union Bank credit the account of John McDonald & Co. with this amount. See copy of Union Bank of Australia pass-book.			
44. L. Seaton & Co. (debt to Mungie Bundie), due at time of Testator's death. 3,000 ewes sold and delivered by Drover Halloran, January 7, 1884. Mr. John McDonald received a six months' p.n. See station ledger folio 577	1,200	12	0
45. Mr. G. Cook, debt to Mungie Bundie, due at time of testator's death. 2,100 ewes sold and delivered by Drover Sinclair, Feb. 8, 1884; cash received 21 Feb., 1884, and 18 April, 1884. See pass-book and station ledger, folio 571.....	413	10	0
46. Mr. P. McCormack, debt, entered in suit 5060, page 14, due at time of testator's death.....	129	0	0
47. Mr. R. Child, debt, entered in suit 5060, page 14, due at time of testator's death.....	88	0	0
48. Mr. J. Jurd, debt, entered in suit 5060, and bank pass-book as received 21 Feb., 1884	12	16	6
49. Cash in hand, entered in suit 5060, page 14	15	4	2
50. Gwydir River Pumping Co., entered in account filed in suit 5060, page 14, as an asset at time of testator's death	912	10	0
51. Refunds from Treasury, for 1883, received 8 March, 1884, £23; C. Wyndham, selection, £164 10s.; W. Emmett, selection, £160; see original H. H. Brown and Co.'s account	347	10	0
52. Rent adjustment. The rent for Boolooroo, Mungie Bundie, and Gravesend being payable for the year in advance, viz., £288, a proportion of these only should be debited to the station account to 18 Feb., 1884, and the other forms an asset	241	8	3
53. Testator's sheep on Mungie Bundie and Boolooroo, viz.:—8,184 Mercaool ewes, at 8s. 6d., £3,478 4s., purchased by testator from McLauchlin, see station ledger folio, 576; 5,641 ewes at 10s., £2,820 10s., see station ledger, folio 595	6,298	14	0
54. John McDonald, debt, overdrawn salary account at testator's death, see station ledger, folios 19 and 466.....	310	7	8

I state that there are a considerable number of other assets that I have not been able to fully prove to my own satisfaction, and, therefore, have omitted them from my affidavit.

Division C.—Partnership Claims.

1. Mr. Phineas Hann's.—This executor and trustee under the will of testator claims one-half share of the assets as disclosed in the accounts filed in the application for probate under balance-sheet "B." After most carefully examining the estate books, papers, and documents I have been unable to trace a single penny of the capital as ever having been introduced by him for the purchase of any part of the station properties; there is evidence that he was a co-partner in sheep transactions and divisions from time to time of such profits, and also with other persons; testator, on numerous occasions, offered Mr. P. Hann to share transactions in which testator engaged—"In or out, as you like."

Mr. Hann purchased from Mr. Bates, Melbourne, from 19th September, 1883, to 4th January, 1884, during testator's lifetime, for his own speculations, 30,646 sheep, and I find in numerous letters of Mr. Hann's to different people "that we are now speculating separately."

That Mr. Hann had been in several partnerships, and some of such were dissolved as per *Gazette* notices. It cannot be assumed he was unacquainted with the necessity of such deeds; but, without a balance-sheet of any kind, prepared before testator's death, and without any proof that Mr. Hann introduced a penny of capital, I am of the opinion that this claim is a fraudulent one.

2. Mr. John McDonald claims one-half share of the assets as disclosed in the account filed on application for probate under balance-sheet "C." I have examined certified copies of testator's banking accounts, from 29th June, 1867, till the date of his death, viz., 18th February, 1884, and have carefully examined certified copies of Mr. John McDonald's banking account, from 30th September, 1873, till 2nd December, 1880, which conclusively prove to my mind that Mr. John McDonald was never, up to that period, a man of means; the banking accounts were nearly always in debit, and he was, during that period, charged every half-year by the banks with interest on his small overdrafts. At the period when Mungie Bundie was purchased, Mr. J. McDonald gave to Mr. J. H. Spiller on 13th February, 1874, a p.n. at three months for £105, which, at its maturity, his banking account was unable to meet, and that Mr. Spiller received payment from testator on 18th May, 1874. Mr. J. H. Spiller then endorsed Mr. J. McDonald's p.n. to testator, "without recourse," for a brother-in-law and future partner, to do so places no financial confidence in Mr. J. McDonald. P.N. in my possession. Mr. John McDonald was the station manager, at a salary of £200 per annum, and, after testator's death, seems to have increased it without any authority to £500 per annum. See station ledger, folios 20 and 466. No partnership, no *Gazette* notice, and without sanction of the Equity Court, he seems to have carried on the stations to the present date. As in Mr. Hann's case, I have been unable to trace any capital as having been introduced by Mr. J. McDonald, and am of the opinion that this claim is also a fraudulent one.

Both these claimants fully understood the position, and, in conclusion, I produce an extract from a letter written by Mr. P. Hann to Mr. J. McDonald, see press letter copy book, No. 7, page 389:—"May 13th, 1884.—The bank and different lawyers have laid it down very clearly that nothing can be bought for either station except such as is necessary for the working of it towards the desired intention of sale and liquidation on behalf of the estate. Your bank solicitors explain the same. Death dissolves all partnership, and the surviving partners are the persons to wind up, and they are responsible to the executors for realisation."

Division D.—Lands Acts—Evasions and Dummies.

1. My affidavits of 26th April, 1898, submitted to the Minister for Lands, is now under the consideration of that Minister, disclose a systematic evasion of the Land Acts, and I have a considerable quantity of evidence in support of my allegations as to the estate Mungie Bundie and Mimosa West.

Division E.—Administration of the Estate by the Executors, Messrs. P. Hann and Charles H. Croaker.

After an experience of upwards twenty-five years, I can say that never have I seen such a mass of corrupt and fraudulent transactions; but as the scope of my investigations was to prove the value of testator's assets and liabilities as on 18th February, 1884, I have not thought it necessary to fully investigate this branch of the estate; but that portion that I have, from necessity, been called on to examine is most discreditable to all concerned, and most disastrous to those interested.

Division F.—Reply to Mr. Phineas Hann's unsworn statement of 27th September, 1898.

G. Sandell.

16 Dec, 1898.

1. That the said Mr. P. Hann affects to think his general denial, coupled with a modicum of abuse, an answer to the serious specific allegations contained in my affidavit of the 2nd of June last. Mr. P. Hann states, in paragraph 1, "That for financial and business reasons the whole of the station properties were over-valued when probate duty was paid." That this statement is untrue Mr. P. Hann proves by his admission, in paragraph 3 of his said statement, as he therein states: "There may have been individual items somewhat under-valued." My answer is that I challenge Mr. P. Hann to point out a single instance of any valuation being over-valued. The only properties that have been sold, viz., Browley and Snubba, were valued for probate at £20,527 10s., and realised £20,588 3s. 4d., proving that these properties were under-valued by nearly "fifty per cent." For particulars see Division A, Nos. 4 and 5.

2. That the said Mr. P. Hann, by paragraph 2, states that "The Cox, Dowling, & Co. papers did not belong to Mr. Swift, and that his estate had no interest in them." I say this statement is also untrue. The testator, by agreement dated 9th July, 1883, purchased from Messrs. Pitt, Son, and Badgery, acting as agents for the vendors, Messrs. Oliver, Smith, & Co., the Avington herd of about 10,909 head, at 45s. per head, and paid as deposit the sum of £250 to Messrs. Pitt, Son, and Badgery; subsequently one-third of the said agreement was endorsed by testator to and accepted by, Messrs. Badgery Brothers.

Extract from press-letter copy-book "B," page 217, of testator's own letter to Mr. C. S. Byrne:—11th July, 1883. "I bought Avington herd, 6,000 B's. and 4,000 Fm's.; good delivery."

Extract from same book, page 218, testator's letter to Mr. G. Ray, same date:—"I bought Avington; contract enclosed; see and arrange country safe and right."

Extract from same book, page 235, date 14th July, 1883, of testator's telegram to G. R. Ray, Blackall—"Avington contract posted 10th," &c.

Extract from same book, page 241, 17th July, 1883, of testator's letter to Mr. G. R. Ray:—"Mr. Badgery will explain to you how we are thinking of working this herd of Avington's."

Extract from same book, page 243, 17th July, 1883, of testator's letter to Messrs. Mann, Melbourne:—"I have bought the Avington herd on the Barcoo, near Blackall. As they are a grand herd they might suit your buyer," &c.

Extract from same book, page 258, 21st July, 1883, of testator's letter to Messrs. Pitt Son, and Badgery:—"Re purchase of Avington cattle. If Messrs. Oliver, Smith, & Co. will not accede to request of allowing time for Mr. Badgery or Ray to arrange country with manager at Avington, I accept the contract in its entirety, country as specified in contract," &c.

Extract from same book, page 265, 23rd July, 1883, of testator's letter to Messrs. E. and E. Mann:—"Yours of 20th instant to hand, re Avington's female cattle, &c."

Extract from same book, page 274, 25th July, 1883, of testator's letter to Messrs. W. Sloane, & Co., Sydney:—"I bought Avington herd—10,900, &c."

Extract from same book, page 348, 18th September, 1883, of testator's letter to Mr. T. Miller:—"I have sold all the females at Avington, about 4,500, to be delivered by me, Commara, Cox, and Dowling." I had a hard fight, as I had to take delivery of the females, &c. (a long letter.) Mr. F. Badgery, who has one-third share in them, goes up this boat with your Murdock. I pay his fare up, and from commencement of work give him £5 per week."

Extract from same book, page 354, 19th September, 1883, of letter signed by Frank A. Badgery to Mr. G. Murdock, drover:—"I have this day engaged you to proceed to Avington Station, Barcoo River, to assist in mustering and delivering cattle," &c.

Extract from letter written by Mr. P. Hann to testator, 30th September, 1883, vide press letter copy-book, No. 31, page 374. "Ray, in a letter to me, said the Avington's were 'a first rate thing; a lot of money in them, and he regretted I was not in them."

Extract from press-letter, copy book "B," page 464, of testator's letter to Mr. T. Miller, 19th November, 1883. "Badgery reports getting on well with Avington's."

Extract from same book, page 481, of testator's letter to F. A. Badgery, 26th October, 1883:—"I am trying Dowling at 45s. for the 82 steers."

Extract from same book, page 495 of testator's letter to F. A. Badgery, 2nd November, 1883:—"I have your wires, re Avington cows and steers. I hope there will be no difficulty with Dowling over short numbers."

Extract from same book, page 610 of testator's letter to Messrs. W. Sloane, & Co.:—"Sydney, 27th December, 1883. Dear sir,—I acknowledge receipt of your letter of this date, enclosing a p. n. from Messrs. Cox, Dowling, & Co. for £3,061 stg. at six months from 19th November, in payment for first draft of Avington cattle, also cheque for £191 12s. in payment for plant, being net amount after deducting commission on sale, &c."

The testator drew upon his account with the Bank of New South Wales the following cheques for the working expenses:—

1883—dated Sept. 28.	Cashed Oct. 8, 1883, for.....	£200 0 0
" " " 29.	" " 9, " ".....	100 0 0
" " Oct. 1.	" Nov. 16, " ".....	100 0 0
" " Nov. 5.	" " " " ".....	100 0 0
" " " 27.	" Dec. 5, " ".....	404 0 0
" " Dec. 11.	" " 11, " ".....	600 0 0
		£1,504 0 0

Testator sold to Messrs. Cox, Dowling, & Co., portion of the Avington herd, purchased through Messrs. Pitt, Son, and Badgery, agents, which testator delivered by his drovers, G. Murdock and Marial, on the following dates to Cox, Dowling, & Co. :—

1883—Nov. 19.	1,041 cows at 45s. }	£3,061 0 0
" " "	575 yearlings, " 25s. }	
" Dec. 3.	794 cows, " 45s. }	2,560 5 0
" " "	619 yearlings, " 25s. }	
Dec. 26.—	1,220 steers, at 42s. 6d.	2,592 10 0
1884.		
Jan. 21.—	135 steers, at 42s. 6d.	} 1,594 7 6
" "	355 cows, at 45s.	
" "	244 yearlings, at 25s.	
" "	20 bulls, at 200s.	

Testator received from Messrs. Cox, Dowling & Co., four promissory notes, of which the following are true copies, viz. :—

£3,061. 19th November, 1883—due 22 May, 1884.
Six (6) months after date, we promise to pay S. M. Swift, Esq., or order, the sum of three thousand and sixty-one pounds sterling. Value received.
Payable at the Bank N.Z., Sydney. Cox, DOWLING, & Co.
L.C.B., 2,665. Bank N.Z. Paid May 22, 1884. (On back in circles.)
Endorsed and signed,—S. M. Swift, Frank A. Badgery, and Pitt, Son, and Badgery.

£2,560 5s. 3rd December, 1883—due 6 June, 1884.
Six months after date, we promise to pay S. M. Swift, or order, the sum of two thousand five hundred and sixty pounds five shillings sterling. Value received.
Payable at the Bank N.Z., Sydney. Cox, DOWLING, & Co.
London C.B., 2,665. Bank N.Z. Paid June 6, 1884. (On back in circles.)
S. M. Swift, Frank A. Badgery, Pitt, Son, and Badgery.

£2,592 10s.

G. Sandell. £2,592 10s. stg. 26th December, 1883—due 29 June, 1884.
 Six (6) months after date, we promise to pay S. M. Swift, Frank A. Badgery, or order, the sum of two thousand five hundred and ninety-two pounds ten shillings sterling. Value received.
 Payable at the Bank N.Z., Sydney. Cox, DOWLING, & Co.
 L.C.B., 2,666. B.N.Z. Paid June 30, 1884. (On back in circle.)
 P. Hann and C. H. Croaker, Executors in the Estate of S. M. Swift; Frank A. Badgery, Pitt, Son, and Badgery, for the London Chartered Bank of Australia; J. Millet, pro Manager.

£1,594 7s. 6d. stg. 21st January, 1884.—due 24 July, 1884.
 Six months after date, we promise to pay S. M. Swift and Frank A. Badgery, or order, the sum of fifteen hundred and ninety-four pounds seven shillings and sixpence, sterling value received.
 Payable at Bank N. Z., Sydney. Cox, DOWLING, & Co.
 L.C.B. 2,667 and B.N.Z. Paid July 21, 1884. (On back in circles.)
 P. Hann, C. Croaker, Executors in the estate of S. M. Swift; Frank A. Badgery, for the London Chartered Bank of Australia (Limited); Pitt, Son, & Badgery.
 For the cattle so sold to Messrs. Cox, Dowling, & Co., being part of the Avington herd, Messrs. Pitt, Son, & Badgery sent the following invoice to the testator. [This original invoice is in the handwriting of Mr. R. M. Pitt.]—
 (Exact copy.) "Pastoral Chambers, Bank Chambers, Sydney, Jan'y 8th, 1884.
 Mr. S. M. Swift. Dr. to Pitt, Son, & Badgery.
 1883. Account Rendered.

The following cattle delivered on Avington Station, and being portion of the herd in terms of contract of date July 9, 1883:—

Oct. 13th—To 1,195 head delivered.	
" 31st— " 980 " "	
Nov. 15th— " 1,239 " "	
" 30 — " 782 " "	

4,196 head at 45s. £0,441 0 0

Payable by p.n. at 6 months, dating from 31st Oct., 1883.*

The p.n. given by testator to Messrs. Pitt, Son, & Badgery, acting as agents for Messrs. Oliver, Smith, & Co., included 631 head of cattle that had not been sold at date of testator's death. These were afterwards sold by Messrs. Pitt, Son, & Badgery to Messrs. Dangar & Bell, at 63s. per head.

Extract from letter written by Mr. P. Hann to Mr. Ray, March 1st, 1884 (see press-letter copy-book, No. 11, pages 248 and 249):—"Croaker and I met Frank Badgery and McDonald together in Pitt, Son, & Badgery's office, and had a good talk over the cattle transactions and arranging matters. It now stands as follows—that Badgery and McDonald relieve us from responsibility and working of the matter, just accounting to us for the balance either way when the transaction is finished. Under the Avington arrangement you will want to make up the accounts in full of all the moneys you spent on that account, &c., so that we may get repaid this money from Badgery & McDonald from the proceeds of the cattle sold to Dowling & Co."

Extract from letter written by Mr. P. Hann to Mr. W. Neild, March 4th, 1884, same book, page 259:—"Messrs. Badgery & McDonald are going to manage Avington stock."

In the Supreme Court, in Equity, No. 5,060. The executors, P. Hann and C. H. Croaker, admit having received (see page 3) the sum of £1,000. Extract from affidavit, viz.:—"Amount received from Pitt, Son, & Badgery, auctioneers and station agents, George-street, Sydney, as the amount advanced by testator in his lifetime to Messrs. Swift, Badgery, and McDonald, in connection with the purchase of Avington herd. £1,000."

Extract letter from Mr. P. Hann and Mr. C. H. Croaker to the General Manager, Bank of New South Wales:—"21st April, 1884. Dear Sir,—In consideration of your handing over to us two bills made by Cox, Dowling, & Co., for £3,061 and £2,560 5s., maturing 22nd May and 6th June respectively, we hereby undertake to, when required, give the bank security over Baden Park and 20,000 sheep thereon, provided the debt owing thereon to the Bank of New Zealand be paid by you now—about £5,500.—Yours faithfully, SWIFT & HANN. P. Hann, C. H. Croaker, executors in estate of S. M. Swift."

Extract not in my affidavit:—Hann's letter to My dear Lavender. April 25, 1884. Book 11, page, 500. "We have also arranged that the other partners in the Avington Cattle transaction shall take the whole thing into their own hands, so that we are gradually reducing our responsibilities."

Extract from original letter of Mr. R. M. Pitt to Mr. P. Hann, 6th May, 1884:—"I have release of Avington, signed by Badgery; am sending it on to McDonald for his signature."*

Extract from original letter of Mr. F. S. Badgery to Mrs. Swift, 27th September, 1887:—"Amount paid to the credit of Swift and Badgery, Blackall, by testator—

28th September, 1883	£200 0 0
29th " "	100 0 0
1st October, "	100 0 0
5th November, "	100 0 0
27th " "	404 0 0
Ray's payments	432 8 0
	£1,336 8 0
Amount received by executors	£336 8 0
Pitt's cheques	1,000 0 0
	1,336 8 0

Can Mr. P. Hann say that testator had no interest in these transactions?

3. Mr. P. Hann's admission in paragraph 3, "there may have been individual items somewhat under-valued," is in direct conflict with paragraph 1, wherein he states the "whole of the station properties were over-valued." We had no desire to under-value or anything to gain by doing so." I reply by quoting a few extracts from Mr. Hann's letters, which I say reveal his motive for under-valuing the estate properties.

Extracts from letter written by Mr. P. Hann to Mr. Webb, 10th March, 1884, vide press-letter copybook No. 11, pages 286 and 287:—"I shall make a struggle to retain Baden Park." "I want to keep on Baden Park, and must try and do so."

Extract from letter written by Mr. P. Hann to Mr. Webb, 25th April, 1884, same book, page 494:—"I shall not sell Baden Park if I can possibly hold to it."

Extract from letter written by Mr. P. Hann to his former partner, Mr. James Smith Lavender, 25th April, 1884, vide press letter book, No. 11, page 500:—"If I could sell Mimosa by-and-bye, of course, at a loss, I would then try and stick to Baden Park for myself."

4. Mr. P. Hann states "he regards some of the statements by George Sandell as impudent libels." I suppose he refers to the old adage, "Greater the truth, greater the libel." His discrimination is great and his self-condemnation complete, as some of the serious allegations are admitted and the others proved.

5. Mr. P. Hann says that the allegations of No. 7 of the affidavit "have already been the laughing-stock of the Court of Equity;" but I can aver that had the Court of Equity been in the possession of the evidence now before me a more serious conclusion might have been arrived at.

6. That I have been prompted and inspired solely by my professional duties to lay before the Select Committee the true facts as to the value of the estate the late Mr. S. M. Swift died possessed of, and that during that investigation I have been compelled to wade through some of the most noisome and fraudulent transactions, perpetrated by the executors, Mr. P. Hann, Mr. C. H. Croaker, and others, and, if the necessity should arise, shall not shrink for fear of threats from disclosing them.

Sworn by the deponent on the day first above-mentioned at Sydney, before me,—

O. P. CLAYTON, J.P.

GEO. SANDELL.

THURSDAY,

* Not in affidavit. Book 12, page 61, 21st May, 1884. Hann to Pitt:—The copy of the Avington contract will do for us; you keep the original.

THURSDAY, 22 DECEMBER, 1898.

Present:—

MR. MCLEAN, | MR. MCFARLANE,
MR. O'SULLIVAN, | MR. THOMAS.
W. M. HUGHES, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

George Sandell recalled and further examined:—

33. *Chairman.*] How do you arrive at the conclusion that Mr. Hann has undervalued the estate? By G. Sandell, comparing the concealed assets with the real assets.

34. *Mr. McFarlane.*] What do you regard as concealed assets? Those which were not disclosed to the Stamp Commissioner. I would suggest that you have placed before you the absolute concealed evidence, of which I have evidence that the executors—especially Mr. Hann—had knowledge prior to signing his statement. In the first place, I would submit to you a statement of the wool account, as follows:—

Late S. M. Swift Estate—Wool.

[Extract from the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Co. (Ltd.) Account.]

		£	s.	d.
27 Feb., 1884.	Advance on 76 bales, ex. "Dumbarton".....	876	3	4
31 Mar., 1884.	" 6 " " "Rome".....	65	11	6
3 April, 1884.	" 188 " " "Port Jackson".....	3,384	0	0
3 " 1884.	" 1 " " "John Elder".....	12	13	0
	Surplus from 188 bales.....	830	4	5
	" 76 ".....	839	18	1
		<u>£6,008</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>4</u>

[Extract from the Australian Mortgage, Loan, and Finance Co. (Ltd.) Account.]

13 Mar., 1884.	Advance on 98 bales.....	1,600	0	0
	Surplus from same.....	608	2	2
		<u>£2,208</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

[Extract from the Bank of New South Wales Account.]

15 Aug., 1884.	Proceeds of 128 bales.....	1,418	5	9
	Total, 497 bales—Amount.....	<u>£9,634</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>3</u>

I would refer the Select Committee to the accounts filed by the executors, Messrs. Hann and Croaker, on the application for probate, 5th April, 1884. The Committee will see that not one bale of this wool was therein disclosed, and I say that it would be difficult to believe that Mr. Hann, who claims one half share partnership, and especially as the active partner, keeping the station accounts, could have been unacquainted with the existence of this wool, having the different bank pass-book in his possession; and on reference to Mr. Hann's letter to the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company (Ltd.), of 29th March, 1884, and to Mr. Hann's letter to Mr. J. S. Lavender, the valuator, of 29th March, 1884, it is clear that Mr. Hann had a full knowledge of 188 bales and 100 bales prior to swearing to the affidavit of 5th April, 1884; and I say that such wool therein named realised £5,632 10s. 2d. I produce the bank pass-books for the Select Committee's inspection. With regard to the wool which I have now disclosed to you, amounting, as I say, to 497 bales, realising £9,634 18s. 3d., not one bale was ever disclosed in the testator's account which Hann filed on application for probate.

35. *Chairman.*] Was any mention made about that in any subsequent equity suits? Yes. Nearly the whole of that amount has been brought in, but there still remains a number of bales which have not been accounted for. On a former occasion I brought to your notice the concealed land of Mimosa West. If you refer to the valuations made by the executors you will find that they only disclose 960 acres of freehold land and 320 acres of conditional purchase; but on reference to Mr. Hann's letter, book 12, page 503, in Mr. Hann's handwriting, I find that he says that there should have been £5,789 worth of land additional. That has been taken up in various selectors' names; and on reference to Mr. Hann's letter to Mr. Lavender, you will see the reason why he omitted this land from his valuation. The land conditions had not been properly fulfilled, and if he had disclosed these lands it would have been apparent to the Stamp Commissioner that dummying had been carried on at the stations; hence the omission. The value of the land amounted to £5,789, every bit of which was withheld from the statement he filed on application for probate.

36. *Mr. McLean.*] To whom do the records show that land belonged? To the stations interested. Mr. Hann's words give you that in his letter. I produce a copy of the letter from the press-letter copy-book No. 31, page 437, in Mr. Hann's writing, where he gives the details of this run, and says—

Mimosa—Land—Freehold, 960 acres.
C.P's. S & H to Freehold, 640 acres.
C.P's. outside 3,848 acres in S and H interest.
I.P's. applied for 1,280 acres.
" " pre leases 1,520 acres.

That follows on a letter written on the 3rd October, 1883, so that Mr. Hann had a perfect knowledge that there was a large quantity of land on the 3rd of October, 1883; yet in making his statement to the Stamp Commissioner on 5th April, 1884, he only declared, as I have mentioned, 960 acres of freehold land and 320 acres of conditional purchase land, so that he withheld a large parcel of land.

37. *Chairman.*] Have you any accounts to put in? Yes; as far as regards the suppression of the Mungie Bundie Estate. There has been a great suppression of the assets as far as that estate is concerned. Here is a report made on the 4th day of May, 1887. This is in the handwriting of Messrs. Peale and Borradaile, accountants, and it is signed by John McDonald. He was the claimant to one-half of the estate, and this occurs:

There were 85,241 sheep on the properties at the date of the late Mr. S. M. Swift's death.

In his schedule to the valuers he disclosed only 60,000 sheep. I am merely instancing this as one of the gross deceptions or concealments of the assets of the estate. McDonald, by that statement, acknowledges he made a false statement, and that is corroborated by the Stock Assessment returns he made up and

G. Sandell. and sent in. That shows that there are 79,000 sheep upon which they paid stock assessment. I have the original statements which were sent in.

22 Dec., 1898. 38. *Mr. McFarlane.*] What was the amount filed on the whole of the estate? £16,000.

39. And after your examination what do you increase the amount by? By £190,000.

40. Do you arrive at that by an examination of the books and accounts? By an examination and analysis of the statements made by Hann and his co-executor. The evidence Mr. Hann gave before the various courts proves these valuations to be correct.

41. Some reference was made to the Cox-Dowling estate? Yes. I have examined a statement given by Mr. Hann in the action of Swift *v.* the Bank of New South Wales. Mr. Hann says this:

Bills of Cox-Dowling & Co. maturing on the 22^d of May and the 6th of June. The bank hand over the bills as well as the gross payments to the bank.

Mr. Hann admits that the bank handed over those notes to him and his co-executor, but in his statement of the 27th September last he says the testator had no interest in them. In his evidence he admits he received them as executor.

42. There is some mention in your statement with regard to wool in transit;—what does that refer to? The statement I have handed in will embrace that wool.

43. What does the wool refer to? At the time of the testator's death there was certain wool belonging to the station which had been given to the various banks for realisation, and the value of the wool was not declared at that particular time.

44. Would it be possible for the executors not to have any knowledge of that? They could barely send wool to the banks without having knowledge of it.

45. Did the executors send it? Yes.

46. I understand that the value of the wool in transit was not filed? Not one bale of wool was declared in the probate statement.

47. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] From the tenor of your evidence, I gather that you are under the belief that wrong accounts have been filed? Fraudulent accounts. No man could make a wrong account.

48. Your opinion is that fraudulent accounts have been filed and the Government have been defrauded of a considerable amount of stamp duty in consequence? That is my opinion.

49. Have you made any estimate as to the amount of duty of which the Government have been defrauded? The probate on about £190,000.

50. What would that come to? At that period the duty was 1 per cent. The amount would come to £1,900.

51. That means that the filing of these fraudulent accounts has caused the Government to be defrauded of £1,900? Yes, practically.

52. *Chairman.*] Two things follow from that—one is that the Government have been defrauded, and the other is that the estate has been defrauded? I think the estate has been defrauded of more than that, because Mr. Hann has carried on these transactions "on his own," and he has sent great numbers of sheep to the various stations, using the stations, and the expenses against the stations, and making great profits on his own account.

53. *Mr. O'Sullivan.*] Then Mr. Hann has really been working some of the Swift properties for the benefit of Mr. Hann? Entirely. In fact, I can show certain transactions here of a very doubtful nature in which Mr. Hann sold to a partner of his then existing (Mr. Halloran) sheep of the station in which he was professing to be a half-share partner, which had already been sold to another person (Mr. Winter Irving) for a larger amount. He sold these sheep to Mr. Halloran at 8s., and he had already sold the sheep for the estate for 10s. He makes out one account for this doubtful transaction, and the estate lose the profit of 2s. a head on 8,000 sheep. I have the invoice of Mr. Bates—the gentlemen who sold the sheep—who says he sold them for Swift and Hann. Then Mr. Hann wrote back to this man at Melbourne, and says, "You must change these to Halloran." Halloran is Mr. Hann's partner; and Mr. Bates changes them to Halloran. He says, "It makes no difference to the purchaser; I am arranging the bills, as I want them to be." He sent the four bills, and Mr. Winter Irving signs them according to Mr. Halloran's arrangement. Two of them come into the estate, and two of them do not.

54. Do you know whether Mr. Hann is alive and flourishing? I do not know whether he is flourishing, but he is alive.

55. Is it not an extraordinary thing that that kind of thing can go on in a civilised country without being checked? There are more wonderful things still. Take the proceedings of the Bank of New South Wales so far as regards the mortgage. You will find that the Bank of New South Wales arranged with Mr. Hann to give him an overdraft after the testator's death. There are letters which Mr. Hann wrote to the Bank on the 25th February—seven days after the testator's death—asking the Bank to give him an overdraft, and to continue the account in the name of Swift and Hann. The Bank allowed him, but they required a further mortgage. Then Hann, in his private capacity, sends to the Bank of New South Wales, and says, "I will give you a further charge upon Baden Park and 20,000 sheep." Mrs. Swift declined to enter into this transaction. The Bank still presses, and Hann and Croaker carry out that mortgage after the testator's death. The Bank of New South Wales then tried to get a proper mortgage, but they, first of all, have to find out who holds the property. Mr. Brodribb, who had lent the testator £8,000 upon this property, had been paid off on the 3rd December, 1882, but still the runs remained in Mr. Brodribb's name, and they still remain. The testator, in the meanwhile, had obtained a loan from the New Zealand Bank for £8,000 odd, and had given no equitable charge upon the property, but intended to do so. The Bank of New South Wales wished to get hold of that property. The Bank of New South Wales go to the Bank of New Zealand, and pay the Bank of New Zealand, in March, 1885, £4,300; then they go to Mr. Brodribb and say to him, "Give us a transfer of these runs," placing the consideration value, £4,300, in the two transactions. They never gave a pennypiece to Mr. Brodribb, and obtained the value of that run. The value of the property they had thus acquired, which was a fraudulent transfer, for £4,300, amounted, from the Bank's statement, which I have in the bank manager's handwriting, to £60,000. During 1885, 1886, and 1887 the Bank of New South Wales received, by way of sales of sheep—I can give you the details—and the clips, £31,330 for their advance of £4,300 to the New Zealand Bank Company. What sort of a transaction do you call that? The Bank knew of the testator's death, and they knew perfectly well that Mr. Hann had no right to mortgage.

ESTATE OF THE LATE S. M. SWIFT, OF PETERSHAM.

APPENDIX.

A 1.

[To Evidence of Mrs. Elizabeth Swift.]

COPY OF WILL OF SAMUEL MOFFITT SWIFT.

I, SAMUEL MOFFITT SWIFT, of Petersham, near Sydney, in the Colony of New South Wales; grazier, hereby revoke all testamentary dispositions by me at any time heretofore made, and declare this to be my last will. I appoint Phineas Hann, of Wagga Wagga, in the said colony, grazier; Charles H. Croaker, of the same place, bank manager; and my wife, Elizabeth Swift, trustees and executors of this my will; and I declare that whenever the words "my said trustees" shall be found in this my will the same shall be taken to include, not only the said Phineas Hann, Charles H. Croaker, and Elizabeth Swift, but the survivors and survivor of them and the heirs, executors, and administrators of such survivor, and other the trustees or trustee for the time being of this my will. I direct the payment of my debts, funeral and testamentary expenses, as soon as conveniently may be after my decease and subject thereto. I give, devise, and bequeath all my real and personal property, of what nature and kind soever, and wheresoever the same may be situate, unto my said trustees, according to the nature and quality thereof respectively, upon the trusts and with, under, and subject to the powers, provisions, directions, and declarations hereinafter contained concerning the same—that is to say, upon trust, with all convenient speed, to sell and convert into money the whole of my said real and personal estate, or so much thereof as shall not consist of money either altogether or separately, and either by public auction or private contract, and with such conditions and upon such terms, either as to time and manner of payment, otherwise and generally in such manner as to my said trustees shall seem most advisable: Provided always and I hereby empower my said trustees to postpone the sale of the whole or any part of my said real or personal estate to such time or times as they shall in their discretion think proper. And upon such sale and conversion as aforesaid, I direct that my said trustees shall stand possessed of the proceeds of such sale and conversion and of the money forming part of my personal estate upon trust, thereout in the first place to pay to my brother, Richard John Swift, of Keriagh, in the county of Longford, Ireland, the legacy or sum of five hundred pounds, free of legacy duty, and also to pay to my sister, Mary Cody, wife of Matthew Cody, of Mimosa Station, near Wagga Wagga aforesaid, station manager, the legacy or sum of two hundred and fifty pounds, free of legacy duty. And after payment of such legacies, upon trust to invest the residue of my said estate and the proceeds thereof in or upon Government or real securities in: S. M. Swift; witnesses—J. P. Abbott, John A. K. Shaw: the colony of New South Wales, or the shares of any joint stock company carrying on the business of banking in the said colony, with power from time to time to vary any of such investments for others of the nature hereby authorised. And I direct that my said trustees shall divide the said investments into so many equal shares as shall be equal to one more than the number of my children living at my death, and appropriate one of such shares for the benefit of my said wife, and one of such shares for the benefit of each of my said children, and shall hold and apply the same in manner hereinafter directed. I direct that my said trustees shall stand possessed of the share appropriated for the benefit of my said wife upon trust during her life, or until she marries again, and pay to her the interest, dividends, and annual income of such share by equal half-yearly payments, with power to advance to my said wife out of the capital of such share such sum or sums as they shall think necessary for her maintenance, if the interest, dividends, and annual income shall be insufficient for that purpose; and in the event of her marrying again I direct that my said trustees shall settle the said share upon trust during the life of my said wife for her sole and separate use, without power of anticipation, and after her death in trust for such persons as my said wife shall, notwithstanding coverture by will, appoint, and, in default of any such appointment, or so far as the same if made shall not extend, in trust for such of my children as shall be living at the death of my said wife, and, if more than one, in equal shares. But if my said wife shall not marry again, then I direct that at her death her said share shall be held by my said trustees upon the same trusts upon which I have hereinbefore directed that it should be settled after her death in the event of her marrying again. And as to the shares hereinbefore directed to be appropriated for each of my said children, I direct that my trustees shall stand possessed of such share upon trust to pay and apply the interest, dividends, and annual income thereof for the purpose of maintaining and educating the child for whose benefit such share shall be so appropriated until such child, if a son, shall attain the age of twenty-five years, or, if a daughter, shall attain that age or marry with the consent and approval of my said trustees. And I empower my said trustees out of the capital of any such share: S. M. Swift; witnesses—J. P. Abbott, A. K. Shaw: to advance such sum or sums as they shall think proper for the maintenance, education, and advancement in life of the child for whose benefit such share shall have been appropriated. And I direct that the share of every son who shall attain the age of twenty-five, or die under that age having issue, shall, upon the happening of either such events, be held by my said trustees in trust for such son, his executors, and administrators absolutely; and that the share of every daughter who shall attain the age of twenty-five years, or marry under that age with the consent and approval of my said trustees, shall, upon the happening of either of such events, be settled by my said trustees upon trust for such daughter for her separate use during her life without power of anticipation, and after her death in trust for such persons as such daughter shall by will appoint, and in default of such appointment in trust for the persons who, if she had died intestate and unmarried, would have been entitled under the Statute of Distributions to participate in her estate. Provided always, and I hereby direct, that if any child of mine shall die under the age of twenty-five years without having lawful issue, if a son, and without having been married, if a daughter, the share of the child so dying shall go and be divided amongst my other surviving children, share and share alike. I devise and bequeath all estates vested in me as trustee or mortgagee to my said trustees, upon the trusts and subject to the equities affecting the same respectively. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand, and declare this to be my last will and testament (written on three sheets of paper), this twenty-second day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one.

Signed by the said testator, as and for his last will and testament, in the presence of us, }
 present at the same time, who, at his request, in his presence, and in the presence of each }
 other, have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses, the alteration in the thirty-first }
 and thirty-fourth line of the first page having been previously made.

S. M. SWIFT.

J. P. ABBOTT, Solicitor, Sydney.
 JOHN A. K. SHAW.

We certify that the writing contained in this and the three preceding pages of brief paper is a true copy of the will of Samuel Moffitt Swift, the same having been examined therewith by us this twenty-fifth day of February, 1884.

BENJAMIN E. NIMMO, } Clerks to Messrs. Abbott and Allen, Solicitors,
 CHAS. P. PEACEY, } Wentworth Court, Sydney.

A 2.

[Extract taken from the Sydney Morning Herald at the Library.]

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES, ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION.

In the will of Samuel Moffitt Swift, late of Petersham, near Sydney, in the colony of New South Wales, grazier, deceased.

NOTICE is hereby given that, after the expiration of fourteen days from the application hereof in the New South Wales *Government Gazette*, application will be made to this Honorable Court, in its Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, that probate of the last will and testament of the abovenamed deceased (who died on the 18th day of February instant) may be granted to Phineas Hann, of Wagga Wagga, in the said colony, grazier; Charles Hawthorne Croaker, of Wagga aforesaid, bank manager; and Elizabeth Swift, of Petersham aforesaid, widow, the executors and executrix named in and appointed by the said will.

Dated this 22nd day of February, A.D. 1884.

ABBOTT AND ALLEN,
Proctors for the Applicants.
Wentworth Court.

A 3.

I.

FORM of affidavit to be sworn and lodged with the application for obtaining any probate or letters of administration relating to the estates of deceased persons, for the purpose of getting such probate or letters of administration stamped under Act 44 Vic. No. 3.

NEW SOUTH WALES, } In the will of Samuel Moffitt Swift, late of Petersham, in the colony aforesaid, grazier, deceased.
TO WIT. }

On the fifth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four, Phineas Hann, of Wagga Wagga, in the colony of New South Wales, grazier, and Charles Hawthorne Croaker, of Wagga Wagga aforesaid, bank manager, being severally duly sworn, make oath and say as follows:—

1. We are two of the parties making application for the purpose of obtaining probate of the will of the abovenamed deceased.

2. The estate and effects of the said deceased, of which administration is sought to be obtained, as shown in the annexed inventory, after deducting the debts due and owing by the deceased, are under the value of forty-six thousand nine hundred and fourteen pounds eighteen shillings and seven pence, to the best of our knowledge and belief.

P. HANN.
C. H. CROAKER.

Sworn by the deponents on the day first above }
mentioned, at Wagga Wagga, before me,— }

HY. BERKELEY FITZHARDINGE,
A Commissioner for Affidavits.

Inventory referred to in the preceding Affidavit.

Full particulars and value of the estate and effects of the deceased.	£ s. d.	Full particulars of the debts due and owing by the deceased.	£ s. d.
Total value of the estate and effects comprised in the private estate of the said deceased (as per statement of account marked "A," and valuations hereunto annexed)	26,021 10 9	253597 The Bank of New South Wales, Sydney, 9 April, 1884.	
Total value of the deceased's half-share of the estate and effects comprised in the partnership firm of Swift and Hann (as per statement of account marked "B," and valuations hereunto annexed)	51,392 4 2	PAY Probate Duty or Bearer four hundred and seventy pounds sterling.	
Total value of the deceased's half-share of the estate and effects comprised in the partnership firm of "John McDonald and Company" (as per statement of account marked "C," and valuations hereunto annexed)	53,250 0 0	£470. P. HANN, C. H. CROAKER, } Executors.	
			£ s. d.
		Total amount of debts and liabilities due and owing in the private estate of the said deceased (as per statement of account marked "A" hereunto annexed)	23,024 18 7
		Total amount of the deceased's half-share of the debts and liabilities due and owing by the partnership firm of "Swift and Hann" (as per statement of account marked "B" hereunto annexed)	33,723 17 9
		Total value of the deceased's half-share of the debts and liabilities due and owing by the partnership firm of "John McDonald and Company" (as per statement of account marked "C" hereunto annexed).....	27,000 0 0
Total assets	130,663 14 11	Total debts.....	83,748 16 4
Deduct total debts	83,748 16 4		
Net value on which duty is chargeable.....	£46,914 18 7		

P. HANN.
C. H. CROAKER.

A 4.

PROBATE PAPERS.

C.

BALANCE-SHEET of John McDonald and Co.—McDonald & Swift's Assets and Liabilities.

By Mungie Bundie, Boolooroo, and Gravesend stations, as per valuation herewith		£	s.	d.	To overdrawn account with the Union Bank of Australia, Sydney		£	s.	d.	
		106,500	0	0			54,000	0	0	
		<u>£106,500 0 0</u>					Balance	52,500	0	0
By balance		£52,500	0	0			<u>£106,500 0 0</u>			

This is the Statement of Account, marked "C," referred to in the annexed affidavit of Phincas Hann } P. HANN,
and Charles Hawthorne Croaker, sworn this 5th day of April, A.D. 1884, before me,— } C. H. CROAKER.
H. BERKELEY FRUZHARDING, A Commissioner for Affidavits.

A 5.

S. M. Swift's assets at date of his death, 18th February, 1884.—For probate.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1. Cash to credit in Bank of New South Wales (see pass-book)	358	4	11			
2. Munzie's bill to Swift	560	0	0			
3. Langham's	1,000	0	0			
4. 1,000 Monte de Piété shares	1,050	0	0			
5. 1 share in Sydney Lloyds	250	0	0			
6. Life insurance and bonuses	2,330	12	0			
7. 2 shares in George's River Land Co.	550	10	0			
8. 80 shares in Mount Kembra Coal Co.	800	0	0			
9. J. W. G. Cox's overdue bill	1,000	0	0			
10. H. C. Tingcombe's overdue bill—interest	88	6	0			
11. C. H. Croaker's	186	0	0			
12. 7,500 Tuppal ewes, sold to James Martyn	4,687	10	0			
13. Loan to Evans	44	0	0			
14. " Wood	20	0	0			
15. " T. N. Elliott	20	0	0			
16. " John Dodd	70	0	0			
17. Buggy and harness to Badgery, H. S.	70	0	0			
18. 21 acres of land at Kingsgrove	1,500	0	0			
19. Money lent to McKay in Queensland	50	0	0			
20. " Hillcrest" and grounds	4,500	0	0			
21. 40 feet land at Hillcrest	100	0	0			
22. Household furniture	500	0	0			
23. Wagonette and harness, spring cart, &c.	100	0	0			
24. 6 Alderney cattle and 2 horses	140	0	0			
25. 22,000 ewes sold in Queensland	15,400	0	0			
26. 11,500 wethers in Queensland	3,700	0	0			
27. F. Stephenson's bill overdue	631	1	0			
28. 188 bales of wool	3,584	0	0			
29. 6 bales of greasy wool	60	0	0			
30. Tooma Falls run	1,200	0	0			
31. Snubba run	5,000	0	0			
32. Morse and Baker's bill	1,777	13	4			
33. Horses—afterwards sold to Broad	188	15	0			
34. Horses and plant—afterwards sold by Sloan	299	16	8			
35. " left by Halloran	91	0	0			
36. " " Gaffey	70	0	0			
37. " " Thorburn	150	0	0			
38. " "	70	4	0			
39. Five bills received by Swift, payable to himself, from Cox and Dowling for cattle sold and delivered	12,000	0	0			
40. Mimosa station and stock	29,123	0	0			
41. Baden Park station and stock	50,715	0	0			
42. Stock on Snubba—5,700 2-tooth wethers, at 7s.	1,995	0	0			
43. " 1,700 2-tooth ewes, at 11s. 6d.	977	10	0			
44. " 5,800 " "	3,335	0	0			
45. " 300 rams, at 40s.	600	0	0			
46. " 70 horses, at £8	560	0	0			
47. Working plant, hay, potatoes, and stores	100	0	0			
48. Wagonette and two horses left at Wagga	45	0	0			
49. Browley station—11,000 acres freehold, cost 45s.	24,750	0	0			
50. " 5,000 lambing ewes, at 11s.	2,750	0	0			
51. " 7,000 wethers, at 7s.	2,450	0	0			
52. " 130 stud ewes, at £2	260	0	0			
53. " 60 stud rams, at £4	240	0	0			
54. " Furniture, £100; plant, drays, &c., £50	150	0	0			
55. " Bullock team	90	0	0			
56. " 14 cattle, £81 10s.; 5 horses, £34	115	10	0			
57. 8,184 ewes from Mercadool	3,060	0	0			
58. Shelley Bros. overdue pro. note	1,255	0	0			
59. Waggon and harness and horses	14	10	0			
60. " " 2 horses	44	0	0			
61. " "	30	0	0			
62. Tip dray and harness	8	0	0			
63. 20 horses, at £5	100	0	0			
64. 5 cattle, at £4	20	0	0			
65. Saddle and harness	10	0	0			
66. 100 bags corn	75	0	0			
Mungie Bundie, Boolooroo, and Gravesend stations—						
67. 35,000 acres, freehold, cost 45s.	78,750	0	0			
68. 110,000 acres, leasehold, and improvements, 5s.	27,750	0	0			
69. 4,000 cattle on Gravesend, £4	16,000	0	0			
70. 300 cattle on Mungie Bundie	1,200	0	0			
71. 81,000 sheep (see report in ledger), 11s.	44,550	0	0			
72. 200 horses, £8	1,600	0	0			
73. Working plant	2,000	0	0			
74. Pumping	2,000	0	0			
75. Gravesend, leasehold, and improvements	8,000	0	0			
76. Federal Bank	100	0	0			
77. S. Payne	220	3	2			
78. Wool to Cottee, 223 bales, £10.	2,230	0	0			
	£			371,479	5	1

Moneys

Moneys owing to S. M. Swift by Phineas Hann, previous to 18 February, 1884.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1. Mount Kembla Coal shares	400	0	0			
2. Cash received from S. Payne, Manager of Browley station	1,100	0	0			
3. Cash received for 2 maps sold	70	0	0			
4. Cheques not accounted for	250	0	0			
5. Cash received and not accounted for	700	0	0			
6. Cash for buying country on Roper River	100	0	0			
7. Alderney cattle	400	0	0			
8. Swift's horses	35	0	0			
						3,055 0 0

Additional Assets.

9. Share in Kimberley country	100	0	0			
10. 190 rams at Inverell	380	0	0			
11. Cash owing by Radford	11	11	0			
12. Cash paid to Badgery	900	0	0			
13. Horses, &c., at Avington	300	0	0			
						1,691 11 0
						£4,746 11 0

	£	s.	d.
Total of Sheets 1, 2, and 3	371,479	5	1
„ Sheet 4	4,746	11	0
	£376,225	16	1
Less Liabilities, p. 5	133,475	14	11
	£237,750	1	2

Liabilities of S. M. Swift, 18 February, 1884.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1. To Dr. Mein for sheep	15,000	0	0			
2. „ Oliver Smith & Co., for cattle	9,444	0	0			
3. „ Brown, Tuppal, sheep	2,856	2	2			
4. „ Wright, Heaton, sheep	1,910	0	0			
5. „ Mortgage on Hill Crest	2,400	0	0			
6. „ Drovers, &c.	1,000	0	0			
7. „ New Zealand Co.	5,303	12	9			
8. „ Bank of New South Wales	44,707	0	0			
9. „ Union Bank	54,000	0	0			
10. „ A.M.L. & F. Co.	1,855	0	0			
						133,475 14 11

B 1.

[To Evidence of Mrs. Elizabeth Swift.]

[COPY.]

Sydney, 8 February, 1881.

MEMO. of Agreement entered into this 9th (ninth) day of February, 1881 (eighteen hundred and eighty-one), between John McDonald and S. M. Swift, both of Mungie Bundie, Moree, Gwydir District. They both hereby agree that, having purchased J. H. Spiller's share between them for the sum of £16,500 (sixteen thousand five hundred pounds sterling), that they further agree to draw every six months, and divide in two equal shares, the sum of £1,100 (eleven hundred pounds sterling), being the about bank interest on Spiller's share, and they further agree to carry on business in the name of John McDonald & Co. as hitherto, and from year to year under the management of John McDonald as formerly; and further that on the 31st December of each year that a balance-sheet be made out to enable us to meet any further arrangement that may be mutually agreed upon.

Witness—(L.S.) H. S. BADGERY.

(L.S.) J. McDONALD,
S. M. SWIFT.

B 2.

[COPY.]

Dear Hann,

30/1197.

I have your letters of 5th and 7th inst. re Swift matters. I would most willingly go to Queensland and do what I could for the estate if I could only spare the time; but by doing so I would be neglecting my work here. We have gone through such hardships here that everything is out of order, and will take me all my time to put them right before shearing. When in Sydney Mr. Kilgour promised that he would do anything he could for the estate towards getting paddocks for the sheep, &c. I mentioned this to Mrs. Swift. With reference to your remarks that being a partner longer than you, and therefore should go out and arrange matters, I will call your attention to the fact that entirely owing to that, and to try and relieve the private estate, I took over a purchase of £6,000 worth of sheep in the face of a season where I am likely to lose £2,000 for so doing; also, that against my advice the trustees held on to the Bunerah contract when they could, according to their own showing, have got out of it without any refunds whatever being paid out of the estate. And further, that you undertook a trust willingly, and now, owing to various reasons, things have got into a mess. It is not reasonable to suppose that I can neglect the trust that I have here and go and try to rectify things which I would have to learn all about, and which you should have at the ends of your fingers.

Re Abbott and Allen. They notified me to same effect re agreement not to sell. Their delay in not giving this earlier I do not know anything of. Their wanting to see me could not have anything to do with it, as the opinion is dead against my wishes in the case. As to your idea of changing them because they act for me, Mrs. Swift, and the estate, the work they have done trespass case, which is settled by defendant paying money into court. This, I hope, finishes my business with them. I understood Mrs. Swift consulted them on estate matters only. I will hunt up the partnership memo., for such it was, drawn up by myself. I think it is either with A. and A. or bank; will find it and send you copy. My books can be examined whenever your appointed accountant is ready. I have not made any statement or balance-sheet, as I suppose no accountant would accept it without having the books to verify it. Mrs. Swift may be party to what you say, but think, had you consulted with and explained matters as you now do, she would not have given you so much trouble. And this is just what I have been writing you, to give and take, and all pull together, instead of against each other. The sooner things are wound up the sooner you will settle into your places. I should think now would be the time to sell the summer runs, Saubba and Three Falls, as the plains are afraid of the season, and must either sell stock or get country.

Yours faithfully,
J. McDONALD.

12/

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