

Sessional Papers

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 1.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DIVISIONS

IN

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

(EXTRACTED FROM THE MINUTES.)

THURSDAY, 6 MAY, 1897.

No. 1.

SUPPLY—VOTE OF CREDIT.

Mr. Reid moved, That the Committee agree to the following Resolution:—

- (1.) That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding £2,079,600, being
 “£1,516,500, to defray the expenses of the various Departments and Services of the
 “Colony during the months of July, August, and September, or following month of
 “the financial year ending 30th June, 1898, to be expended at the rates which have
 “been sanctioned for the financial year ending 30th June, 1897, subject to the rate of
 “any reduction that may hereafter be made in the expenditure of the year 1897-98;
 “‘£1,000’ for expenses of the visit to London of the Prime Minister in connection with
 “the Record Reign celebrations; £300,000 for the construction and maintenance of
 “Roads and Bridges generally, pending the passing of the Appropriation Act for
 “1897-98; £50,000 for Treasurer’s Advance Account. And in anticipation of Loan
 “Votes for Wollongong Harbour Trust, £12,100; for cost of Works taken over by the
 “Government—further sum; for Railways—£100,000 for additions to Railway Lines,
 “Stations, and Buildings, for Rolling Stock, and for other purposes, including Safety
 “Appliances; £90,000 towards the improvement of Grades and Curves; and for
 “Tramways £10,000 for additions to Workshops and Buildings; and for other
 “purposes.”

Motion made (*Mr. Chapman*), to leave out from line 7 the figures “£1,000,” and insert the figures “£500” instead thereof.

Question put, That the figures proposed to be left out stand part of the Resolution.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 52.

Mr. Sydney Smith,	Mr. Whiddon,	Mr. Rigg,
Mr. Young,	Mr. Mahony,	Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Hurley,	Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Neild,	Mr. Bavister,
Mr. Garvard,	Mr. Thomas Brown,	Mr. Hogue,
Mr. Carruthers,	Mr. A. B. Piddington,	Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Morgan,	Mr. Ashton,	Mr. Millard,
Mr. Russell Jones,	Mr. O’Reilly,	Mr. Cann,
Mr. Dacey,	Mr. McLean,	Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Fogan,	Mr. Smailes,	Mr. Black,
Mr. Jessep,	Mr. Ball,	Mr. Law,
Mr. Hughes,	Mr. Robert Jones,	Mr. Macdonald,
Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. Gillies,	Mr. Millen,
Mr. Archibald Campbell,	Mr. Morton,	Mr. Sleath.
Mr. Lee,	Mr. Simcon Phillips,	
Mr. Graham,	Mr. Harris,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Newman,	Mr. Dugald Thomson,	Mr. Bull,
Mr. Frank Farnell,	Mr. Howarth,	Mr. Wilks.

Noes, 12.

Dr. Ross,
 Mr. Wood,
 Mr. Chapman,
 Mr. Seby,
 Mr. Chanter,
 Mr. O’Sullivan,
 Mr. Kelly,
 Mr. Travers Jones,
 Mr. Miller,
 Mr. Rose.

Tellers,

Mr. E. M. Clark,
 Mr. Perry.

Figures stand.

No.

No. 2.

SAME RESOLUTION.

Question put, That the Committee agree to the Resolution.
Committee divided.

Ayes, 49.

Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Dugald Thomson,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Millard,
Mr. Reid,	Mr. Harris,
Mr. Young,	Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Sydney Smith,	Mr. Howarth,
Mr. Ashton,	Mr. Jessep,
Mr. O'Reilly,	Mr. Bavister,
Mr. Black,	Mr. Hughes,
Mr. Neild,	Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Archibald Campbell,	Mr. Law,
Mr. Mahony,	Mr. Wilks,
Mr. Newman,	Mr. E. M. Clark,
Mr. Whiddon,	Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Robert Jones,	Mr. Maedonald,
Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Millen,
Mr. Russell Jones,	Mr. A. B. Piddington,
Mr. Thomas Brown,	Mr. Bull,
Mr. Smailes,	Mr. Sleath,
Mr. Dacey,	Mr. Hogue,
Mr. Simeon Phillips,	Mr. Cann.
Mr. McLean,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Lonsdale,	Mr. Morton,
Mr. Gillies,	Mr. Fegan.
Mr. Ball,	
Mr. Rigg,	

Noes, 18.

Mr. O'Sullivan,
Dr. Ross,
Mr. Lyne,
Mr. Chapman,
Mr. Hurley,
Mr. Schey,
Mr. Chanter,
Mr. Price,
Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Mackay,
Mr. Travers Jones,
Mr. Waddell,
Mr. Kelly,
Mr. Nelson,
Mr. Miller,
Mr. Alexander Campbell.

Tellers,

Mr. Perry,
Mr. Wood.

Resolution agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Reid, the Chairman left the Chair to report progress and ask leave to sit again, and also to report that the Committee had come to a Resolution.

RICHD. A. ARNOLD,
Clerk Assistant.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 2.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DIVISIONS

IN

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

(EXTRACTED FROM THE MINUTES.)

TUESDAY, 11 MAY, 1897.

No. 1.

PUBLIC WORKS ACTS FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL :—

Clauses 1 to 3 having been dealt with,—

Clause 4. The "Public Works (Committees' Remuneration) Act of 1889" is hereby amended ^{Recess} so that the Chairman of the Committee shall not receive more than "three" guineas, and so that each other Member of the Committee shall not receive more than "two" guineas for each day's attendance at a summoned meeting of a Committee at which a quorum shall be present, or at any inspection under section five of the said Act. (*Read*)

Motion made (*Mr. Edden*), to leave out from line 2 the word "three" and insert the word "two" instead thereof.

Question put,—That the word proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 32.

Mr. Knox,	Mr. Anderson,
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Bavister,
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Jessep,
Mr. Young,	Mr. Black,
Mr. Cann,	Mr. Dugald Thomson,
Mr. Thomas,	Mr. Lyne,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Millard,
Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. Schey,
Mr. O'Sullivan,	Mr. Gorinly,
Mr. Henry Clarke,	Mr. Ashton,
Mr. Hurley,	Mr. A. B. Piddington,

Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Watson,
Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. Law,
Mr. Wilks.

Tellers,

Mr. Rigg.
Mr. Ferguson.

Noes, 8.

Dr. Ross,
Mr. McLaughlin,
Mr. Griffith,
Mr. Gillies,
Mr. Edden,
Mr. Watkins.

Tellers,

Mr. Miller,
Mr. Affleck.

Word stands.

No. 2.

SAME BILL.

Same clause.

Motion made (*Mr. Edden*), to leave out from line 3 the word "two" and insert the word "one" instead thereof.

Question put,—That the word proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.

99—

Committee

Committee divided.

Ayes, 24.

Mr. Knox,	Mr. Anderson,
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Bavister,
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Jessep,
Mr. Cann,	Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Dugald Thomson,
Mr. Young,	Mr. Millard,
Mr. Thomas,	Mr. Gormly,
Mr. Ferguson,	Mr. Ashton,
Mr. Lync,	Mr. A. B. Piddington.
Mr. Schey,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. O'Sullivan,	Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Rigg,	Mr. Carroll.
Mr. Hurley,	

Noes, 15.

Dr. Ross,	Mr. McGowen,
Mr. McLaughlin,	Mr. Thomas Brown.
Mr. Miller,	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Gillies,	Mr. Watkins.
Mr. Wilks,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Edden,	Mr. Cruickshank,
Mr. Affleck,	Mr. Griffith.
Mr. Law,	
Mr. Watson,	

Word stands.

Clause, as read, agreed to.

And clause 5 and a new clause having been dealt with,—

And the Committee continuing to sit after Midnight,—

WEDNESDAY, 12 MAY, 1897, A.M.

On motion of Mr. Cann, the Chairman left the Chair to report the Bill with amendments to the House.

THURSDAY, 13 MAY, 1897.

No. 3.

AUSTRALASIAN FEDERATION (REPRESENTATIVES' ALLOWANCE) BILL.

(Resolution.)

Mr. Brunker moved, That the Committee agree to the following Resolution:—

That it is expedient to bring in a Bill to authorise the payment of allowances to the Representatives of New South Wales at the Federal Convention,—and Question put.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 52.

Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Whiddou,	Mr. Howarth,
Mr. Sydney Smith,	Mr. Mahony,	Mr. Lee,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Hurley,	Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Young,	Mr. Travers Jones,	Mr. Millard,
Mr. Thomas,	Mr. Law,	Mr. Pyers,
Mr. Hughes,	Mr. Schey,	Mr. Rose,
Mr. Dacey,	Mr. Waddell,	Mr. Wood,
Mr. McGowen,	Mr. Chanter,	Mr. Hayes,
Mr. Fegan,	Mr. Lonsdale,	Mr. Ashton,
Mr. Kelly,	Mr. Wilks,	Mr. O'Sullivan,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Cruickshank,	Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. Watkins,	Mr. Neild,
Mr. Henry Clarke,	Mr. Bull,	Mr. Ewing,
Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Anderson,	Mr. O'Reilly.
Mr. F. Clarke,	Mr. Harvey,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Dr. Graham,	Mr. A. B. Piddington,	Mr. Affleck,
Mr. Mackay,	Mr. McLean,	Mr. Willis.
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Alexander Campbell,	

Noes, 6.

Mr. Wright,
Mr. Crick,
Mr. Sleath,
Mr. Edden.
<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Collins,
Mr. Molesworth.

Agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Brunker, the Chairman left the Chair to report that the Committee had come to a Resolution.

RICHD. A. ARNOLD,
Clerk Assistant.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 3.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DIVISIONS

IN

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

(EXTRACTED FROM THE MINUTES.)

THURSDAY, 10 JUNE, 1897.

No. 1.

CHURCH AND SCHOOL LANDS BILL:—

Clauses 1 to 4 having been dealt with,—

Clause 5. Every application as aforesaid shall be referred by the Minister to the local land board for report, and the said board shall thereupon, after inquiry, report whether the application shall or shall not be confirmed, and may recommend the confirmation of the application as to the whole or any part of the land the subject of the application; and if the board recommend that the application be confirmed as to part only of the said land, they may, subject to the provisions of the next succeeding section, recommend that the balance of the land be set apart for a holding of the kind applied for, or for some other kind of holding "under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, and the Acts amending the same."

Application to
be referred to
land board for
report.

The board shall also recommend the rent and conditions which shall attach to any holding mentioned in their report. (*Read.*)

Motion made (*Mr. Ball*), to leave out from line 8 the words "under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, and the Acts amending the same." and insert the words "enumerated in the preceding section." instead thereof.

Question put,—That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 44.

Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Dacey,
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Neild,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Kelly,
Mr. Fegan,	Mr. H. H. Brown,
Mr. Dick,	Mr. Waddell,
Mr. Morgan,	Mr. Simeon Phillips,
Mr. Jessep,	Mr. Chanter,
Mr. Young,	Mr. Barister,
Mr. Carruthers,	Mr. Wilks,
Mr. Sydney Smith,	Mr. Rose,
Mr. Millen,	Mr. McLean,
Mr. Moore,	Mr. Morton,
Mr. Cruickshank,	Mr. Harris,
Mr. Hurley,	Mr. Harvey,
Mr. Mahony,	Mr. Crick,
Mr. Goodwin,	Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. Hayes,	Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Whiddon,	Mr. Ashton.
Mr. Parkes,	
Dr. Graham,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Lee,	Mr. Price,
Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. Chapman.

Noes, 33.

Mr. Henry Clarke,	Mr. E. M. Clark,
Mr. McLaughlin,	Mr. Black,
Mr. Lync,	Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. Willis,	Mr. Cann,
Mr. Griffith,	Mr. Haynes,
Mr. Ball,	Mr. Afleck,
Mr. Watkins,	Mr. Edden,
Mr. Watson,	Mr. Miller.
Mr. Hughes,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. James Thomson,	Mr. Wheeler.
Mr. McGowen,	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick.
Mr. Lonsdale,	
Mr. Sleath,	
Mr. Alexander Campbell,	
Mr. Raymond,	
Mr. Barnes,	
Mr. Travers Jones,	
Mr. Thomas,	
Mr. Smailes,	
Mr. Ferguson,	
Mr. Law,	
Mr. Wood,	
Mr. Macdonald,	

Words stand.

155—

No. 2.

No. 2.

SAME BILL.

Same Clause.

Question put, That the clause as read, stand part of the Bill.
Committee divided.

Ayes, 52.

Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. Black,
Mr. Willis,	Mr. Fegan,	Mr. Reymond,
Mr. Jessep,	Mr. Chapman,	Mr. Rose,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Price,	Mr. Miller,
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Kelly,	Mr. Law,
Mr. Affleck,	Mr. H. H. Brown,	Mr. Wilks,
Mr. Carruthers,	Mr. Haynes,	Mr. Bavier,
Mr. Young,	Mr. Hughes,	Mr. James Thomson,
Mr. Ball,	Mr. Smailes,	Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Sydney Smith,	Mr. Waddell,	Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Moore,	Mr. Robert Jones,	Mr. Dick,
Mr. Thomas,	Mr. Sleath,	Mr. Edden,
Mr. Anderson,	Mr. McLean,	Mr. Newman,
Mr. Morton,	Mr. Lonsdale,	Mr. Macdonald.
Mr. Hayes,	Mr. Harris,	
Mr. Neild,	Mr. Hurley,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Simeon Phillips,	Mr. Barnes,	Mr. Ashton,
Mr. Carroll,	Mr. Cann,	Mr. Watson.

Noes, 9.

Mr. Griffith,
Mr. Travers Jones,
Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. Perry,
Mr. E. M. Clark,
Mr. Ferguson,
Mr. McGowen.

Tellers,

Mr. Wood,
Mr. Cruickshank.

Clause, as read, agreed to.

And clauses 6 to 11 having been dealt with,—

No. 3.

SAME BILL.

Determination
of further rent
royalty payable
under lease.

Application of
leaseholder to
have rent ap-
praised.

Clause 12. ~~Where in a lease of Church and School Lands it is provided that on an extension of the term of the lease, a further rent or royalty additional to that reserved shall be payable, the Minister shall refer the question of such further rent or royalty to the local land board, who shall report as to what amount (if any) shall be paid as such further rent or royalty. And the Minister may on receipt of any such report forego or remit the payment of such further or additional rent or royalty, or may fix what amount shall be paid as such further rent or royalty, whether the same accrued due before or after the commencement of this Act.~~ a lease of Church and School Lands (other than a lease for mining purposes) is not converted under the provisions of this Act, the holder of the lease may within twelve months after the day on which this Act takes effect make application in the prescribed manner, accompanied by the prescribed fee, to have the rent appraised and determined in accordance with the provisions of section six of the Crown Lands Act of 1889. The rent shall thereupon be appraised and determined, and shall from the time when the application was made, and until the expiry or other determination of the lease in respect of which the application was made, be the rent payable under the said lease, or any renewal thereof made in pursuance of the instrument creating the lease.

And the Minister may, in respect of any period for which a lease is renewed, and which period is current at the time when an application for appraisal is made, remit in whole or in part any amount which, at the time of such application, is due as rent in excess of the amount of the rent which would for the said period and up to the time of the said application have been payable if the rent for that period and up to that time had been the rent determined as aforesaid. (*Read.*)

And the clause having been amended as indicated,—

Question put,—That the clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 46.

Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Alexander Campbell,	Mr. Moore,
Mr. Macdonald,	Mr. McFarlane,	Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. Carruthers,	Mr. Hurley,	Mr. Barnes,
Mr. Chapman,	Mr. Bavier,	Mr. Black,
Mr. Affleck,	Mr. Miller,	Mr. Wright,
Mr. Young,	Mr. See,	Mr. Ball,
Mr. Travers Jones,	Mr. Hogue,	Mr. Law,
Mr. Cann,	Mr. Perry,	Mr. Willis,
Mr. Price,	Mr. Thomas Brown,	Mr. Wilks,
Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. Ashton,	Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Hassall,	Mr. Dick,	Mr. Neild,
Mr. Jessep,	Mr. Harris,	Mr. Newman.
Mr. Kelly,	Mr. Anderson,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Waddell,	Mr. Rose,	
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Lonsdale,	Mr. H. H. Brown,
Mr. Fegan,	Mr. McLean,	Mr. Wood.

Noes, 10.

Mr. Hughes,
Mr. Watson,
Mr. Sleath,
Mr. McGowen,
Mr. James Thomson,
Mr. Edden,
Mr. Smailes,
Mr. Ferguson.

Tellers,

Mr. Dacey,
Mr. Thomas.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

And the remaining clauses of the Bill and a new clause having been dealt with,—

On motion of Mr. Carruthers, the Chairman left the Chair to report the Bill with amendments to the House.

RICHD. A. ARNOLD,
Clerk Assistant.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 4.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DIVISIONS

IN

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

(EXTRACTED FROM THE MINUTES.)

THURSDAY, 17 JUNE, 1897.

No. 1.

PHARMACY BILL: (*Legislative Council's Amendments, as indicated in Schedule accompanying Message of 9th June, 1897.*)

The amendments in clauses 1 and 3 having been dealt with,—

Clause 11, line 41, *omit* "one year" *insert* "two years"

Motion made (*Mr. Thomas Brown*),—That the Committee disagree with the Council's amendment in clause 11, line 41,—and Question put.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 18.

Mr. Willis,
Mr. Perry,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Dacey,
Mr. Davis,
Mr. McLaughlin
Mr. Miller,
Mr. Anderson,
Mr. Fegan,
Mr. Cann,
Mr. Law,
Mr. Wateon,
Mr. Watkins,
Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Edden.

Tellers,

Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. Griffith.

Noes, 37.

Mr. Bavister,	Mr. Dugald Thomson,
Mr. Whiddon,	Mr. Young,
Mr. Carroll,	Mr. Jessep,
Mr. Archibald Campbell,	Mr. Cook,
Dr. Graham,	Mr. Cotton,
Mr. Thomas,	Mr. McLean,
Mr. Price,	Mr. Ball,
Mr. Macdonald,	Mr. Brunker,
Mr. Wilks,	Mr. Hayes,
Mr. James Thomson,	Mr. Garrard,
Mr. Rigg,	Mr. Copeland,
Mr. Hughes,	Mr. See,
Mr. Dick,	Mr. Lync,
Mr. Wood,	Mr. Ewing,
Mr. Wheeler,	Mr. Schey.
Mr. Millard,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Cruickshank,
Mr. Nicholson,	Mr. Hurley.
Mr. Hawthorne,	
Mr. Carruthers,	

Disagreement negatived.

And the remainder of the Legislative Council's amendments in the Bill having been dealt with,—
And the Committee continuing to sit after Midnight,—

FRIDAY, 18 JUNE, 1897, A.M.

On motion of Mr. Brunker, the Chairman left the Chair to report that the Committee had disagreed to one and agreed to the remainder of the Legislative Council's amendments in the Bill.

RICHD. A. ARNOLD,
Clerk Assistant.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 5.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DIVISIONS

IN

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

(EXTRACTED FROM THE MINUTES.)

FRIDAY, 25 JUNE, 1897, A.M.

No. 1.

FIELD OF MARS RESUMPTION REPEAL BILL.

Clause 1. Any land described in the Schedule to the Field of Mars Common Resumption Act of 1874 which has before the day when this Act takes effect been dedicated or reserved shall be deemed to have been and to be land dedicated or temporarily reserved (as the case may be) under the Crown Lands Act of 1884; and the provisions of the Crown Lands Acts shall apply to the said land and to any dedication or reservation made as aforesaid. (Read.)

Land dedicated or reserved deemed to be dedicated or reserved under Crown Lands Act of 1884.

Question put,—That the clause, as read, stand part of the Bill.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 32.

Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Alexander Campbell,
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Harris,
Mr. Carruthers,	Mr. Law,
Mr. Jessep,	Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. Frank Farnell,	Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Young,	Mr. Wilks,
Mr. Aflleck,	Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Sydney Smith,	Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. Ball,	Mr. Simeon Phillips,
Mr. Dacey,	Mr. Bavister,
Mr. Cook,	Mr. McLean,
Mr. James Thomson,	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Hughes,	Mr. Millard.
Mr. Archibald Campbell,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Fegan,	Mr. Watson,
Mr. Cotton,	Mr. Wheeler.
Mr. Anderson,	

Noes, 4.

Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Chanter.
Tellers,
Mr. Miller,
Mr. Sleath.

Clause, as read, agreed to.

And the remaining clauses of the Bill having been dealt with,—

On motion of Mr. Carruthers, the Chairman left the Chair to report the Bill, with an amendment, to the House.

RICHD. A. ARNOLD,
Clerk Assistant.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

of the [illegible] Company

held on [illegible]

[illegible]

W. [illegible] A. [illegible]
[illegible]

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 6.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DIVISIONS

IN

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

(EXTRACTED FROM THE MINUTES.)

THURSDAY, 8 JULY, 1897.

No. 1.

CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA—DRAFT BILL.

Clauses 6, 7, and 8 having been dealt with,—

CHAPTER I.
THE PARLIAMENT.
PART I.—GENERAL.

CHAPTER I.
THE PARLIAMENT
PART I.

Clause 1. The legislative powers of the Commonwealth shall be vested in a Federal Parliament, which shall consist of the Queen, "a Senate," and a House of Representatives, and which is hereinafter called "The Parliament," or "The Parliament of the Commonwealth." (*Read.*)

Motion made (*Mr. Watson*), to leave out from line 2 the words "a Senate,"

Question put,—That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 56.

Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Perry,
Mr. Copeland,	Mr. Bavister,
Mr. Carruthers,	Mr. Simeon Phillips,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Harris,
Mr. Cruickshank,	Mr. Dugald Thomson,
Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Chanter,
Mr. Young,	Mr. Millard,
Mr. Molesworth,	Mr. Greene,
Mr. Lyne,	Mr. Pyers,
Mr. McLean,	Mr. Hayes,
Mr. W. H. B. Piddington,	Mr. Barnes,
Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. F. Clarke,
Mr. Rigg,	Mr. Alexander Campbell,
Mr. Ewing,	Mr. Wood,
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Ashton,
Mr. Hurley,	Mr. Millen,
Mr. Waddell,	Mr. Morton,
Mr. Hassall,	Mr. Dick,
Mr. Archibald Campbell,	Mr. A. B. Piddington,
Mr. Travers Jones,	Mr. H. H. Brown,
Mr. Mahony,	Mr. Newman,
Mr. Whiddon,	Mr. Gormly,
Mr. Levien,	Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Moore,	Mr. Willis.
Mr. Neild,	
Mr. McElhone,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. McMillan,	Mr. Hogue,
Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Mackay.
Mr. Wright,	
Mr. Rose,	

Noes, 28.

Mr. McLaughlin,
Mr. Griffith,
Mr. Watkins,
Mr. Dacey,
Mr. Smailes,
Mr. Hughes,
Mr. Watson,
Mr. Ball,
Mr. Sleath,
Mr. Gillies,
Mr. Cotton,
Mr. Ferguson,
Mr. Wilks,
Mr. Cann,
Mr. Haynes,
Mr. Law,
Mr. Edden,
Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. James Thomson,
Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Howarth,
Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. Black,
Mr. Davis,
Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Macdonald.
<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Affleck,
Mr. Thomas.

Words stand.

Clause of the Draft Bill as read, agreed to.

And clause 2 having been dealt with,—

No. 2.

No. 2.

SAME DRAFT BILL.

Salary of Governor-General.

Clause 3. Until the Parliament otherwise provides, the annual salary of the Governor-General shall be "Ten" Thousand Pounds, and shall be payable to the Queen out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Commonwealth.

The salary of a Governor-General shall not be altered during his continuance in office. (*Read.*)

Motion made (*Mr. Sleath*), to leave out from line 2 the word "Ten" and insert the word "Five" instead thereof, and

Question put,—That the word proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 43.

Noes, 36.

Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Hogue,	Mr. Schey,	Mr. Law,
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Bavister,	Mr. Wright,	Mr. Sleath,
Mr. Molesworth,	Mr. Simeon Phillips,	Mr. Fegan,	Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Harris,	Mr. Dacey,	Mr. James Thomson,
Mr. Carruthers,	Mr. Dugald Thomson,	Mr. Hughes,	Mr. Edden,
Mr. Lyne,	Mr. Ferguson,	Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Cann,
Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Greene,	Mr. Watkins,	Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Young,	Mr. Millard,	Mr. Chanter,	Mr. Black,
Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. Pyers,	Mr. Waddell,	Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. Archibald Campbell,	Mr. Wood,	Mr. McFarlane,	Mr. Newman,
Mr. Ewing,	Mr. Wilks,	Mr. Hassall,	Mr. Willis.
Mr. Rigg,	Mr. Howarth,	Mr. Gormly,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Hurley,	Mr. A. B. Piddington,	Mr. Travers Jones,	
Mr. Hayes,	Mr. Dick,	Mr. Thomas,	Mr. Watson,
Mr. Whiddon,	Mr. Morton,	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Perry.
Mr. Mahony,	Mr. Millen,	Mr. Smailes,	
Mr. Neild,	Mr. Ashton,	Mr. Haynes,	
Mr. Alexander Campbell,	Mr. Carroll,	Mr. E. M. Clark,	
Mr. Mackay,	<i>Tellers,</i>	Mr. Davis,	
Mr. Copeland,		Mr. Griffith,	
Mr. McMillan,	Mr. W. H. B. Piddington,	Mr. Affleck,	
Mr. Lonsdale,	Mr. McLean.	Mr. Moore,	
Mr. Ball,		Mr. Gillies.	

Word stands.

Clause of the Draft Bill as read, agreed to.

And clauses 4 and 5 having been dealt with,—

No. 3.

SAME DRAFT BILL.

Governor-General to fix time and places for holding Session of Parliament. Power of dissolution of House of Representatives. First Session of Parliament.

Clause 6. The Governor-General may appoint such times for holding the first and every other Session of The Parliament as he may think fit, giving sufficient notice thereof, and may also from time to time, by Proclamation or otherwise, prorogue The Parliament, and may in like manner dissolve the House of Representatives or the Senate.

The Parliament shall be called together not later than six months after the establishment of the Commonwealth. (*Read.*)

And the Committee having agreed to suggest the amendment indicated,—

Question put,—That the clause of the Draft Bill as amended, be agreed to.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 41.

Noes, 7.

Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Mahony,	Mr. Greene,	Mr. Dick,
Mr. Young,	Mr. James Thomson,	Mr. Edden,	Mr. Colton,
Mr. Carruthers,	Mr. Sleath,	Mr. Millard,	Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Molesworth,	Mr. Neild,	Mr. Thomas,	Mr. Mackay,
Mr. Lyne,	Mr. Chanter,	Mr. Fegan,	Mr. Ashton.
Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Thomas Brown,	Mr. Robert Jones,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Dacey,	Mr. Ferguson,	
Mr. Hughes,	Mr. Griffith,	Mr. Schey,	Mr. Wood.
Mr. Watson,	Mr. Smailes,	Mr. Croickshank.	Mr. A. B. Piddington.
Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. Ball,	<i>Tellers,</i>	
Mr. Archibald Campbell,	Mr. Gillies,		
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Davis,	Mr. Black,	
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Law,	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick.	
Mr. Ewing,	Mr. Macdonald,		
Mr. Affleck,	Mr. Gormly,		

Agreed to.

And clauses 7 and 8 having been dealt with,—

On motion of Mr. Carruthers, the Chairman left the Chair to report progress and ask leave to sit again on Wednesday next.

RICHD. A. ARNOLD,
Clerk Assistant.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 7.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DIVISIONS

IN

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

(EXTRACTED FROM THE MINUTES.)

WEDNESDAY, 14 JULY, 1897.

No. 1.

CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA—DRAFT BILL.

PART II.—THE SENATE.

Clause 9. "The" Senate "shall be composed of" ~~six senators for each State, and each senator shall have one vote.~~ **members representing the States in proportion to their population. But no State shall have less than three senators.**

The Senate shall consist of not less than forty members.

The senators shall be directly chosen by the people of the State ~~as one electorate.~~ **such State being divided into electorates, each returning one senator.**

The senators shall be chosen for a term of "six" years, and the names of the senators chosen by each State shall be certified by the Governor to the Governor-General.

The Parliament shall have power, from time to time, to increase or diminish the number of senators for each State, but so that the equal representation of the several States shall be maintained and that no State shall have less than six senators.

The qualification of electors of senators shall be in each State that which is prescribed by this Constitution or by the Parliament as the qualification for electors of members of the House of Representatives; but in the choosing of senators each elector shall vote only once, and if any elector votes more than once he shall be guilty of a misdemeanour. (*Read.*)

Motion made (*Mr. Millen*), to insert after the word "The" in line 1, the words "existing Colonies upon the establishment of the Commonwealth shall each be entitled to return an equal number of senators to the Senate, which number shall be irreducible: Provided that when the population of any State exceeds one million and a half, such State shall be entitled to return one additional senator for every one hundred and fifty thousand of its population in excess of that number."

And the Committee continuing to sit after Midnight,—

THURSDAY, 15 JULY, 1897, A.M.

Question put,—That the words proposed to be inserted be so inserted.
Committee divided.

Ayes, 9.

Mr. Cook,
Mr. Millen,
Mr. A. B. Piddington,
Mr. Alexander Campbell,
Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Dugald Thomson,
Mr. Ashton.

Tellers,

Mr. Waddell,
Mr. Hassall.

Noes, 56.

Mr. Schey,
Mr. Perry,
Mr. Mackay,
Mr. Copeland,
Mr. Archibald Campbell,
Mr. Caeruthers,
Mr. Hughes,
Mr. Dick,
Mr. Dacey,
Mr. Gillies,
Mr. Brunker,
Mr. Wilbis,
Mr. Lyne,
Mr. Hurley,
Mr. Goodwin,
Mr. Kelly,
Mr. Cruickshank,
Mr. Hayes,
Mr. Miller,
Mr. F. Clarke,

Mr. Cann,
Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Davis,
Mr. Sleath,
Mr. Gould,
Mr. Macdonald,
Mr. Bavister,
Mr. Edden,
Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. McFarlane,
Mr. James Thomson,
Mr. Sydney Smith,
Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. Ferguson,
Mr. Wilks,
Mr. Cotton,
Mr. Black,

Mr. W. H. B. Piddington,
Mr. Anderson,
Mr. Watkins,
Mr. Fegan,
Mr. Griffith,
Mr. Millard,
Mr. Watson,
Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Young,
Mr. Gormly,
Mr. McLaughlin,
Mr. Neild,
Mr. Thomas,
Mr. Jessep.

Tellers,

Mr. Wood,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick.

Suggested amendment negatived.

204—A.

No. 2.

No. 2.

SAME DRAFT BILL.

Same clause.

Motion made (*Mr. Copeland*), to leave out from the first paragraph the words "shall be composed of" and insert the words "for the time being shall be composed of forty-four members, subject to such automatic increase, decrease, or re-apportionment as the proportional population of the several States may from time to time justify on the following basis of representation:—Subject to the provisions of Chapter VI, with respect to the representation of new States admitted to the Commonwealth, any State while having a population numerically smaller than one-fourth that of the most populous State shall be entitled to be represented by five members in the Senate; any State while having a population exceeding one-fourth and less than one-third that of the most populous State shall be entitled to be represented by six members in the Senate; any State while having a population exceeding one-third, but less than one-half that of the most populous State, shall be entitled to eight members in the Senate; any State while having a population exceeding one-half, but less than three-fourths that of the most populous State, shall be entitled to nine members in the Senate; any State having a population exceeding three-fourths that of the most populous State shall be entitled, along with such most populous State, to be represented by ten members in the Senate; and any increase or decrease in the total number of Senators shall be made as nearly as possible to such proportional representation."—instead thereof.

Question put,—That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 43.

Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. Archibald Campbell,
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Hughes,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Dick,
Mr. Sydney Smith,	Mr. Davis,
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Millard,
Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Jessop,	Mr. Millen,
Mr. Ferguson,	Mr. Edden,
Mr. Goodwin,	Mr. Gillics,
Mr. Macdonald,	Mr. Sleath,
Mr. Dacey,	Mr. Fegan,
Mr. W. H. B. Piddington,	Mr. Watkins,
Mr. Robert Jones,	Mr. Gormly,
Mr. Griffith,	Mr. Bavister,
Mr. Black,	Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Thomas Brown,	Mr. Ashton,
Mr. Lonsdale,	Mr. Waddell,
Mr. James Thomson,	Mr. Neild,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Cotton,	Mr. Watson,
Mr. Cann,	Mr. Thomas,
Mr. McGowen,	
Mr. Wilks,	

Noes, 21.

Mr. Schey,
Mr. Mackay,
Mr. Copeland,
Mr. Willis,
Mr. Perry,
Mr. Wood,
Mr. McLaughlin,
Mr. Carruthers,
Mr. Hassall,
Mr. Hurley,
Mr. Miller,
Mr. Kelly,
Mr. McFarlane,
Mr. Hayes,
Mr. F. Clarke,
Mr. Lyne,
Mr. Young,
Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Cruickshank,
<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Alexander Campbell,
Mr. Dugald Thomson,

Words stand.

No. 3.

SAME DRAFT BILL.

Same clause.

Motion made (*Mr. Griffith*), to leave out from the first paragraph the words "six senators for each State and each senator shall have one vote." and insert the words "members elected by the various States according to their respective populations on a basis of one member for each one hundred and fifty thousand persons or fraction thereof with a minimum of three members for any one State."—instead thereof.

Question put, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 4.

Mr. Goodwin,
Mr. W. H. B. Piddington,
<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Waddell,
Mr. Kelly,

Noes, 59.

Mr. Mackay,	Mr. F. Clarke,	Mr. Edden,
Mr. Copeland,	Mr. Miller,	Mr. Bavister,
Mr. Willis,	Mr. Hurley,	Mr. Wilks,
Mr. Sydney Smith,	Mr. Cann,	Mr. Millard,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Thomas Brown,	Mr. Dick,
Mr. Archibald Campbell,	Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Hughes,
Mr. Perry,	Mr. Cotton,	Mr. Watkins,
Mr. Wood,	Mr. Hayes,	Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Lyne,	Mr. McGowen,	Mr. Davis,
Mr. Carruthers,	Mr. Lonsdale,	Mr. Thomas,
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Dacey,	Mr. Cook,
Mr. Ferguson,	Mr. Black,	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Dugald Thomson,	Mr. Ashton,	Mr. Hassall,
Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Millen,	Mr. Schey,
Mr. James Thomson,	Mr. Nicholson,	Mr. Fegan,
Mr. Watson,	Mr. Jessop,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. McLaughlin,	Mr. Cruickshank,	Mr. Macdonald,
Mr. McFarlane,	Mr. Robert Jones,	Mr. Griffith,
Mr. Neild,	Mr. Gormly,	
Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. Gillics,	
	Mr. Alexander Campbell,	

Suggested that words be left out.

No. 4.

No. 4.

SAME DRAFT BILL.

Same clause.

Question put,—That the words proposed to be inserted be so inserted.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 16.

Mr. Cook,
Mr. Lyne,
Mr. Carruthers,
Mr. Griffith,
Mr. Cotton,
Mr. Fegan,
Mr. Jessep,
Mr. Macdonald,
Mr. Anderson,
Mr. Edden,
Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Alexander Campbell,
Mr. McFarlane,
Mr. Wheeler.

Tellers,

Mr. Thomas Brown.
Mr. Black.

Mr. Schey,
Mr. Copeland,
Mr. Mackay,
Mr. Wood,
Mr. Brunker,
Mr. Sleath,
Mr. Gould,
Mr. Wilks,
Mr. Ferguson,
Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Miller,
Mr. F. Clarke,
Mr. Goodwin,
Mr. Waddell,
Mr. Hurley,
Mr. Kelly,
Mr. Hayes,
Mr. Willis.

Noes, 41.

Mr. McLaughlin,
Mr. Bavister,
Mr. Davis,
Mr. Dacey,
Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Watson,
Mr. W. H. B. Piddington,
Mr. Thomas,
Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. Watkins,
Mr. Gillies,
Mr. James Thomson,
Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Ashton,
Mr. Neild,
Mr. Hughes,
Mr. Dick,
Mr. Millard,
Mr. Gormly.

Tellers,

Mr. Cann,
Mr. Millen.

Suggested amendment negatived.

No. 5.

SAME DRAFT BILL.

Same clause.

Motion made (*Mr. Millen*), to insert instead of the words left out the following words
"members representing the States in proportion to their population, but no State shall have less than three senators.

"The Senate shall consist of not less than forty members."

Point of Order:—Mr. Griffith submitted that the proposed amendment was the same in substance as the words the insertion of which had just been negatived.

The Chairman ruled the amendment in order.

Whereupon Mr. Griffith moved,—That the Chairman leave the Chair to report a Point of Order, and ask leave to sit again so soon as the Point of Order has been decided by the House.

Question put.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 13.

Mr. Griffith,
Mr. Neild,
Mr. Cotton,
Mr. Fegan,
Mr. Hughes,
Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Dick,
Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Watson,
Mr. James Thomson.

Tellers,

Mr. Macdonald,
Mr. Edden.

Mr. Miller,
Mr. Schey,
Mr. Ferguson,
Mr. Mackay,
Mr. Millen,
Mr. Wood,
Mr. Lyne,
Mr. Willis,
Mr. Perry,
Mr. Brunker,
Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Jessep,
Mr. Hurley,
Mr. Goodwin,
Mr. F. Clarke.

Noes, 41.

Mr. Cruickshank,
Mr. Waddell,
Mr. Kelly,
Mr. Hayes,
Mr. Gormly,
Mr. Alexander Campbell,
Mr. Anderson,
Mr. Watkins,
Mr. McFarlane,
Mr. Dacey,
Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Cann,
Mr. Ashton,
Mr. Sleath,
Mr. Carruthers,
Mr. W. H. B. Piddington,
Mr. Wilks,
Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. Thomas,
Mr. Gillies,
Mr. Cook,
Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Millard.

Tellers,

Mr. Black,
Mr. Thomas Brown.

Negatived.

No. 6.

SAME DRAFT BILL.

Same clause.

Question put,—That the words proposed by Mr. Millen to be inserted be so inserted.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 40.

Mr. Lyne,
Mr. Brunker,
Mr. Black,
Mr. Griffith,
Mr. Carruthers,
Mr. Millen,
Mr. Wilks,
Mr. Anderson,
Mr. Jessep,
Mr. Macdonald,
Mr. Edden,
Mr. Dacey,
Mr. Schey,
Mr. Haynes,
Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Cotton,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Fegan,
Mr. Ferguson,
Mr. Hughes,
Mr. Dick,
Mr. McFarlane,
Mr. Hurley,
Mr. Ashton,
Mr. F. Clarke,
Mr. Alexander Campbell,
Mr. James Thomson,
Mr. Watson,
Mr. Gillies,
Mr. Cruickshank,
Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. Cook,

Mr. Millard,
Mr. Gormly,
Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Neild,
Mr. Willis.

Tellers,

Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Watkin.

Noes, 14.

Mr. Miller,
Mr. Mackay,
Mr. Copeland,
Mr. Wood,
Mr. Goodwin,
Mr. Waddell,
Mr. Kelly,
Mr. W. H. B. Piddington,
Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Cann,
Mr. Sleath.

Tellers,

Mr. Perry,
Mr. Thomas.

Suggested amendment agreed to.

No. 7.

No. 7.

SAME DRAFT BILL.

Same clause.

Motion made (*Mr. Watson*), to leave out from the second paragraph the words "as one electorate." and insert the words "such State being divided into electorates, each returning one senator."—instead thereof.

Question put,—That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 10.

Mr. Brunker,
Mr. Carruthers,
Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Goodwin,
Mr. Jessop,
Mr. Waddell,
Mr. F. Clarke,
Mr. Kelly.
Tellers,
Mr. Black,
Mr. W. H. B. Piddington.

Mr. Miller,
Mr. Schey,
Mr. Willis,
Mr. Hayes,
Mr. Bavister,
Mr. Lyne,
Mr. Hurley,
Mr. Anderson,
Mr. McLaughlin,
Mr. Cook,
Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Cruickshank,
Mr. McFarlane,
Mr. Davis,
Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Edden,
Mr. McGowen,

Noes, 47.

Mr. Alexander Campbell, Mr. Watson,
Mr. James Thomson, Mr. Cotton,
Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Cann,
Mr. Wilks, Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Dacey, Mr. Hughes,
Mr. Millen, Mr. Watkins,
Mr. Mackay, Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. Ashton, Mr. Sleath,
Mr. Wheeler, Mr. Macdonald,
Mr. Griffith, Mr. Gillies,
Mr. Thomas, Mr. Sydney Smith,
Mr. Millard, Mr. Dick.
Tellers,
Mr. Robert Jones, Mr. Fegan,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Perry,
Mr. Gormly,
Mr. Neild,

Suggested that words be left out.

And the suggested amendment that words indicated be inserted instead of the words left out, having been agreed to,—

No. 8.

SAME DRAFT BILL.

Same clause.

Motion made (*Mr. Watson*), to leave out from the third paragraph the word "six" and insert the word "three"—instead thereof.

Question put,—That the word proposed to be left out stand part of clause.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 29.

Mr. W. H. B. Piddington, Mr. F. Clarke,
Mr. Brunker, Mr. Cruickshank,
Mr. Carruthers, Mr. Willis,
Mr. Hayes, Mr. Cook,
Mr. Sydney Smith, Mr. Wilks,
Mr. Lyne, Mr. Alexander Campbell,
Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick, Mr. Ashton,
Mr. Perry, Mr. Wood,
Mr. Miller, Mr. Gormly,
Mr. Hawthorne, Mr. Neild,
Mr. Jessop, Mr. Millen.
Tellers.
Mr. Anderson, Mr. Waddell,
Mr. Kelly, Mr. Mackay,
Mr. McFarlane,

Noes, 25.

Mr. Schey, Mr. Dacey,
Mr. Macdonald, Mr. Black,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Thomas Brown, Mr. Griffith,
Mr. Watkins, Mr. Thomas,
Mr. Lonsdale, Mr. Millard,
Mr. Hughes, Mr. Robert Jones.
Mr. Dick, *Tellers,*
Mr. Cann, Mr. Watson,
Mr. McGowen, Mr. Gillies,
Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Edden,
Mr. Bavister,
Mr. James Thomson,
Mr. Ferguson,
Mr. Cotton,

Word stands.

Clause of the Draft Bill, as amended, agreed to.

And clauses 10 to 12 having been dealt with,—

No. 9.

SAME DRAFT BILL.

Retirement of members.

Clause 13. As soon as practicable after the Senate first meets the senators chosen for each State shall be divided by lot into two classes. The places of the senators of the first class shall be vacated at the expiration of the third year, and the places of those of the second class at the expiration of the sixth year, from the commencement of their term of service as herein declared, and afterwards there shall be an election every third year accordingly.

For the purposes of this section the term of service of a senator shall begin on and be reckoned from the first day of January next succeeding the day of his election, except in the case of the first election, when it shall be reckoned from the first day of January preceding the day of his election. The election to fill the places of senators retiring by rotation shall be made in the year preceding the day on which they are to retire. (*Read.*)

And the suggested amendment leaving out the second paragraph of the clause having been agreed to,—

Question

Question put,—That the clause of the Draft Bill, as amended, be agreed to.
Committee divided.

Ayes, 26.		Noes, 26.	
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. F. Clarke,	Mr. Griffith,	Mr. Edden,
Mr. Mackay,	Mr. Neild,	Mr. Hughes,	Mr. Sleath,
Mr. Lyne,	Mr. Cook,	Mr. Fegan,	Mr. James Thomson,
Mr. Carruthers,	Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Schey,	Mr. Davis,
Mr. Sydney Smith,	Mr. Waddell,	Mr. Lonsdale,	Mr. Cotton,
Mr. Hayes,	Mr. Perry,	Mr. Watson,	Mr. Black,
Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Gormly,	Mr. Ferguson,	Mr. Dacey,
Mr. Miller,	Mr. McLaughlin,	Mr. Gillies,	Mr. Thomas,
Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. Willis,	Mr. Macdonald,	Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Jessep,	Mr. Millard,	Mr. Watkins,	Mr. Robert Jones.
Mr. Goodwin,		Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Hurley,	<i>Tellers,</i>	Mr. Dick,	
Mr. Kelly,	Mr. Thomas Brown,	Mr. McGowen,	Mr. Cann,
Mr. McFarlane,	Mr. Millen.	Mr. Nicholson,	Mr. Bavister.

The numbers being equal, the Chairman, stating that he would vote in favour of further consideration, gave his Casting Vote with the *Ayes*, and declared the Question to be resolved in the affirmative.

Clause of the Draft Bill, as amended, agreed to.

And clauses 14 to 23 having been dealt with,—

On motion of Mr. Carruthers, the Chairman left the Chair to report progress, and ask leave to sit again To-morrow.

THURSDAY, 15 JULY, 1897.

No. 10:

CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA—DRAFT BILL.

Clauses 24 to 28 having been dealt with,—

Clause 29. Until The Parliament otherwise provides, the electoral divisions of the several States for the purpose of returning members of the House of Representatives, and the number of members to be chosen for each electoral division, shall be determined from time to time by the Parliaments of the several States. *Until division each State shall be one electorate. (Read.)* Electoral Divisions.

Motion made (*Mr. Haynes*), to leave out the words "Until division each State shall be one electorate."

Question put,—That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 26.		Noes, 33.	
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Ewing,	Mr. Haynes,	Mr. Edden,
Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Harris,	Mr. Smailes,	Mr. Hughes,
Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. Gormly,	Mr. Dacey,	Mr. Dick,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Carroll,	Mr. Travers Jones,	Mr. Griffith,
Mr. Black,	Mr. Kelly,	Mr. Thomas,	Mr. Alexander Campbell,
Mr. Carruthers,	Mr. Ashton.	Mr. Thomas Brown,	Mr. Price,
Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,	<i>Tellers,</i>	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	Mr. McFarlane,
Mr. Young,		Mr. Fegan,	Mr. Bavister,
Mr. Ball,	Mr. Wood,	Mr. Millen,	Mr. Cann,
Mr. Simcoe Phillips,	Mr. Rose.	Mr. Afleck,	Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Rigg,		Mr. Wright,	Mr. Moore,
Mr. Soe,		Mr. McGowen,	Mr. Morgan,
Mr. Pyers,		Mr. Davis,	Mr. O'Reilly.
Mr. Cook,		Mr. Gillies,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Mahony,		Mr. Sleath,	
Mr. Whiddon,		Mr. Watkins,	Mr. Cotton,
Mr. Hogue,		Mr. Macdonald,	Mr. Wilks.
Mr. Molesworth,		Mr. E. M. Clark,	

Suggested that the words be left out.

Clause of the Draft Bill, as amended, agreed to.

And clauses 30 to 44 having been dealt with,—

No. 11.

SAME DRAFT BILL.

Clause 45. Any person :

- I. Who has taken an oath or made a declaration or acknowledgment of allegiance, obedience, or adherence, to a foreign power, or has done any act whereby he has become a subject or a citizen, or entitled to the rights or privileges of a subject or a citizen, of a foreign power : or
 - II. ~~Who is an undischarged bankrupt or insolvent, or a public defaulter :—or~~
 - III. Who is attainted of treason, or convicted of felony or of any infamous crime :
- shall be incapable of being chosen or of sitting as a member of the Senate or of the House of Representatives until the disability is removed by a grant of a discharge, or the expiration or remission of the sentence, or a pardon, or release, or otherwise. (*Read.*)

Motion made (*Mr. Haynes*), to leave out sub-clause II,

Question put. That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.
Committee divided.

Ayes, 12.

Mr. Cann,
Mr. Aspleck,
Mr. Molesworth,
Mr. Sleath,
Mr. Griffith,
Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. Edden,
Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Ferguson,
Mr. McGowen.

Tellers,

Mr. Macdonald,
Mr. Fegan.

Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Pycs,
Mr. Goodwin,
Mr. Alexander Campbell,
Mr. Ewing,
Mr. Mahony,
Mr. McFarlane,
Mr. Kelly,
Mr. Young,
Mr. Smailes,
Mr. Lyne,
Mr. Schey,
Mr. See,
Mr. Wood,
Mr. Miller,

Noes, 41.

Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick, Mr. Ball,
Mr. Brunker, Mr. Watkins,
Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Haynes,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Morgan,
Mr. Carruthers, Mr. Black,
Mr. Gillies, Mr. Garrard,
Mr. Gould, Mr. Simeon Phillips,
Mr. Bavister, Mr. Dick,
Mr. Davis, Mr. Hawthorne.
Tellers,
Mr. Rigg,
Mr. Watson.

Suggested that the words be left out.

Clause of the Draft Bill, as amended, agreed to.

And clauses 46 and 47 having been dealt with, and clause 48 read,—

On motion of Mr. Carruthers the Chairman left the Chair to report progress, and ask leave to sit again on Wednesday next.

RICHD. A. ARNOLD,
Clerk Assistant.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 8.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DIVISIONS

IN

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

(EXTRACTED FROM THE MINUTES.)

TUESDAY, 20 JULY, 1897.

No. 1.

LAW PRACTITIONERS BILL.

Clause 1 having been dealt with,—

Clause 2. From and after the first of January, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven ^{Admission to} ~~ninety-seven~~ ^{practise.} ~~ninety-nine~~, every male person, being a British subject, of the full age of twenty-one years and whose good reputation and learning in law shall be certified to as hereinafter provided shall be entitled to be, and shall, upon motion made either in Court or in chambers, before any Judge of the Supreme Court of this Colony, be admitted and enrolled without fee as a barrister or solicitor of the said Court; and no restriction whatever shall be placed upon the applicant with regard to his employment during the time he is studying for the examination.

(Read.)

And the clause having been amended as indicated,—

Motion made (*Mr. Young*), to leave out from line 2 the word "male"

Question put,—That the word proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 12.

Mr. Neild,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. McGowen,	Mr. Anderson,
Mr. Griffith,	Mr. Cann.
Mr. Perry,	
Mr. Watson,	
Mr. Wood,	
Mr. Edden,	
Mr. James Thomson,	
Mr. Sleath,	
Mr. Watkins.	

Noes, 18.

Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Rose,
Mr. McLaughlin,	Mr. Pyers,
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Dick,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. Fegan,	Dr. Graham,
Mr. Chapman,	Mr. Nicholson.
Mr. Dacey,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Young,	Mr. Ball,
Mr. Smailes,	Mr. Price.
Mr. Cook,	

Word left out.

No. 2.

SAME BILL.

Same clause.

Motion made (*Mr. Neild*), That the Chairman leave the Chair and report progress.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 14.

Mr. Perry,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. McGowen,	Mr. Wood,
Mr. Griffith,	Mr. Watson.
Mr. Sleath,	
Mr. James Thomson,	
Mr. Hogue,	
Mr. Cann,	
Mr. Carroll,	
Mr. Fegan,	
Mr. McLaughlin,	
Mr. Neild,	
Mr. Haynes.	

Noes, 25.

Mr. Hurley,	Mr. McLean,
Mr. Young,	Mr. Garrard,
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Dick,
Mr. Archibald Campbell,	Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. Lonsdale,	Dr. Graham,
Mr. Ball,	Mr. Edden,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Watkins,	Mr. Millard,
Mr. Thomas,	Mr. Ashton.
Mr. Smailes,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Chapman,
Mr. Baxister,	Mr. Dacey.
Mr. Anderson,	
Mr. Wilks,	

Negatived.

213—A

No. 3.

No. 3.

SAME BILL.

*Same clause.*Motion made (*Mr. Neild*), That the Chairman leave the Chair.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 10.

Mr. Garrard,	Tellers,	
Mr. Gould,		
Mr. Young,		Mr. James Thomson,
Mr. McGowen,		Mr. Griffith.
Mr. Cann,		
Mr. McLaughlin,		
Mr. Woolf,		
Mr. Watson.		

Noes, 18.

Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Millard,	
Mr. Thomas,	Mr. Lonsdale,	
Mr. Chapman,	Mr. Ball,	
Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Fegan,	
Mr. Dick,	Mr. Wilks,	
Mr. Dacey,	Mr. Bavister.	
Mr. Schey,	Tellers,	
Mr. Nicholson,		
Mr. Macdonald,		Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. Edden,	Mr. Pyers.	

Negatived.

No Quorum in Committee having been reported to the House, and the Committee having resumed,—

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

And the remaining clauses of the Bill having been dealt with,—

On motion of Mr. Thomas, the Chairman left the Chair to report the Bill with amendments to the House.

WEDNESDAY, 21 JULY, 1897.

No. 4.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA—DRAFT BILL.

Clause 48 having been further considered and dealt with, and clauses 49 to 51 dealt with,—

PART V.—POWERS OF THE PARLIAMENT.

Clause 52. The Parliament shall, subject to the provisions of this Constitution, have full power and authority to make laws for the peace, order, and good government of the Commonwealth, with respect to all or any of the matters following, that is to say :—

- I. The regulation of trade and commerce with other countries, and among the several States :
- II. Customs and excise and bounties, but so that duties of customs and excise and bounties shall be uniform throughout the Commonwealth, and that no tax or duty shall be imposed on any goods exported from one State to another :
- “ III. Raising money by any other mode or system of taxation ; but so that all such “ taxation shall be uniform throughout the Commonwealth : ”
- IV. Borrowing money on the public credit of the Commonwealth :
- V. Postal, telegraphic, telephonic, and other like services :
- VI. The military and naval defence of the Commonwealth and the several States and the calling out of the forces to execute and maintain the laws of the Commonwealth :
- VII. Munitions of war :
- VIII. Navigation and shipping :
- IX. Ocean beacons and buoys, and ocean lighthouses and lightships :
- X. Astronomical and meteorological observations :
- XI. Quarantine :
- XII. Fisheries in Australian waters beyond territorial limits :
- XIII. Census and statistics :
- XIV. Currency, coinage, and legal tender :
- XV. Banking (**excluding State Banking not extending beyond the limits of the State concerned**), the incorporation of banks, and the issue of paper money :
- XVI. Insurance, excluding State Insurance not extending beyond the limits of the State concerned :
- XVII. Weights and measures :
- XVIII. Bill of exchange and promissory notes :
- XIX. Bankruptcy and insolvency **and lunacy** :
- XX. Copyrights and patents of inventions, designs, and trade marks :
- XXI. Naturalisation and aliens :
- XXII. Foreign corporations, and trading or financial corporations formed in any State or part of the Commonwealth :
- XXIII. Marriage and divorce :
- ~~XXIV. Parental rights, and the custody and guardianship of infants :~~
- XXV. The service and execution throughout the Commonwealth of the civil and criminal process and judgments of the courts of the States :
- XXVI. The recognition throughout the Commonwealth of the laws, the public acts and records, and the judicial proceedings, of the States :
- XXVII. Immigration and emigration :
- XXVIII. The influx of criminals **and lunatics** :
- XXIX. External affairs and treaties :
- XXX. The relations of the Commonwealth to the islands of the Pacific :
- XXXI. The control and regulation of the navigation of the River Murray, and the use of the waters thereof from where it first forms the boundary between Victoria and New South Wales to the sea :

XXXII.

PART
POWERS OF THE
PARLIAMENT.Legislative
powers of The
Parliament.

- XXXII. The control of railways "with respect to transport for the military purposes of the Commonwealth":
- XXXIII. The taking over by the Commonwealth with the consent of the State, of the whole or any part of the railways of any State or States upon such terms as may be arranged between the Commonwealth and the State:
- XXXIV. Railway construction and extension with the consent of any State or States concerned:
- XXXV. Matters referred to The Parliament of the Commonwealth by the Parliament or Parliaments of any State or States, but so that the law shall extend only to the State or States by whose Parliament or Parliaments the matter was referred, and to such other States as may afterwards adopt the law:
- XXXVI. The exercise within the Commonwealth, at the request or with the concurrence of the Parliaments of all the States concerned, of any legislative powers which can at the establishment of this Constitution be exercised only by the Parliament of the United Kingdom or by the Federal Council of Australasia:
- XXXVII. Any matters necessary for, or incidental to, the carrying into execution of the foregoing powers or of any other powers vested by this Constitution in The Parliament or the Executive Government of the Commonwealth or in any department or officer thereof. (*Read.*)

Motion made (*Mr. Perry*),—That the sub-clause III be left out.

Question put,—That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 53.

Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Thomas,	Mr. Bull,
Mr. Young,	Mr. Smailes,
Mr. Carruthers,	Mr. Dugald Thomson,
Mr. Black,	Mr. Harris,
Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Cann,
Mr. Molesworth,	Mr. Millard,
Mr. Thomas Brown,	Mr. Edden,
Mr. Sleath,	Mr. Griffith,
Mr. Harvey,	Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. McLean,	Mr. Gillies,
Mr. Howarth,	Mr. Cotton,
Mr. Archibald Campbell,	Mr. Bavister,
Mr. Mahony,	Mr. Schey,
Mr. Whiddon,	Mr. Millen,
Mr. Anderson,	Mr. A. B. Piddington,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Ashton,
Mr. Sydney Smith,	Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. Fegan,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Dick,
Mr. Hughes,	Mr. Ewing,
Mr. Robert Jones,	Mr. O'Reilly,
Mr. E. M. Clark,	Mr. Macdonald.
Mr. Watkins,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Haynes,	
Mr. Storey,	Mr. Ferguson,
Mr. Affleck,	Mr. Watson.
Mr. Wheeler,	

Noes, 21.

Mr. Hurley,
Mr. Chanter,
Mr. See,
Mr. Perry,
Mr. McLaughlin,
Mr. Kelly,
Mr. Henry Clarke,
Mr. Carroll,
Mr. T. R. Smith,
Mr. Pyers,
Mr. Rose,
Mr. F. Clarke,
Mr. Cruickshank,
Mr. Hayes,
Mr. McFarlane,
Mr. Neild,
Mr. Wright,
Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Gormly.
<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Waddell,
Mr. Wood.

Words stand.

No. 5.

SAME DRAFT BILL.

Same clause.

Motion made (*Mr. Affleck*), to insert after sub-clause III the following words, to stand as sub-clause IV:—" (IV.) The Public Debts (exclusive of Trust Funds)."

Question put,—That the words proposed to be inserted be so inserted.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 19.

Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Macdonald.
Mr. Ferguson,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Black,	
Mr. Affleck,	Mr. Fegan,
Mr. Perry,	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick.
Mr. Smailes,	
Mr. Watkins,	
Mr. Watson,	
Mr. Griffith,	
Mr. Cann,	
Mr. Thomas,	
Mr. E. M. Clark,	
Mr. Gillies,	
Mr. McGowen,	
Mr. Wheeler,	
Mr. Edden,	

Noes, 29.

Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Anderson,
Mr. Wright,	Mr. Wilks,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Cotton,
Mr. Dugald Thomson,	Mr. Chanter,
Mr. McLaughlin,	Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. Thomas Brown,	Mr. Millard,
Mr. Gormly,	Mr. Millen,
Mr. Carruthers,	Mr. Dacey,
Mr. Lonsdale,	Mr. Schey,
Mr. Nelson,	Mr. Bavister.
Mr. Carroll,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Henry Clarke,	
Mr. Archibald Campbell,	Mr. Molesworth,
Mr. Young,	Mr. Haynes.
Mr. Nicholson,	

Suggested amendment negatived.

On motion of Mr. Carruthers, the Chairman left the Chair to report progress and ask leave to sit again To-morrow.

THURSDAY,

THURSDAY, 22 JULY, 1897.

No. 6.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA—DRAFT BILL.

Clause 52 (as printed on pages 2 and 3 hereof). (*Further considered.*)Motion made (*Mr. Thomas Brown*), to insert at the end of sub-clause (v) the words "of an international and inter-State character."

Question put,—That the words proposed to be inserted be so inserted.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 20.

Mr. Brunker,
Mr. Carruthers,
Mr. Young,
Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Dacey,
Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Parkes,
Mr. Archibald Campbell,
Mr. Rose,
Mr. Mahony,
Mr. Hogue,
Mr. Whiddon,
Mr. Bavister,
Mr. Perry,
Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Harris,
Mr. Millard,
Mr. Waddell.

Tellers,

Mr. Cotton,
Mr. Thomas Brown.

Mr. Ferguson,
Mr. Lyne,
Mr. Wright,
Mr. Cruickshank,
Mr. Chanter,
Mr. Hughes,
Mr. Miller,
Mr. Watkins,
Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Cann,
Mr. Watson,
Mr. McFarlane,
Mr. FitzGerald,
Mr. Hassall,
Mr. Willis,
Mr. Hurley,
Mr. Barnes,
Mr. Morgan,
Mr. Neild,
Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Simeon Phillips,
Mr. Gould,

Noes, 49.

Mr. Sydney Smith,
Mr. Schey,
Mr. James Thomson,
Mr. Edden,
Mr. Dick,
Mr. Millen,
Mr. Black,
Mr. Wilks,
Mr. Gillies,
Mr. A. B. Piddington,
Mr. F. Clarke,
Mr. Wood,
Mr. Ashton,
Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Haynes,
Mr. Smailes,
Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Affleck,
Mr. Dugald Thomson,
Mr. Molesworth,
Mr. Thomas,
Mr. Macdonald,

Mr. Moore,
Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick.

Tellers,

Mr. O'Reilly,
Mr. Griffith.

Suggested amendment negatived.

And the suggested amendments indicated having been agreed to,—

No. 7.

SAME DRAFT BILL.

*Same clause:*Motion made (*Mr. Watson*), to leave out from sub-clause XXXII the words "with respect to transport for the military purposes of the Commonwealth"

Question put,—That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 27.

Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Gould,
Mr. Brunker,
Mr. Jessep,
Mr. Young,
Mr. Lyne,
Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Dacey,
Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. Sydney Smith,
Mr. Cook,
Mr. Bavister,
Mr. Archibald Campbell,
Mr. Fegan,
Mr. Molesworth,
Mr. Dugald Thomson,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Cruickshank,

Mr. Wilks,
Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Cotton,
Mr. Millard,
Mr. F. Clarke,
Mr. Chanter,
Mr. Wood,
Tellers,
Mr. Rigg,
Mr. Gillies.

Noes, 16.

Mr. Carruthers,
Mr. Griffith,
Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Black,
Mr. Affleck,
Mr. Watson,
Mr. Smailes,
Mr. Watkins,
Mr. Ferguson,
Mr. Thomas,
Mr. Dick,
Mr. Hughes,
Mr. A. B. Piddington,
Mr. Edden.

Tellers,

Mr. Millen,
Mr. O'Reilly.

*Words stand.**Clause of the Draft Bill, as amended, agreed to.*

And clauses 53 to 106 having been dealt with,—

And the Committee continuing to sit after Midnight,—

FRIDAY, 23 JULY, 1897, A.M.

No. 8.

SAME DRAFT BILL.

Clause 107. A State shall not, without the consent of The Parliament of the Commonwealth, "raise or maintain any military or naval force, or" impose any tax on property of any kind belonging to the Commonwealth; nor shall the Commonwealth impose any tax on property of any kind belonging to a State. (*Read.*)

Motion

Motion made (*Mr. Griffith*), to leave out the words "raise or maintain any military or naval force or"

Question put,—That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 24.

Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Jessep,	Mr. Cotton,
Mr. Cruickshank,	Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Chanter,
Mr. Carruthers,	Mr. A. B. Fiddington,
Mr. Afleck,	Mr. Ashton,
Mr. Young,	Mr. Millard,
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Dick,
Mr. Milten,	Mr. O'Reilly.
Mr. Gillies,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Rigg,	Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Bavister,	Mr. Thomas.
Mr. Wilks,	

Noes, 13.

Mr. Dacey,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Macdonald,	Mr. Black,
Mr. Watkins,	Mr. Griffith.
Mr. Watson,	
Mr. Lonsdale,	
Mr. Fegan,	
Mr. Smailes,	
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	
Mr. Ferguson,	
Mr. Hughes,	
Mr. Thomas Brown.	

Words stand.

Clause of the Draft Bill, as read, agreed to.

And the remaining clauses of the Bill having been dealt with,—

On motion of Mr. Carruthers, the Chairman left the Chair to report progress and ask leave to sit again on Wednesday next.

RICHD. A. ARNOLD,
Clerk Assistant.

[6d.]

Sydney : William Applegate Gullick, Government Printer.—1897.



1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 9.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DIVISIONS

IN

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

(EXTRACTED FROM THE MINUTES.)

WEDNESDAY, 28 JULY, 1897.

No. 1.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA—DRAFT BILL.

Postponed clauses 5, 8, 71, 72, and 73 having been dealt with,—

Postponed clause 74. The High Court shall have "jurisdiction," **where the parties consent,** Appellate jurisdiction of High Court. with such exceptions and subject to such regulations as The Parliament may from time to time prescribe, to hear and determine appeals from all judgments, decrees, orders, and sentences of any other federal Court, or court exercising federal jurisdiction, or of the Supreme Court of any State, whether any such court is a court of appeal or of original jurisdiction; and the judgment of the High Court in all such cases shall be final and conclusive.

Until The Parliament otherwise provides, the conditions and restrictions on appeals to the Queen in Council from the Supreme Courts of the several States shall be applicable to appeals from them to the High Court. (*Read.*)

Motion made (*Mr. Mahony*), to insert in line 1 after the word "jurisdiction" the words "where the parties consent"

Question put,—That the words proposed to be inserted be so inserted.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 56.

Mr. Brunker,	Mr. McLean,	Mr. Gormly,
Mr. Chanter,	Mr. Dugald Thomson,	Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Young,	Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Greene,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Haynes,	Mr. Mackay,
Mr. Molesworth,	Mr. Thomas,	Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Carruthers,	Mr. Kelly,	Mr. Wilks,
Mr. McLaughlin,	Mr. Rose,	Mr. F. Clarke,
Mr. Henry Clarke,	Mr. James Thomson,	Mr. Howarth,
Mr. Egan,	Mr. Hughes,	Mr. Cotton,
Mr. Black,	Mr. Lonsdale,	Mr. Ashton,
Mr. Jessep,	Mr. Ball,	Mr. Millard,
Mr. Sydney Smith,	Mr. Rigg,	Mr. W. H. B. Piddington,
Mr. Ewing,	Mr. Smailes,	Mr. Dick,
Mr. Robert Jones,	Mr. Moore,	Mr. O'Reilly.
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Harris,	
Dr. Graham,	Mr. Alexander Campbell,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Dr. Ross,	Mr. E. M. Clark,	Mr. Morgan,
Mr. Archibald Campbell,	Mr. Neild,	Mr. Millen.
Mr. Whiddon,	Mr. Barnes,	
Mr. Mahony,	Mr. Travers Jones,	

Noes, 16.

Mr. Schey,
Mr. Lyne,
Mr. Hurley,
Mr. Wood,
Mr. Waddell,
Mr. Watkins,
Mr. Affleck,
Mr. Edden,
Mr. Cann,
Mr. Watson,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Law,
Mr. McGowen.
<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Price,
Mr. Griffith.

Suggested amendment agreed to.

Clause of the Draft Bill, as amended, agreed to.

And postponed clauses 75 to 88 having been dealt with,—

No. 2.

SAME DRAFT BILL.

On establishment of uniform duties of Customs and excise, trade within the Commonwealth to be free.

Postponed clause 89. So soon as uniform duties of customs have been imposed, trade and intercourse throughout the Commonwealth, whether by means of internal carriage or ocean navigation, shall be absolutely free. **Provided, however, that nothing in this Act shall prevent any State from regulating the importation of alcoholic liquors or opium in accordance with the laws relating to the sale of alcoholic liquors or opium within the State.** (*Read.*)

Motion made (*Mr. Lonsdale*), to add to the clause the words "Provided, however, that nothing in this Act shall prevent any State from regulating the importation of alcoholic liquors or opium in accordance with the laws relating to the sale of alcoholic liquors or opium within the State."

Question put,—That the words proposed to be added be so added.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 50.

Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. Molesworth,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Law,	Mr. Cann,
Mr. Carruthers,	Mr. McGowen,	Mr. Ferguson,
Mr. Young,	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Griffith,
Mr. Black,	Mr. Lonsdale,	Mr. Macdonald,
Mr. Thomas,	Mr. Harris,	Mr. Dick,
Mr. Dugald Thomson,	Mr. Millard,	Mr. O'Reilly,
Mr. McLaughlin,	Mr. Greene,	Mr. Price,
Mr. Robert Jones,	Mr. Neild,	Mr. James Thomson,
Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Wilks,	Mr. E. M. Clark,
Mr. Archibald Campbell,	Mr. Watkins,	Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Howarth,	Mr. Ball,	Mr. Ashton.
Mr. Jessep,	Mr. Nicholson,	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Cotton,	Mr. Rigg,
Mr. Mahony,	Mr. Hughes,	Mr. McLean.
Mr. Alexander Campbell,	Mr. Bavister,	
Mr. Whiddon,	Mr. Affleck,	
Dr. Ross,	Mr. Fegan,	

Noes 15.

Mr. F. Clarke,
Mr. Perry,
Mr. Chanter,
Mr. Lyne,
Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Travers Jones,
Mr. Willis,
Mr. Mackay,
Mr. Gormly,
Mr. Kelly,
Mr. Watson,
Mr. Millen,
Mr. Schey.
<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. Hurley,
Mr. Wood.

Suggested amendment agreed to.

Clause of the Draft Bill, as amended, agreed to.

And the remaining postponed clauses, 90 to 98, having been dealt with,—

On motion of Mr. Carruthers, the Chairman left the Chair to report progress and ask leave to sit again To-morrow.

THURSDAY, 29 JULY, 1897.

No. 3.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA—DRAFT BILL.

Uniform duties of customs.

Postponed clause 88. ~~Uniform duties of customs~~ shall be imposed within two years after the establishment of the Commonwealth. (*Read.*)

Motion made (*Mr. Moore*), to leave out from line 1 the words "Uniform duties of customs"

Question put,—That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 33.

Mr. Sydney Smith,	Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. McFarlane,
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Rose,
Mr. Carruthers,	Mr. Perry,
Mr. Affleck,	Mr. Hurley,
Mr. Molesworth,	Mr. Griffith,
Mr. Young,	Mr. Harvey,
Mr. Sleath,	Mr. H. H. Brown,
Mr. Watkins,	Mr. Harris,
Mr. Jessep,	Mr. Gormly,
Mr. Dacey,	Mr. Greene,
Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. Nicholson.
Mr. Whiddon,	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. Barnes,	Mr. F. Clarke,
Mr. Hassall,	Mr. Kelly.
Mr. Hughes,	
Mr. Raymond,	
Mr. Miller,	
Mr. Wright,	

Noes, 35.

Mr. Neild,	Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Moore,	Mr. Simeon Phillips,
Mr. Howarth,	Mr. Dugald Thomson,
Mr. Mahony,	Mr. Parkes,
Mr. Bavister,	Mr. Ashton,
Mr. Morgan,	Mr. Millen,
Mr. Storey,	Mr. Wood,
Mr. Thomas,	Mr. Millard,
Mr. Cann,	Mr. Chanter,
Mr. Lonsdale,	Mr. Willis,
Mr. Watson,	Mr. O'Reilly,
Mr. Morton,	Mr. Dick,
Mr. Haynes,	Mr. W. H. B. Piddington,
Mr. Black,	Mr. McLean.
Mr. Law,	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. Cotton,	Mr. Smailes,
Mr. Ball,	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick.
Mr. Wilks,	
Mr. Fegan,	

Suggested that the words be left out.

No. 4.

No. 4.

SAME DRAFT BILL.

Same clause.

Question put,—That the clause of the Draft Bill, as amended, be agreed to.
Committee divided.

Ayes, 15.

Mr. Barnes,
Mr. Kelly,
Mr. Reymond,
Mr. McFarlane,
Mr. Wright,
Mr. Perry,
Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Rose,
Mr. Waddell,
Mr. Gormly,
Mr. Hurley,
Mr. F. Clarke,
Mr. Chanter.

Tellers,

Mr. Sleath,
Mr. Miller.

Mr. Hassall,
Mr. Brunker,
Mr. W. H. B. Piddington,
Mr. Wood,
Mr. Neild,
Mr. Sydney Smith,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Smailes,
Mr. Griffith,
Mr. Willis,
Mr. H. H. Brown,
Mr. Whiddon,
Mr. Moore,
Mr. Howarth,
Mr. Mahony,
Mr. McLean,
Mr. Bavister,
Mr. Cook,
Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Black,

Noes, 56.

Mr. Morgan,
Mr. Jessep,
Mr. Cann,
Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Haynes,
Mr. Watkins,
Mr. Morton,
Mr. Hughes,
Mr. Dugald Thomson,
Mr. Young,
Mr. Simeon Phillips,
Mr. Molesworth,
Mr. Asleek,
Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Fegan,
Mr. Greene,
Mr. Harvey,
Mr. Wilks,
Mr. Ball,
Mr. Cotton,

Mr. Law,
Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Ashton,
Mr. Millen,
Mr. Millard,
Mr. Parkes,
Mr. Watson,
Mr. James Thomson,
Mr. Dacey,
Mr. O'Reilly,
Mr. Dick,
Mr. Rigg,
Mr. Harris,
Mr. Carruthers.

Tellers,

Mr. Storey,
Mr. Thomas.

Suggested that the clause of the Draft Bill, as amended, be left out.

No. 5.

SAME DRAFT BILL.

Postponed clause 90. Until uniform duties of Customs have been imposed, there shall be shewn, Accounts to be kept,
in the books of the Treasury of the Commonwealth, in respect of each State:—

- i. The revenues collected from duties of customs and excise, and from the performance of the services and the exercise of the powers transferred from the State to the Commonwealth by this Constitution :
- ii. The expenditure of the Commonwealth in the collection of duties of customs and excise, and in the performance of the services and the exercise of the powers transferred from the State to the Commonwealth by this Constitution :
- iii. The monthly balance (if any) in favour of the State.

From the balance so found in favour of each State there shall be deducted its share of the expenditure of the Commonwealth in the exercise of the original powers given to it by this Constitution, and this share shall be in the numerical proportion of the people of the State to those of the Commonwealth as shown by the latest statistics of the Commonwealth. After such deduction the surplus shewn to be due to the State shall be paid to the State month by month. (*Read.*) Balance to be paid to States after deduction

Question put,—That the clause of the Draft Bill, as read, be agreed to.
Committee divided.

Ayes, 56.

Mr. Cook,
Mr. Sydney Smith,
Mr. Brunker,
Mr. Carruthers,
Mr. Black,
Mr. Asleek,
Mr. Sleath,
Mr. Chanter,
Mr. Smailes,
Mr. Reymond,
Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Whiddon,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Mahony,
Mr. Dugald Thomson,
Mr. Simeon Phillips,
Mr. Morgan,
Mr. Watkins,
Mr. Watson,
Mr. Dacey,

Mr. James Thomson,
Mr. Fegan,
Mr. Cann,
Mr. Molesworth,
Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Jessep,
Mr. Howarth,
Mr. Parkes,
Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. McLean,
Mr. Bavister,
Mr. Thomas,
Mr. Greene,
Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Ball,
Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Harvey,
Mr. Millard,
Mr. Willis,
Mr. Neild,

Mr. Law,
Mr. Storey,
Mr. Morton,
Mr. Millen,
Mr. Wilks,
Mr. Wood,
Mr. Gormly,
Mr. Rigg,
Mr. Cotton,
Mr. Hughes,
Mr. Ashton,
Mr. Harris,
Mr. Dick,
Mr. O'Reilly.

Tellers,

Mr. Moore,
Mr. W. H. B. Piddington.

Noes, 12.

Mr. Hurley,
Mr. Crick,
Mr. Perry,
Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Wright,
Mr. Pyers,
Mr. McFarlane,
Mr. Miller,
Mr. Barnes,
Mr. Rose.

Tellers,

Mr. Hassall,
Mr. Kelly.

Clause of the Draft Bill, as read, agreed to.

No. 6.

SAME DRAFT BILL.

Postponed clause 91. During the first three years after the establishment of the Commonwealth, Expenditure,
notwithstanding anything contained in the last section, the total yearly expenditure of the Commonwealth, in the exercise of the original powers given to it by this Constitution, shall not exceed the sum of Three Hundred Thousand Pounds; and the total yearly expenditure of the Commonwealth in the performance of the services and the exercise of the powers transferred from the States to the Commonwealth by this Constitution shall not exceed the sum of One Million Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Pounds. (*Read.*)

Question

Question put,—That the clause of the Draft Bill, as read, be agreed to.
Committee divided.

Ayes, 26.

Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Griffith,
Mr. Sydney Smith,	Mr. Barnes,
Mr. Black,	Mr. McFarlane,
Mr. Carruthers,	Mr. Hawthorne.
Mr. Affleck,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Sleath,	
Mr. Young,	Mr. Jessep,
Mr. Wright,	Mr. Watkins.
Mr. Chanter,	
Mr. Cook,	
Mr. Pyers,	
Mr. Hassall,	
Mr. Waddell,	
Mr. Miller,	
Mr. Dugald Thomson,	
Mr. Moore,	
Mr. Wood,	
Mr. F. Clarke,	
Mr. Perry,	
Mr. Molesworth,	

Noes, 38.

Mr. Dacey,	Mr. Greene,
Mr. Gormly,	Mr. Smailes,
Mr. Kelly,	Mr. Millard,
Mr. Hurley,	Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Fegan,	Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Hughes,	Mr. Harvey,
Mr. Willis,	Mr. Rigg,
Mr. Raymond,	Mr. Millen,
Mr. Bavister,	Mr. Morton,
Mr. Howarth,	Mr. Neild,
Mr. Ball,	Mr. W. H. B. Piddington,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	Mr. O'Reilly,
Mr. Robert Jones,	Mr. Dick,
Mr. Thomas,	Mr. Harris,
Mr. Storey,	Mr. Cotton,
Mr. James Thomson,	Mr. Ashton.
Mr. Cann,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Morgan,	
Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,	Mr. McLean,
Mr. Whiddon,	Mr. Watson.

Suggested that the clause of the Draft Bill, as read, be left out.

No. 7.

SAME DRAFT BILL.

Payment to each State for five years after uniform tariffs.

Postponed clause 92. During the first five years after **When** uniform duties of customs have been imposed the aggregate amount to be paid to the whole of the States for any year shall not be less than the aggregate amount returned to them during the year last before the imposition of such duties.

- I. Subject to the last paragraph, for a period of five years after the imposition of uniform duties of customs, the total amount of duties of customs and excise, collected in each year in any State, or estimated as hereinafter provided, as the case may require, shall be repaid to such State of the Commonwealth, after deducting from the amount, in proportion to the population, the share of the State in the total expenditure of the Commonwealth not provided for by other means of revenue. The repayment shall be made month by month to the several States, in, as nearly as practicable, the proper proportions :
- II. For the purpose of ascertaining the proportion of revenue from customs and excise collected in each State there shall for the first year after the imposition of uniform duties of customs be shewn in the books of the Treasury of the Commonwealth the total amount collected in each State for duties of customs and excise :
- III. During such first year the duty chargeable under the uniform tariff upon goods which are imported into any State (whether duty has or has not been actually paid thereon), and during that year exported to any other State for consumption therein, shall be deemed to have been collected in, and shall be credited to, such other State only, and all duties of excise paid in respect of any goods manufactured in any State, and so exported to another State for consumption therein, shall be deemed to have been collected in, and shall be credited to, such other State only :
- IV. For the purpose of estimating the amount of the customs and excise arising in each State during each of the four years next after such first year, an average shall be taken by dividing the total customs and excise collected in the whole Commonwealth during such first year by the total population of the Commonwealth as shewn by the latest statistics of the Commonwealth, and the result shall be deemed to be the amount contributed by each person :
- V. When the amount credited to any State during such first year is in excess of the amount of the average so ascertained, there shall in each of the next four years be deducted therefrom one-fifth part of the excess ; and where the amount so credited is less than such average, there shall be added to the amount one-fifth part of the sum by which the amount so credited is less than the average ; and the sums so ascertained shall be the estimated amounts to be repaid in each of the four years to the States respectively. **the Parliament of the Commonwealth shall raise such amount of revenue as it may deem necessary, and any surplus that may remain after providing for the Commonwealth expenditure shall be returned to the States on such basis as the Commonwealth directs.** (*Read.*)

Motion made (*Mr. Lonsdale*), to leave out from line 1 the words "During the first five years after" and insert the word "When"—instead thereof.

And the Committee continuing to sit after Midnight,—

FRIDAY, 30 JULY, 1897, A.M.

It having been agreed to suggest that the words proposed to be left out be left out.

Question put,—That the word proposed to be inserted be so inserted.

Committee

Committee divided.

Ayes, 29.

Mr. Rigg,	Mr. Macdonald,
Mr. Wilks,	Mr. Black,
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Afleck,	Mr. Watson,
Mr. Young,	Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Fegan,	Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. Lonsdale,	Mr. Bavister,
Mr. Watkins,	Mr. Moore,
Mr. Carruthers,	Mr. Gormly,
Mr. Millard,	Mr. Griffith,
Mr. Ball,	Mr. Howarth.
Mr. Jessep,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Ashton,
Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Morton.
Mr. Ewing,	
Mr. Greene,	

Noes, 13.

Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Thomas,
Mr. Hurley,
Mr. Pyers,
Mr. Wood,
Mr. Mackay,
Mr. Millen,
Mr. Dick,
Mr. Price,
Mr. Dacey,
Mr. Cotton.
<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Dugald Thomson,
Mr. Ferguson.

Suggested amendment agreed to.

No. 8.

SAME DRAFT BILL.

Same clause.

Motion made (*Mr. Lonsdale*), to leave out all the words of the clause after the word "imposed" in line 2, and insert the words "the Parliament of the Commonwealth shall raise such amount of revenue as it may deem necessary, and any surplus that may remain after providing for the Commonwealth expenditure shall be returned to the States on such basis as the Commonwealth directs."—instead thereof.

- And it having been agreed to suggest that the words proposed to be left out be left out,—
- Question put,—That the words proposed to be inserted be so inserted.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 29.

Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Thomas,
Mr. Wilks,	Mr. Ashton,
Mr. Young,	Mr. Morton,
Mr. Afleck,	Mr. Ewing,
Mr. Black,	Mr. Watson,
Mr. Haynes,	Mr. Macdonald,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Watkins,
Mr. Carruthers,	Mr. Howarth,
Mr. Lonsdale,	Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Millard,	Mr. Greene,
Mr. Ball,	Mr. Robert Jones.
Mr. Sydney Smith,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Moore,
Mr. Jessep,	Mr. Bavister.
Mr. Rigg,	
Mr. Anderson,	

Noes, 14.

Mr. Gormly,
Mr. Hurley,
Mr. Pyers,
Mr. Wood,
Mr. Mackay,
Mr. Dick,
Mr. Price,
Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Griffith,
Mr. Ferguson,
Mr. Dacey,
Mr. Millen.
<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Cotton,
Mr. Fegan.

Suggested amendment agreed to.

Clause of the Draft Bill, as amended, agreed to.

And postponed clauses 93, 95, and 96 having been dealt with,—

No. 9.

SAME DRAFT BILL.

Mr. Griffith brought up the following new clause to follow clause 79 :—

It shall not be lawful for any person holding a judicial office to hold a pecuniary interest in any financial or trading company or business of any kind. (*Read.*)

Question put,—That the new clause, as read, stand part of the Draft Bill.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 5.

Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Chanter,
Mr. Fegan,	Mr. Brunker,
Mr. Watson.	Mr. Sydney Smith,
<i>Tellers,</i>	Mr. Cook,
Mr. Thomas,	Mr. Black,
Mr. Griffith.	Mr. Afleck,
	Mr. McGowen,
	Mr. Dacey,
	Mr. Ferguson,
	Mr. Carruthers,
	Mr. Ball,
	Mr. Wilks,
	Mr. McFarlane,
	Mr. Pyers,
	Mr. Miller,

Noes, 41.

Mr. Hurley,	Mr. Jessep,
Mr. Perry,	Mr. Price,
Mr. Gormly,	Mr. Ashton,
Mr. Wood,	Mr. Dick,
Mr. Howarth,	Mr. Cotton,
Mr. Mackay,	Mr. Haynes,
Mr. Moore,	Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. Watkins,	Mr. Anderson,
Mr. Morton,	Mr. Lonsdale.
Mr. Bavister,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Greene,	Mr. Rigg,
Mr. Millard,	Mr. Ewing.
Mr. Millen,	
Mr. Young,	
Mr. Wheeler,	

Suggested new clause negatived.

And other new clauses having been dealt with,—

On motion of Mr. Carruthers, the Chairman left the Chair to report progress and ask leave to sit again on Wednesday next.

RICHD. A. ARNOLD,
Clerk Assistant.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 10.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DIVISIONS

IN

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

(EXTRACTED FROM THE MINUTES.)

TUESDAY, 3 AUGUST, 1897.

No. 1.

SMALL DEBTS RECOVERY ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Clause 1. Upon application "under section three of the Small Debts Recovery Act, the Court," if satisfied that the judgment debtor is in receipt of salary from the "Crown," "or that money is due, owing, or accruing to him from the Crown," may cause to be served upon the Crown Solicitor an order stating the amount of the judgment debt; and thereafter there may be paid from time to time on behalf of the Crown to the judgment creditor out of such salary or out of the money so due, owing, or accruing as aforesaid, any sum not being more than sufficient to satisfy the judgment debt, and such payment shall be a valid discharge to the Crown to the amount so paid, although the proceedings in respect to which the order was made may be set aside or the judgment reversed: Provided always that nothing in this Act shall be deemed to make any such payment on behalf of the Crown compulsory. (*Read.*)

Garnishee order may be served upon the Crown.

Payment to judgment creditor a valid discharge.

Payment by Crown not compulsory.

Motion made (*Mr. Crick*), to leave out from line 1 the words "under section three of the Small Debts Recovery Act, the Court."

Question put,—That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 29.

Mr. Mackay,	Mr. Anderson,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Neild,
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Barnes,
Mr. Affleck,	Mr. Greene,
Mr. Gurrard,	Mr. Bavister,
Mr. Young,	Mr. Ball,
Mr. Edden,	Mr. Sydney Smith,
Mr. Jessep,	Mr. Nicholson,
Dr. Ross,	Mr. Chapman,
Mr. Pyers,	Mr. Wright,
Mr. Goodwin,	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick.
Mr. McGowen,	
Mr. Wilks,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Hurley,	Mr. Watson,
Mr. M. T. Phillips,	Mr. Perry.
Mr. Waddell,	

Noes, 19.

Mr. McLaughlin,	Mr. Dick.
Mr. Lyne,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Crick,	
Mr. Macdonald,	Mr. Travers Jones,
Mr. Griffith,	Mr. Schey.
Mr. Thomas,	
Mr. Haynes,	
Mr. Lonsdale,	
Mr. Watkins,	
Mr. Moore,	
Mr. Cann,	
Mr. Cook,	
Mr. Fegan,	
Mr. O'Reilly,	
Mr. Hughes,	
Mr. Scath,	

Words stand.

No. 2.

SAME BILL.

Same Clause.

Motion made (*Mr. Crick*), to leave out from line 2 the word "Crown" and insert the words "Colonial Treasurer"—instead thereof.

Question put,—That the word proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 26.

Dr. Ross,	Mr. Cruickshank,
Mr. Mackay,	Mr. Barnes,
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Goodwin,
Mr. Jessep,	Mr. Pyers,
Mr. Affleck,	Mr. Hurley,
Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Bavister,
Mr. Young,	Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Chapman,	Mr. Edden,
Mr. Perry,	Mr. Schey,
Mr. Watson,	Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Wright,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Neild,	Mr. Anderson,
Mr. Wilks,	Mr. Waddell.
Mr. Ball,	

Noes 15.

Mr. McLaughlin,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Fegan,	Mr. Macdonald,
Mr. Crick,	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick.
Mr. Travers Jones,	
Mr. Thomas,	
Mr. Haynes,	
Mr. Moore,	
Mr. Lonsdale,	
Mr. Watkins,	
Mr. Sleath,	
Mr. Griffith,	
Mr. Cann,	
Mr. Cook,	

Word stands.

No. 3.

SAME BILL.

Same Clause.

Motion made (*Mr. Young*), to leave out from lines 2 and 3 the words "or that money is due, owing, or accruing to him from the Crown" and insert the words "at a rate exceeding three pounds per week"—instead thereof.

Mr. Sleath moved,—That the Chairman leave the Chair, report progress, and ask leave to sit again To-morrow,—and Question put.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 12.

Mr. Travers Jones,
Mr. Neild,
Mr. Macdonald,
Mr. Thomas,
Mr. Haynes,
Mr. McLaughlin,
Mr. Cann,
Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Griffith,
Mr. Sleath.
<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Moore,
Mr. Chapman.

Noes, 35.

Mr. Lyne,	Mr. Hurley,	Mr. Dick,
Mr. Wright,	Mr. Goodwin,	Mr. Watkins,
Mr. Perry,	Mr. Watson,	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Cruickshank,	Mr. Sydney Smith,	Mr. Ball,
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Barnes,	Mr. Schey.
Mr. Jessep,	Mr. Wilks,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Affleck,	Mr. McGowen,	Mr. Pyers,
Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Nicholson,	Mr. Waddell.
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Millard,	
Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Young,	
Mr. Kelly,	Mr. Bavister,	
Mr. Simeon Phillips,	Mr. Fegan,	
Mr. Edden,	Mr. Cook,	
Mr. Raymond,	Mr. Hughes,	

Negatived.

Notice being taken that there was not a Quorum present, the Chairman left the Chair to report that there was not a Quorum present in the Committee.

WEDNESDAY, 4 AUGUST, 1897.

No. 4.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA—DRAFT BILL.

Preamble,—

Preamble.

Whereas the people of [*here name the Colonies which have adopted the Constitution*], acknowledging Almighty God as the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, have agreed to unite in one indissoluble Federal Commonwealth under the Crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and "under the Constitution hereby established": And whereas it is expedient to make provision for the admission into the Commonwealth of other Australasian Colonies and possessions of Her Majesty: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in the present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—(*Further considered.*)

And the suggested amendment indicated having been agreed to,—

Motion made (*Mr. A. B. Piddington*), to leave out from line 4 the words "under the Constitution hereby established" and insert the words "with a Constitution similar in principle to that of the United Kingdom"—instead thereof.

Question put,—That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Preamble.

Committee

Committee divided.

Ayes, 43.

Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. Kelly,
Mr. Goodwin,	Mr. Waddell,
Mr. Molesworth,	Mr. Mackay,
Mr. Hogue,	Mr. E. M. Clark,
Dr. Ross,	Mr. F. Clarke,
Mr. Mahony,	Mr. Lyne,
Mr. Travers Jones,	Mr. MacFarlane,
Mr. Pyers,	Mr. Gillies,
Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Greene,
Mr. Archibald Campbell,	Mr. Harris,
Mr. Wheeler,	Mr. Hurley,
Mr. Barnes,	Mr. Hassall,
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Perry,
Mr. Cruickshank,	Mr. Bull,
Mr. Ewing,	Mr. Reymond,
Mr. Affleck,	Mr. Schey,
Mr. Wright,	Mr. Millard,
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Rigg,
Mr. Young,	
Mr. Gould,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Carruthers,	Mr. Wood,
Mr. Sydney Smith,	Mr. Willis.
Mr. Chanter,	

Noes, 28.

Mr. Millen,	Mr. McLean,
Mr. W. H. B. Piddington,	Mr. O'Reilly,
Mr. Smailes,	Mr. Gormly.
Mr. Dacey,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Simeon Phillips,	Mr. Storey,
Mr. T. R. Smith,	Mr. Chapman.
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	
Mr. Fegan,	
Mr. Neild,	
Mr. Ashton,	
Mr. Hughes,	
Mr. Macdonald,	
Mr. A. B. Piddington,	
Mr. Cotton,	
Mr. Lonsdale,	
Mr. Ball,	
Mr. Wilks,	
Mr. Collins,	
Mr. Ferguson,	
Mr. Watson,	
Mr. Dugald Thomson,	
Mr. Nicholson,	
Mr. Watkins,	

Words stand.

No. 5.

SAME DRAFT BILL.

Same Preamble.

Question put.—That the Preamble of the Draft Bill, as amended, be agreed to.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 62.

Mr. Chanter,	Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Hayes,	Mr. Barnes,
Mr. Carruthers,	Mr. Kelly,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Waddell,
Mr. Young,	Mr. Ball,
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Schey,
Mr. Wright,	Mr. Mackay,
Mr. Affleck,	Mr. E. M. Clark,
Mr. Ewing,	Mr. Wood,
Mr. Cruickshank,	Mr. F. Clarke,
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Lyne,
Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. Macfarlane,
Mr. Goodwin,	Mr. T. R. Smith,
Mr. Nelson,	Mr. Bavister,
Mr. Molesworth,	Mr. Gillies,
Mr. Hogue,	Mr. Collins,
Dr. Ross,	Mr. Rose,
Mr. Mahony,	Mr. Greene,
Mr. Travers Jones,	Mr. Harris,
Mr. Pyers,	Mr. Smailes,
Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Hurley,
Mr. Archibald Campbell,	Mr. Bull,

Mr. Reymond,
Mr. Millard,
Mr. Ferguson,
Mr. Rigg,
Mr. McLean,
Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. W. H. B. Piddington,
Mr. Willis,
Mr. A. B. Piddington,
Mr. Wilks,
Mr. James Thomson,
Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Gormly,
Mr. Chapman,
Mr. O'Reilly,
Mr. Watson.
<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Perry,
Mr. Hassall.

Noes, 7.

Mr. Millen,
Mr. Hughes,
Mr. Cotton,
Mr. Watkins,
Mr. Fegan.
<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Dacey,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick.

*Preamble of the Draft Bill, as amended, agreed to.*Motion made (*Mr. Carruthers*), That the Chairman leave the Chair to report to the House that the Committee had in accordance with section 26 of the Act 59 Victoria No. 4, considered the Draft Bill, and had agreed to suggest the following amendments considered desirable:—

SCHEDULE OF AMENDMENTS SUGGESTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

Page 1, Preamble, line 2. *After* "Constitution]" *insert* "acknowledging Almighty God as the Supreme Ruler of the Universe,"Page 2, clause 4, line 1. *Omit* "Unless it is otherwise expressed or implied, this Act" *insert* "The provisions of this Act relating to the Constitution of the Commonwealth"

CHAPTER I.

THE PARLIAMENT.

PART I.—GENERAL.

Page 4, clause 6, line 5. *After* "Representatives" *insert* "or the Senate."

PART II.—THE SENATE.

Page 4, clause 9, lines 1 and 2. *Omit* "six Senators for each State, and each Senator shall have one vote." *insert* "Members representing the States in proportion to their population."*But no State shall have less than three Senators."**"The Senate shall consist of not less than forty members."*Page 4, clause 9, line 4. *Omit* "as one electorate." *insert* "such State being divided into electorates, each returning one Senator."Page 5, clause 13, lines 8 to 14. *Omit*—

"For the purposes of this section the term of service of a Senator shall begin on and be reckoned from the first day of January next succeeding the day of his election, except in the case of the first election, when it shall be reckoned from the first day of January preceding the day of his election. The election to fill the places of Senators retiring by rotation shall be made in the year preceding the day on which they are to retire."

PART

PART III.—THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

- Pages 6 and 7, clause 24, line 3. *Omit* "as nearly as practicable there shall be two members of the House of Representatives for every one member of the Senate."
- "Until the Parliament otherwise provides for the method of determining the number of members for each quota, there shall be one member for each quota of the people of the State, and the quota shall, whenever necessary, be ascertained by dividing the population of the Commonwealth as shown by the latest statistics of the Commonwealth by twice the number of the members of the Senate, and the number of members to which each State is entitled shall be determined by dividing the population of the State as shown by the latest statistics of the Commonwealth by the quota."
- Insert* "and, until the Parliament of the Commonwealth otherwise provides, each State shall have one Representative for every thirty thousand of its people."
- Page 7, clause 25. *Omit* clause 25.
- Page 7, clause 29, lines 5 and 6. *Omit* "Until division each State shall be one electorate."
- Page 8, clause 30. *Add* at the end of the clause "Provided that the Parliament may not enact that any elector shall have more than one vote."

PART IV.—PROVISIONS RELATING TO BOTH HOUSES.

- Page 10, clause 45, lines 7 and 8. *Omit*—
- "II. Who is an undischarged bankrupt or insolvent, or a public defaulter: or"
- Page 11, clause 50. *Omit* clause 50.
- Page 13, clause 52, subsection xv. *After* "Banking" *insert* "excluding State Banking not extending beyond the limits of the State concerned"
- Page 13, clause 52, subsection xix. *After* "insolvency" *insert* "and lunacy"
- Page 13, clause 52, subsection xxiv. *Omit* "xxiv. Parental rights, and the custody and guardianship of infants"
- Page 13, clause 52, subsection xxviii. *After* "criminals" *insert* "and lunatics"
- Page 14, clause 54, line 1. *Omit* "having for their main object" *insert* "for"
- Page 15, clause 55, lines 3 and 4. *Omit* "the necessary supplies for the ordinary annual services of the Government," *insert* "any part of the public revenues or moneys,"
- Page 15, clause 55. *Omit* "(5) In the case of a proposed law which the Senate may not amend, the Senate may at any stage return it to the House of Representatives with a message requesting the omission or amendment of any items or provisions therein. And the House of Representatives may, if it thinks fit, make such omissions or amendments, or any of them, with or without modifications."
- Page 15, clause 56, line 1. *Omit* "Senate or the"
- Page 15, clause 56, lines 4 and 5. *Omit* "in which the proposal for appropriation originated"
- Page 15. New clause to follow clause 56:—
57. (a) If either House of Parliament shall, in two consecutive Sessions of the same Parliament, with an interval of at least six weeks between, pass and transmit to the other House for its concurrence therein any proposed law which such other House either fails to pass without amendment, within thirty days after receiving the same, in the second Session, or within such period passes, with any amendment not agreed to by the House transmitting the proposed law, the provisions of the following sections of this part shall apply.
- (b) The proposed law passed and transmitted in the second Session may include any amendments agreed to by both Houses in the first Session.
- The House in which the proposed law originated may pass a resolution that, in its opinion, the proposed law is of an urgent nature, and may transmit the resolution and the proposed law with any amendments agreed to by both Houses up to the time of transmission to the other House, with a request for further consideration.
- If within thirty days of the transmission of the proposed law as last aforesaid, or if the Session shall end before the expiration of such period, then within thirty days of the commencement of the next Session of the same Parliament, the other House shall not pass the proposed law without amendment, or with such amendment as the House transmitting the same agrees to, the House in which the proposed law originated may resolve that the same be referred to the direct determination of the people.
- If such last-mentioned resolution is passed, a vote of the electors of the Commonwealth as to whether the proposed law, as last transmitted as aforesaid, shall or shall not become law shall be taken, unless in the meantime the House to which it has been transmitted has passed the same.
- Such vote shall be taken in each State separately, and if the proposed law is affirmed by a majority of the population of the Commonwealth, it shall be presented to the Governor-General for the Royal Assent, as if it had been duly passed by both Houses of Parliament, and on receiving the Royal Assent it shall become law. If not affirmed as aforesaid the proposed law shall not become law, and shall not be again proposed for a period of at least three years.
- Page 17, clause 69, line 1. *Omit* "On" *insert* "As soon as practicable after"
- Page 18, clause 71, lines 7 and 8. *Omit* "not less than four"
- Page 18, clause 72, lines 5 and 6. *Omit* "for misbehaviour or incapacity, and then only"
- Page 18, clause 74, line 1. *After* "jurisdiction" *insert* "where the parties consent"
- Page 19, clause 75. *Omit* clause 75.
- Page 20, clause 80. *Omit* clause 80.
- Page 20, clause 82, lines 4 to 6. *Omit* "and the revenue of the Commonwealth shall, in the first instance, be applied to the payment of the expenditure of the Commonwealth"
- Page 21, clause 86. *Omit* clause 86.
- Page 21, clause 88. *Omit* clause 88.
- Page 21, clause 89. *Add* at end of clause "Provided, however, that nothing in this Act shall prevent any State from regulating the importation of alcoholic liquors or opium in accordance with the laws relating to the sale of alcoholic liquors or opium within the State."
- Page 22, clause 91. *Omit* clause 91.
- Page 22, clause 92, line 1. *Omit* "During the first five years after" *insert* "When"

Procedure on disagreement of the two Houses in certain cases.

House may pass a resolution in cases of urgency requesting further consideration of the other House.

Proposed law to be referred to the direct determination of the people.

Vote of the electors of the Commonwealth to be taken.

Proposed law when affirmed by a majority to be presented for Royal Assent.

Pages 22 and 23, clause 92, line 2. *After* "imposed" *omit* remainder of clause *insert* "the Parliament of the Commonwealth shall raise such amount of revenue as it may deem necessary; and any surplus that may remain after providing for the Commonwealth expenditure shall be returned to the States on such basis as the Commonwealth directs."

Page 23, clause 93. *Omit* clause 93.

Page 24, clause 96. *Omit* clause 96.

Page 24, clause 97. *Omit* clause 97.

Page 24, clause 98. *Omit* clause 98.

Page 26, clause 108, lines 1 and 2. *Omit* "nor make anything but gold and silver coin a legal tender in payment of debts." *insert* "unless the Parliament otherwise determines."

Page 26, clause 110, lines 1 to 3. *Omit* "make or enforce any law abridging any privilege or immunity of citizens of other States of the Commonwealth, nor shall a State"

Page 26, clause 114, line 4. *After* "States" *omit* remainder of clause.

Page 27, clause 120, line 2. *After* "natives" *insert* "and unnaturalized aliens"

CHAPTER VIII.

Amendment of the Constitution.

Pages 27 and 28, clause 121. *Omit* clause 121, *insert* new clause 121:—

121. The provisions of this Constitution shall not be altered except in the following manner:—

Any proposed law for the alteration thereof must be passed by an absolute majority of the Senate and of the House of Representatives, and shall thereupon be submitted in each State to the electors qualified to vote for the election of members of the House of Representatives, not less than two nor more than six calendar months after the passage through both Houses of the proposed law.

The vote shall be taken in such manner as The Parliament prescribes.

And if a majority of the electors voting approve the proposed law, it shall be presented to the Governor for the Queen's assent.

Legislative Assembly Chamber,
Sydney, 4th August, 1897.

WILLIAM McCOURT,
Chairman of Committees.

Question put and passed.

RICHD. A. ARNOLD,
Clerk Assistant.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 11.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DIVISIONS

IN

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

(EXTRACTED FROM THE MINUTES.)

THURSDAY, 12 AUGUST, 1897.

No. 1.

LAND AND INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL.

(Resolution.)

Mr. Bruncker moved,—That the Committee agree to the following Resolution:—

Resolved,—That it is expedient to bring in a Bill to provide that the Land and Income Tax for 1896 may be assessed, levied, and collected after that year; to validate certain assessments, charges, notices, and payments in respect of any Land Tax and Income Tax; to make better provision for the collection of the Land and Income Tax for 1896 and subsequent years, and for the assessment of incomes of companies and persons owning or chartering ships and the payment of Income Tax on the "same;" to amend section 23 of the Land and Income Tax Assessment Act of 1895; to amend the provisions for appeals; to limit the deductions from the taxable amount in respect of interest; to provide for valuation rolls; to make better provision in respect of assessment books and refunds of taxes; and for purposes incidental to the above objects.

Motion made (*Mr. Copeland*), That the Resolution be amended by the insertion in line 6 after the word "same;" of the words "to provide that the revenue derived from such Land Tax, less the cost of collection, shall be handed over to the several Municipal Councils (where such exist) for the purpose of being expended on the streets, roads, and other such public works in the districts from which such revenue is raised; to provide for the reduction of the Income Tax to three pence in the pound on the amount of all incomes chargeable thereunder, and that all incomes under three hundred pounds per annum shall be exempt from such tax;"

Question put,—That the words proposed to be inserted be so inserted.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 6.

Mr. Copeland,
Mr. Travers Jones,
Mr. Kelly,
Mr. Gillies.

Tellers,

Mr. McFarlane,
Mr. Leven.

Noes, 51.

Mr. Hurley,
Mr. Schey,
Mr. Chapman,
Mr. McGowen,
Mr. McLaughlin,
Mr. Sydney Smith,
Mr. Bruncker,
Mr. Gould,
Mr. Fegan,
Mr. Ferguson,
Mr. Mahony,
Mr. Lee,
Mr. Archibald Campbell,
Mr. Smailes,
Mr. Dugald Thomson,
Mr. Whiddon,
Mr. Young,
Mr. Watkins,

Mr. Hogue,
Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Anderson,
Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Harvey,
Mr. Black,
Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. Storey,
Mr. Rigg,
Mr. W. H. B. Piddington,
Mr. Watson,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Macdonald,
Mr. Ball,
Mr. Molesworth,
Mr. Frank Farnell,
Mr. Wheeler,

Mr. Cann,
Mr. Simeon Phillips,
Mr. Wilks,
Mr. Jessep,
Mr. Morton,
Mr. Harris,
Mr. Cotton,
Mr. Cook,
Dr. Graham,
Mr. A. B. Piddington,
Mr. O'Reilly,
Mr. Affleck,
Mr. Dick.

Tellers,

Mr. Millen,
Mr. Thomas.

Insertion of proposed words negatived.

250—

No. 2.

No. 2.

SAME BILL.

Same Resolution.

Question put,—That the Committee agree to the Resolution.

Committee divided.

	Ayes, 51.	
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Black,	Mr. A. B. Piddington,
Mr. Frank Farnell,	Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Hogue,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Archibald Campbell,	Mr. W. H. B. Piddington,
Mr. Sydney Smith,	Mr. McGowen,	Mr. Rigg,
Mr. Young,	Mr. Harris,	Mr. Harvey,
Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Cann,	Mr. Ailbeck,
Mr. Lonsdale,	Mr. Nicholson,	Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. Fegan,	Mr. Simeon Phillips,	Mr. Ball,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Wheeler,	Mr. Molesworth,
Mr. Watkins,	Mr. Law,	Mr. Dugald Thomson,
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Wilks,	Mr. Thomas.
Mr. Millen,	Mr. Chapman,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. Schey,	Mr. Jessep,
Dr. Graham,	Mr. Cotton,	Mr. Whiddon.
Mr. Smailes,	Mr. Moore,	
Mr. Storey,	Mr. Macdonald,	
Mr. Mahony,	Mr. Watson,	
Mr. Lee,	Mr. Dick,	
Mr. Ferguson,	Mr. O'Reilly,	

Noes 17.

Mr. Perry,
Mr. Hurley,
Mr. Carroll,
Mr. McLaughlin,
Mr. Levien,
Mr. McFurlane,
Mr. Copeland,
Mr. F. Clarke,
Mr. Gormly,
Mr. Chanter,
Mr. Pyers,
Mr. Kelly,
Mr. Barnes,
Mr. Travers Jones,
Mr. Morton.
<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Alexander Campbell,
Mr. Gillies.

Agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Brunker, the Chairman left the Chair to report that the Committee had come to a Resolution.

No. 3.

LICENSING ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Clause 1 having been dealt with,—

Clause 2. A married woman who has before "or after" the day when this Act takes effect obtained a protection order under the Act twenty-second Victoria number six may obtain, by grant or transfer, a publican's or colonial wine license under the Licensing Acts, 1882-1883, and any renewal of the same :

Provided that no license shall be granted or transferred under this section if the married woman has since the making of the protection order cohabited or resided with her husband :

Provided also that if the married woman after the grant or transfer to her of the license cohabits or resides with her husband, the license shall, if not transferred within three months after such cohabitation or residence, lapse at the expiration of the said three months. (*Read.*)

Motion made (*Mr. Lonsdale*), to leave out from line 1, the words "or after"

Question put,—That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.

Committee divided.

	Ayes, 26.		Noes, 4.
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Rigg,	Mr. Law,	Mr. Wilks,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Whiddon,	Mr. Morton,	Mr. Fegan.
Mr. Sydney Smith,	Mr. Mahony,	Mr. Ailbeck,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Thomas,	Mr. Frank Farnell,	Mr. Robert Jones.	Mr. Jessep,
Mr. Young,	Mr. Hawthorne,	<i>Tellers,</i>	Mr. Lonsdale.
Mr. Ferguson,	Mr. Carroll,	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	
Mr. Watkins,	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Griffith,	
Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Gillies,	Mr. Watson.	
Mr. Wheeler,	Mr. McGowen,		
Mr. Alexander Campbell,	Mr. Black,		

Words stand.

No. 4.

SAME BILL.

Same Clause.

Question put,—That the clause, as read, stand part of the Bill.

Committee divided.

	Ayes, 25.		Noes, 3.
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Alexander Campbell,	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Lonsdale.
Mr. Wilks,	Mr. McGowen,	Mr. Jessep,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Rigg,	Mr. Law,	Mr. Dick,
Mr. McLaughlin,	Mr. Whiddon,	Mr. Morton,	Mr. Fegan.
Mr. Young,	Mr. Mahony,	Mr. Robert Jones.	
Mr. Ferguson,	Mr. Neison,	<i>Tellers,</i>	
Mr. Thomas,	Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. Anderson,	
Mr. Watkins,	Mr. Black,	Mr. Wheeler.	
Mr. Carroll,	Mr. Gillies,		

Clause, as read, agreed to.

And the remaining clauses and the Title of the Bill having been dealt with,—

On motion of Mr. Gould, the Chairman left the Chair to report the Bill with amendments and an amended Title to the House.

RICHD. A. ARNOLD,
Clerk Assistant.

[3d.]

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 12.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DIVISIONS

IN

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

(EXTRACTED FROM THE MINUTES.)

THURSDAY, 19 AUGUST, 1897, A.M.

No. 1.

LAND AND INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Clauses 1 and 2 having been dealt with,—

Clause 3. Where before the day of the commencement of this Act a notice of assessment of land tax or income tax or a notice purporting to be such has been given by the Commissioners to a taxpayer, but the amount of the tax has not been paid, the assessment of the said tax and the said notice shall be deemed valid and to have been duly made and given, and the said amount shall be due and payable within *thirty* days after the day aforesaid, notwithstanding any omission to comply with or contravention of the Principal Act.

If the said amount is not paid within *sixty* days after the day of the commencement of this Act, or within any time limited in that behalf in such notice as aforesaid (whichever time is the longer) the taxpayer shall, in addition to the amount of the tax, pay by way of fine a sum equal to ten per centum of the said amount.

The amount of the tax, together with all fines accrued, may, after the expiration of the said sixty days, be recovered by the Commissioners on behalf of Her Majesty.

Provided that nothing in this section shall deprive the taxpayer of the right of appeal allowed by the Principal Act. (*Read.*)

Motion made (*Mr. Dugald Thomson*), to add to the end of the clause the words, "Provided that nothing in this section shall deprive the taxpayer of the right of appeal allowed by the Principal Act."

Question put.—That the words proposed to be added be so added.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 34.

Mr. T. R. Smith,	Mr. Rose,
Mr. O'Sullivan,	Mr. Gormly,
Dr. Ross,	Mr. Harris,
Mr. Leven,	Mr. Mackay,
Mr. Dugald Thomson,	Mr. Lee,
Mr. Affleck,	Mr. Barnes,
Mr. Dacey,	Mr. Ashton,
Mr. Price,	Mr. Howarth,
Mr. Hogue,	Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. Travers Jones,	Mr. Perry,
Mr. Nelson,	Mr. Watkins,
Mr. Hurley,	Mr. Copeland,
Mr. Pyers,	Mr. Molesworth,
Mr. Alexander Campbell,	Mr. McLaughlin.
Mr. Carroll,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. F. Clarke,	
Mr. Hassall,	Mr. Ball,
Mr. McFarlane,	Mr. Watson.

Noes, 30.

Mr. Garrard,	Mr. McLean,
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Wilke,
Mr. Lonsdale,	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Robert Jones,	Mr. Edden,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Rigg,
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Fegan,
Mr. Sydney Smith,	Mr. O'Reilly,
Mr. Young,	Mr. Dick,
Mr. Carruthers,	Mr. Millard,
Mr. Nicholson,	Mr. Hawthorne.
Mr. Jessep,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Mahony,	
Mr. Archibald Campbell,	Mr. Morgan,
Mr. Thomas,	Mr. Wheeler.
Mr. Cann,	
Mr. McGowen,	
Mr. Anderson,	
Mr. Whiddon,	

Words added.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

And the remaining clauses of the Bill having been dealt with,—

On motion of Mr. Brunker, the Chairman left the Chair to report the Bill with amendments to the House.

RICHD. A. ARNOLD,
Clerk Assistant.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 13.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DIVISIONS

IN

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

(EXTRACTED FROM THE MINUTES.)

WEDNESDAY, 25 AUGUST, 1897.

No. 1.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL OPTION BILL.
(Resolution.)

Mr. Cook moved, That the Committee agree to the following Resolution:—

Resolved,—That it is expedient to bring in a Bill to regulate “and prohibit,” in accordance with polls taken in certain areas, the sale and the keeping for sale of intoxicating liquors, and the granting and renewing of licenses for the sale of such liquors within those areas; to amend the law relating to the sale of intoxicating liquors, and the granting and renewing of licenses for the same; and for purposes of and incidental to the aforesaid objects.

Motion made (*Mr. Copeland*), to leave out the words “and prohibit,”—

And the Committee continuing to sit after Midnight,—

THURSDAY, 26 AUGUST, 1897, A.M.

Mr. Cook moved, That the Chairman leave the Chair, report progress, and ask leave to sit again To-morrow,—and Question put.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 66.

Mr. Robert Jones,	Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Law,
Mr. Sydney Smith,	Mr. Schey,	Mr. Dacey,
Mr. Young,	Mr. McLaughlin,	Mr. McFarlane,
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Copeland,	Mr. W. H. B. Piddington,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Hurley,	Mr. Mackay,
Dr. Ross,	Mr. Edden,	Mr. Millard,
Mr. Cook,	Mr. McGowen,	Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Kelly,	Mr. Nicholson,	Mr. Pyers,
Mr. Travers Jones,	Mr. James Thomson,	Mr. Levien,
Mr. Cann,	Mr. Wheeler,	Mr. Moore,
Mr. Lyne,	Mr. Gillies,	Mr. O'Sullivan,
Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. Wilks,	Mr. Cruickshank,
Mr. Ferguson,	Mr. Griffith,	Mr. Millen,
Mr. Mahony,	Mr. Hughes,	Mr. Ashton,
Mr. Hussall,	Mr. Watson,	Mr. Hogue,
Dr. Graham,	Mr. Watkins,	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Nelson,	Mr. Thomas,	Mr. Anderson,
Mr. Macdonald,	Mr. Black,	Mr. Chanter.
Mr. Whiddon,	Mr. Ball,	
Mr. Simeon Phillips,	Mr. Dick,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Archibald Campbell,	Mr. F. Clarke,	Mr. FitzGerald,
Mr. Alexander Campbell,	Mr. Rose,	Mr. O'Reilly.
Mr. Rigg,	Mr. Gormly,	

Agreed to.

Noes, 15.

Mr. Frank Farnell,
Mr. Miller,
Mr. Crick,
Mr. T. R. Smith,
Mr. Affleck,
Mr. Fegan,
Mr. Smailes,
Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. McLean,
Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Molesworth
Mr. Jessey,
Mr. Morgan.

Tellers,

Mr. Waddell,
Mr. Perry.

THURSDAY, 26 AUGUST, 1897.

No. 2.

HUNTER DISTRICT WATER AND SEWERAGE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

(Consideration of the following Message from the Legislative Council.)

MR. SPEAKER,—

The Legislative Council having had under consideration the Legislative Assembly's Message, dated 29th July, 1897, in reference to the Hunter District Water and Sewerage Act Amendment Bill,—

Insists upon its amendment in clause 21, upon the insertion of the new clauses to follow that clause, and upon its amendments in clause 23, line 15,—because the exercise of direct powers of levy and distress by the Board will be much less costly to the ratepayers, and productive of less hardship to them, than the alternative proceeding by way of summons, inasmuch as the expenses of obtaining a judgment, as a preliminary to issuing execution through the Court, are avoided, and provision is made protecting the ratepayers from the operation of these powers without prior personal service of notice upon them.

Agrees to the Assembly's amendments of new clause 24, inserting, after the word "and," in line 5, the words "at least three times at intervals of one week," and after the word "upon," in line 7, the word "final."

Insists upon its amendments inserting Schedules B and C,—because they are consequential upon its other amendments.

Legislative Council Chamber,
Sydney 11th August, 1897.

JOHN LACKEY,
President.

Motion made (*Mr. Young*), That the Committee does not insist upon its disagreements to the Legislative Council's amendments in the Bill insisted upon by the Council,—and Question put.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 27.

Mr. Reymond,	Mr. Sec,
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Harrey,
Mr. Cook,	Mr. McFarlane,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Millard.
Mr. Anderson,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Sydney Smith,	Mr. Waddell,
Mr. Young,	Mr. Kelly.
Mr. Affleck,	
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	
Mr. Fegan,	
Mr. Rigg,	
Mr. Archibald Campbell,	
Mr. Bull,	
Mr. Whiddon,	
Mr. Hogue,	
Mr. Bavister,	
Mr. Hawthorne,	
Mr. Jessep,	
Mr. Dick,	
Mr. Simeon Phillips,	
Mr. Molesworth,	

Noes, 40.

Mr. Perry,	Mr. Pyers,
Mr. Chanter,	Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Hassall,	Mr. Watkins,
Mr. Levien,	Mr. James Thomson,
Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Travers Jones,	Mr. Cann,
Mr. Griffith,	Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. Gillies,	Mr. Edden,
Mr. F. Clarke,	Mr. Neild,
Mr. Thomas,	Mr. T. R. Smith,
Mr. Hughes,	Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Dacey,	Mr. Collins,
Mr. Ferguson,	Mr. Crick,
Mr. Smailes,	Mr. Moore,
Mr. Watson,	Mr. O'Reilly,
Mr. Alexander Campbell,	Mr. Macdonald,
Mr. Hurley,	Mr. Willis.
Mr. Goodwin,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Rose,	Mr. Ball,
Mr. McElhone,	Mr. Morgan.
Mr. O'Sullivan,	

Negatived.

On motion of Mr. Young, the Chairman left the Chair to report progress, and ask leave to sit again on Wednesday, 6th October.

RICHD. A. ARNOLD,
Clerk Assistant.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 14.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DIVISIONS

IN

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

(EXTRACTED FROM THE MINUTES.)

WEDNESDAY, 6 OCTOBER, 1897.

No. 1.

PORT KEMBLA HARBOUR BILL.

(Resolution.)

Mr. Young moved,—That the Committee agree to the following Resolution:—

Resolved,—That it is expedient to bring in a Bill to amend the Country Towns Water and Sewerage Act of 1880, the Country Towns Water and Sewerage Act Extension Act of 1887, and the Country Towns and Hunter District Water Supply and Sewerage Acts Amendment Act of 1894; and for other purposes.

Question put.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 40.

Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Schey,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Ball,
Mr. Sydney Smith,	Mr. Wright,
Mr. Young,	Mr. McFarlane,
Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. Dugald Thomson,
Mr. Reid,	Mr. Simeon Phillips,
Mr. Haynes,	Mr. Anderson,
Mr. E. M. Clark,	Mr. Lee,
Mr. Lonsdale,	Mr. Mahony,
Mr. Henry Clarke,	Mr. Harris,
Mr. Ewing,	Mr. McLaughlin,
Dr. Graham,	Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Jessop,	Mr. Watson,
Mr. Archibald Campbell,	Mr. Cotton,
Mr. Bull,	Mr. Lync,
Mr. Nelson,	Mr. Gormly,
Mr. Hogue,	Mr. Carroll.
Mr. Alexander Campbell,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Harvey,	Mr. Rigg,
Mr. T. R. Smith,	Mr. Wood.
Mr. See,	

Noes, 26.

Dr. Ross,	Mr. Molesworth,
Mr. M. T. Phillips,	Mr. Ashton,
Mr. Hurley,	Mr. Bavister.
Mr. Sleath,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Perry,	Mr. H. H. Brown,
Mr. Travers Jones,	Mr. Gillies.
Mr. Copeland,	
Mr. Chanter,	
Mr. Dick,	
Mr. Davis,	
Mr. Robert Jones,	
Mr. Neild,	
Mr. Alleck,	
Mr. McLean,	
Mr. James Thomson,	
Mr. Whiddon,	
Mr. Wheeler,	
Mr. Griffith,	
Mr. Black,	
Mr. Millen,	
Mr. McGowen,	

Agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Young, the Chairman left the Chair to report that the Committee had come to a Resolution.

THURSDAY, 7 OCTOBER, 1897.

No. 2.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL OPTION BILL.

(Resolution.)

Resolved,—That it is expedient to bring in a Bill to regulate and prohibit, in accordance with polls taken in "certain areas," the sale and the keeping for sale of intoxicating liquors, and the granting and renewing of licenses for the sale of such liquors within those "areas"; to provide for compensation to owners and occupiers of hotels which may be injuriously affected by the provisions hereof; to amend the law relating to the sale of intoxicating liquors, and the granting and renewing of licenses for the same; and for purposes of and incidental to the aforesaid objects. (*Further considered*.)

On which Mr. Copeland had moved to leave out the words "and prohibit,"

Question put,—That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the resolution.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 22.

Mr. Brunker,
Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Sydney Smith,
Mr. Cook,
Mr. Garrard,
Mr. Young,
Mr. Gould,
Mr. Whiddon,
Mr. Mahony,
Mr. Archibald Campbell,
Mr. McLean,
Mr. Hogue,
Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Macdonald,
Mr. Dick,
Mr. Law,
Mr. Miller,
Mr. Cotton,
Mr. Ashton,
Mr. Neild.

Tellers,

Mr. Affleck,
Mr. Watson.

Noes, 46.

Mr. Willis,
Mr. Mackay,
Mr. Hayes,
Mr. Schey,
Mr. Copeland,
Mr. Rose,
Mr. Perry,
Mr. O'Sullivan,
Mr. Chapman,
Mr. McKelhone,
Mr. Price,
Mr. Dacey,
Mr. Lyne,
Mr. Barnes,
Dr. Ross,
Mr. M. T. Phillips,
Mr. Carroll,
Mr. F. Clarke,
Mr. Hurley,
Mr. Travers Jones,
Mr. Gormly,
Mr. McFarlane,
Mr. Henry Clarke,
Mr. Waddell,
Mr. Reid,
Mr. Haynes,
Mr. Lec,
Mr. Gillics,
Mr. Griffith,
Mr. E. M. Clark,
Mr. Collins,
Mr. Ball,
Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Wood,
Mr. Kelly,
Mr. Davis,
Dr. Graham,
Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Anderson,
Mr. Simeon Phillips,
Mr. Millen,
Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Knox.

Tellers,

Mr. Morgan,
Mr. Sleath.

Words left out.

No. 3.

SAME RESOLUTION.

Motion made (*Mr. Watson*), to leave out the words "certain areas," and insert the words "the Colony as one electorate,"—instead thereof.

Question put,—That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the resolution.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 44.

Mr. Garrard,
Mr. Gould,
Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Brunker,
Mr. Young,
Mr. Wilks,
Mr. Cook,
Mr. Hughes,
Mr. Ball,
Mr. Rigg,
Mr. Neild,
Mr. Reid,
Mr. Sydney Smith,
Mr. Archibald Campbell,
Mr. Jessep,
Mr. Mahony,
Mr. McLean,
Mr. Whiddon,
Mr. Hogue,
Mr. Chapman,
Mr. Perry,
Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. Morgan,
Mr. Lee,
Mr. McMillan,
Mr. Molesworth,
Mr. E. M. Clark,
Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Bull,
Mr. Simeon Phillips,
Mr. Harris,
Mr. Harvey,
Mr. Howarth,
Mr. Cotton,
Mr. Law,
Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Bavister,
Mr. Wood,
Mr. Dick,
Mr. Ashton,
Mr. Willis,
Mr. O'Reilly.

Tellers,

Mr. W. H. B. Piddington,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick.

Noes, 30.

Mr. Lync,
Mr. Hurley,
Mr. McLaughlin,
Mr. See,
Mr. Copeland,
Mr. Rose,
Mr. Price,
Mr. Anderson,
Mr. Raymond,
Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Nelson,
Mr. Barnes,
Mr. Henry Clarke,
Mr. McFarlane,
Mr. Kelly,
Mr. Gillies,
Mr. Hayes,
Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Griffith,
Mr. Gormly,
Mr. Millard,
Mr. Millen,
Mr. Sleath,
Mr. Dacey,
Mr. H. H. Brown,
Mr. Davis,
Mr. Chanter,
Mr. Waddell.

Tellers,

Mr. O'Sullivan,
Mr. Watson.

Words stand.

No. 4.

SAME RESOLUTION.

Motion made (*Mr. Copeland*), to insert after the word "areas;" second occurring, the words "to provide for 'compensation' to owners and occupiers of hotels which may be injuriously affected by the provisions hereof;"

Whereupon

Whereupon Mr. Ashton moved, to amend the words proposed to be inserted by leaving out the word "compensation" and inserting the words "equitable time notice"—instead thereof.

Question put,—That the word proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed amendment.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 50.

Mr. Morgan,	Mr. Haynes,
Mr. See,	Mr. H. H. Brown,
Mr. Chanter,	Mr. Price,
Mr. Selvey,	Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. Copeland,	Mr. E. M. Clark,
Mr. Travers Jones,	Mr. McLaughlin,
Mr. Gillies,	Mr. F. Clarke,
Mr. Rigg,	Mr. Gormly,
Mr. Neild,	Mr. Barnes,
Mr. Lyne,	Mr. Millen,
Mr. Kelly,	Mr. Smailes,
Mr. Fitzgerald,	Mr. Chapman,
Mr. Bull,	Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Nelson,	Mr. Davis,
Mr. Hurley,	Mr. Millard,
Mr. McFarlane,	Mr. Wood,
Mr. Hayes,	Mr. Collins,
Dr. Graham,	Mr. Lee,
Mr. Wright,	Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Reid,	Mr. Willis,
Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Watson,
Mr. Simeon Phillips,	Mr. Griffith.
Mr. Rose,	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. O'Sullivan,	Mr. W. H. B. Piddington,
Mr. Mackay,	Mr. Waddell.
Mr. Dacey,	

Word stands.

Noes, 30.

Mr. Brunner,	Mr. Morton,
Mr. Hogue,	Mr. Hawthorne.
Mr. Lonsdale,	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Jessep,
Mr. Sydney Smith,	Mr. Affleck.
Mr. Garrard,	
Mr. Gould,	
Mr. Ashton,	
Mr. McLean,	
Mr. Dugald Thomson,	
Mr. Macdonald,	
Mr. Bavister,	
Mr. Ball,	
Mr. Storey,	
Mr. McGowen,	
Mr. Wilks,	
Mr. Molesworth,	
Mr. Miller,	
Mr. Dick,	
Mr. Wheeler,	
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	
Mr. Law,	
Mr. Mahony,	
Mr. Archibald Campbell,	
Mr. Black,	
Mr. Harvey,	

No. 5.

SAME RESOLUTION.

Question put,—That the words proposed to be inserted in the resolution be so inserted.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 49.

Mr. Selvey,	Mr. Bull,
Mr. See,	Mr. McFarlane,
Mr. Chanter,	Mr. Wright,
Mr. Copeland,	Mr. F. Clarke,
Mr. H. H. Brown,	Mr. Mackay,
Mr. Travers Jones,	Mr. O'Sullivan,
Mr. Lyne,	Mr. Rigg,
Mr. Miller,	Mr. Haynes,
Mr. Price,	Mr. Watson,
Mr. Waddell,	Mr. Reid,
Mr. Simeon Phillips,	Mr. Hayes,
Mr. Willis,	Mr. Nicholson,
Dr. Graham,	Mr. Gormly,
Mr. Morgan,	Mr. Lee,
Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Davis,
Mr. Nelson,	Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Hurley,	Mr. Wood,
Mr. Kelly,	Mr. Collins,
Mr. Gillies,	Mr. Millard,
Mr. Perry,	Mr. McLaughlin.
Mr. Dacey,	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. Neild,	Mr. Millen,
Mr. Barnes,	Mr. Chapman.
Mr. Bull,	
Mr. Robert Jones,	
Mr. Wheeler,	
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	

Words inserted.

Resolution, as amended, agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Cook, the Chairman left the Chair to report that the Committee had come to a resolution.

RICHD. A. ARNOLD,
Clerk Assistant.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 15.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DIVISIONS

IN

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

(EXTRACTED FROM THE MINUTES.)

TUESDAY, 12 OCTOBER, 1897.

No. 1.

USURY LIMITATION BILL (*Proceedings resumed from Session, 1896, under Standing Order, No. 295*).

Clause 1. ~~That from and after~~ the passing of this Act it shall not be lawful for any person to ask, demand, levy, distrain, sue for, recover, or receive from any person by way of interest, bonus, or other charge for any loan of money or cheque, order, or other instrument in lieu of or whereby money may be procured, or on the security of any bond, bill, promissory note, or other security of a like nature, or any bill of sale, assignment, or other instrument charging personal property or effects any greater amount than after the rate of fifteen pounds per centum per annum. **Provided that nothing in this Act shall extend to or be construed so as to prejudice or affect any business carried on by a licensed pawnbroker, under the Act thirteen Victoria number thirty-seven.** (*Further considered*).

Provision for regulating the rate of interest persons lending money are entitled.

The clause having, in the previous Session, been amended as indicated in line 1,—

And the clause having been further amended as indicated,—

Question put,—That the clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 9.
Mr. Price,
Mr. McFarlane,
Mr. Wright,
Mr. Hughes,
Mr. Watson,
Mr. Lyne,
Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick.
Tellers,
Mr. Rose,
Mr. Kelly.

Mr. Chapman,
Mr. Willis,
Mr. Brunker,
Mr. Bull,
Mr. Perry,
Mr. Wood,
Mr. Jessep,
Mr. Moore,
Mr. Hurley,
Mr. Prers,
Mr. Dugald Thomson,
Mr. Young,
Mr. Carruthers,
Mr. Macdonald,

Noes, 38.
Mr. McLean,
Mr. Wilks,
Mr. Garrard,
Mr. Anderson,
Mr. Haynes,
Mr. Colton,
Mr. Molesworth,
Mr. Reid,
Mr. Bavister,
Mr. Edden,
Mr. Howarth,
Mr. Cook,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Nicholson,

Mr. Griffith,
Mr. Dick,
Mr. Neild,
Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Dacey,
Mr. Hogue,
Mr. Carroll.
Tellers,
Mr. Affleck,
Mr. Lee.

Negatived.

On motion of Mr. McFarlane, the Chairman left the Chair.

No. 2.

AUSTRALASIAN FEDERATION ENABLING ACT AMENDMENT BILL:—

Clause 1 having been dealt with,—

Clause 2. That the thirty-fifth clause of the Australasian Federation Enabling Act of 1895 shall be amended by the omission of the words "than fifty thousand" and in lieu thereof the insertion of the words "an-absolute-majority-of-the-Electors-of-New-South-Wales than eighty thousand." (*Read*).

Amendment of clause 35 of Principal Act.

The clause having been amended by leaving out the words as indicated,—

Motion

Motion made (*Mr. Neild*), to add instead of the words left out the words "than 'eighty' thousand." Whereupon Mr. Chapman moved that the proposed words be amended by leaving out the word "eighty" and inserting the word "seventy" instead thereof.

Question put,—That the word proposed to be left out stand part of the amendment.
Committee divided.

Ayes, 51.			Noes, 10.
Sir Joseph Abbott,	Mr. Ball,	Mr. Edden,	Mr. Millen,
Mr. Lyne,	Mr. Neild,	Mr. Wilks,	Mr. Waddell,
Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. Price,	Mr. Wood,	Mr. Kelly,
Mr. Perry,	Mr. McLaughlin,	Mr. Greene,	Mr. Ashton,
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Haynes,	Mr. Nicholson,	Mr. Molesworth,
Mr. Hurley,	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Griffith,	Mr. Mahony,
Mr. Jessep,	Mr. Thomas Brown,	Mr. Morgan,	Mr. Dugald Thomson,
Dr. Graham,	Mr. Wheeler,	Mr. Hogue,	Mr. Millard.
Mr. McLean,	Mr. Cotton,	Mr. Willis,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Lonsdale,	Mr. Bavister,	Mr. Law,	Mr. Chapman,
Mr. Dacey,	Mr. Robert Jones,	Mr. Schey,	Mr. Rose.
Mr. See,	Mr. McGowen,	Mr. Lee,	
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Afleck,	Mr. McFarlane.	
Mr. Hayes,	Mr. Piers,	<i>Tellers,</i>	
Mr. Young,	Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Watson,	
Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Carroll,	Mr. Moore.	
Mr. Reid,	Mr. Whiddon.		
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Macdonald,		

Word stands.

No. 3.

SAME BILL.

Same clause.

Question put,—That the words proposed to be added to the clause be so added.
Committee divided.

Ayes, 50.			Noes, 10.
Mr. See,	Mr. McLean,	Mr. Edden,	Mr. Millen,
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Lonsdale,	Mr. Wilks,	Mr. Rose,
Mr. Hayes,	Mr. Dacey,	Mr. Wood,	Mr. Chapman,
Mr. Young,	Mr. McLaughlin,	Mr. Greene,	Mr. Waddell,
Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Haynes,	Mr. Nicholson,	Mr. Kelly,
Mr. Reid,	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Griffith,	Mr. Millard,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Thomas Brown,	Mr. Law,	Mr. Mahony,
Mr. Ball,	Mr. Wheeler,	Mr. Willis,	Mr. Dugald Thomson.
Mr. Neild,	Mr. Cotton,	Mr. Hogue,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Watson,	Mr. Bavister,	Mr. Morgan,	Mr. Ashton,
Mr. Moore,	Mr. Robert Jones,	Mr. Schey,	Mr. Molesworth.
Mr. Price,	Mr. McGowen,	Mr. McFarlane.	
Mr. Lyne,	Mr. Afleck,	<i>Tellers,</i>	
Mr. Perry,	Mr. Piers,	Mr. Lee,	
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Hawthorne.	
Mr. Hurley,	Mr. Carroll,		
Mr. Jessep,	Mr. Whiddon,		
Dr. Graham,	Mr. Macdonald,		

Words added.

No. 4.

SAME BILL.

Same clause.

Question put,—That the clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill.
Committee divided.

Ayes, 43.			Noes, 6.
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Jessep,	Mr. Carroll,	Mr. Waddell,
Mr. Hayes,	Dr. Graham,	Mr. Macdonald,	Mr. Kelly,
Mr. Young,	Mr. McLean,	Mr. Edden,	Mr. Millard,
Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Lonsdale,	Mr. Wilks,	Mr. Dugald Thomson.
Mr. Reid,	Mr. Dacey,	Mr. Wood,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Gould,	Mr. McLaughlin,	Mr. Watson,	Mr. Chapman,
Mr. Ball,	Mr. Haynes,	Mr. Nicholson,	Mr. Molesworth.
Mr. Neild,	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Law,	
Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. Thomas Brown,	Mr. Morgan,	
Mr. Price,	Mr. Wheeler,	Mr. Schey,	
Mr. Lee,	Mr. Robert Jones,	Mr. McFarlane.	
Mr. Lyne,	Mr. McGowen,	<i>Tellers,</i>	
Mr. Perry,	Mr. Afleck,	Mr. Cotton,	
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Piers,	Mr. Bavister.	
Mr. Hurley,	Mr. Anderson,		

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

And the Preamble having been dealt with,—

On motion of Mr. Neild, the Chairman left the Chair to report the Bill with an amendment to the House.

RICHD. A. ARNOLD,
Clerk Assistant.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 16.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DIVISIONS

IN

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

(EXTRACTED FROM THE MINUTES.)

WEDNESDAY, 10 NOVEMBER, 1897.

No. 1.

SUPPLY—ESTIMATES FOR 1897-8.

The Estimates for Supplement to Schedule B, and the several Votes under Executive and Legislative having been dealt with,—

Chief Secretary.

Question proposed,—That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding £7,446 for Chief Secretary.

Motion made (*Mr. Miller*),—That the item, "Principal Under Secretary, £1,010," be reduced by £110,—and Question put.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 8.

Mr. Chapman,
Mr. Edden,
Mr. Ferguson,
Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Watkins,
Mr. James Thomson.

Tellers,

Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. Miller.

Noes, 47.

Mr. See,	Mr. Perry,	Mr. Neild,
Mr. Lyne,	Mr. F. Clarke,	Mr. Sleath,
Mr. Wright,	Mr. Wood,	Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Carroll,	Mr. Alexander Campbell,	Mr. Morgan,
Mr. Chanter,	Mr. Gould,	Mr. Dacey,
Mr. Price,	Mr. Wheeler,	Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Travers Jones,	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Ashton,
Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Mackay,	Mr. Newman,
Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Thomas,	Mr. Dugald Thomson,
Mr. Aspleck,	Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Millard,
Mr. Griffith,	Mr. Cook,	Mr. Macdonald.
Mr. Brunner,	Mr. Dick,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Henry Clarke,	Mr. Lee,	Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. Ewing,	Mr. Young,	Mr. Rigg.
Mr. Kelly,	Dr. Graham,	
Mr. Barnes,	Mr. Reid,	
Mr. Pyers,	Mr. Jessep,	

Reduction negatived.

No. 2.

Same Estimate.

Motion made (*Mr. Miller*),—That the item, "Chief Clerk, £600," be reduced by £50,—and

Question put.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 5.

Mr. Miller,
Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Watkins.

Tellers,

Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. Edden.

Noes, 48.

Mr. Lyne,	Mr. Alexander Campbell,	Mr. Cook,
Mr. Wright,	Mr. Wood,	Mr. Dick,
Mr. Carroll,	Mr. Mackay,	Mr. Lee,
Mr. Chanter,	Mr. Gould,	Mr. Young,
Mr. Price,	Mr. Dacey,	Mr. Morgan,
Mr. Travers Jones,	Mr. Robert Jones,	Mr. Rigg,
Mr. Aspleck,	Mr. Sleath,	Mr. Ferguson,
Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Ashton,
Mr. Brunner,	Mr. Reid,	Mr. Newman,
Mr. Griffith,	Mr. Jessep,	Mr. Bluck,
Mr. See,	Mr. Neild,	Mr. Dugald Thomson,
Mr. Henry Clarke,	Mr. Lonsdale,	Mr. Millard.
Mr. Kelly,	Mr. Wheeler,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Barnes,	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Macdonald,
Mr. Pyers,	Mr. Ewing,	Mr. Hawthorne.
Mr. Perry,	Mr. Thomas,	
Mr. F. Clarke,	Mr. Garrard,	

*Reduction negatived.**Estimate (Chief Secretary, £7,446) agreed to.*

386—A.

No. 3.

No. 3.

Auditor-General.

Question proposed,—That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding £15,315 for Auditor-General.

And the Committee continuing to sit after Midnight,—

THURSDAY, 11 NOVEMBER, 1897, A.M.

Motion made (*Mr. Miller*),—That the item, "Assistant Auditor-General and Chief Inspector of Public Accounts, £700," be reduced by £100,—and Question put.
Committee divided.

Ayes, 13.

Mr. O'Sullivan,
Mr. Afleck,
Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Miller,
Mr. Sleath,
Mr. Edden,
Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Watkins,
Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. Ferguson,
Mr. James Thomson.

Tellers,

Mr. Macdonald,
Mr. Thomas.

Noes, 33.

Mr. Price,
Mr. Wright,
Mr. Cook,
Mr. Lync,
Mr. See,
Mr. Chanter,
Mr. Garrard,
Mr. Brunker,
Mr. Alexander Campbell,
Mr. Henry Clarke,
Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Barnes,
Mr. Travers Jones,
Mr. Pyers,
Mr. F. Clarke,
Mr. Gould,
Mr. Neild,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Newman,
Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Dugald Thomson,
Mr. Reid,
Mr. Dick,
Mr. Black,
Mr. Jessop,
Mr. Dacey,
Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Rigg,
Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Anderson.

Tellers,

Mr. Mackay,
Mr. Griffith.

Reduction negatived.

Estimate (Auditor-General, £15,315) agreed to.

And the Estimates for Vice-President of the Executive Council and Representative of the Government in the Legislative Council, and Aborigines Protection Board having been dealt with,—

No. 4.

Police.

Question proposed,—That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding £333,209 for Police.

Motion made (*Mr. Miller*),—That the item, "Inspector-General, £920," be reduced by £100,—and Question put.
Committee divided.

Ayes, 9.

Mr. Thomas,
Mr. Miller,
Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. Edden,
Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Watkins,
Mr. James Thomson.

Tellers,

Mr. Sleath,
Mr. Ferguson.

Mr. Chanter,
Mr. Travers Jones,
Mr. Mackay,
Mr. O'Sullivan,
Mr. Wright,
Mr. Griffith,
Mr. Brunker,
Mr. Rigg,
Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Barnes,
Mr. Perry,
Mr. Pyers,
Mr. F. Clarke,

Noes, 36.

Mr. Alexander Campbell,
Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Kelly,
Mr. Gould,
Mr. Garrard,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Cook,
Mr. Newman,
Mr. Black,
Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Dugald Thomson,
Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Macdonald,
Mr. Reid,
Mr. Jessop,
Mr. Young,
Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Neild,
Mr. Anderson.

Tellers,

Mr. Afleck,
Mr. Price.
Mr. Dacey,

Reduction negatived.

Estimate (Police, £333,209) agreed to.

No. 5.

Lunacy.

Question proposed,—That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding £97,061 for Lunacy.

Motion made (*Mr. Miller*),—That the item, "Inspector-General of Insane, £974," be reduced by £100,—and Question put.
Committee divided.

Ayes, 12.

Mr. Sleath,
Mr. Griffith,
Mr. Thomas,
Mr. Miller,
Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Ferguson,
Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Edden,
Mr. Watkins.

Tellers,

Mr. Afleck,
Mr. Macdonald.

Noes, 30.

Mr. Chanter,
Mr. Wright,
Mr. Rigg,
Mr. Mackay,
Mr. Price,
Mr. Anderson,
Mr. Brunker,
Mr. Cook,
Mr. Gould,
Mr. Garrard,
Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Travers Jones,
Mr. Barnes,
Mr. Perry,
Mr. Kelly,
Mr. Pyers,
Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Dacey,
Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. Reid,
Mr. Jessop,
Mr. Neild,
Mr. Newman,
Mr. Black,
Mr. Dugald Thomson,
Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick.

Tellers,

Mr. Alexander Campbell,
Mr. F. Clarke.

Reduction negatived.

No. 6.

No. 6.

Same Estimate.

Motion made (*Mr. Affleck*),—That the item, "Church of England Chaplains at £50, Gladesville, Callan Park, Parramatta, and Rydalmere, £200," be omitted,—and Question put.
Committee divided.

Ayes, 9.		Noes, 34.	
Mr. Macdonald,	Mr. Neild,	Mr. Travers Jones,	Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Affleck,	Mr. Kelly,	Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Dugald Thomson,
Mr. Sleath,	Mr. Price,	Mr. Carroll,	Mr. Dacey,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Wright,	Mr. Pyers,	Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. Griffith,	Mr. Mackay,	Mr. F. Clarke,	Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Watkins,	Mr. Miller,	Mr. Black,	Mr. Rigg.
Mr. Edden.	Mr. O'Sullivan,	Mr. Newman,	<i>Tellers,</i>
<i>Tellers,</i>	Mr. Perry,	Mr. Robert Jones,	
Mr. Lonsdale,	Mr. Alexander Campbell,	Mr. Reid,	Mr. Thomas,
Mr. Ferguson.	Mr. Gould,	Mr. Jessep,	Mr. Wheeler.
	Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Hawthorne,	
	Mr. Chanter,	Mr. Garrard,	
	Mr. Barnes,	Mr. Cook,	

Omission of item negatived.

Estimate (Lunacy, £97,061) agreed to.

And the Estimates Master in Lunacy, Medical Board, Medical Adviser to the Government, Government Statistician, and Registrar of Friendly Societies and Trade Unions, having been dealt with,—

No. 7.

Agent-General for the Colony.

Question proposed,—That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding £5,664 for Agent-General for the Colony.

Motion made (*Mr. Miller*),—That the item "Agent-General, to represent the Colony resident in London, £1,820," be reduced by £320.

Mr. Newman moved,—That the Honourable Member for Gloucester, Mr. Price, be not further heard,—and Question put.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 17.		Noes, 18.	
Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Morgan,	Mr. Chanter,	Mr. Barnes,
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Reid,	Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. Kelly,	Mr. Edden,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Rigg,	Mr. Price,	Mr. Travers Jones,
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Dacey.	Mr. Miller,	Mr. Pyers,
Mr. Newman,	<i>Tellers,</i>	Mr. O'Sullivan,	Mr. McGowen.
Mr. Lonsdale,		Mr. Sleath,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Robert Jones,	Mr. Thomas,	Mr. Griffith,	
Mr. Wheeler,	Mr. Jessep.	Mr. Watkins,	Mr. Perry,
Mr. Dugald Thomson,		Mr. Ferguson,	Mr. F. Clarke.

Negatived.

No. 8.

Same Estimate.

Question put,—That the item, "Agent-General, to represent the Colony resident in London, £1,820," be reduced by £320,—and Question put.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 10.		Noes 26.	
Mr. Price,	Mr. Chanter,	Mr. Robert Jones,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Kelly,	Mr. Dugald Thomson,	
Mr. Edden,	Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Morgan,	Mr. F. Clarke,
Mr. Perry,	Mr. Barnes,	Mr. McGowen,	Mr. Dacey.
Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Travers Jones,	Mr. Rigg,	
Mr. Watkins,	Mr. Carroll,	Mr. Jessep,	
Mr. Thomas,	Mr. Pyers,	Mr. Newman,	
Mr. Ferguson.	Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Lonsdale,	
<i>Tellers,</i>	Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. Cook,	
Mr. Sleath,	Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Neild,	
Mr. Miller.	Mr. Wheeler,	Mr. Reid,	
	Mr. Thomas Brown,	Mr. Griffith.	

Reduction negatived.

No. 9.

Same Estimate.

Motion made (*Mr. Sleath*),—That the item, "Secretary, £830" be reduced by £330,—and Question put.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 11.		Noes, 24.	
Mr. Miller,	Mr. F. Clarke,	Mr. Cook,	
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Chanter,	Mr. Lonsdale,	
Mr. Sleath,	Mr. Kelly,	Mr. Morgan,	
Mr. Griffith,	Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Jessep,	
Mr. Watkins,	Mr. Barnes,	Mr. Newman,	
Mr. Ferguson,	Mr. Travers Jones,	Mr. Dugald Thomson,	
Mr. Dacey,	Mr. Carroll,	Mr. Rigg,	
Mr. Thomas,	Mr. Pyers,	Mr. Robert Jones,	
Mr. Thomas Brown.	Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Wheeler.	
<i>Tellers,</i>	Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,	<i>Tellers,</i>	
Mr. Edden,	Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Hawthorne,	
Mr. Price.	Mr. Reid,	Mr. O'Sullivan.	
	Mr. Neild,		

Reduction negatived.

No. 10.

No. 10.

Same Estimate.

Motion made (*Mr. Miller*),—To reduce the item, "Secretary £830," by £130,—and Question put.
Committee divided.

Ayes, 12.

Mr. Dacey,
Mr. Miller,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Price,
Mr. Griffith,
Mr. Watkins,
Mr. Ferguson,
Mr. Thomas,
Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. McGowen.

Tellers,

Mr. Edden,
Mr. Sleath.

Noes, 26.

Mr. F. Clarke,	Mr. Reid,
Mr. Chanter,	Mr. Neild,
Mr. Kelly,	Mr. Cook,
Mr. Perry,	Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. O'Sullivan,	Mr. Morgan,
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Barnes,	Mr. Dugald Thomson,
Mr. Mackay,	Mr. Newman,
Mr. Travers Jones,	Mr. Rigg,
Mr. Carroll,	Mr. Robert Jones.
Mr. Pyers,	
Mr. Garrard,	Tellers,
Mr. Jessop,	Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick.

*Reduction negatived.**Estimate (Agent-General for the Colony, £5,664) agreed to.*

And the Estimates for Charitable Institutions, Fisheries Commission, Fire Brigades, Re-organization of the Public Service, Botanic Gardens, Nursery Garden, Campbelltown, Government Domains, Garden Palace Grounds, Centennial Park, Electoral Office, Military Secretary (*postponed*), Permanent and Volunteer Military Forces (*postponed*), Naval Forces, and Charitable Allowances having been dealt with,—

No. 11.

Miscellaneous Services (Chief Secretary).

Question proposed,—That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding £69,588 for Miscellaneous Services.

Motion made (*Mr. Perry*),—To omit item, "For Steam Service with and among the Pacific Islands, £1,200,"—and Question put.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 11.

Mr. Sleath,
Mr. Kelly,
Mr. Miller,
Mr. Pyers,
Mr. Mackay,
Mr. F. Clarke,
Mr. Edden,
Mr. Dacey,
Mr. Ferguson.

Tellers,

Mr. Griffith,
Mr. Perry.

Noes, 25.

Mr. Barnes,	Mr. Reid,
Mr. Chanter,	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Price,	Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. Thomas Brown,	Mr. Dick,
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Garrard,	Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Carroll,	Mr. Rigg,
Mr. Travers Jones,	Mr. Dugald Thomson.
Mr. Gould,	
Mr. Wheeler,	Tellers,
Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Jessop,
Mr. Watkins,	Mr. Thomas.
Mr. Young,	

*Omission of item negatived.**Estimate (Miscellaneous Services, £69,588) agreed to.*

No. 12.

Treasury.

Question proposed,—That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding £19,462 for Treasury.

Motion made (*Mr. Wheeler*),—To reduce the item, "Cashier and Senior Clerk, £400," by £25,—and Question put.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 7.

Mr. Miller,
Mr. Aflock,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Sleath,
Mr. Ferguson.

Tellers,

Mr. Edden,
Mr. Wheeler.

Noes, 14.

Mr. Cook,	Mr. Jessop,
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. McGowen.
Mr. Young,	
Mr. Reid,	Tellers,
Mr. Thomas,	Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. Travers Jones,	Mr. Rigg.
Mr. Hawthorne,	
Mr. Garrard,	

Reduction negatived.

No. 13.

No. 13.

Same Estimate.

Motion made (*Mr. Wheeler*),—To reduce the item, "Registrar of Conditional Purchases, £380," by £30,—and Question put.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 12.

Mr. Sleath,
Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Miller,
Mr. Ferguson,
Mr. Thomas,
Mr. Edden,
Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Chapman,
Mr. Chanter,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick.

Tellers,

Mr. Afleck,
Mr. Wheeler.

Noes, 20.

Mr. Carroll,	Mr. Rigg,
Mr. McLaughlin,	Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Dick,
Mr. Reid,	Mr. Fegan.
Mr. Brunker,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Anderson,
Mr. Pyers,	Mr. Haynes.
Mr. Travers Jones,	
Mr. Kelly,	
Mr. F. Clarke,	
Mr. Jessep,	
Mr. Hawthorne,	
Mr. Gould,	
Mr. Young,	

*Reduction negatived.**Estimate (Treasury, £19,462,) agreed to.*

No. 14.

Stamp Duties.

Question proposed,—That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding £4,471 for Stamp Duties.

Motion made (*Mr. Miller*),—To reduce the item, "Commissioner of Taxation and Stamp Duties, £800," by £100,—and Question put.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 4.

Mr. Edden,
Mr. Wheeler.

Tellers.

Mr. Miller,
Mr. Chapman.

Noes, 42.

Mr. Carroll,	Mr. F. Clarke,	Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. McLaughlin,	Mr. Garrard,	Mr. H. H. Brown,
Mr. Perry,	Mr. Thomas Brown,	Mr. Dick,
Mr. Chanter,	Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. Reid,	Mr. Thomas,	Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Watkins,	Mr. Rigg,
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Gould,	Mr. Black,
Mr. Macdonald,	Mr. Molesworth,	Mr. Jessep,
Mr. Copland,	Mr. Lonsdale,	Mr. E. M. Clark,
Dr. Ross,	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Hawthorne.
Mr. Pyers,	Mr. Cook,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. McFarlane,	Mr. Sleath,	Mr. Fegan,
Mr. Kelly,	Mr. Waddell,	Mr. Ferguson.
Mr. Mackay,	Mr. Young,	
Mr. Rose,	Mr. Afleck,	

*Reduction negatived.**Estimate (Stamp Duties, £4,471) agreed to.*

And the Estimates for Land and Income Tax having been dealt with.

No. 15.

Customs.

Question proposed,—That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding £53,084 for Customs.

Motion made (*Mr. Wheeler*),—To reduce the item, "Inspector and Warehousekeeper, £500," by £25,—and Question put.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 11.

Mr. Dacey,
Mr. Watkins,
Mr. Sleath,
Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Edden,
Mr. Chanter,
Mr. Wood,
Mr. Miller,
Mr. McGowen.

Tellers,

Mr. Macdonald,
Mr. Ferguson.

Noes, 31.

Mr. Hassall,	Mr. Afleck,
Mr. Carruthers,	Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Kelly,	Mr. H. H. Brown,
Mr. Fegan,	Mr. Rose,
Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Mackay,	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Dr. Ross,	Mr. Bull,
Mr. Barnes,	Mr. Dick,
Mr. F. Clarke,	Mr. Rigg,
Mr. Travers Jones,	Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Waddell,	Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. Reid,	Mr. Cook.
Mr. Black,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Morgan,	Mr. Molesworth,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. McLean.
Mr. Ashton,	
Mr. Thomas,	

*Reduction negatived.**Estimate (Customs, £53,084) agreed to.*

And the Estimates for Gold Receivers, Gold and Escort, Government Printer's Department, Stores and Stationery, and Mercantile Explosives Department having been dealt with,—

No. 16.

Board of Health.

Question proposed,—That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding £26,408 for Board of Health.

Motion made (*Mr. Affleck*),—To omit the item, "Fees to E. Fosbery, as Member of Board of Health, for period from July, 1896, to 30 June, 1897, £100,"—and Question put.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 16.

Mr. Edden,
Mr. Waddell,
Mr. Griffith,
Mr. Sleath,
Mr. Thomas,
Mr. James Thomson,
Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Ferguson,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Miller,
Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. Cann,
Mr. McGowan.

Tellers,

Mr. Affleck,
Mr. Macdonald.

Noes, 39.

Mr. Archibald Campbell,	Mr. Fegan,
Mr. Hurley,	Mr. Mahony,
Mr. See,	Mr. Dick,
Mr. Lyne,	Mr. Cook,
Mr. Wood,	Mr. Gould,
Mr. Chanter,	Mr. Rose,
Mr. Hayes,	Mr. Howarth,
Mr. Travers Jones,	Mr. Bavister,
Dr. Ross,	Mr. Young,
Mr. F. Clarke,	Mr. Parkes,
Mr. Copeland,	Mr. Anderson,
Mr. Pyers,	Mr. Molesworth,
Mr. Carroll,	Mr. Rigg,
Mr. Nelson,	Mr. Reid,
Mr. Hogue,	Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Kelly,	Mr. Wheeler.
Dr. Graham,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Bruncker,	Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. W. H. B. Piddington,	Mr. McLean.
Mr. Morgan,	
Mr. Bull,	

Omission of item negatived.

Estimate (Board of Health, £26,408) agreed to.

And the Estimate for Shipping Masters, Marine Board of New South Wales, Life Boats, Public Wharfs, Miscellaneous Services (Treasury) (*one item postponed*), Advance to Treasurer, Railways and Tramways (*postponed*), The Attorney-General, all the Departments under Secretary for Lands, Secretary for Public Works (*postponed*), and Minister of Justice having been dealt with,—

On motion of Mr. Bruncker the Chairman left the Chair to report progress and ask leave to sit again.

RICHD. A. ARNOLD,
Clerk Assistant.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 17.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DIVISIONS

IN

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

(EXTRACTED FROM THE MINUTES.)

WEDNESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER, 1897.

No. 1.

SUPPLY—GENERAL ESTIMATES FOR 1897-8.

The Estimates for Public Instruction, Industrial Schools, Observatory, Museum, Public Library of New South Wales, and National Art Gallery having been dealt with,—

Labour and Industry Branch.

Question proposed,—That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding £13,981 for Labour and Industry Branch.

Motion made (*Mr. Cotton*),—That the item, "Salaries, Government Labour Bureau and Country Branches, £850," be omitted.

And the Committee continuing to sit after Midnight,—

THURSDAY, 18 NOVEMBER, 1897, A.M.

Question put.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 13.

Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. Ferguson,
Mr. Asleck,
Mr. James Thomson,
Mr. Hurley,
Mr. Cotton,
Mr. Law,
Mr. Willis,
Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Wilks,
Mr. Ball.

Tellers,

Mr. Sicath,
Mr. Fegan.

Noes, 35.

Mr. Carroll,	Mr. Miller,
Mr. Dacey,	Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. Black,	Mr. Jessep,
Mr. McLaughlin,	Mr. Alexander Campbell,
Mr. Porry,	Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. O'Sullivan,	Mr. Cook,
Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Thomas,
Mr. Young,	Mr. Bavister,
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Watkins,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Millard,
Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Griffith,
Mr. Simeon Phillips,	Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Hogue,
Mr. Lonsdale,	Mr. Sydney Smith.
Mr. Reid,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Dr. Graham,	Mr. O'Reilly,
Mr. Haynes,	Mr. Dick.
Mr. McFarlane,	
Mr. Wood,	

*Omission of item negatived.**Estimate (Labour and Industry Branch, £13,981) agreed to.*

No. 2.

Grants in aid of Public Institutions.

Question proposed,—That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding £17,050 for grants in aid of Public Institutions.

Motion made (*Mr. Griffith*),—That the item, "Sydney University—For additional Endowment, £4,000," be omitted,—and Question put.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 17.

Mr. Affleck,
Mr. Sleath,
Mr. James Thomson,
Mr. Bavister,
Mr. Ferguson,
Mr. Dacey,
Mr. Macdonald,
Mr. Edden,
Mr. Griffith,
Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Thomas,
Mr. Watkins,
Mr. Law,
Mr. Millard,
Mr. Wheeler.

Tellers,

Mr. Ball,
Mr. Miller.

Noes, 31.

Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Hurley,
Mr. Perry,
Mr. McLaughlin,
Mr. Alexander Campbell,
Dr. Graham,
Mr. Young,
Mr. Garrard,
Mr. Brunker,
Mr. O'Sullivan,
Mr. McFarlane,
Mr. Wood,
Mr. Sydney Smith,
Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. Jessep,
Mr. Hogue,
Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Simeon Phillips,
Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Haynes,
Mr. Anderson,
Mr. Wilks,
Mr. Gould,
Mr. Reid,
Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. Cotton,
Mr. Cook,
Mr. Dick,
Mr. O'Reilly,
Tellers,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Fegan.

Omission of item negatived.

No. 3.

Same Estimate.

Motion made (*Mr. Miller*),—That the item, "Towards the maintenance of the Art Society of New South Wales, £500," be omitted,—and Question put.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 21.

Mr. Dacey,
Mr. Willis,
Mr. Miller,
Mr. Affleck,
Mr. Edden,
Mr. Sleath,
Mr. Hurley,
Mr. Alexander Campbell,
Mr. Watkins,
Mr. James Thomson,
Mr. Law,
Mr. O'Sullivan,
Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Davis,
Mr. Perry,
Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Simeon Phillips,
Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. Griffith,
Tellers,
Mr. Ball,
Mr. Bavister.

Noes, 27.

Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Young,
Mr. Garrard,
Mr. Reid,
Mr. McLaughlin,
Mr. Brunker,
Mr. McFarlane,
Mr. Sydney Smith,
Mr. Jessep,
Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Wilks,
Mr. Hogue,
Mr. Millard,
Mr. Gould,
Mr. Thomas,
Mr. Anderson,
Mr. Cook,
Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Haynes,
Mr. Cotton,
Mr. Fegan,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Dick,
Mr. O'Reilly,
Mr. Robert Jones,
Tellers,
Mr. Ferguson,
Dr. Graham.

Omission of item negatived.

No. 4.

Same Estimate.

Motion made (*Mr. Sleath*),—That the item, "Linnean Society, £200," be omitted,—and Question put.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 15.

Mr. Dacey,
Mr. Miller,
Mr. McLaughlin,
Mr. Davis,
Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. Griffith,
Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Watkins,
Mr. Alexander Campbell,
Mr. Fegan,
Mr. Sleath,
Mr. Edden,
Tellers,
Mr. James Thomson,
Mr. Law.

Noes, 30.

Mr. Willis,
Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Hurley,
Mr. Perry,
Mr. Young,
Mr. Garrard,
Mr. Reid,
Dr. Graham,
Mr. Brunker,
Mr. McFarlane,
Mr. Sydney Smith,
Mr. Ferguson,
Mr. Jessep,
Mr. Anderson,
Mr. Cook,
Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Haynes,
Mr. Bavister,
Mr. O'Sullivan,
Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Wilks,
Mr. Hogue,
Mr. Millard,
Mr. Affleck,
Mr. Simeon Phillips,
Mr. Ball,
Mr. Gould,
Mr. Dick,
Tellers,
Mr. Thomas,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick.

Omission of item negatived.

Estimate (Grants in aid of Public Institutions, £17,050) agreed to.

And the Estimate for Miscellaneous Services having been dealt with,—

On motion of Mr. Reid, the Chairman left the Chair to report progress and ask leave to sit again.

THURSDAY,

THURSDAY, 18 NOVEMBER, 1897.

No. 5.

SUPPLY—GENERAL ESTIMATES FOR 1897-8.

Department of Mines.

Question proposed,—That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding £71,871 for Department of Mines.

And the Committee continuing to sit after Midnight,—

FRIDAY, 19 NOVEMBER, 1897, A.M.

Estimate (Department of Mines, £71,871) agreed to.

And the Estimates for Prevention of Scab in Sheep, Imported and Introduced Stock, Registration of Brands, Management of Pounds and Commons, Public Watering Places and Artesian Boring, Agriculture, School of Mines and Assay Works, and Board of Exports having been dealt with,—

Miscellaneous Services.

Question proposed,—That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding £19,288 for Miscellaneous Services.

Motion made (*Mr. Sleath*),—That the item "To meet the claim of J. F. Connolly for compensation on account of cancellation of his permit to dig and search for gold within portion 423, parish of Currajong, £785," be omitted,—and Question put.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 30.		Noes, 19.	
Mr. Thomas Brown,	Mr. Rigg,	Mr. Carroll,	Mr. Cruickshank.
Mr. Thomas,	Mr. Howarth,	Mr. Young,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Jessep,	Mr. Molesworth,	Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Hurley,	Mr. Morgan,	Mr. Brunner,	Mr. Moore.
Mr. Pycers,	Mr. Ferguson,	Mr. Robert Jones,	
Mr. Haynes,	Mr. Dick,	Mr. O'Sullivan,	
Mr. Lonsdale,	Mr. O'Reilly,	Mr. Miller,	
Mr. Watkins,	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Alexander Campbell,	
Mr. Simeon Phillips,	Mr. Millard,	Mr. Mackay,	
Mr. Davis,	Mr. Griffith,	Mr. Cook,	
Mr. Law,	Mr. Dacey,	Mr. Frank Farnell,	
Mr. Watson,	Mr. McGowen.	Mr. Reid,	
Mr. Ball,	<i>Tellers,</i>	Mr. Neild,	
Mr. James Thomson,	Mr. Sleath,	Mr. Parkes,	
Mr. Nicholson,	Mr. Cann.	Mr. Wheeler,	
Mr. Dugald Thomson,		Mr. Bavister,	

*Item omitted.**Reduced Estimate (Miscellaneous Services, £18,503) agreed to.*

And the Estimate for Postal and Electric Telegraph Department having been dealt with,—

No. 6.

Military Secretary (Postponed Estimate).

Question proposed,—That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding £2,080 for Military Secretary.

Motion made (*Mr. Griffith*),—That the item, "Military Secretary, £800," be reduced by £300,—and Question put.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 21.		Noes, 33.	
Mr. Sleath,	Mr. Dacey.	Mr. Mackay,	Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Thomas,	<i>Tellers,</i>	Mr. Carroll,	Mr. Parkes,
Mr. Miller,	Mr. Ferguson,	Mr. Brunner,	Mr. Molesworth,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	Mr. James Thomson.	Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Davis,
Mr. Watson,		Mr. O'Sullivan,	Mr. Morgan,
Mr. Wheeler,		Mr. Jessep,	Mr. Simeon Phillips,
Mr. Dick,		Mr. Robert Jones,	Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,
Mr. O'Reilly,		Mr. Sydney Smith,	Mr. Reid,
Mr. Griffith,		Mr. Hurley,	Mr. Dugald Thomson,
Mr. Ball,		Mr. Rigg,	Mr. Millard,
Mr. Law,		Mr. Archibald Campbell,	Mr. Cruickshank,
Mr. Nicholson,		Mr. Alexander Campbell,	Mr. Neild,
Mr. Bavister,		Mr. Pycers,	Mr. Anderson.
Mr. Howarth,		Mr. Young,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Cann,		Mr. Gould,	Mr. Frank Farnell,
Mr. Watkins,		Mr. Lonsdale,	Mr. Haynes.
Mr. Thomas Brown,		Mr. Moore,	
Mr. McGowen,		Mr. Cook,	

*Reduction of item negatived.**Estimate (Military Secretary, £2,080) agreed to.*

No. 7.

No. 7.

Permanent and Volunteer Military Forces (Postponed Estimate).

Question proposed,—That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding £177,716 for Permanent and Volunteer Military Forces.

And an Honorable Member demanding that the amount for the Permanent Forces be proposed separately,—

Question proposed,—That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding £98,974 for Permanent Military Forces.

Motion made (*Mr. Griffith*), to reduce the Estimate by £20,000,—and Question put. Committee divided.

Ayes, 25.

Mr. Dacey,	Mr. Dick,
Mr. Haynes,	Mr. O'Reilly.
Mr. Sleath,	
Mr. Macdonald,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Bavister,	Mr. Miller,
Mr. Howarth,	Mr. Fegan.
Mr. Ball,	
Mr. Griffith,	
Mr. Simcon Phillips,	
Mr. Parkes,	
Mr. Wheeler,	
Mr. Black,	
Mr. Wilks,	
Mr. Hassall,	
Mr. Thomas,	
Mr. Ferguson,	
Mr. Pyers,	
Mr. Willis,	
Mr. McGowen,	
Mr. Cotton,	
Mr. Thomas Brown,	

Noes, 39.

Mr. Frank Farnell,	Mr. Anderson,
Mr. Nelson,	Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Chanter,	Mr. Henry Clarke,
Mr. McFarlane,	Mr. Reid,
Mr. Sydney Smith,	Mr. Jessep,
Mr. O'Sullivan,	Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Molesworth,
Mr. Young,	Mr. E. M. Clark,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Hogue,
Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Bull,
Mr. Perry,	Mr. Gormly,
Mr. Hayes,	Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Neild,	Mr. Harris,
Mr. Copeland,	Mr. Rigg,
Mr. Hurley,	Mr. Harvey,
Mr. Carroll,	Mr. Cook.
Mr. Millen,	
Mr. Mackay,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Goodwin,	Mr. W. H. B. Piddington,
Mr. Carruthers,	Mr. McLean.
Mr. Morgan,	

Reduction of Estimate negatived.

No. 8.

Same Estimate.

Motion made (*Mr. Griffith*), to reduce the Estimate by £10,000,—and Question put. Committee divided.

Ayes, 24.

Mr. Dacey,	Mr. O'Reilly.
Mr. Fegan,	
Mr. Sleath,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Miller,	Mr. Black,
Mr. Haynes,	Mr. Wilks.
Mr. Bavister,	
Mr. Howarth,	
Mr. Moore,	
Mr. Ball,	
Mr. Griffith,	
Mr. Simcon Phillips,	
Mr. Parkes,	
Mr. Wheeler,	
Mr. McGowen,	
Mr. Willis,	
Mr. Pyers,	
Mr. Ferguson,	
Mr. Thomas,	
Mr. Hassall,	
Mr. Thomas Brown,	
Mr. Dick,	

Noes, 39.

Mr. Frank Farnell,	Mr. Carruthers,
Mr. Nelson,	Mr. Morgan,
Mr. Chanter,	Mr. Anderson,
Mr. McFarlane,	Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Sydney Smith,	Mr. Henry Clarke,
Mr. O'Sullivan,	Mr. Reid,
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Jessep,
Mr. Young,	Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Harvey,
Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Perry,	Mr. Gormly,
Mr. Hayes,	Mr. Bull,
Mr. Neild,	Mr. Hogue,
Mr. Copeland,	Mr. E. M. Clark,
Mr. Hurley,	Mr. Molesworth,
Mr. Carroll,	Mr. Cook.
Mr. Millen,	
Mr. Mackay,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Goodwin,	Mr. Rigg,
Mr. McLean,	Mr. Harris.
Mr. W. H. B. Piddington,	

*Reduction of Estimate negatived.**Estimate (Permanent Military Forces, £98,974) agreed to.*

And the Postponed Estimate for Partially-paid and Volunteer Forces, and the postponed item, "To pay interest on the uninvested Funds at the credit of the Civil Service Superannuation Account," having been dealt with,—

No. 9.

Railways and Tramways—Working Expenses (Postponed Estimate).

Question proposed,—That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding £1,840,258 for Railways and Tramways—Working Expenses.

Motion made (*Mr. Miller*),—That the item, "Chief Accountant, £1,000," be reduced by £100,—and Question put.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 8.

Mr. Crick,
Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Miller,
Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. Griffith.
<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Macdonald,
Mr. Ferguson.

Noes, 39.

Mr. Hassall,	Mr. Hurley,	Mr. Cotton,
Mr. McLaughlin,	Mr. Young,	Mr. Harris,
Mr. Copeland,	Mr. Henry Clarke,	Mr. Jessep,
Mr. Sydney Smith,	Mr. Gormly,	Mr. Moore,
Mr. Carroll,	Mr. Bavister,	Mr. Hogue,
Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Harvey,	Mr. Dacey,
Mr. Pricc,	Mr. Thomas,	Mr. Dick,
Mr. Hayes,	Mr. Reid,	Mr. W. H. B. Piddington,
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Robert Jones,	Mr. E. M. Clark.
Mr. Goodwin,	Mr. Cook,	
Mr. Whiddon,	Mr. Gould,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. McFarlane,	Mr. Law,	Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Pyers,	Mr. Howarth,	Mr. Ball.
Mr. Nelson,	Mr. Parkes,	

*Reduction of item negatived.**Estimate (Railways and Tramways—Working Expenses, £1,840,258) agreed to.*

No. 10.

No. 10.

Public Works—Establishment (Postponed Estimate).

Question proposed,—That there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding £89,074 for Public Works—Establishment.

Motion made (*Mr. Dacey*),—That the item, "Principal Assistant Architect, £700," be reduced by £230,—and Question put.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 13.

Mr. Sleath,
Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. McGowen,
Mr. E. M. Clark,
Mr. Cotton,
Mr. Law,
Mr. Black,
Mr. Watson,
Mr. Griffiths,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Dick.

Tellers,

Mr. Dacey,
Mr. Macdonald.

Noes, 30.

Mr. Copeland,	Mr. Alexander Campbell,
Mr. Hurley,	Mr. Hogue,
Mr. Garrard,	Mr. McLean,
Mr. McLaughlin,	Dr. Graham,
Mr. Molesworth,	Mr. Howarth,
Mr. O'Sullivan,	Mr. Millard,
Mr. Sydney Smith,	Mr. Harris,
Mr. W. H. B. Piddington,	Mr. Jessep,
Mr. Young,	Mr. Anderson,
Mr. Reid,	Mr. Mahony,
Mr. Perry,	Mr. Bavister,
Mr. Waddell,	Mr. Cook.
Mr. McFarlane,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Pyers,	Mr. Rigg,
Mr. Carroll,	Mr. Hawthorne.
Mr. Nelson,	

*Reduction of item negatived.**Estimate (Public Works—Establishment, £89,074) agreed to.*

And the Estimates for Public Works and Services, Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage, Hunter District Water Supply and Sewerage Board, and In adjustment of payments from the Vote "Advance to Treasurer, 1896-7" having been dealt with,—

On motion of Mr. Reid, the Chairman left the Chair to report progress and ask leave to sit again, and also to report that the Committee had come to certain Resolutions.

RICHD. A. ARNOLD,
Clerk Assistant.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 18.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DIVISIONS
IN
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

(EXTRACTED FROM THE MINUTES.)

TUESDAY, 23 NOVEMBER, 1897.

No. 1.

NATIVE FLORA PROTECTION BILL.

Clause 1. It shall not be lawful for any person to remove or destroy any of the plants or flowers Penalty for destruction of wild flowers on Crown lands. of the plants mentioned in the Schedule hereto and growing upon such Crown lands or lands dedicated for any public purpose as may be declared by the Governor and notified in the *Government Gazette* lands from which such plants and flowers cannot be removed, and any person offending against this section shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding *five* pounds.
(Read.)

Motion made (*Mr. Hassall*), to leave out from line 1 the words "remove or"

Question put, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 13.

Dr. Ross,
Mr. Frank Farnell,
Mr. Gould,
Mr. Molesworth,
Mr. Bruncker,
Mr. Sydney Smith,
Mr. Russell Jones,
Mr. O'Sullivan,
Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Affleck,
Mr. Cook.

Tellers,

Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Hayes.

Noes, 25.

Mr. Hogue,	Mr. Pyers,
Mr. Schey,	Mr. Hassall,
Mr. Gormly,	Mr. Edden,
Mr. Cann,	Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. Moore,	Mr. Watson,
Mr. Griffiths,	Mr. Cotton,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Harris,
Mr. McGowen,	Mr. Wheeler.
Mr. Macdonald,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Cruickshank,	Mr. Waddell,
Mr. Bull,	Mr. Kelly.
Mr. Law,	
Mr. Dacey,	
Mr. Barnes,	
Mr. Hurley,	

Words omitted.

And the clause having been further amended as indicated,—

Notice was taken that there was not a Quorum present in the Committee, the temporary Chairman (*Mr. Lee*) left the Chair to report the matter to the House.

Committee resumed, and on motion of *Mr. Frank Farnell*, the Chairman left the Chair, to report progress and ask leave to sit again To-morrow.

THURSDAY, 25 NOVEMBER, 1897, A.M.

No. 2.

IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION BILL:—

Clauses 1 and 2 having been dealt with,—

Prohibited
immigrants.

Clause 3. The immigration into New South Wales, by land or sea, of any person of any of the classes defined in the following subsections, hereinafter called "prohibited immigrant," is prohibited, namely—

- (a) any person who, when asked to do so by an officer appointed under this Act, shall fail to himself write out and sign, in the characters of any language of "Europe," an application to the Colonial Secretary in the form set out in Schedule B of this Act, or in a form of a similar purport proclaimed from time to time by the Governor in substitution of the form set out in such Schedule;
- (b) any person being a pauper, or likely to become a public charge;
- (c) any idiot or insane person;
- (d) any person suffering from a loathsome or a dangerous contagious disease;
- (e) any person who, not having received a free pardon, has within two years been convicted of a felony or other infamous crime or misdemeanour involving moral turpitude, and not being a mere political offence;
- (f) any prostitute, and any person living on the prostitution of others. (*Read.*)

Motion made (*Mr. Schey*), to insert after the word "Europe," in line 2 of sub-clause (a) the words "excepting Turkish or any dialect thereof,"—and Question put.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 14.

Mr. Schey,
Mr. Lync,
Mr. Watkins,
Mr. Edden,
Mr. Fegan,
Mr. Millen,
Mr. Gormly,
Mr. Dick,
Mr. Pyers,
Mr. Nelson,
Mr. Hurley,
Mr. Dacey.

Tellers,

Mr. Kelly,
Mr. Ferguson.

Noes, 29.

Mr. Gould,	Mr. Mahony,
Mr. Morgan,	Mr. Sleath,
Mr. Jessep,	Mr. Bavister,
Mr. Young,	Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Watson,
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Cook,
Mr. Macdonald,	Mr. Cann,
Mr. Law,	Mr. Simeon Phillips,
Mr. Thomas Brown,	Mr. Haynes,
Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. Reid,
Mr. Thomas,	Mr. Frank Farnell.
Mr. James Thomson,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Wilks,	Mr. Griffith,
Mr. McGowen,	Mr. Ashton.
Mr. Nicholson,	
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	

*Insertion of proposed words negatived.**Clause, as read, agreed to.*

And clauses 4 to 6 having been dealt with,—

No. 3.

SAME BILL.

Wives and
children.

Clause 7. The wife and any minor child of a person not being a prohibited immigrant "shall" be free from any prohibition imposed by this Act. (*Read.*)

Motion made (*Mr. Schey*), to insert after the word "shall" in line 1, the word "not"—and Question put,—

Committee divided.

Ayes, 4.

Mr. Schey,
Mr. Dacey.

Tellers,

Mr. Fegan,
Mr. Edden.

Noes, 32.

Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. Thomas,	Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Young,	Mr. Thomas Brown,	Mr. Dick,
Mr. Jessep,	Mr. Watson,	Mr. Millen,
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Reid,	Mr. Ashton,
Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Haynes,	Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Kelly,	Mr. Simeon Phillips,	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick.
Mr. Sleath,	Mr. Watkins,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Law,	Mr. Bavister,	Mr. Macdonald,
Mr. Griffith,	Mr. Cook,	Mr. Cann.
Mr. Gould,	Mr. McGowen,	
Mr. Mahony,	Mr. James Thomson,	
Mr. Ferguson,	Mr. Wilks,	

*Insertion of proposed word negatived.**Clause, as read, agreed to.*

And the remaining clauses and schedules of the Bill having been dealt with,—

On motion of Mr. Reid, the Chairman left the Chair to report the Bill without amendment to the House.

THURSDAY, 25 NOVEMBER, 1897.

No. 4.

SUPPLY—LOAN ESTIMATES.

Permanent and Reproductive Works.

The Estimates for Railways and Tramways, and Wollongong Harbour Works having been dealt with,—

Question proposed,—That there be granted to Her Majesty, for the year 1897–8, to be raised by loan, a sum not exceeding £1,330,305 Balance for Permanent and Reproductive Works.

And

And the Committee continuing to sit after Midnight,—

FRIDAY, 26 NOVEMBER, 1897, A.M.

And the item Pyrmont Bridge, £82,500 having been reduced by £34,000,—

Motion made (*Mr. Affleck*),—That the item, "Glebe Island Bridge, £89,100, be reduced by £5,000",—and Question put,—

Committee divided.

Ayes, 8.		Noes, 39.	
Mr. Sleath,	|	Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Hassall,
Mr. Affleck,		Mr. Travers Jones,	Mr. Mackay,
Mr. Thomas,		Mr. Jessep,	Mr. F. Clarke,
Mr. James Thomson,		Mr. See,	Mr. Gould,
Mr. Lonsdale,		Mr. McFarlane,	Mr. Kelly,
Mr. Dacey,		Mr. Ewing,	Mr. Thomas Brown,
<i>Tellers,</i>		Mr. Reid,	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Ferguson,		Mr. Russell Jones,	Mr. W. H. B. Piddington,
Mr. Edden,		Mr. Hogue,	Mr. Young,
		Mr. Brunner,	Mr. Morgan,
	Mr. Carruthers,	Mr. Anderson,	
	Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. Law,	
	Mr. Archibald Campbell,	Mr. Watson,	
	Mr. Cook,	Mr. Simeon Phillips,	
		Mr. Bavister,	
		Mr. Millard,	
		Mr. Cruickshank,	
		Mr. Nicholson,	
		Mr. Fegan,	
		Mr. McLaughlin,	
		Mr. McGowen,	
		Mr. Moore,	
		Mr. Sydney Smith.	
		<i>Tellers,</i>	
		Mr. Cann,	
		Mr. Howarth.	

Reduction of item negatived.

No. 5.

Same Estimate.

Motion made (*Mr. Sleath*),—That the item "Richmond River Improvements—further sum, £50,000," be reduced by £25,000,—and Question put.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 11.		Noes, 36.	
Mr. Affleck,	|	Mr. Ewing,	Mr. Travers Jones,
Mr. Watson,		Mr. Thomas Brown,	Mr. Kelly,
Mr. Sleath,		Mr. McFarlane,	Mr. Gould,
Mr. Lonsdale,		Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Anderson,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,		Mr. Sydney Smith,	Mr. Jessep,
Mr. Dacey,		Mr. Carruthers,	Mr. Morgan,
Mr. Thomas,		Mr. Brunner,	Mr. Bavister,
Mr. Edden,		Mr. McLaughlin,	Mr. Law,
Mr. James Thomson,		Mr. Cook,	Mr. Young,
<i>Tellers,</i>		Mr. See,	Mr. Cann,
Mr. Fegan,	Mr. F. Clarke,	Mr. Simeon Phillips,	
Mr. Ferguson,	Mr. Hassall,	Mr. McGowen,	
	Mr. Archibald Campbell,	Mr. Hogue,	
		Mr. Reid,	
		Mr. Howarth,	
		Mr. Cruickshank,	
		Mr. Mackay,	
		Mr. Nicholson,	
		Mr. Moore,	
		Mr. W. H. B. Piddington,	
		Mr. Millard.	
		<i>Tellers,</i>	
		Mr. Hawthorne,	
		Mr. Russell Jones.	

Reduction of item negatived.

No. 6.

Same Estimate.

Motion made (*Mr. Sleath*),—That the item "Clarence River Improvements—further sum, £30,000" be reduced by £15,000,—and Question put.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 12.		Noes, 34.	
Mr. Affleck,	|	Mr. Lyne,	Mr. Archibald Campbell,
Mr. Sleath,		Mr. McFarlane,	Mr. F. Clarke,
Mr. Edden,		Mr. See,	Mr. Cook,
Mr. Ferguson,		Mr. Jessep,	Mr. Travers Jones,
Mr. James Thomson,		Mr. Reid,	Mr. Kelly,
Mr. Thomas,		Mr. Russell Jones,	Mr. Carruthers,
Mr. Dacey,		Mr. Gould,	Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. McGowen,		Mr. Brunner,	Mr. Cruickshank,
Mr. Lonsdale,		Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Howarth,
Mr. Watson,		Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. Cann,
<i>Tellers,</i>	Mr. Simeon Phillips,	Mr. Millard,	
Mr. Fegan,	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Sydney Smith,	
Mr. Thomas Brown,	Mr. Law,	Mr. W. H. B. Piddington,	
	Mr. Young,	Mr. Moore.	
	Mr. Anderson,	<i>Tellers,</i>	
	Mr. Mackay,	Mr. Hogue,	
	Mr. Hassall,	Mr. Bavister.	
	Mr. Ewing,		

Reduction of item negatived.

And certain items having been dealt with so as to reduce the Estimate,

Reduced Estimate (Balance for Permanent and Reproductive Works—£1,290,705) agreed to.

And the Estimates for other Works and for Repayment of Loans having been dealt with,—

On motion of Mr. Reid, the Chairman left the Chair to report progress and ask leave to sit again.

RICHD. A. ARNOLD,
Clerk Assistant.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 19.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DIVISIONS

IN

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

(EXTRACTED FROM THE MINUTES.)

TUESDAY, 30 NOVEMBER, 1897.

No. 1.

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES ARRANGEMENT (CONTINUATION) BILL.

Clause 1. "Section three" of the Joint Stock Companies Arrangement Act, 1891, shall continue Continuation of section 3. and be in force, and applications and orders may be made thereunder until the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred eight hundred and ninty-nine notwithstanding the proviso to that section. (*Read.*)

And the Committee continuing to sit after Midnight,—

WEDNESDAY, 1 DECEMBER, 1897, A.M.

Motion made (*Mr. Carroll*), to leave out from line 1 the words "Section three"

Question put,—That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 33.

Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Alexander Campbell,
Mr. Chanter,	Mr. Wright,
Mr. McLaughlin,	Mr. Anderson,
Mr. Frank Farnell,	Mr. Rose,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Reid,
Mr. Young,	Mr. Jessep,
Mr. Lync,	Mr. Affleck,
Mr. Willis,	Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. Newman,	Mr. Millard,
Mr. Ewing,	Mr. Cruickshank,
Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Gormly,
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Neison,	Mr. O'Reilly.
Mr. Archibald Campbell,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. F. Clarke,	
Mr. McLean,	Mr. Morgan,
Mr. Sydney Smith,	Mr. Dugald Thomson.
Mr. Hawthorne,	

Noes, 22.

Mr. Cann,	Mr. Dick,
Mr. Ferguson,	Mr. Fegan.
Mr. Dacey,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Carroll,	
Mr. Thomas Brown,	Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Macdonald,	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick.
Mr. Millen,	
Mr. Thomas,	
Mr. Pyers,	
Mr. Black,	
Mr. Sleath,	
Mr. Edden,	
Mr. James Thomson,	
Mr. Bavister,	
Mr. McGowen,	
Mr. Wilks,	
Mr. Watson,	
Mr. Law,	

Words stand.

And the clause having been amended as indicated,—

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

And the remaining clause of the Bill having been dealt with,—

On motion of Mr. Gould, the Chairman left the Chair to report the Bill with an amendment to the House.

No. 2.

No. 2.

PORT KEMBLA HARBOUR BILL.

Work
sanctioned.

Clause 1. The carrying out of the said work (more particularly described in the Schedule to this Act) is hereby sanctioned; and the Secretary for Public Works, or the Member of the Executive Council for the time being performing the duties of the said Secretary, is hereby authorised to undertake and carry out the said work subject to the provisions of this Act, and for that purpose shall be, and shall have the powers and duties of, a Constructing Authority within the meaning of the Public Works Act of 1888. **Provided that the construction of the said work shall not be commenced until an Act has been passed imposing a charge per ton on all coals shipped at the Port.** (*Read.*)

Mr. Neild moved, That the Honorable Member for The Manning, Mr. Young, be not further heard,—and Question put.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 5.

Mr. Dacey,
Mr. Dick,
Mr. Affleck.

Tellers,

Mr. Sleath,
Mr. Neild.

Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. Rose,
Mr. Brunker,
Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Garrard,
Mr. Cook,
Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Reid,
Mr. Gould,
Mr. Young,
Mr. Lyne,
Mr. Alexander Campbell,
Mr. Ewing,
Mr. Nelson,

Noes, 38.

Mr. F. Clarke,
Mr. Sydney Smith,
Mr. McLean,
Mr. Archibald Campbell,
Mr. Black,
Mr. Lee,
Mr. Anderson,
Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Law,
Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. James Thomson,
Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Newman,
Mr. Millard,
Mr. Jessep,
Mr. Millen,
Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Edden,
Mr. Watson,
Mr. Ferguson,
Tellers,
Mr. Pyers,
Mr. Cann.

Negatived.

And the clause having been amended as indicated,—

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

And clause 2 having been dealt with,—

No. 3.

SAME BILL.

Costs how to be
defrayed.

Clause 3. The cost of carrying out the said work, estimated at two hundred thousand pounds may be defrayed from such "Loan" Votes as may hereafter be applicable to that purpose, and shall not under any circumstances exceed the estimated cost "by more than ten per centum." (*Read.*)

Motion made (*Mr. Affleck*), to leave out from line 2 the word "Loan" and insert the word "Revenue" instead thereof.

Question put,—That the word proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 25.

Mr. Brunker,
Mr. Gould,
Mr. Sydney Smith,
Mr. Young,
Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Cook,
Mr. Anderson,
Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Archibald Campbell,
Mr. Alexander Campbell,
Mr. McLean,
Mr. Ewing,
Mr. Garrard,
Mr. Reid,
Mr. Cann,
Mr. F. Clarke,
Mr. Jessep,
Mr. Dacey,
Mr. Lee,
Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Newman,
Mr. Millard,
Mr. Watson,
Tellers,
Mr. Millen,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick.

Noes, 14.

Mr. Lyne,
Mr. Pyers,
Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Willis,
Mr. Sleath,
Mr. Ferguson,
Mr. Edden,
Mr. Neild,
Mr. James Thomson,
Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Thomas Brown,
Tellers,
Mr. Affleck,
Mr. Dick.

Word stands.

No. 4.

SAME BILL.

Same Clause.

Motion made (*Mr. Neild*), to leave out from the last line of the clause the words "by more than ten per centum."

Question put,—That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 22.

Mr. Brunker,
Mr. Gould,
Mr. Sydney Smith,
Mr. Young,
Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Anderson,
Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Archibald Campbell,
Mr. Alexander Campbell,
Mr. McLean,
Mr. Reid,
Mr. Cann,
Mr. F. Clarke,
Mr. Jessep,
Mr. Dacey,
Mr. Lee,
Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Newman,
Mr. Watson,
Tellers,
Mr. Millen,
Mr. Ewing.

Noes, 12.

Mr. Pyers,
Mr. Sleath,
Mr. Edden,
Mr. Neild,
Mr. Dick,
Mr. Affleck,
Mr. James Thomson,
Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Wheeler,
Tellers,
Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Ferguson.

Words stand.

Clause, as read, agreed to.

And clause 4 having been dealt with,—

No. 5.

No. 5.

SAME BILL.

SCHEDULE.

The construction of a breakwater commencing on the foreshore near the eastern extremity of Port Kembla Bay and distant about eight hundred feet in an east south-easterly direction from the northern extremity of Mount Kembla Coal Company's coal shipping jetty, and extending thence in a northerly direction in a curved line a distance of two thousand "eight hundred" feet—being tinted red on deposited plan—and the necessary shipping appliances. (*Read.*)

Motion made (*Mr. Neild*), to leave out from the penultimate line the words "eight hundred"

Question put,—That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Schedule.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 25.

Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Garrard,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Lee,
Mr. Sydney Smith,	Mr. Cann,
Mr. Millen,	Mr. Dacey,
Mr. Young,	Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Lonsdale,	Mr. Newman,
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Watson,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Millard,
Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Reid.
Mr. Hawthorne,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Alexander Campbell,	Mr. F. Clarke,
Mr. Ewing,	Mr. Jessep.
Mr. Archibald Campbell,	
Mr. McLean,	

Noes, 11.

Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Pycs,
Mr. Sleath,
Mr. Ferguson,
Mr. Neild,
Mr. Dick,
Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Thomas Brown.
<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. James Thomson,
Mr. Afleck.

Words stand.

Schedule, as read, agreed to.

And the Preamble, having been dealt with,—

On motion of Mr. Young, the Chairman left the Chair to report the Bill with an amendment to the House.

WEDNESDAY, 1 DECEMBER, 1897.

No. 6.

APPROPRIATION BILL.

Clauses I to XI having been dealt with,—

Clause XII. In Adjustment of the Vote "Advance to Treasurer, 1896-7," on Account of Services of the Year 1896-7:—Any sum or sums of money not exceeding Fifty-five thousand and twenty-seven pounds twelve shillings and one penny, for Supplementary Charges made during the period from 1st July, 1896, to 30th June, 1897, for the Salaries, Contingencies, and other Expenses of the Establishments and Services following:—

(*Here follow the items as detailed in clause XII of the Appropriation Bill, totalling £55,027 12s. 1d.*) (*Read.*)

Question put,—That the clause, as read, stand part of the Bill.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 73.

Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Afleck,	Mr. Hurley,
Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Wilks,	Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Young,	Mr. Henry Clarke,	Mr. McFarlane,
Mr. Reid,	Mr. Robert Jones,	Mr. Mackay,
Mr. Molesworth,	Mr. Storey,	Mr. Schey,
Mr. Frank Farnell,	Mr. Watson,	Mr. Cotton,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Sec,	Mr. Archibald Campbell,
Mr. Lonsdale,	Mr. Moore,	Mr. Neild,
Mr. Carruthers,	Mr. Chanter,	Mr. F. Clarke,
Mr. Jessep,	Mr. Lee,	Mr. W. H. B. Piddington,
Mr. Bull,	Mr. Harvey,	Mr. A. B. Piddington,
Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. Dugald Thomson,	Mr. Wood,
Mr. Ewing,	Mr. Bavister,	Mr. Millard,
Mr. T. R. Smith,	Mr. Simeon Phillips,	Mr. Ashton,
Dr. Ross,	Mr. Howarth,	Mr. Thomas,
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Hassall,	Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Hayes,	Mr. Newman,	Mr. Macdonald,
Mr. M. T. Phillips,	Mr. Gornly,	Mr. Cann,
Mr. Morgan,	Mr. Dick,	Mr. O'Sullivan,
Mr. Mahony,	Mr. Fegan,	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Lyne,	Mr. Black,	Mr. Carroll.
Mr. Russell Jones,	Mr. Hughes,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Dr. Graham,	Mr. Pycs,	Mr. Cruickshank,
Mr. Sydney Smith,	Mr. Rose,	Mr. Perry.
Mr. Ball,	Mr. Waddell,	

Noes, 6.

Mr. Crick,
Mr. Sleath,
Mr. Edden,
Mr. E. M. Clark.
<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Dacey,
Mr. James Thomson.

Clause, as read, agreed to.

And the remaining clauses and Preamble of the Bill having been dealt with,—

On motion of Mr. Reid, the Chairman left the Chair to report the Bill without amendment to the House.

FRIDAY,

FRIDAY, 3 DECEMBER, 1897, A.M.

No. 7.

PROBATE BILL.

Duties on estates
of deceased
persons accord-
ing to Schedule.

1. The duties to be levied, collected, paid, and charged and chargeable under the provisions of the Stamp Duties Acts, 1880-1894, upon the estates of persons dying after the commencement of this Act, shall be according to the duties mentioned in the Schedule hereto, and the said duties shall be in lieu of the duties mentioned in Schedule B to the Stamp Duties Act Amendment Act of 1886 :

~~Provided that where any person taking under the will or on the intestacy is a child of the testator or intestate, being at the time of the death under the age of twenty-one years, or the widow of the testator or intestate, the duty payable on the property devised, bequeathed, or descending to or distributable on intestacy among any such children or to any such widow, shall, where the value of the estate of the testator or intestate (after deducting the debts actually due and owing by the testator or intestate) exceeds one thousand pounds, but does not exceed ten thousand pounds, be two-thirds only of the rates mentioned in the said Schedule applicable to the estate. (Read.)~~

Motion made (*Mr. Dugald Thomson*), to leave out from the Proviso, the words "Provided that where any person taking under the will or on the intestacy is a child of the testator or intestate,"

Question put,—That words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.
Committee divided.

Ayes, 20.

Mr. McFarlane,
Mr. F. Clarke,
Mr. Hassall,
Mr. Chanter,
Mr. See,
Mr. Lyne,
Mr. Perry,
Mr. Schey,
Mr. Alexander Campbell,
Mr. Pyers,
Mr. Cruickshank,
Mr. Gornly,
Mr. E. M. Clark,
Mr. McLaughlin,
Mr. Hurley,
Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Miller,
Mr. Nelson.

Tellers,

Mr. Ferguson,
Mr. Wilks.

Noes, 35.

Mr. Garrard,
Mr. Griffith,
Mr. Ashton,
Mr. Millen,
Mr. Watson,
Mr. Brunner,
Mr. Dugald Thomson,
Mr. McLean,
Mr. Archibald Campbell,
Mr. Fegan,
Mr. Gould,
Mr. Jessep,
Mr. Ball,
Mr. Young,
Mr. Reid,
Mr. Carruthers,
Mr. J. O. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Dick,
Mr. Simeon Phillips,
Mr. Anderson,
Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Cotton.

Mr. Cann,
Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Rigg,
Mr. Law,
Mr. Bavister,
Mr. Howarth,
Mr. Millard,
Mr. Parkes,
Mr. Thomas,
Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Thomas Brown.

Tellers,

Mr. Macdonald,
Mr. Robert Jones.

Words left out.

Clause, as amended, postponed.

And the remaining clauses and Schedule of the Bill having been dealt with,—

On motion of Mr. Reid, the Chairman left the Chair to report the Bill with amendments to the House.

No. 8.

GLEBE ISLAND BRIDGE BILL.

Clauses 1 and 2 having been dealt with,—

Clause 3. The cost of carrying out the said work, estimated at "eighty" six thousand five hundred pounds, may be defrayed from such loan votes as are now or may hereafter be applicable thereto, but shall not under any circumstances exceed the estimated cost by more than ten per centum. (Read.)

Motion made (*Mr. Carroll*), to leave out from line 1 the word "eighty" and insert the word "forty" instead thereof.

Question put,—That the word proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.
Committee divided.

Ayes, 34.

Mr. Brunner,
Mr. Reid,
Mr. Young,
Mr. Jessep,
Mr. Garrard,
Mr. Schey,
Mr. Law,
Mr. Wilks,
Mr. Perry,
Mr. J. O. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Fegan,
Mr. Archibald Campbell,
Mr. Anderson,
Mr. Nelson,
Mr. Parkes,
Mr. Rigg,
Mr. Bavister,
Mr. Sydney Smith,
Mr. Thomas,
Mr. Dugald Thomson,
Mr. McLean,
Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. Howarth,
Mr. Ball,

Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Cann,
Mr. Cotton,
Mr. Watson,
Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. Millard,
Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Cruickshank.

Tellers,

Mr. Dacey,
Mr. McLaughlin.

Noes, 8.

Mr. Hurley,
Mr. Pyers,
Mr. Miller,
Mr. E. M. Clark,
Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Ferguson.

Tellers,

Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Dick.

Word stands.

Clause, as read, agreed to.

And the remaining clause, the Schedule, and Preamble of the Bill having been dealt with,—

On motion of Mr. Young, the Chairman left the Chair to report the Bill without amendment to the House.

RICHD. A. ARNOLD,
Clerk Assistant.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 20.

WEEKLY REPORT OF DIVISIONS

IN

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

(EXTRACTED FROM THE MINUTES.)

TUESDAY, 7 DECEMBER, 1897.

No. 1.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH PROPERTY BILL (*Council Bill.*)

Clauses 1 to 8 having been dealt with,—

Clause 9. It shall be lawful for the district committee or annual assembly by any such resolution as aforesaid, or by any subsequent resolution passed in like manner and from time to time, but subject to the proviso contained in the fifth section of this Act, to direct how and in what manner any proceeds, rents, and other moneys arising from any such sale, demise, or dealing as aforesaid shall be dealt with and applied, and the same shall be dealt with and applied accordingly: Provided that such proceeds, rents, and other moneys shall (after payment thereof of all proper expenses) be dealt with and applied for the use and benefit of the Primitive Methodist Church in the circuit or mission for the benefit of which the land, buildings, or hereditaments from which such proceeds, rents, or other moneys shall have arisen may be or may have been held in trust, or for which such moneys are held in trust, and for the same purposes as "nearly as may be for which" the said lands, hereditaments, and moneys had been previously held, "unless the district committee or annual assembly shall by any such resolution as aforesaid, or by any subsequent resolution passed in like manner, declare that, by reason of circumstances which have occurred since the creation of the express trust upon which the said lands, buildings, hereditaments, or moneys are held, it is, in the opinion of the district committee or annual assembly, impossible or inexpedient to apply the said proceeds, rents, or moneys in such circuit or mission for the same or like purposes, in which case the said proceeds, rents, or moneys may (after payment thereof of all proper expenses) be dealt with and applied for the use and benefit of the Primitive Methodist Church for some other purpose than as before-mentioned, and in any other portion of the district." (*Read.*)

Application of
proceeds.

Motion made (*Mr. Perry*), to leave out from line 11 the words "nearly as may be for which"—and Question put,—That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 50.

Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Young,
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Molesworth,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Waddell,
Mr. Fegan,	Mr. Kelly,
Mr. Henry Clarke,	Mr. Dacey,
Mr. Hogue,	Mr. McGowen,
Mr. Cann,	Mr. Macdonald,
Mr. Affleck,	Mr. Lyne,
Mr. Newman,	Mr. Willis,
Mr. Bavister,	Mr. Law,
Mr. Travers Jones,	Mr. O'Sullivan,
Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. Schoy,
Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Gormly,
Mr. Archibald Campbell,	Mr. Greene,
Mr. Nelson,	Mr. T. R. Smith,
Mr. Mahony,	Mr. Simeon Phillips,
Mr. Hurley,	Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. Thomas,	Mr. Cotton,

Noes, 4.

Mr. Copeland,
Mr. Haynes.
<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Perry,
Mr. Hassall.

Mr. Hughes,
Mr. Lee,
Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Barnes,
Mr. Neild,
Mr. Rose,
Mr. Watson,
Mr. Ferguson,
Mr. Griffith,
Mr. Wheeler,
Dr. Ross,
Mr. Wood.
<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Jessep,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick.

Words stand.

No. 2.

SAME BILL.

Same Clause.

Motion made (*Mr. Copeland*), to leave out all the words from the word "unless" in line 12 to the end of the clause.

Question put,—That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.

Committee divided.

Ayes, 43.			Noes, 13.
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Lyne,	Mr. Gornly,	Mr. Chanter,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Willis,	Mr. Neild,	Mr. Wright,
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. O'Sullivan,	Dr. Ross,
Mr. Hughes,	Mr. Bavister,	Mr. Schey,	Mr. Hassall,
Mr. Newman,	Mr. Nelson,	Mr. Law,	Mr. Copeland,
Mr. Cann,	Mr. Archibald Campbell,	Mr. McGowen,	Mr. See,
Mr. Fegan,	Mr. Mahony,	Mr. Nicholson,	Mr. Hayes,
Mr. Affleck,	Mr. Young,	Mr. Robert Jones,	Mr. Griffith,
Mr. Ball,	Mr. Henry Clarke,	Mr. O'Reilly,	Mr. Travers Jones,
Mr. Morgan,	Mr. Molesworth,	Mr. Jessop,	Mr. Barnes,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Dacey,	Mr. Pyers.	Mr. Wood.
Mr. Simeon Phillips,	Mr. Thomas,	<i>Tellers,</i>	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Kelly,	Mr. Hurley,	Mr. Waddell,	Mr. Haynes,
Mr. Hogue,	Mr. Wheeler,	Mr. Macdonald.	Mr. Ferguson.
Mr. Watson,	Mr. Greene,		

Words stand.

Clause, as read, agreed to.

And the remaining clauses and Preamble of the Bill having been dealt with,—

On motion of Mr. Fegan, the Chairman left the Chair to report the Bill without amendment to the House.

THURSDAY, 9 DECEMBER, 1897, A.M.

No. 3.

CITY AND NORTH SYDNEY RAILWAY BILL (*as amended and agreed to in Select Committee*).

Clauses 1 and 2 having been dealt with,—

Clause 3. Subject to the provisions of this Act the said John Sulman may construct, work, and maintain (in the lines and according to the levels shown on the deposited plans and sections, with such variations as are by this Act authorised) the "railway and other" works hereinafter described, with all necessary and proper tunnels, shafts, stations, platforms, approaches, subways, stairs, lifts, machinery, and plant for generating and supplying electricity or other power, and other machinery and plant, buildings, apparatus, appliances, works, and conveniences connected therewith, and may, subject to the provisions of this Act, enter upon, take, and use so much of the Crown lands, private lands, and streets delineated on or to be delineated on the deposited plans as may be required for those purposes. And the said John Sulman may at his option construct, work, and maintain the railway by means of one only of the tunnels shown in the deposited plans and sections, and may at his option construct and use the other tunnel shown in the deposited plans and sections at some future time, when in the opinion of the said John Sulman the increase of the traffic or some other consideration warrants it: Provided that nothing in this Act shall authorise the said John Sulman (except as provided by this Act) to enter upon, take, or use the surface of any street, but (subject as aforesaid) the said J. Sulman may enter upon, take, and use the subsoil and under-surface of any street shown on the deposited plans, or so much thereof as shall be necessary for the purposes aforesaid: Provided further that the foregoing provision shall not, nor shall anything in this Act contained, prevent the said John Sulman from temporarily occupying or using any portion of any street in the municipality of Sydney with the consent of the Municipal Council of Sydney, or any portion of any street in the borough of North Sydney with the consent of the borough of North Sydney: Provided further that nothing in this Act contained shall be construed as giving to the said John Sulman, or to his servants or workmen or others acting under his authority, any right to enter upon or erect works upon or to take temporarily or permanently the surface of any Crown Lands or the surface of any lands of the North Shore Steam Ferry Company, Limited, save and except with the written consent of the Crown or of the North Shore Steam Ferry Company, Limited, as the case may be, first had and obtained, but such respective consents shall not be capriciously or vexatiously withheld in the case of temporary occupation only from which no permanent damage or injury can arise, nor in the case of the shaft to be sunk at Dawes' Point in terms of section seven of this Act: Provided further that the railway and works shall in all respects be constructed in a proper and workmanlike manner, and to the reasonable satisfaction in all respects of the Engineer-in-Chief for Railways, whose certificate shall be obtained before the railway is opened for public traffic. (*Read*).

Motion made (*Mr. Copeland*), to leave out from line 3 the words "railway and other" and

Question put,—That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.

Committee

Committee divided.

Ayes, 26.

Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Price,
Mr. Brunner,	Mr. Haynes,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Reid,
Mr. Sydney Smith,	Mr. McElhone,
Mr. Neild,	Mr. Ashton,
Mr. Lyne,	Mr. Howarth,
Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. Jessep,
Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Bavister,
Mr. Dugald Thomson,	Mr. Ball,
Mr. Mahony,	Mr. Millard.
Mr. T. R. Smith,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Cotton,	Mr. Wheeler,
Mr. Greene,	Mr. Cruickshank.
Mr. Nicholson,	

Noes, 19.

Mr. Ferguson,	Mr. Edden,
Mr. McGowen,	Mr. Thomas Brown,
Mr. Copeland,	Mr. Dacey.
Mr. Schey,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Cann,	Mr. Griffith,
Mr. F. Clarke,	Mr. Newman.
Mr. Watson,	
Mr. Hogue,	
Mr. Sleath,	
Mr. Law,	
Mr. Gornly,	
Mr. Hurley,	
Mr. Goodwin,	
Mr. Thomas,	

Words stand.

Notice having been taken that there was not a quorum present in the Committee, the Chairman left the Chair to report the matter to the House.

Committee resumed.

On motion of Mr. Neild, the Chairman left the Chair to report progress, and ask leave to sit again To-morrow.

RICHD. A. ARNOLD,
Clerk Assistant.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 1.
REGISTER OF PUBLIC BILLS ORIGINATED IN THE ASSEMBLY DURING THE SESSION OF 1897.

Short Titles	By whom initiated.	Originated in Committee of the Whole.	Message from Governor recommending provision for.	Ordered.	Presented and read 1 st .	Proceeded with under Standing Orders.	Read 2 ^d and Committed.	Reported.	Recommitted.	Reported.	Report adopted.	Read 3 ^d , passed, and sent to Council for concurrence.	Agreed to by Council without Amendment.	Agreed to by Council with Amendment.	Council's Amendments agreed to.	Order of the Day discharged and Bill withdrawn.	Bill dropped or laid aside.	Assent.	Number of Act.	Remarks.	
Abattoir Road Act Amendment	Mr. Young	....	....	18 Nov.	18 Nov.	....	26 Nov.	26 Nov.	....	....	26 Nov.	30 Nov.	2 Dec.	....	....	....	....	7 Dec.	32	
Agricultural Holdings	Mr. Price	....	....	15 May	2 June	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Stopped by prorogation.
Amended Life Assurance Encouragement	Mr. Willis	....	....	30 June	1 July	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	do
Appropriation	Mr. Reid	....	....	19 Nov.	18 Nov.	....	1 Dec.	1 Dec.	....	....	1 Dec.	1 Dec.	8 Dec.	....	....	....	....	....	42	Founded on Resolutions of Ways and Means.
Artesian Wells	Mr. Sydney Smith.	10 June	8 June	10 June	10 June	....	12 Aug.	27 Aug.	....	....	27 Aug.	6 Oct.	....	2 Dec.	7 Dec.	....	....	....	41	
Art Unions Amendment	Mr. McGowen	....	....	20 Oct.	20 Oct.	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Stopped by prorogation.
Attachment of Wages Abolition	Mr. Griffith	....	....	....	....	†15 June	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	do
Attorneys Costs Act of 1847 Amendment	Mr. Chapman	....	....	15 May	3 June	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Dropped, 8 June; restored, 10 June. Stopped by prorogation.
Australasian Federation Enabling Act Amendment.	Mr. Leven	3 June	3 June	12 Oct.	12 Oct.	13 Oct.	26 Oct.	3 Dec.	7 Dec.	34	2 ^d reading moved by Mr. Neild.
Do do (No. 2)	Mr. Haynes	....	....	28 July	3 Aug.	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Stopped by prorogation.
Australasian Federation (Representatives Allowance).	Mr. Brunker	13 May	11 May	13 May	2 June	10 June	10 June	10 June	16 June	11 Nov.	16 Nov.	15	
Australian Legal Professions Federation	Mr. Schey	....	....	....	....	†12 May	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	do
Barristers and Solicitors Fees	Mr. Schey	....	....	....	....	†12 May	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	do
Boilers Inspection	Mr. Garrard	20 Nov.	17 Nov.	26 Nov.	26 Nov.	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	do
Campbelltown Reservoir Acts Repeal	Mr. Carruthers	24 Nov.	24 Nov.	26 Nov.	26 Nov.	26 Nov.	30 Nov.	2 Dec.	7 Dec.	33	
Church and School Lands	Mr. Carruthers	12 May	12 May	12 May	12 May	10 June	10 June	18 June	24 June	11 Nov.	20 Nov.	8 Dec.	20	
Coal Mines Regulation Act Further Amendment	Mr. Sydney Smith.	15 July	....	15 July	15 July	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	do
Coal Mines Regulation (Amendment)	Mr. Fegan	....	....	1 June	1 June	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	do
Coloured Races Restriction and Regulation	Mr. Reid	18 Nov.	10 Nov.	18 Nov.	18 Nov.	....	24 Nov.	24 Nov.	....	....	24 Nov.	25 Nov.	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Not returned by Legislative Council.
Consolidated Revenue Fund	Mr. Reid	29 April	7 May	7 May	7 May	7 May	7 May	7 May	13 May	18 May	1	
Do do do (No. 2)	Mr. Reid	26 Oct.	28 Oct.	28 Oct.	28 Oct.	28 Oct.	28 Oct.	28 Oct.	10 Nov.	10 Nov.	13	Founded on Resolutions of Ways and Means. Standing Orders suspended.
Do do do (Municipal Grant)	Mr. Reid	....	....	7 Dec.	7 Dec.	....	7 Dec.	7 Dec.	....	....	7 Dec.	7 Dec.	9 Dec.	....	....	....	....	....	46	Stopped by Prorogation.
Constitution Act Amendment	Mr. Neild	....	....	6 Oct.	13 Oct.	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Not returned by Legislative Council.
Cook's River Improvements	Mr. Young	23 April	†29 April	26 May	27 May	8 June	2	Stopped by Prorogation.
Country Towns Water and Sewerage	Mr. Young	....	28 April	....	....	†29 April	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Not returned by Legislative Council.
Do do do (No. 2)	Mr. Young	....	6 Oct.	12 Aug.	6 Oct.	12 Oct.	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Declared to be a matter of urgency, and Standing Orders suspended, 4 Aug. Council's amendments disagreed to, 3 Dec. Not returned by Legislative Council.
Crown Lands	Mr. Carruthers	....	....	28 July	28 July	....	30 July	30 July	....	....	30 July	4 Aug.	....	8 Dec.	....	....	....	....	....

† For stage which Bill had reached in former Session, see Appendix.

* Assent not reported

No. 1.—REGISTER OF PUBLIC BILLS—continued.

Short Titles.	By whom initiated.	Originated in Committee of the Whole.	Message from Governor, recommending provision for.	Ordered.	Presented and read 1 st .	Preceded with under Standing Orders.	Read 2 nd and Committed.	Reported.	Recommitted.	Reported.	Report adopted.	Read 3 rd , passed, and sent to Council for concurrence.	Agreed to by Council without Amendment.	Agreed to by Council, with Amendment.	Council's Amendments agreed to.	Order of the Day discharged, and Bill withdrawn.	Bill dropped or laid aside.	Assent.	Number of Act.	Remarks.		
Crown Lands Consolidation	Mr. Carruthers			1 Dec.	1 Dec.															Stopped by Prorogation.		
Customs (Commissioners)	Mr. Reid		20 Oct.																	Bill not brought in.		
Do (Sugar Drawbacks)	Mr. Reid		5 May																	do		
Educational Facilities	Mr. Schey			20 Oct.	26 Oct.															Stopped by Prorogation.		
Eight Hours	Mr. Schey					†12 May														do		
Entry on Private Lands	Mr. Young	18 Nov. A.M.	14 Oct. 4 Nov.	18 Nov. A.M.	18 Nov. A.M.		26 Nov. A.M.	26 Nov. A.M.			30 Nov.	30 Nov.								Not returned by Legislative Council.		
Field of Mars Resumption Repeal	Mr. Carruthers			9 June	9 June		25 June A.M.	25 June A.M.			25 June A.M.	7 July	21 July						20 July	9		
Fisheries	Mr. Brunker					†12 May	2 Dec. A.M.													Stopped by prorogation.		
Franchise Extension	Mr. Neild			4 May	4 May															2 nd reading negatived, 6 July.		
Friendly Societies	Mr. Brunker		3 Dec. A.M.	25 Nov. 3 Dec. A.M.	3 Dec. A.M.															Stopped by prorogation.		
Globe Island Bridge	Mr. Young		2 Dec. A.M.	25 Nov. 2 Dec. A.M.	2 Dec. A.M.		3 Dec. A.M.	3 Dec. A.M.			3 Dec. A.M.	3 Dec. A.M.	9 Dec.					*		46		
Government Railways Act Amendment	Mr. Affleck			10 Aug.															10 Aug.		Motion for 1 st reading negatived, 10 August.	
Grand Jury	Mr. Schey			12 May	10 Aug.															Stopped by prorogation.		
Homes Protection	Mr. O'Sullivan					†12 May														do		
Hunter District Water and Sewerage Act Amendment.	Mr. Young		28 April			†20 April								14 July					16 Nov.	14	Council's amendments agreed to, disagreed to, and amended, 23 July; message to Council, 20 July; Council insists on amendments disagreed to, 11 Aug.; Assembly insists on disagreements and requests Free Conference, 10 Oct.; Conference agreed to, 13 Oct.; Conference held, and report brought up, 20 Oct.; message from Council insisting on amendments, and proposing further amendments, 22 Oct. a.m.; Assembly no longer insists on disagreements, and agrees to further amendments, 6 Nov. a.m.	
Illegitimacy Disability Removal	Mr. Neild			12 May	12 May															Stopped by prorogation.		
Immigration Restriction	Mr. Reid	18 Nov. A.M.	10 Nov. 18 Nov. A.M.	18 Nov. A.M.	18 Nov. A.M.		25 Nov. A.M.	25 Nov. A.M.			25 Nov. A.M.	25 Nov. A.M.								Not returned by Legislative Council.		
International Patents and Trade Marks Arrangements.	Mr. Griffith					†1 June	26 Oct. A.M.	26 Oct. A.M.			26 Oct. A.M.	23 Nov.	7 Dec.						*		35	
Joint Stock Companies Arrangement (Continuation).	Mr. Gould			10 Nov.	10 Nov.		30 Nov. A.M.	1 Dec. A.M.	1 Dec.	1 Dec.	1 Dec.	1 Dec.	7 Dec.						*		37	
Judges' Relatives Disqualification	Mr. Griffith					†23 June														25 Oct.		Lapsed through House being counted out, 26 October.
Juvenile Smoking Suppression	Dr. Ross					†6 May															Motion made for 2 nd reading and House counted out, 6 July; restored, 8 July. Stopped by prorogation.	
Land and Income Tax (Amendment)	Mr. Brunker		12 Aug.	4 Aug.	12 Aug.	12 Aug.	19 Aug. A.M.	19 Aug. A.M.			19 Aug.	19 Aug.		20 Oct.					20 Oct.		Declared to be a matter of urgency, and Standing Orders suspended, 19 August. Speaker called attention to Council's amendments, and Bill laid aside, 20 October.	
Do do (No. 2)	Mr. Reid	18 Nov. A.M.	10 Nov. 18 Nov. A.M.	18 Nov. A.M.	18 Nov. A.M.		18 Nov. A.M.	18 Nov. A.M.			18 Nov. A.M.	18 Nov. A.M.	1 Dec. A.M.						7 Dec.	21	Declared to be a matter of urgency, and Standing Orders suspended, 18 November.	
Law Practitioners	Mr. Neild					†4 May	20 July	20 July			3 Aug.	17 Aug.									Taken up by Mr. Schey after 2 nd reading. Not returned by Legislative Council.	
Legal Profession Amalgamation	Mr. Schey					†12 May															Stopped by prorogation.	
Licensing Acts Amendment	Mr. Gould	9 July A.M.		9 July A.M.	20 July		12 Aug. A.M.	13 Aug. A.M.			18 Aug.	19 Aug.	25 Nov.						1 Dec.	17		
Liens on Wool and Stock Mortgages	Mr. Lyne					†4 May															do	
Liquor Traffic Local Option	Mr. Cook		5 Aug																		Bill not brought in.	
Loan	Mr. Reid			1 Dec. A.M.	1 Dec. A.M.		2 Dec. A.M.	2 Dec. A.M.			2 Dec. A.M.	2 Dec. A.M.	8 Dec.						*		43	

† For stage which Bill had reached in former Session, see Appendix.

* Assent not reported.

No. 1.—REGISTER OF PUBLIC BILLS—continued.

Short Titles.	By whom initiated.	Originated in Committee of the Whole.	Message from Governor recommending provision for.	Ordered.	Presented and read 1 ^o .	Proceeded with under Standing Orders.	Read 2 ^o and Committed.	Reported.	Recommitted.	Reported.	Report adopted.	Read 3 ^o passed and sent to Council for concurrence.	Agreed to by Council without Amendment.	Agreed to by Council with Amendment.	Council's Amendments agreed to.	Order of the Day discharged and Bill withdrawn.	Bill dropped or laid aside.	Assent.	Number of Act.	Remarks.
Mining Laws Amendment	Mr. Moore	.....	.....	3 June	3 June	.....	8 June	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Stopped by prorogation. Bill not brought.
Mining on Private Lands Act Amendment	Mr. Moore	.....	.....	12 May	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 ^o reading negatived, 8 June. Stopped by prorogation.
Ministerial Election	Mr. Hogue	.....	.....	.....	.....	†28 Apl.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8 June	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ministerial Portfolios Reduction	Mr. Crick	.....	.....	.....	.....	†10 June	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Moree to Inverell Railway	Mr. Young	15 July	8 July	15 July	16 July	.....	6 Aug.	6 Aug.	.....	.....	6 Aug.	11 Aug.	22 Oct.	.....	.....	21 July	.....	26 Oct.	12	.....
Do do (No. 2)	Mr. Young	15 July	8 July	21 July	21 July	.....	A.M.	A.M.	.....	.....	A.M.	1 July	7 July	21 July	.....	.....	.....	29 July	10	.....
Municipal Loans	Mr. Brunker	.....	.....	1 July	1 July	.....	1 July	1 July	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Municipal Loans further Validation	Mr. Brunker	.....	.....	.....	.....	†19 Aug.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Municipalities Act Amendment	Mr. Neild	.....	.....	.....	.....	†4 May	8 June	8 June	.....	.....	8 June	16 June	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Municipalities Act of 1867 Amending	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick.	.....	.....	10 Aug.	24 Aug.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Municipalities Franchise Extension	Mr. Neild	.....	.....	6 Aug.	5 Aug.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Native Flora	Mr. Frank Farnell.	.....	.....	28 July	4 Aug.	.....	23 Nov.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
North Sydney Loan Enabling	Mr. Brunker	.....	.....	25 Nov.	25 Nov.	.....	30 Nov.	30 Nov.	.....	.....	30 Nov.	1 Dec.	7 Dec.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Noxious Weeds	Mr. Carruthers.	18 May	12 May	18 May	13 May	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Nullum Tempus Declaratory	Mr. Carruthers.	.....	.....	9 June	9 June	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ordinance Lands Transfer	Mr. Reid	.....	.....	.....	27 April	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pharmacy	Mr. Brunker	.....	.....	.....	.....	†13 May	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Port Kembla Harbour	Mr. Young	6 Oct.	22 July	6 Oct.	6 Oct.	.....	1 Dec.	1 Dec.	.....	.....	2 Dec.	2 Dec.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Prisoners' Gaol Regulation	Mr. Neild	.....	.....	18 May	18 May	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Probate Duties	Mr. Reid	1 Dec.	30 Nov.	1 Dec.	1 Dec.	.....	8 Dec.	8 Dec.	3 Dec.	3 Dec.	7 Dec.	7 Dec.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Public Instruction Act Amendment	Mr. Griffith	.....	.....	.....	.....	†12 May	.....	20 July	.....	.....	3 Aug.	17 Aug.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Lapsed through House being counted out, 20 July; restored, 21 July. Not returned by Legislative Council.
Public Instruction (Newcastle Technical College)	Mr. Garrard	.....	.....	6 May	6 May	.....	13 May	13 May	.....	.....	13 May	19 May	2 June	.....	.....	.....	.....	8 June	8	.....
Public Roads	Mr. Carruthers.	.....	28 April	.....	.....	†29 April	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 July	5	Council insists on amendments (of last session) disagreed to, 20 May; Assembly insists on disagreements, and requests a Free Conference, 26 May; Conference agreed to, held, and reported, 9 June; Message from Council, 17 June, a.m.* Message to Council, concurring, 18 June, a.m. Stopped by prorogation.
Public Service Act Amendment	Mr. Schey	.....	.....	12 May	12 May	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Public Trusts	Mr. Carruthers	13 May	12 May	13 May	13 May	.....	26 May	27 May	.....	.....	27 May	10 June	.....	7 July	9 July	.....	.....	20 July	8	.....
Public Works Act further Amendment	Mr. Cann	.....	.....	.....	.....	†28 April	11 May	12 May	.....	.....	8 June	9 June	24 June	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 July	6	.....
Pymont Bridge	Mr. Young	9 July	29 June	9 July	9 July	.....	26 Aug.	26 Aug.	.....	.....	26 Aug.	6 Oct.	.....	17 Nov.	26 Nov.	.....	.....	2 Dec.	19	.....
Rabbit Racecourse Betting	Mr. Carruthers	12 May	12 May	12 May	12 May	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Real Property (Crown Lands)	Mr. Levien	.....	.....	3 June	3 June	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21 July	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sheep Directors' Election	Mr. Carruthers	.....	.....	9 June	9 June	.....	9 July	9 July	.....	.....	9 July	18 July	.....	7 Dec.	10 Dec.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Small Debts Recovery Act Amendment	Mr. Affleck	.....	.....	12 May	13 May	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Stamp and Probate Duties	Mr. Reid	.....	.....	13 May	13 May	.....	8 Aug.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
				5 Nov.	5 Nov.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	30 Nov.	.....	.....	.....	Lapsed through House being Counted out, 3 August; restored, 4 August. Stopped by prorogation. Founded on Resolutions of Ways and Means.

† For stage which Bill had reached in former Session, see Appendix.

* Assent not reported.

No 1.—REGISTER OF PUBLIC BILLS—continued.

Short Titles.	By whom initiated.	Originated in Committee of the Whole.	Message from Governor, recommending provision for.	Ordered.	Presented and read 1 st .	Proceeded with under Standing Orders.	Read 2 ^d and Committed.	Reported.	Recommitted.	Reported.	Report adopted.	Read 3 ^d , passed, and sent to Council for concurrence.	Agreed to by Council without Amendment.	Agreed to by Council with Amendment.	Council's Amendments agreed to.	Order of the Day discharged and Bill withdrawn.	Bill dropped or laid aside.	Assent.	Number of Act.	Remarks.
Stamp Duties (Amendment)	Mr. Brunker	13 May	11 May	13 May	13 May	....	20 May	20 May	....	....	20 May	26 May	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Not returned by Legislative Council.
Stamp Duties (Amendment), No. 2	Mr. Reid	1 Dec.	30 Nov.	1 Dec.	1 Dec.	....	3 Dec.	3 Dec.	7 Dec.	7 Dec.	7 Dec.	7 Dec.	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	do
Stockton Graving Dock (Leasing)	Mr. Carruthers	A.M.	....	24 Nov.	24 Nov.	....	3 Dec.	3 Dec.	....	....	3 Dec.	3 Dec.	9 Dec.	....	....	....	....	....	44	....
Strathfield Railway Crossing	Mr. Reid	30 Nov.	16 Nov.	30 Nov.	7 Dec.	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Stopped by prorogation.
Supreme Court Appeals Practice	Mr. Crick	....	....	....	....	10 June	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	do
Sydney Water Supply Conduit, Additional Works	Mr. Young	20 Nov.	25 Nov.	20 Nov.	26 Nov.	....	30 Nov.	30 Nov.	....	....	30 Nov.	1 Dec.	7 Dec.	....	....	....	....	....	36	....
Tonnage Rates	Mr. Brunker	3 June	5 May	3 June	3 June	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	do
Totalisator	Mr. Sleath	....	....	12 May	12 May	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Referred to Select Committee, 18th August, a.m.
Truck	Mr. Garrard	9 July	1 July	9 July	15 July	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Stopped by prorogation.
Trust Property (Amendment)	Mr. Gould	A.M.	....	10 Nov.	10 Nov.	....	26 Nov.	26 Nov.	....	....	26 Nov.	30 Nov.	7 Dec.	....	....	....	....	....	38	....
Usury Limitation	Mr. McFarlane	....	....	....	....	113 May	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	No report from Committee of the Whole, 12th October.
Vegetation Diseases	Mr. Sydney Smith.	....	....	....	....	19 June	....	....	....	....	....	....	8 Dec.	10 Dec.	....	....	....	....	48	....
Women's Franchise	Mr. Fegan	....	....	12 Aug.	19 Aug.	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Stopped by prorogation.

No. 2.—REGISTER OF PRIVATE BILLS INTRODUCED UPON PETITION TO THE ASSEMBLY DURING THE SESSION OF 1897.

Short Titles.	By whom and when Petition presented.	Ordered.	Presented and read 1 st .	Referred to Select Committee.	Reported by Select Committee.	Read 2 ^d and committed.	Reported.	Report adopted.	Read 3 ^d , passed, and sent to Council for concurrence.	Agreed to by Council without Amendment.	Bill dropped or laid aside.	Assent.	Remarks.
Borough of Cudgegong Cattle Sale-yards	Mr. Robert Jones	128 April	....	....	....	8 June	8 June	8 June	10 June	30 June	....	1 July	Stopped by prorogation.
Borough of Lithgow Validating	Mr. Bavister	129 April	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	do
City and North Sydney Railway	Mr. Parkes	128 April	....	....	....	13 Oct.	....	....	....	....	....	....	do
City and North Sydney Tunnel Roadway	Mr. Parkes	123 April	....	....	....	13 Oct.	....	....	....	....	....	....	do
Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation Act further Amendment.	Mr. Hawthorne	13 May	18 May	18 May	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	do
Lithgow Co-operative Coal Company Railway	Mr. Hogue	20 Oct.	21 Oct.	26 Oct.	27 Oct.	2 Dec.	....	....	....	....	....	....	do
Maitland Gas-light Act Amendment	Mr. Gillies	15 May	....	....	....	....	8 June	8 June	8 June	9 June	24 June	....	1 July
Mort's Dock Engineering Company (Limited) Enabling.	Mr. Wilks	4 Nov.	10 Nov.	10 Nov.	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	do
Mudgee Show Ground	Mr. Robert Jones	28 July	29 July	29 July	3 Aug.	18 Aug.	....	....	....	....	....	....	do
Narrandera Roman Catholic Church Trustees Enabling.	Mr. Gornly	4 May	....	....	....	....	8 June	8 June	8 June	9 June	24 June	....	1 July
North Shore Bridge	Mr. Morton	15 May	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2 ^d reading negatived, 13th October.
Nyngan Town Hall (Moetgago)	Mr. Waddell	10 Nov.	16 Nov.	16 Nov.	17 Nov.	23 Nov.	2 Dec.	2 Dec.	2 Dec.	2 Dec.	8 Dec.	....	....
Orange Show Ground	Mr. Newman	11 May	....	....	....	....	8 June	8 June	8 June	9 June	24 June	....	1 July
Sydney and North Sydney Bridge & Tramway	Mr. E. M. Clarke	123 April	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	13 Oct.	....	do

* For stage which Bill had reached in former session, see Appendix. * Assent not reported.

No. 3.—REGISTER OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE COUNCIL DURING THE SESSION OF 1897.

Short Titles of—		Brought up and read 1 ^o .	Read 2 ^o and committed.	Reported.	Recommitted.	Reported.	Report adopted.	Read 3 ^o , passed, and returned to Council.	Amendments agreed to by Council.	Assent reported.	Number of Act.	Remarks.
Public Bills.	Private Bills.											
Cattle Driving		10 Nov.										Stopped by prorogation. Proceeded with under Standing Orders.
Church Acts Repealing		20 May	26 Oct.	26 Oct.			26 Oct.	27 Oct.	11 Nov. A.M.	24 Nov.	16	
Claims against the Government and Crown Suits.		10 Nov.	26 Nov. A.M.	26 Nov. A.M.			26 Nov. A.M.	26 Nov. A.M.		7 Dec.	30	Proceeded with under Standing Orders.
	Clergy Widows and Orphans Fund (Sydney Diocese) Trustees.	17 Aug.	12 Oct.	12 Oct.			12 Oct.	13 Oct.		19 Oct.		
Compensation to Relatives.		10 Nov.	26 Nov. A.M.	26 Nov. A.M.			26 Nov. A.M.	26 Nov. A.M.		7 Dec.	31	Proceeded with under Standing Orders.
Contractors' Debts.		10 Nov.	26 Nov. A.M.	26 Nov. A.M.			26 Nov. A.M.	26 Nov. A.M.		7 Dec.	29	
	Co-operative Colliery Tramway.	26 May	23 Nov.	23 Nov.	25 Nov. A.M.	25 Nov. A.M.	23 Nov. A.M.	25 Nov. A.M.	1 Dec.	7 Dec.		Proceeded with under Standing Orders.
Dentists		9 June										Stopped by prorogation. Stopped by prorogation.
Distillation		10 Nov.	26 Nov. A.M.	26 Nov. A.M.			26 Nov. A.M.	26 Nov. A.M.		7 Dec.	27	
Employers Liability		10 Nov.	26 Nov. A.M.	26 Nov. A.M.			26 Nov. A.M.	26 Nov. A.M.		7 Dec.	28	Proceeded with under Standing Orders. Stopped by prorogation.
	Ernst Gravel and Road Metal Company's Tramway.	19 May										
Interpretation		20 May	10 June	10 June			10 June	15 June		24 June	4	Stopped by prorogation.
Medical Municipalities		12 Oct.	26 Nov. A.M.	26 Nov. A.M.			26 Nov. A.M.	26 Nov. A.M.		7 Dec.	23	
Nuisances Prevention		10 Nov.	26 Nov. A.M.	26 Nov. A.M.			26 Nov. A.M.	26 Nov. A.M.		7 Dec.	24	* Assent not reported.
Primitive Methodist Church Property.		13 May	7 Dec.	7 Dec.			7 Dec.	7 Dec.		...	40	
Public Entertainments		10 Nov.	26 Nov. A.M.	26 Nov. A.M.			26 Nov. A.M.	26 Nov. A.M.		7 Dec.	26	Stopped by Prorogation.
Quarantine		10 Nov.	26 Nov. A.M.	26 Nov. A.M.			26 Nov. A.M.	26 Nov. A.M.		7 Dec.	25	
Registration of Deeds		10 Nov.	26 Nov. A.M.	26 Nov. A.M.			26 Nov. A.M.	26 Nov. A.M.		7 Dec.	22	Stopped by Prorogation.
Service of Equitable Process		21 July	6 Oct.	6 Oct.			6 Oct.	7 Oct.		14 Oct.	11	
Stamp Duties		10 Nov.										Stopped by Prorogation.
Wills Probate and Administration.		10 Nov.										Stopped by Prorogation.

1897.

RECAPITULATION.

Number of Public Bills originated in the LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY shown on Register No. 1				102	138
Number of Private Bills do do shown on Register No. 2				14	
Number of Public Bills brought from the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, as shown on Register No. 3				19	
Number of Private Bills do do do				3	
	Public.	Private.	Total.		
Passed and assented to	34	6	40		
Assent not reported	14	1	15		
Pro forma Bill	1		1		
Not brought in	4		4		
Negativd on motion for 2 ^o reading	2	2	4		
Do do 1 ^o do	1		1		
Dropped, laid aside, or discharged	6		6		
Not returned by Legislative Council	13		13		
Stopped by prorogation	46	8	54		138

Legislative Assembly Offices,
Sydney, 10th December, 1897.

F. W. WEBB,
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

APPENDIX.

SHOWING stage which Bills, reintroduced under Standing Orders, had reached in former Session.

1.—PUBLIC BILLS.

Attachment of Wages Abolition ; second reading.
 Australian Legal Profession Federation ; second reading.
 Barristers and Solicitors Fees ; second reading.
 Cooks River Improvements ; sent to Legislative Council.
 Country Towns Water and Sewerage ; sent to Legislative Council.
 Eight Hours ; second reading.
 Fisheries ; second reading.
 Homes Protection ; to be further considered in Committee.
 Hunter District Water and Sewerage Act Amendment ; sent to Legislative Council.
 International Patents and Trade Marks Arrangements ; second reading.
 Judges Relatives Disqualification ; second reading.
 Juvenile Smoking Suppression ; second reading.
 Law Practitioners ; second reading.
 Legal Profession Amalgamation ; to be considered in Committee.
 Liens on Wool and Stock Mortgages ; second reading.
 Ministerial Election ; second reading.
 Ministerial Portfolios Reduction ; second reading.
 Municipalities Act Amendment ; second reading.
 Municipal Loans Further Validation ; consideration in Committee of the Whole of the Legislative Council's amendments.
 Pharmacy ; sent to Legislative Council.
 Public Instruction Act Amendment ; to be considered in Committee.
 Public Roads ; Council's amendments agreed to, disagreed to, and amended.
 Public Works Act Further Amendment ; second reading.
 Supreme Court Appeal's Practice ; second reading.
 Usury Limitation ; to be further considered in Committee.
 Vegetation Diseases ; sent to Legislative Council.

2.—PRIVATE BILLS.

Borough of Cudgegong Cattle Sale-yards ; second reading.
 Borough of Lithgow Validating ; second reading.
 City and North Sydney Railway ; second reading.
 City and North Sydney Tunnel Roadway ; second reading.
 Maitland Gaslight Act Amendment ; second reading.
 Narrandera Roman Catholic Church Trustees Enabling ; second reading.
 North Shore Bridge ; second reading.
 Orange Show Ground ; second reading.
 Sydney and North Sydney Bridge and Tramway ; second reading.

3.—COUNCIL BILLS.

Church Acts Repealing ; second reading.
 Co-operative Colliery Tramway ; second reading.
 Dentists ; second reading.
 Emu Gravel and Road Metal Company's Tramway ; second reading.
 Primitive Methodist Church Property ; second reading.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

REGISTER OF ADDRESSES AND ORDERS FOR PAPERS DURING THE SESSION 1897.

No. OF ADDRESS OR ORDER.	WHEN PASSED.			ON WHOSE MOTION.	PAPERS APPLIED FOR.		RETURN TO ADDRESS OR ORDER.	REGISTER NUMBER.	IF TO BE PRINTED.	
	VOTES.				By Address.	By Order.			Date of Order.	When given to Clerk of Printing Branch.
	No.	Date.	Entry.							
		1897.					1897.		1897.	1897.
65	69	10 November...	10	Mr. Frank Farnell..	.....	Agricultural and Horticultural Societies.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
61	64	27 October ...	7	Mr. Lyne .....	.....	Application for Suspension of Labour Conditions by Wentworth Proprietary Gold-mining Company, Lucknow.	2 November	97/634	18 November	18 November
3	8	12 May	12	Dr. Ross .....	.....	Application of John Finneran for lease of Water Reserve, County of Ashburnham.	11 August...	97/485	.....	.....
4	8	12 „	13	Dr. Ross .....	.....	Application of John Lyster for an Original Conditional Purchase, County of Ashburnham.	4 August...	97/468	.....	.....
19	15	27 „	6	Mr. McFarlane ...	.....	Applications for Compensation from certain Landholders on Deepwater Creek, Ulmarra.	4 August...	97/466	.....	.....
11	8	12 „	25	Mr. Fegan .....	.....	Appointment of Chief Inspector of Mines	2 December	97/767	.....	.....
29	25	23 June	4	Dr. Ross .....	.....	Appointment of Mr. Payten as Stipendiary Magistrate at Newcastle.	24 August...	97/519	.....	.....
23	17	2 „	5	Mr. Morgan .....	.....	Bridges erected across the River Murray	10 August...	97/478	.....	.....
14	10	18 May	5	Mr. Hurley .....	.....	Case of John Wild and George Hemsworth, Applicants for Gold Lease on Mr. Henry Butler's Private Land, parish of Mount Lawson.	5 August...	97/472	.....	.....
2	6	6 „	6	Mr. Haynes	Case of Rachel Dawson, tried at Dubbo for shooting at Frederick Acheson.	.....	1 June...	97/280	3 June.....	3 June.
45	44	5 August.....	5	Mr. E. M. Clark ...	.....	Claims for Gratuities under the Public Service Act .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
83	29	1 July	9	Mr. E. M. Clark ...	.....	Closing of Branch Road, Double Bay	17 August...	97/498	21 October...	21 October.
84	29	1 „	10	Mr. E. M. Clark ...	.....	Closing of Whaling Road, North Sydney	18 August...	97/503	21 October...	21 October.
67	71	17 November...	7	Mr. Fegan .....	.....	Coal from the Northern Collieries	9 December	97/831	.....	.....

REGISTER OF ADDRESSES AND ORDERS FOR PAPERS DURING THE SESSION 1897—continued.

No. OF ADDRESS OR ORDER.	WHEN PASSED.			ON WHOSE MOTION.	PAPERS APPLIED FOR.		RETURN TO ADDRESS OR ORDER.	REGISTER NUMBER.	IF TO BE PRINTED.	
	VOTES.				By Address.	By Order.			Date of Order.	When given to Clerk of Printing Branch.
	No.	Date.	Entry.							
		1897.					1897.		1897.	1897.
66	71	17 November..	6	Mr. Fegan.....	.....	Coal Shipped at the Newcastle Dyke	9 December	97/829	.....	.....
56	60	19 October ...	5	Mr. Edden .....	.....	Coal used by the Railway Department.....	27 October...	97/630	28 October..	28 October.
58	63	26 "	5	Mr. Crick .....	.....	Complaint against Warden Smith, of Tuena	16 November	97/683	.....	.....
38	33	13 July	6	Mr. E. M. Clark .....	.....	Deductions from Salaries of Temporary Officers during Jubilee Holidays.	30 November	97/747	.....	.....
16	11	19 May	5	Mr. Fegan .....	.....	Dismissal of Maurice Hickey, of Newcastle, by the Marine Board.	27 May	97/270	3 June.....	3 June.
9	8	12 "	22	Mr. McGowen .....	.....	Dismissal of Temporary Hands, Government Printing Office.	2 June	97/284	3 June.....	3 June.
35	29	1 July	11	Mr. Chanter.....	.....	Exchange of Land on Yanga Station, near Balranald	6 October...	97/558	7 October...	7 October.
72	74	24 November...	6	Mr. Frank Farnell .....	.....	Expenditure connected with the Mines Department.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
17	11	19 May	6	Mr. Wood.....	.....	Expenditure from Votes for 1896-7 on Works undertaken in 1895-6.	14 July	97/401	15 July	15 July.
3	46	11 August.....	2	Mr. Knox.....	Fine imposed upon Mrs. Flood, Paddington Police Court.	.....	24 August...	97/518	.....	.....
15	10	18 May	7	Mr. Robert Jones...	.....	Gaol and Court-House at Mudgeco	3 "	97/455	.....	.....
12	9	13 "	6	Mr. Chanter.....	.....	Government Advertisements in Sydney Newspapers.....	19 May	97/248	.....	.....
2	5	5 "	5	Mr. Copeland .....	.....	Homestead Leases in names of W. Brady, sen., Anne E. Morris, and W. Brady, jun., Wilcannia District.	13 "	97/220	20 May	20 May.
39	33	13 July	7	Mr. Neild .....	.....	Hyde Park, Sydney.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
42	39	27 "	4	Mr. Neild .....	.....	Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation Limited	4 November	97/645	.....	.....
36	33	13 "	4	Mr. Crick .....	.....	Land and Income Taxation Department	11 August...	97/486	12 August...	12 August.
62	64	27 October ...	9	Mr. Wheeler .....	.....	Land Statistics, Gosford Population Area	7 December	97/783	.....	.....
18	11	19 May	7	Mr. Haynes .....	.....	Leasing of portion of Church and School Estate, Randwick-Kensington Racecourse.	7 "	97/787	.....	.....
43	41	29 July	7	Mr. E. M. Clark ...	.....	Leave of absence granted by Public Service Board	13 October...	97/593	.....	.....
73	76	30 November..	5	Mr. T. R. Smith ...	.....	Mining Case, Woods v. Collins .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
26	22	15 June.....	4	Mr. Watson .....	.....	Mining Leases, Grenfell.....	30 June	97/357	.....	.....
31	29	1 July	7	Dr. Ross .....	.....	Molong Marble	13 July	97/397	15 July	15 July.
44	41	29 "	9	Mr. Wood.....	.....	Non-residential Conditional Purchase, Cowra, taken up by Ellen Josephine Ormsby.	30 November	97/748	.....	.....
40	35	15 "	5	Mr. F. Clarke .....	.....	North Coast Railway	10 August...	97/481	19 August...	19 August.
59	64	27 October.....	4	Mr. Thomas Brown .....	.....	Ownership of Trundle Dam .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
41	36	20 July	7	Mr. Wilks .....	.....	Patents Office—Examiner of Patents .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
60	64	27 October.....	6	Mr. McGowen .....	.....	Payments made to Sir John Fowler	25 November	97/728	.....	.....
20	17	2 June.....	2	Mr. Whiddon .....	.....	Pensioners under the Civil Service Superannuation Fund...	.....	.....	.....	.....
50	51	24 August.....	5	Mr. Dick .....	.....	Pilot Service, Newcastle and Sydney	4 November	97/643	.....	.....
64	69	10 November..	9	Mr. Wright .....	.....	Proposal to transfer Emmaville, Deepwater, and the Nine-mile from the Police District of Glen Innes to that of Tenterfield.	7 December	97/784	.....	.....
69	73	23 "	6	Mr. Carroll .....	.....	Public Officers over sixty years of age .....	.....	.....	.....	.....

REGISTER OF ADDRESSES AND ORDERS FOR PAPERS DURING THE SESSION 1897—continued.

No. OF ADDRESS OR ORDER.	WHEN PASSED.			ON WHOSE MOTION.	PAPERS APPLIED FOR.		RETURN TO ADDRESS OR ORDER.	REGISTER NUMBER.	IF TO BE PRINTED.	
	VOTES.				By Address.	By Order.			Date of Order.	When given to Clerk of Printing Branch.
	No.	Date.	Entry.							
		1897.					1897.	1897.	1897.	1897.
49	49	18 August.....	8	Mr. Morgan.....	.....	Public School Teacher at Wilberforce.....	24 August...	97/517	.....	.....
1	3	29 April.....	15	Mr. Perry.....	.....	Public Service Board—Cases of Mr. F. O. Byrnes and W. R. Wakely.	9 June.....	97/312	.....	.....
25	20	9 June.....	4	Mr. Hayes.....	.....	Receipts under the Diseases in Sheep Act.....	30 „.....	97/356	1 July.....	1 July.
54	55	6 October.....	5	Mr. Perry.....	.....	Refusal of Transfers of Conditional Purchases to Married Women.	.....	.....	.....	.....
52	51	24 August.....	13	Mr. Hogue.....	.....	Removal of John King, Tram-guard.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
37	33	13 July.....	5	Mr. Ewing.....	.....	Resumption of Land for Railway Purposes at South Lismore.	4 August...	97/458	.....	.....
13	9	13 May.....	8	Mr. Perry.....	.....	Resumption of Waldron's Selection, Yalgogrin.....	27 May.....	97/273	.....	.....
55	60	19 October.....	4	Mr. Neild.....	.....	Retirement of Mr. David Barnett, Ghebe Island Abattoirs	.....	.....	.....	.....
46	44	5 August.....	6	Mr. W. H. B. Fiddington.	.....	Roads in the Walcha Division, Tamworth Road District...	6 October...	97/562	.....	.....
63	69	10 November...	8	Mr. Neild.....	.....	Ryan's and Duly's Conditional Purchases, parish of Yetholme, county of Roxburgh.	9 December	97/824	.....	.....
27	23	16 June.....	5	Mr. Chanter.....	.....	Selection by Arthur Jeffries, Land District of Deniliquin...	26 August...	97/541	.....	.....
10	8	12 May.....	23	Mr. Fegan.....	.....	Stockton Colliery Disaster.....	6 October...	97/559	7 October...	7 October.
68	73	23 November...	5	Mr. Hurley.....	.....	Sunny Corner Mining Leases.....	8 December	97/822	.....	.....
24	19	8 June.....	4	Mr. Cann.....	.....	Supply of Uniforms.....	29 June.....	97/350	.....	.....
71	74	24 November...	5	Mr. Bavister.....	.....	Technological Museum.....	30 November	97/743	.....	.....
28	24	17 June.....	4	Mr. Lyne.....	.....	Telephone Tunnel in Pitt-street.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
47	49	18 August.....	5	Mr. Neild.....	.....	Temporary Labourers and Watchmen, Public Wharfs, Sydney.	6 October...	97/574	.....	.....
6	8	12 May.....	17	Mr. Parkes.....	.....	The Civil Service.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
22	17	2 June.....	4	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick.	.....	.....	6 October..	97/573	7 October...	7 October.
21	17	2 „.....	3	Mr. Thomas Brown	.....	The Permanent Artillery.....	21 July.....	97/422	.....	.....
30	25	23 „.....	5	Mr. Affleck.....	.....	The Unemployed.....	6 October...	97/564	7 October...	7 October.
57	63	26 October.....	4	Mr. Neild.....	.....	Transshipment of Tonnage and Live Stock, per Rail, on the Border between New South Wales and Victoria.	9 December	97/830	.....	.....
7	8	12 May.....	19	Mr. Gormly.....	.....	Travelling Stock and Camping Reserves, Wagga Wagga Land District.	4 August...	97/467	.....	.....
5	8	12 „.....	15	Mr. Edden.....	.....	Ventilation of Coal Mines, Newcastle District.....	8 June.....	97/301	10 June.....	10 June.
8	8	12 „.....	21	Mr. Frank Farnell.	.....	Vote for Roads and Bridges, 1896-7.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
53	52	25 August.....	4	Mr. „.....	.....	Vote for Unclassified Roads for 1897-8.....	12 October..	97/586	14 October...	14 October.
32	29	1 July.....	8	Mr. Watkins.....	.....	Wallsend Colliery.....	21 July.....	97/427	22 July.....	22 July.
51	51	24 August.....	10	Mr. Affleck.....	.....	Water Conservation Department.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
70	73	23 November...	7	Mr. Watkins.....	.....	Water Frontages, Lake Macquarie.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
48	49	18 August.....	7	Mr. Haynes.....	.....	Wharfage Rates and Tonnage Dues Act.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

REGISTER OF ADDRESSES AND ORDERS FOR PAPERS DURING FORMER SESSIONS, 1897.

NO. OF ADDRESS OR ORDER.	WHEN PASSED.			ON WHOSE MOTION.	PAPERS APPLIED FOR.		RETURN TO ADDRESS OR ORDER.	REGISTER NUMBER.	IF TO BE PRINTED.	
	VOTES.				By Address.	By Order.			Date of Order.	When given to Clerk of Printing Branch.
	No.	Date.	Entry.							
27	32	1896. 22 July	7	Mr. Hughes .....	.....	Alleged Evasion of the Beer Duty Act by Messrs. Tooth & Co. (Limited).	1897. 11 May	97/202	1897. 20 May	1897. 20 May.
36	58	1892. 22 September..	15	Mr. Wright .....	.....	Contract for Bridge over Buffalo Creek, Field of Mars.....	29 April ...	97/57	.....	.....
104	103	1896. 17 March	6	Mr. Garrard .....	.....	Convictions under the Licensing Act	29 April ...	97/64	.....	.....
40	62	1896. 30 September..	6	Mr. Millen .....	.....	Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Act	6 May	97/193	18 May	18 May.
43	70	20 October ...	3	Mr. Howarth .....	.....	Gordon Railway Station	4 May	97/97	6 May	6 May.

REGISTER OF ADDRESSES (NOT BEING FOR PAPERS) TO THE GOVERNOR, DURING THE SESSION OF 1897.

SUBJECT OF ADDRESS.	ORIGINATED IN THE ASSEMBLY.			WHEN PASSED OR AGREED TO.			WHEN AND HOW PRESENTED.				WHEN AND HOW ANSWERED.				REMARKS.
	VOTES.			VOTES.			VOTES.				VOTES.				
	No.	Date.	Entry.	On whose Motion.	No.	Date.	Entry.	No.	Date.	Entry.	By whom.	No.	Date.	Entry.		By whom and how.
1. The Governor's Opening Speech	1	1897. 27 April..	6	Mr. Dugald Thomson..	2	1897. 28 April..	16	3	1897. 29 April..	1	Mr. Speaker, accompanied by the House.	3	1897. 29 April..	1	His Excel- lency the Governor.
Congratulatory Address to Her Majesty the Queen on the completion of the 60th year of Her Reign.	6	6 May ...	14	Mr. Reid	6	6 May ...	14	...	.....	...	President and Speaker.	...	.....	...	Signed by President and Speaker on behalf of the Council and Assembly.

Legislative Assembly Office,
Sydney, 10th December, 1897.

F. W. WEBB,
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

STANDING AND SELECT COMMITTEES APPOINTED DURING THE SESSION OF 1897.

No. OF COMMITTEE.	DESIGNATION OF COMMITTEE.	WHEN AND HOW APPOINTED.	MEMBERS.	CHAIRMAN.	No. OF MEETINGS.		No. OF WITNESSES EXAMINED.	WHEN REPORTED.
					Called.	Held.		
1	The Governor's Opening Speech.	27 April, 1897. Votes No. 1. Entry 6 (On motion of Mr. Dugald Thompson.)	{ Mr. Ashton, Mr. E. M. Clark, Mr. Gillies, Dr. Graham, Mr. Lee, Mr. Millard, Mr. Millen, Mr. Neild, Mr. A. B. Piddington, Mr. Dugald Thomson.	Mr. Dugald Thompson.	1	1	.....	1897. 27th April.
2	Standing Orders ¹	28 April, 1897. Votes No. 2. Entry 21 (On motion of Mr. Reid.)	{ Mr. Speaker, Mr. Reid, Mr. McCourt, Mr. Lyne, Mr. See, Mr. Lee, Mr. Molesworth, Mr. McGowen, Mr. Crick, Mr. Young.	Mr. Speaker	4	4	.....	18th August.
3	Library ²	28 April, 1897. Votes No. 2. Entry 22 (On motion of Mr. Reid.)	{ Mr. Speaker, Mr. Reid, Mr. Neild, Mr. Hogue, Mr. Ashton, Mr. Perry, Mr. Black, Mr. Mackay, Mr. Bavister, Mr. O'Sullivan.	The President	2	1	.....	.....
4	Refreshment ³	28 April, 1897. Votes No. 2. Entry 23 (On motion of Mr. Reid.)	{ Mr. Speaker, Mr. Reid, Mr. Neild, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Hogue, Mr. Levien, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Chapman, Mr. W. H. B. Piddington, Mr. Cann.	Mr. Hayes	1	1	.....	.....
5	Printing ⁴	28 April, 1897. Votes No. 2. Entry 24 (On motion of Mr. Reid.)	{ Mr. Reid, Mr. Gormly, Mr. Watson, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Dugald Thomson, Mr. Millen, Mr. Schey, Mr. Price, Mr. Dick, Mr. Archibald Campbell.	Mr. Gormly	29	26	.....	{ 4, 6, 13, 20, 27 May; 3, 10, 17 June; 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 July; 5, 12, 19, 26 August; 7, 14, 21 October; 2, 18, 25 November; 2, 8, 9 December.

¹ Confers on subjects of mutual concernment with a similar Committee appointed by the Legislative Council.

² and ³ These Committees act in conjunction with similar Committees appointed by the Legislative Council.

⁴ Leave given to sit during the sitting of the House, 25th August and 8th December.

STANDING AND SELECT COMMITTEES APPOINTED DURING THE SESSION OF 1897—*continued.*

No. OF COMMITTEE.	DESIGNATION OF COMMITTEE.	WHEN AND HOW APPOINTED.	MEMBERS.	CHAIRMAN.	No. OF MEETINGS.		No. OF WITNESSES EXAMINED.	WHEN REPORTED.	
					Called.	Held.			
6	Elections and Qualifications	28 April, 1897. Votes No. 2. Entry 1 (<i>Mr. Speaker's warrant taking effect, 6 May, 1897.</i>)	Mr. Bull, Mr. Macdonald, Mr. Mackay, Mr. Millen, Mr. Moore,	Mr. Perry, Dr. Ross, Mr. See, Mr. Dugald Thomson.	.....	.....	.....	1897.	
7	Consolidation of the Land Laws	12 May, 1897. Votes No. 8. Entry 32 (<i>On motion of Mr. Carruthers.</i>)	Mr. Carruthers, Mr. Copeland,* Mr. Chanter, Mr. Moore, Mr. Ashton,	Mr. Hayes, Mr. Millen, Mr. Gormly, Mr. Watson, Mr. Macdonald.	Mr. Carruthers.....	8	8	10	30 November.
8	Exchange of Land, Cuppacumbalong Run, Queanbeyan District.	13 May, 1897. Votes No. 9. Entry 22 (<i>On motion of Mr. O'Sullivan</i>)	Mr. O'Sullivan, Mr. Carruthers, Mr. Miller, Mr. W. H. B. Piddington, Mr. Molesworth,	Mr. Carroll, Mr. Mahony, Mr. Mackay, Mr. Travers Jones, Mr. Ferguson.	Mr. O'Sullivan.....	9	8	8	24 June.
9	Additions and Alterations to the Government Printing Office ¹	24 June, 1897. Votes No. 26. Entry 15 (<i>On motion of Mr. McLean.</i>)	Mr. McLean, Mr. Lyne, Mr. McGowen, Mr. Bavister, Mr. Young,	Mr. Nelson, Mr. Ball, Mr. Parkes, Mr. Willis, Mr. Wilks.	Mr. McLean.....	18	13	12	9 December. (<i>Progress.</i>)
10	Day-labour—Railway Deviations	30 June, 1897. Votes No. 28. Entry 12 (<i>On motion of McGowen.</i>)	Mr. McGowen, Mr. Cook, Mr. Bavister, Mr. Lync, Mr. Robert Jones,	Mr. Cann, Mr. Harris, Mr. Nelson, Mr. F. Clarke, Mr. Hayes.	Mr. McGowen.....	6	6	4	8 December.
11	Construction of the Telephone Tunnels ²	30 June, 1897. Votes No. 28. Entry 13 (<i>On motion of Mr. Lyne.</i>)	Mr. Lyne, Mr. Cook, Mr. Bavister, Mr. McGowen, Mr. Robert Jones,	Mr. Cann, Mr. Harris, Mr. Nelson, Mr. F. Clarke, Mr. Hayes.	Mr. Lyne.....	22	22	23	8 December. (<i>Progress.</i>)
12	Municipalities Act Amendment Bill... <i>Search Committee.</i>	9 July, 1897, a.m. Votes No. 32. Entry 16 (<i>On motion of Mr. Neild.</i>)	Mr. Neild, Mr. Brunker, Mr. Carruthers, Mr. Lyne, Mr. Waddell,	Mr. McGowen, Mr. Edden, Mr. E. M. Clark, Mr. Simeon Phillips.	Mr. Neild.....	1	1	.....	14 July.
18	Claim of James and Patrick Guihen, of Kangaroo Valley.	27 July, 1897. Votes No. 39. Entry 8 ... (<i>On motion of Mr. Alexander Campbell.</i>)	Mr. Alex. Campbell, Mr. Carruthers, Mr. Robert Jones, Mr. Morton,	Mr. Chapman, Mr. Pyers, Mr. Law, Mr. Rose.	Mr. Alexander Campbell.	6	4	3	19 October.
14	Mudgee Show Ground Bill	3 August, 1897. Votes No. 42. Entry 4 (<i>On motion of Mr. Robert Jones.</i>)	Mr. Robert Jones, Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Haynes, Mr. Wilks, Mr. Edden,	Mr. Hurley, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Simeon Phillips, Mr. Pyers.	Mr. Robert Jones...	1	1	1	18 August.

* Discharged from attendance, 19 May, 1897.

¹ Leave given to make a visit of inspection to the Government Printing Office, 21 July, 1897.² Leave given to make visits of inspection in connection with inquiry, 13 July, 1897.

STANDING AND SELECT COMMITTEES APPOINTED DURING THE SESSION OF 1897—*continued.*

No. OF COMMITTEE.	DESIGNATION OF COMMITTEE.	WHEN AND HOW APPOINTED.	MEMBERS.	CHAIRMAN.	No. OF MEETINGS.		No. OF WITNESSES EXAMINED.	WHEN REPORTED.
					Called.	Held.		
16	Public Service Board—Retiring Allowances and Gratuities. ¹	10 August, 1897. Votes No. 46. Entry 10 (On motion of Mr. Neild.)	{ Mr. Neild, Mr. Hogue, Mr. Brunker, Mr. Perry, Mr. Lync, Mr. O'Reilly, Mr. Jessop, Mr. Travers Jones, Mr. Waddell, Mr. Griffith.	Mr. Neild	25	21	51	1897. 7 December.
16	Conditional Purchase by George Vincent, in the District of Gundagai.	10 August, 1897. Votes No. 45. Entry 11 (On motion of Mr. Travers Jones.)	{ Mr. Travers Jones, Mr. F. Clarke, Mr. Carruthers, Mr. O'Sullivan, Mr. Barnes, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Gormly, Mr. Affleck, Mr. Macdonald, Mr. Robert Jones.	Mr. Travers Jones...	3	3	1	19 August.
17	Totalizator Bill	17 August, 1897. Votes No. 48. Entry 8 (On motion of Mr. Crick.)	{ Mr. Hassall, Mr. Crick, Mr. Sleath, Mr. Cruickshank, Mr. Knox, Mr. Brunker, Mr. Watson, Mr. McLaughlin.	Mr. Sleath	8	4	3	.....
18	Case of Sydney Cooper, as to Mining under of Road, Parish of Clive, County of Gough.	24 August, 1897. Votes No. 51. Entry 9 (On motion of Mr. Cruickshank.)	{ Mr. Cruickshank, Mr. Gormly, Mr. Sydney Smith, Mr. Lonsdale, Mr. Chapman, Mr. Macdonald, Mr. Oann, Mr. Moore.	Mr. Cruickshank ...	7	7	4	8 December.
19	Estate of the late S. M. Swift, of Petersham.	24 August, 1897. Votes. 51. Entry 11 (On motion of Mr. Hughes.)	{ Mr. Hughes, Mr. McLean, Mr. Perry, Mr. Dick, Mr. Brunker, Mr. Parkes, Mr. McFarlane, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wood, Mr. McGowen.	Mr. Hughes	10	8	6	.....
20	Lithgow Co-operative Coal Company Railway Bill.	27 October, 1897. Votes No. 64. Entry 5 (On motion of Mr. Hogue.)	{ Mr. Hogue, Mr. Gormly, Mr. Affleck, Mr. Hawthorne, Mr. Edden, Mr. Lync, Mr. Fegan, Mr. Mackay, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Young.	Mr. Hogue	5	4	8	2 December.
21	Case of Thomas Buckley—Public Works Department.	16 November, 1897. Votes No. 70. Entry 9 (On motion of Mr. E. M. Clark.)	{ Mr. E. M. Clark, Mr. Howarth, Mr. Young, Mr. Cann, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Willis, Mr. Gormly, Mr. McGowen, Mr. Waddell, Mr. O'Sullivan.	Mr. E. M. Clark...	4	3	3	.....
22	Nyngan Town Hall (Mortgage) Bill...	17 November, 1897. Votes No. 71. Entry 5 (On motion of Mr. Waddell.)	{ Mr. Waddell, Mr. Edden, Mr. Brunker, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Haynes, Mr. Pyers, Mr. Cann, Mr. Hogue, Mr. Robert Jones, Mr. Chanter.	Mr. Waddell.....	2	2	2	23 November.

¹ Chairman, in terms of Standing Order 363, reported that evidence had been disclosed by a Member of the Committee prior to its being reported to the House, 24 November, 1897.

Legislative Assembly Office,
Sydney, 10th December, 1897.

F. W. WEBB,
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 1.

REPORT FROM PRINTING COMMITTEE.

THE PRINTING COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed under the Sessional Order of 28th April, 1897, Votes No. 2, Entry 24, have agreed to report to your Honorable House, in relation to the Papers referred to them, as follows:—

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
Public Accounts	for the year ended 30th June, 1896, accompanied by the twenty-sixth Report of the Auditor-General.	.....	Mr. Speaker	1897. 28 April	To be printed	Already in print.
Minutes	Copies of, by His Excellency the Governor and Executive Council— (a) Authorising the transfer of amounts from two heads of service to supplement the Vote for another of service in connection with the Treasury Department. (b) Authorising the transfer of an amount from the Vote "to meet adjustments of salaries on revision by Public Service Board" to supplement the Vote for "Auditor-General." (c) Authorising the transfer of certain salaries from the Government Statistician's Office to the Registrar-General's Department as a temporary arrangement. (d) Authorising the transfer of an amount from the Vote for "Gold and Escort" to supplement the Vote "to meet unforeseen expenses to be hereafter accounted for." (Two Minutes). (e) Authorising the transfer of an amount from the Vote for "Salaries, Audit Department," to supplement the Vote for "Reorganisation of the Public Service."	.....	" .....	28 "	" "	
Regulations	under the Mining Laws Amendment Act of 1896 .....	.....	Mr. Carruthers	28 "	Not to be printed.	
Notification	of Settlement Lease proposed to be validated .....	.....	" .....	28 "	" "	
Abstract	of Crown Lands, reserved from sale for the preservation of water supply or other Public Purposes.	.....	" .....	28 "	" "	
"	of Alterations and Cancellations of Designs of Cities, Towns, and Villages.	.....	" .....	28 "	" "	
"	of Sites for Cities, Towns, and Villages .....	.....	" .....	28 "	" "	
"	of Crown Lands, authorised to be dedicated to Public Purposes .....	.....	" .....	28 "	" "	
Report	from Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on proposed Railway from Condobolin to Broken Hill.	.....	Mr. Ewing	28 "	To be printed	Already in print.
"	from Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on proposed Construction of a Deep-water Harbour at Port Kembla ..	.....	" .....	29 "	" "	" "
Regulations	in connection with the Dredge Service .....	.....	Mr. Young	29 "	Not to be printed.	
By-laws	respecting the Homebush Creek and Iron Cove Creek Extension Storm-water Channels, under the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Act Extension Act of 1894. Amended By-laws respecting the Willoughby Falls Creek, Carcening Cove Drain, Iron Cove Creek, Ashfield, Burwood, Enfield, and Canterbury Drain, under the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Act Extension Act of 1894, and Regulations and Forms under the Water Rights Act of 1896.	.....	" .....	29 "	" "	

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
Reports	respecting the appointments of Mr. E. J. Seivers, Mr. A. F. Evans, and Mr. A. D. Craig, in the Department of Public Works.	.....	Mr. Young	1897. 29 April	Not to be printed.	
Notification.....	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for an approach to Bridge over Hunter River at Morpeth.	.....	" .....	29 "	" "	
"	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land, extension of Canal at Shea's Creek.	.....	" .....	29 "	" "	
"	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for approach to Punt on the Parramatta River at Ryde.	.....	" .....	29 "	" "	
"	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for approaches to Bridge over Deep Creek.	.....	" .....	29 "	" "	
"	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for a Post and Telegraph Office at West Wyalong.	.....	" .....	29 "	" "	
"	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for construction of the Middle Billabong Weir.	.....	" .....	29 "	" "	
"	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for the Parkes Water Supply.	.....	" .....	29 "	" "	
"	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for Bridge over South Creek.	.....	" .....	29 "	" "	
"	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for a Lock and Weir on the River Darling at or near Bourke.	.....	" .....	29 "	" "	
"	of resumption, under Public Works Act, for Extension of Water Mains to Sulphide Works, Cockle Creek.	.....	" .....	29 "	" "	
"	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for Bridge over Stonequarry Creek at Picton.	.....	" .....	29 "	" "	
"	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for Wharf at Greenridge, Richmond River.	.....	" .....	29 "	" "	
"	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for Bridge over Morambil Creek at Quirindi.	.....	" .....	29 "	" "	
"	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for Bridge over Macleay River at Kempsey.	.....	" .....	29 "	" "	
"	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for the Parkes Water Supply.	.....	" .....	29 "	" "	
"	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for Approach to Ferry, at Menindie.	.....	" .....	29 "	" "	
Return to Order	" Contracts for Bridge over Buffalo Creek, Field of Mars "	Mr. Wright	"	29 "	" "	
Additional Regulation	No. 319A, under the Crown Lands Acts.....	.....	Mr. Carruthers.....	29 "	" "	
Amended Regulation	No. 72 and Amended Forms, Nos. 20, 46, and 83, under the Crown Lands Acts.	.....	" .....	29 "	" "	
Amended Regulations	Nos. 53, 56, 152, and 156, under the Crown Lands Acts.....	.....	" .....	29 "	" "	
Amended Forms	Nos. 7 and 50, under the Crown Lands Acts .....	.....	" .....	29 "	" "	
Regulations	and Form for transfer of purchase under the Newcastle Pasturage Acts Amendment Act of 1895.	.....	" .....	29 "	" "	
Minutes	of the late Under Secretary of Justice, and the present Under Secretary of Justice, respecting the administration of the Prisons Department.	.....	Mr. Gould	29 "	To be printed.	
Return (in part) to Order	Convictions under the Licensing Act.....	Mr. Garrard.....	"	29 "	Not to be printed.	

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No. 3 Committee Room,
Legislative Assembly, 4th May, 1897.

JAMES GORMLY,
Chairman.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 2.

REPORT FROM PRINTING COMMITTEE.

THE PRINTING COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed under the Sessional Order of 28th April, 1897, Votes No. 2, Entry 24, have agreed to report to your Honorable House, in relation to the Papers referred to them since their Report No. 1, dated 4th May, 1897, as follows:—

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
By-law	of the Borough of Bombala		Mr. Brunner	1897. 4 May	Not to be printed.	
By-laws	" " Bathurst		"	4 "	" "	
"	" " Narrabri		"	4 "	" "	
"	" " Wallsend		"	4 "	" "	
"	" " East Maitland		"	4 "	" "	
By-law	" Municipal District of Nowra		"	4 "	" "	
"	" " Dungog		"	4 "	" "	
By-laws	" " Cooma		"	4 "	" "	
"	" " Lambton		"	4 "	" "	
"	" " Wellington		"	4 "	" "	
"	" " Wilcannia		"	4 "	" "	
"	" " Marsfield		"	4 "	" "	
Amended Regulation	under Volunteer Force Regulation Act of 1867		"	4 "	" "	
By-laws	of the Municipal District of Hillston, under Nuisances Prevention Act, 1875.		"	4 "	" "	
"	of the Municipal District of Raymond Terrace, under Nuisances Prevention Act, 1875.		"	4 "	" "	
"	of the Municipal District of Wellington, under Municipalities Act, 1867, and Nuisances Prevention Act, 1875.		"	4 "	" "	
"	of the Municipal District of Warren, under the Municipalities Act, 1867, and Nuisances Prevention Act, 1875.		"	4 "	" "	
"	of the Borough of North Sydney under Municipal Wharfs Act, 1893.		"	4 "	" "	
"	of the Borough of Hunter's Hill, under Municipalities Act, 1867, and Municipal Wharfs Act, 1893.		"	4 "	" "	
By-law	under Sydney Hospital Act, 1831		"	4 "	" "	
Regulations and Amended Regulations.	under Australasian Federation Enabling Act, 1895		"	4 "	" "	
Regulations	under Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act Amendment Act, 1896.		"	4 "	" "	
General Abstracts	of Banking, Land, Building, and Investment Companies' Liabilities and Assets, quarter ended 30th September, 1896.		"	4 "	" "	
Statement	of Receipts and Expenditure of the Corporation of the City of Sydney for 1896.		"	4 "	To be printed.	
Report	of Board for the Protection of the Aborigines for 1896		"	4 "	" "	Already in print.
"	of Police Department for 1896		"	4 "	" "	

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
				1897.		
Report	of State Children's Relief Board for year ended 5th April, 1896	.....	Mr. Brunker.....	4 May	To be printed	Already in print.
Eleventh Annual Report	of the Goulburn Fire Brigades Board under Fire Brigades Act, 1884	.....	" .....	4 "	Not to be printed.	
First Annual Report	of the Moss Vale Fire Brigades Board under the Fire Brigades Act, 1884.	.....	" .....	4 "	" "	
Return to Order	"Gordon Railway Station"	Mr. Howarth	"	4 "	To be printed.	
Report	of Royal Commission respecting Contracts of Messrs. Carter, Gum-mow, and Company, together with Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence, Appendices and Plans.	.....	" .....	4 "	" "	Already in print.
"	of the Proceedings of a Conference respecting Noxious Weeds Pest, held in Sydney, March, 1897.	.....	Mr. Carruthers.....	4 "	" "	Already in print.
Notification	of withdrawal, under Crown Lands Act of 1895, of certain lands from the Pastoral Lease of the Canally Leasehold Area, for settlement by other holdings.	.....	" .....	4 "	Not to be printed.	
"	of withdrawal, under Crown Lands Act of 1895, of certain lands from the Pastoral Lease of the Ulumbarella Leasehold Area, for settlement by other holdings.	.....	" .....	4 "	" "	
"	of withdrawal, under Crown Lands Act of 1895, of certain lands from the Pastoral Lease of the West Mandamah Leasehold Area, for settlement by other holdings.	.....	" .....	4 "	" "	
"	of withdrawal, under Crown Lands Act of 1895, of certain lands from the Pastoral Lease of the Derribong Leasehold Area, for settlement by other holdings.	.....	" .....	4 "	" "	
"	of withdrawal, under Crown Lands Act of 1895, of certain lands from the Pastoral Lease of the Burburgate Leasehold Area, for settlement by other holdings.	.....	" .....	4 "	" "	
"	of withdrawal, under Crown Lands Act of 1895, of certain lands from the Pastoral Lease of the Bartley's Creek Leasehold Area, for settlement by other holdings.	.....	" .....	4 "	" "	
"	of withdrawal, under Crown Lands Act of 1895, of certain lands from the Pastoral Lease of the Gunningbland Leasehold Area, for settlement by other holdings.	.....	" .....	4 "	" "	
"	of withdrawal, under Crown Lands Act of 1895, of certain lands from the Pastoral Lease of the Bygaloree Leasehold Area for settle-ment by other holdings.	.....	" .....	4 "	" "	
"	of withdrawal, under Crown Lands Act of 1895, of certain lands from the Pastoral Lease of the Deniliquin Leasehold Area for settle-ment by other holdings.	.....	" .....	4 "	" "	
"	of withdrawal, under Crown Lands Act of 1895, of certain lands from the Pastoral Lease of the Goobang Leasehold Area for settlement by other holdings.	.....	" .....	4 "	" "	
Report	of the Proceedings of a Conference respecting the Rabbit Pest in New South Wales, held in Sydney, March, 1897.	.....	" .....	4 "	To be printed	Already in print.
"	on the Creep in the Junction Mine, Broken Hill, by Inspector Hebbard.	.....	Mr. Sydney Smith	4 "	" "	
"	of the University of Sydney for 1896 .....	.....	Mr. Garrard	4 "	" "	Already in print.
By-laws	of the Murrumburrah Free Public Library .....	.....	" .....	4 "	Not to be printed.	
Report	of the Trustees of the Public Library for 1896 .....	.....	" .....	4 "	To be printed.	Already in print.
"	of the Trustees of the National Art Gallery for 1896 .....	.....	" .....	4 "	" "	
Notifications	of resumptions, under Public Works Act, of Land for Public School Purposes at Beaufort, Brobenah, Buraneer Bay, Cranbury, Derrain, Lockwood, and Muddy Creek.	.....	" .....	4 "	Not to be printed.	
Notification	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for Public Wharf at Bungwan.	.....	Mr. Young	4 "	" "	
Amended Regulations and Rates	under Electric Telegraph Act .....	.....	Mr. Cook	4 "	" "	
Further Papers	respecting the Renewal of Contracts for the Australian Mail Service	.....	" .....	4 "	To be printed.	

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks
Report	of the Delegates to the Intercolonial Conference, held in Sydney, November, 1896.		Mr. Cook	1897. 4 May	To be printed	Already in print.
Statement	of Accounts of the Government Savings Bank for 1896		"	4 "	" "	
Additional Regulations	under the Patents Law Amendment Act, 1887		Mr. Gould	4 "	Not to be printed.	
Bankruptcy Rules	of 1896, under the Bankruptcy Act, 1887		"	4 "	" "	
Draft of Bill	to constitute the Commonwealth of Australia, approved by the Australasian Federal Convention at Adelaide, 1897.		Mr. Reid	4 "	To be printed.	
Notification	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for improvement of grades and curves on the Railway between Maryvale and Geurie.		"	4 "	Not to be printed.	
"	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for maintaining the Railway traffic between Liverpool and Campbelltown.		"	4 "	" "	
Amended Regulation	under Public Service Act of 1895		"	4 "	" "	
Regulation No. 19	" " respecting Visiting Justices to Country Gaols.		"	4 "	" "	
Regulations	under Public Service Act of 1895, for Public School Teachers		"	4 "	" "	
"	" " allowing Chamber Magistrates to make a charge for attending gaols after office hours, to consider applications for bail.		"	4 "	" "	
Amended Regulation No. 21	under Public Service Act of 1895		"	4 "	" "	
Regulations	" " for competitive examinations		"	4 "	" "	
"	" " in connection with Government Printing Office.		"	4 "	" "	
Amended Regulation No. 35	under Public Service Act of 1895		"	4 "	" "	
"	" " (travelling expenses)		"	4 "	" "	
Regulation	" " Employment of Inspectors, Overseers of Works, and other Officers.		"	4 "	" "	
"	under Public Service Act of 1895. Annual Increments to the Junior Staff of the Postal and Telegraph Department.		"	4 "	" "	
Regulations	under Public Service Act of 1895, for competitive examinations		"	4 "	" "	
Amended Regulation No. 13	" "		"	4 "	" "	
Regulation	under Public Service Act of 1895. Employment of Telegraph Messengers, &c., in the Postal and Electric Telegraph Department.		"	4 "	" "	
Substituted Regulation No. 21	under Land and Income Tax Assessment Act of 1895.		"	4 "	" "	
Amended Regulations	" " " "		"	4 "	" "	
Substituted Regulation No. 56	" " " "		"	4 "	" "	
Statement	of Trust Monies Deposit Account from 1st April, 1896, to 31st March, 1897		"	4 "	To be printed	Already in print.
Notification	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for maintaining the Railway Traffic between Colo Vale and Braemar.		"	4 "	Not to be printed.	
"	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for maintenance of Railway Traffic between Hill Top and Colo Vale.		"	4 "	" "	
Report	of the Railway Commissioners on Railways and Tramway for quarter ended December, 1896.		"	4 "	To be printed	Already in print.
"	of the Railway Commissioners on Railways and Tramways for quarter ended 31st March, 1897.		"	4 "	" "	Already in print.
By-laws	of the Municipal District of Central Illawarra, under Nuisance Prevention Act, 1875.		"	4 "	Not to be printed.	
Statement	of payments from Treasurer's Advance Account for October, 1896		"	4 "	To be printed.	
"	of payments from Treasurer's Advance Account for November, 1896		"	4 "	" "	
"	" " December, 1896		"	4 "	" "	
"	" " January, 1897		"	4 "	" "	
"	" " February, 1897		"	4 "	" "	
"	" " March, 1897		"	4 "	" "	
Notification	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for additions and alterations of buildings in Redfern Railway Station yard.		"	4 "	Not to be printed.	

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
Notification	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for improvement of grades, &c., at Marulan.	.....	Mr. Reid	1897. 4 May	Not to be printed.	
"	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for additional station accommodation at Berrigan.	.....	" .....	4 "	" "	
"	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for deviation of Railway near Clarence Siding.	.....	" .....	4 "	" "	
"	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for deviation of Railway from Hill Top to Colo Vale.	.....	" .....	4 "	" "	
"	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for improvement of grades and curves on the Railway between Sydney and Mount Victoria at Blackheath.	.....	" .....	4 "	" "	
"	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for maintaining the traffic on the railway between Sydney and Albury.	.....	" .....	4 "	" "	
"	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for improvement of grades and curves on railway near Blackheath and Mount Victoria.	.....	" .....	4 "	" "	
"	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for deviation on the railway between Braemar and Mittagong.	.....	" .....	4 "	" "	
Regulation	under Public Service Act of 1895, in connection with Government Printing Office.	.....	" .....	4 "	" "	
Substituted Regulation No. 36	made by Board of Health in connection with the public Abattoir, Glebe Island.	.....	" .....	4 "	" "	
Regulations	under Noxious Trades and Cattle Slaughtering Act, 1894 .....	.....	" .....	4 "	" "	
Amended Regulations	under Land and Income Tax Assessment Act of 1895 .....	.....	" .....	4 "	" "	
Regulation	under Land and Income Tax Assessment Act of 1895—Tables for Calculation of Values.	.....	" .....	4 "	" "	
By-law	of the Municipal District of Juncea, under Nuisances Prevention Act, 1875	.....	" .....	4 "	" "	
Report	from Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on proposed Railway from Moree to Inverell, together with Minutes of Evidence, Appendices, and Plan.	.....	Mr. Ewing	4 "	To be printed	Already in print.
Annual Returns	under 103rd Section of the District Courts Act, 1853 .....	.....	Mr. Gould	5 May	Not to be printed.	
Gazette Notices	setting forth the mode in which it is proposed to deal with dedication of certain lands.	.....	Mr. Carruthers	5 "	" "	
Abstract	of Crown lands, authorised to be dedicated to public purposes .....	.....	" .....	5 "	" "	
"	of Crown lands, authorised to be dedicated to religious purposes .....	.....	" .....	5 "	" "	
Statement	of receipts and expenditure of the Hay Irrigation Trust for 1896 .....	.....	" .....	5 "	To be printed.	
Abstract	of site for cemetery at Moss Vale .....	.....	" .....	5 "	Not to be printed.	

No. 3 Committee Room,
Legislative Assembly, 6th May, 1897.

JAMES GORMLY,
Chairman.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 3.

REPORT FROM PRINTING COMMITTEE.

THE PRINTING COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed under the Sessional Order of 28th April, 1897, Votes No. 2, Entry 24, have agreed to report to your Honorable House, in relation to the Papers referred to them since their Report No. 2, dated 6th May, 1897, as follows:—

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
Report.....	of Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the cause of the dangers to which vessels carrying coal are said to be peculiarly liable, and as to the best means that can be adopted for removing or lessening; together with Appendix and Minutes of Evidence.	.....	Mr. Brunker.....	1897. 6 May	To be printed	Already in print.
Twelfth General Report	of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, together with returns giving a record of the Committee's inquiries, and Minutes of Proceedings.	.....	" .....	6 "	" "	" "
By-laws	of the Municipal District of Hay .....	.....	" .....	6 "	Not to be printed.	
"	of the Borough of Willoughby .....	.....	" .....	6 "	" "	
By-law	of the Sydney Hospital .....	.....	" .....	6 "	" "	
Regulation	under the Oyster Fisheries Act, 1884 .....	.....	" .....	6 "	" "	
Return to Order.....	"Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Act"	Mr. Millen	Mr. Young	6 "	To be printed.	
By-laws	of the Municipal District of Molong, under Nuisances Prevention Act, 1875, and Nuisances Prevention Act Amendment Act, 1892.	.....	Mr. Brunker.....	11 "	Not to be printed.	
Statement	of payments from Treasurer's Advance Account for April, 1897 .....	.....	" .....	11 "	To be printed.	
Return to Order.....	"Alleged Evasion of the Beer Duty Act by Messrs. Tooth & Co. (Limited)."	Mr. Hughes	"	11 " .....	.....	Postponed for further consideration.
Additional Regulation	under Water Rights Act, 1896 .....	.....	Mr. Young	11 "	Not to be printed.	
Departmental Reports	relative to the additions and improvements to the Government Printing Office recently carried out by "Day labour."	.....	" .....	11 "	To be printed	Sketches A and B and original papers not to be printed.
Third Report	from Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on proposed Sewerage Works for Parramatta, together with Minutes of Evidence, Appendices, and Plan.*	.....	Mr. Ewing	12 "	" "	*Plan not to be printed.
Further Despatch	respecting the Intercolonial Copyright Convention of 9th September, 1896.	.....	Mr. Gould.....	12 "	Not to be printed.	
Debates	of the Australasian Federal Convention, held in Adelaide, 1897 .....	.....	Mr. Carruthers.....	12 "	" "	Committee informed that arrangements have been made to obtain copies from Adelaide.
Return	of Votes polled at Election, 4th March, 1897, under the Australasian Federation Enabling Act, 1895.	.....	Mr. Brunker.....	12 "	To be printed.	

No. 3 Committee Room,
Legislative Assembly, 13th May, 1897.

JAMES GORMLY,
Chairman.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 4.

REPORT FROM PRINTING COMMITTEE.

THE PRINTING COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed under the Sessional Order of 28th April, 1897, Votes No. 2, Entry 24, have agreed to report to your Honorable House, in relation to the Papers referred to them since their Report No. 3, dated 13th May, 1897, as follows:—

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
Return to Order.....	"Alleged Evasion of the Beer Duty Act by Messrs. Tooth & Co. (Limited)."	Mr. Hughes.....	Mr. Brunker.....	1897. 11 May.....	To be printed.	
Notification.....	of resumption, under the Public Works Act, of land for Public School purposes, at Elliott, Lake Lands, and Monah.	.....	Mr. Garrard.....	13 „.....	Not to be printed.	
Return to Order.....	"Homestead Leases in names of W. Brady, senior, Ann E. Morris, and W. Brady, junior, Wilcannia District."	Mr. Sleath, for Mr. Copeland.	Mr. Brunker.....	13 „.....	To be printed.	
Return.....	showing the distances between various points on the Sydney and Suburban Tramways.	.....	".....	18 „.....	" "	
Statistics.....	in connection with the Draft Bill of 1897 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia.	.....	Mr. Carruthers.....	19 „.....	" "	
Abstract.....	of Crown Lands reserved from sale for the preservation of water supply or other public purposes.	.....	".....	19 „.....	Not to be printed.	
".....	of alteration of designs of cities, towns, and villages.....	.....	".....	19 „.....	" "	
Gazette Notices.....	setting forth the mode in which it is proposed to deal with the dedication of certain lands.	.....	".....	19 „.....	" "	
Abstract.....	of Crown lands authorised to be dedicated to public purposes.....	.....	".....	19 „.....	" "	
Notification.....	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for a weir on the Macquarie River, and a channel in connection therewith.	.....	Mr. Young.....	19 „.....	" "	
Returns.....	under the several Acts of Parliament administered by the Registrar-General for 1896.	.....	Mr. Gould.....	19 „.....	" "	
Certificate.....	of the Public Service Board respecting the appointment of a clerk for special duty in the Taxation Department.	.....	Mr. Brunker.....	19 „.....	" "	
".....	of the Public Service Board, respecting the appointment of a Geological Surveyor, Department of Mines and Agriculture.	.....	".....	19 „.....	" "	
".....	of the Public Service Board, respecting the appointment of an Assistant, Technological Museum.	.....	".....	19 „.....	" "	
General Abstracts.....	of Bank Liabilities and Assets, for quarter ended 31st December, 1896.	.....	".....	19 „.....	" "	
".....	" " " " 31st March, 1897.	.....	".....	19 „.....	" "	
".....	of Banking, Land, Building, and Investment Companies' liabilities and assets, for quarter ended 31st December, 1896.	.....	".....	19 „.....	" "	
".....	of Banking, Land, Building, and Investment Companies' liabilities and assets, for quarter ended 31st March, 1897.	.....	".....	19 „.....	" "	
Regulations.....	under the Public Service Act, 1895, respecting the employment of gardeners and others, under the control of the Director of Botanical Gardens.	.....	".....	19 „.....	" "	
Return to Order.....	Government Advertisements in Sydney newspapers.....	Mr. Chanter.....	".....	19 „.....	" "	

No. 3 Committee Room,
Legislative Assembly, 20th May, 1897.

JAMES GORMLY,
Chairman.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 5.

REPORT FROM PRINTING COMMITTEE.

THE PRINTING COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed under the Sessional Order of 28th April, 1897, Votes No. 2, Entry 24, have agreed to report to your Honorable House, in relation to the Papers referred to them since their Report No. 4, dated 20th May, 1897, as follows:—

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
				1897.		
Notification	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for Supply of Water to the Town of Tamworth.	.....	Mr. Young	20 May	Not to be printed.	
Report	of Inspector-General of the Insane for 1896 .....	.....	Mr. Brunker	20 "	To be printed.	
By-laws	of the Borough of Kempsey .....	.....	" .....	20 "	Not to be printed.	
By-law	of the Borough of Wollongong .....	.....	" .....	20 "	" "	
Return	by the Government Astronomer, respecting the present drought .....	.....	Mr. Garrard	26 "	" "	
Report	of the Minister of Public Instruction for 1896, with Appendices .....	.....	" .....	26 "	To be printed.	
Return	respecting Allowances to Officers of the Permanent Artillery .....	.....	Mr. Brunker	26 " .....	.....	Postponed for further consideration.

No. 3 Committee Room,
Legislative Assembly, 27th May, 1897.

JAMES GORMLY,
Chairman.

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1897.
 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
 NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 6.

REPORT FROM PRINTING COMMITTEE.

THE PRINTING COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed under the Sessional Order of 28th April, 1897, Votes No. 2, Entry 24, have agreed to report to your Honorable House, in relation to the Papers referred to them since their Report No. 5, dated 27th May, 1897, as follows:—

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee	Remarks.
Return	respecting allowances to Officers of the Permanent Artillery .....	.....	Mr. Brunker.....	1897. 26 May.....	Not to be printed	
Minutes	Copies of, by His Excellency the Governor and Executive Council— (1) Authorising the transfer of an amount from the vote for “Government Printer’s Department” to supplement vote for “Public Library of New South Wales.” (2) Authorising the transfer of an amount from the Contingent Vote for “Department of Mines” to supplement vote for “Public Watering Places and Artesian Boring.”	.....	Mr. Speaker.....	27 ”	” ”	
Additional by-law	of the Municipal District of Port Macquarie, under the Nuisances Prevention Act, 1875.	.....	Mr. Brunker.....	27 ”	” ”	
By-laws	of the Municipal District of Waratah, under the Nuisances Preven- tion Act, 1875.	.....	” .....	27 ”	” ”	
Return	respecting retirements of Members of the Local Marine Board, Newcastle.	.....	” .....	27 ”	To be printed.	
Return to Order.....	“Dismissal of Maurice Hickey, of Newcastle, by the Marine Board”	Mr. Fegan	”	27 ”	” ”	
Report.....	on Prisons for 1896 .....	.....	Mr. Gould.....	27 ”	” ”	
Do	of the Department of Mines and Agriculture for 1896 .....	.....	Mr. Sydney Smith	27 ”	” ”	} Postponed for further consideration.
Return to Order	“Resumption of Waldron’s Selection, Yalgogrin”	Mr. Perry	”	27 ”	” ”	
Return	respecting the Meteorological conditions of the Colony .....	.....	Mr. Garrard.....	1 June.....	Not to be printed.	
By-law	under the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Act Extension Act of 1894—Rushcutter’s Creek Drain.	.....	Mr. Young	1 ”	” ”	
Report	of the completion of the Petersham Branch, lower and upper sections of the Leichhardt Branch, and the Smith-street Branch of the Long Cove Creek Storm-water Channel.	.....	” .....	1 ”	” ”	
Annual Report	on Vital Statistics for 1895 and previous years .....	.....	Mr. Gould	1 ” .....	.....	Postponed for further consideration.
Return to Address.....	“Case of Rachel Dawson, tried at Dubbo, for shooting at Frederick Atcheson.”	Mr. Haynes	”	1 ”	To be printed.	
Report.....	of the National Park Trust for 1896.....	.....	Mr. Brunker	2 ”	” ”	
Return to Order	“Dismissal of Temporary hands, Government Printing Office”	Mr. Fegan, for Mr. McGowen.	”	2 ”	” ”	

No. 3 Committee Room,
 Legislative Assembly, 3rd June, 1897.

JAMES GORMLY,
 Chairman.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 7.

REPORT FROM PRINTING COMMITTEE.

THE PRINTING COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed under the Sessional Order of 28th April, 1897, Votes No. 2, Entry 24, have agreed to report to your Honorable House, in relation to the Papers referred to them since their Report No. 6, dated 3rd June, 1897, as follows:—

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
				1897.		
Report.....	of the Department of Mines and Agriculture for 1896 .....	.....	Mr. Sydney Smith	27 May	To be printed.	Already in print.
Return to Order.....	"Resumption of Waldron's Selection, Yalgogrin"	Mr. Perry	"	27 "	Not to be printed.	
Annual Report	on Vital Statistics for 1895 and previous years .....	.....	Mr. Gould	1 June.....	" "	This information can be obtained from the Statistical Register.
Report	of the Royal Commission on the City Railway Extension .....	.....	Mr. Brunker	3 "	To be printed.	
Returns	respecting Lead Poisoning in connection with the Broken Hill Mines .....	.....	Mr. Sydney Smith	3 "	" "	
Annual Report	of the Stock and Brands Branch, Department of Mines and Agriculture, for 1896.	.....	" .....	3 "	" "	
Papers	respecting the appointment of Mr. Norman C. Lockhart as an officer of the Land and Income Tax Department.	.....	Mr. Brunker.....	8 "	" "	
Minutes	respecting the Ventilation and Joint Inspection of Collieries in the Northern District.	.....	Mr. Sydney Smith	8 "	" "	
Return to Order	"Ventilation of Coal-mines, Newcastle District"	Mr. Edden	"	8 "	" "	
Abstract	of Crown Lands reserved from sale for the preservation of Water Supply, or other public purposes.	.....	Mr. Brunker.....	9 "	" "	
Do	of alterations of designs of Cities, Towns, and Villages .....	.....	" .....	9 "	" "	} Postponed for further consideration.
Do	of sites for Cities, Towns, and Villages .....	.....	" .....	9 "	" "	
Do	of Crown Lands authorised to be dedicated to public purposes.....	.....	" .....	9 "	" "	
Notification.....	of Withdrawal, under the Crown Lands Act of 1895, of certain lands from the Pastoral Lease of the Narromine Leasehold Area for settlement by other holdings.	.....	" .....	9 "	Not to be printed.	
Return to Order	"Public Service Board—Cases of Mr. F. O. Byrnes and Mr. J. J. B. Wakely." .....	.....	" .....	9 "	" "	
Departmental Reports	respecting Flood Prevention in the Hunter River .....	.....	Mr. Young	9 "	To be printed.	
Correspondence and Minutes	respecting the interference by the Public Service Board with Votes for the Parliamentary Departments.	.....	Mr. Speaker	9 "	" "	

No. 3 Committee Room,
Legislative Assembly, 10th June, 1897.

JAMES GORMLY,
Chairman.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 8.

REPORT FROM PRINTING COMMITTEE.

THE PRINTING COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed under the Sessional Order of 28th April, 1897, Votes No. 2, Entry 24, have agreed to report to your Honorable House, in relation to the Papers referred to them since their Report No. 7, dated 10th June, 1897, as follows:—

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
Abstract	of Crown Lands reserved from sale for the preservation of Water Supply, or other public purposes, in accordance with the 101st, 109th, and 112th sections of the Act, 48 Vic. No. 18.	.....	Mr. Brunker.....	1897. 9 June	Not to be printed.	
Do	of alterations of designs of Cities, Towns, and Villages, under the 107th section of the Act, 48 Vic. No. 18.	.....	" .....	9 "	" "	
Do	of sites for Cities, Towns, and Villages, declared under the 101st section of the Act, 48 Vic. No. 18.	.....	" .....	9 "	" "	
Do	of Crown Lands authorised to be dedicated to public purposes, in accordance with the 104th section of the Act, 48 Vic. No. 18.	.....	" .....	9 "	" "	
Additional By-law	of the Municipal District of Balranald, under the Country Towns Water and Sewerage Act of 1880.	.....	Mr. Young	10 "	" "	
Notification	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for supply of water to the Town of Parkes.	.....	" .....	10 "	" "	
Statement	of payments from Treasurer's Advance Account for May, 1897.....	.....	Mr. Brunker	15 "	To be printed.	
Comparative Return	of result of Local Option Vote in the Metropolitan Suburban Municipalities, taken February, 1897.	.....	Mr. Gould	15 "	" "	
Return.....	respecting the employment of "The Unemployed" since 1st May, 1897.	.....	Mr. Garrard.....	15 "	" "	
Further correspondence	respecting the interference by the Public Service Board with Votes for the Parliamentary Departments.	.....	Mr. Speaker.....	16 "	" "	
Amended By-laws.....	of the University of Sydney .....	.....	Mr. Garrard	16 "	Not to be printed.	
Notification.....	of withdrawal, under the Crown Lands Act of 1895, of certain lands from the Pastoral Lease of the Burroway Leasehold Area for settlement by other holdings.	.....	Mr. Carruthers	16 "	" "	
Do	of withdrawal, under Crown Lands Act of 1895, of certain lands from the Pastoral Lease of the Mullah Leasehold Area, for settlement by other holdings.	.....	" .....	16 "	" "	
Do	of withdrawal, under Crown Lands Act of 1895, of certain lands from the Pastoral Lease of the Condobolin Leasehold Area, for settlement by other holdings.	.....	" .....	16 "	" "	

No. 3 Committee Room,
Legislative Assembly, 17th June, 1897.

JAMES GORMLY,
Chairman.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 9.

REPORT FROM PRINTING COMMITTEE.

THE PRINTING COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed under the Sessional Order of 28th April, 1897, Votes No. 2, Entry 24, have agreed to report to your Honorable House, in relation to the Papers referred to them since their Report No. 8, dated 17th June, 1897, as follows:—

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
				1897.		
Report	of the completion of pipe-sewers and storm-water drains at North Sydney, and of the Easton Park Storm-water Channel.	.....	Mr. Young	17 June.....	Not to be printed.	
Rule	of the Supreme Court in Equitable Jurisdiction .....	.....	Mr. Gould	23 „	„ „	
Amended Regulation No. 37	under the Crown Lands Acts .....	.....	Mr. Brunker	23 „	„ „	
Notification.....	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for an access to the Railway Station at Binalong.	.....	„ .....	23 „	„ „	
By-law.....	of the Municipal District of Port Macquarie .....	.....	„ .....	23 „	„ „	
Do	of the Municipal District of Berry.....	.....	„ .....	23 „	„ „	
Report.....	of the Wollongong Fire Brigades Board, for the year ended 31st March, 1897, under the Fire Brigades Act, 1884.	.....	„ .....	23 „	„ „	

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
Report from Select Committee	"Exchange of Land, Cuppacumbalong Run, Queanbeyan District".....	.....	Mr. Mackay, for Mr. O'Sullivan.	1897. 24 June.....	To be printed.	
Regulations	Amended Gaol .....	.....	Mr. Gould	24 "	Not to be printed.	
Notification	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for Bridge over Bega River at Bega.	.....	Mr. Young	29 "	" "	
Return to Order	"Supply of Uniforms".....	Mr. Cann	Mr. Bruncker.....	29 "	" "	
Minutes	Copies of, by His Excellency the Governor and the Executive Council,— (1.) Authorising the transfer of an amount from the Vote for "Survey of Lands—Contingencies," to supplement the Vote for "Land Agents, Appraisers, &c.—Contingencies." (2.) Authorising the transfer of an amount from the Vote "to meet adjustments of salaries on revision by the Public Service Board," to supplement the Vote for "Re-organisation of the Public Service." (3.) Authorising the transfer of an amount from the Vote for "Salaries, Acting Supreme Court Judges," to supplement the "Contingencies Vote of the Attorney-General's Department." (4.) Authorising the transfer of an amount from the amounts voted under Schedules A and B, "Roads and Bridges," and "Harbours and Rivers," respectively, to supplement the Votes for "Government Architect" and "Dredge Service."	.....	Mr. Speaker	29 "	" "	
Report.....	of the Trustees of the Australian Museum for 1896 .....	.....	Mr. Garrard	30 "	To be printed.	
Return.....	respecting Betting Shops .....	.....	Mr. Bruncker	30 "	Not to be printed.	
Return to Order	"Receipts under the Diseases in Sheep Act"	Mr. Hayes	Mr. Sydney Smith	30 "	To be printed.	
Do	"Mining Leases, Grenfell"	Mr. Watson	"	30 "	Not to be printed.	
By-laws	of the Municipal District of Coonamble, under Country Towns Water and Sewerage Act, 1880.	.....	Mr. Young	30 "	" "	

No. 3 Committee Room,
Legislative Assembly, 1st July, 1897.

JAMES GORMLY,
Chairman.

[3d.]

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES

No. 10.

REPORT FROM PRINTING COMMITTEE.

THE PRINTING COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed under the Sessional Order of 28th April, 1897, Votes No. 2, Entry 24, have agreed to report to your Honorable House, in relation to the Papers referred to them since their Report No. 9, dated 1st July, 1897, as follows:—

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
Abstract	of Crown Lands authorised to be dedicated to Public Purposes, in accordance with the 104th section of the Act 48 Vic. No. 18.	.....	Mr. Brunker.....	1897. 1 July	Not to be printed.	
Do	of Lands resumed for Public Cemeteries under Public Works Act, 1888, and Lands for Public Purposes Acquisition Act.	.....	.....	1 "	" "	
Minutes	Copies of, by His Excellency the Governor and the Executive Council,— (1.) Authorising the transfer of amounts from the Votes for "Legislative Council" and "Legislative Assembly" respectively, to supplement the Vote for "Legislative Council and Assembly" for the year 1896-7. (2.) Authorising the transfer of an amount from Item 230 of 1896-7 to supplement Item 176 of 1896-7.	.....	Mr. Speaker.....	7 "	" "	
Report	on proposed Weir across the Yass River for the supply of water to the Town of Yass.	.....	Mr. Young	7 "	To be printed.	
Rule	of the Supreme Court in Divorce Jurisdiction .....	.....	Mr. Gould	7 "	Not to be printed.	
Abstract	of Crown Lands authorised to be dedicated to Public Purposes, in accordance with the 104th section of the Act 48 Vic. No. 18.	.....	" .....	7 "	" "	
Do	of Crown Lands reserved from sale for the preservation of Water Supply or other public purposes, in accordance with the 101st, 109th, and 112th sections of the Act 48 Vic. No. 18.	.....	" .....	7 "	" "	
Do	of Alterations of Designs of Cities, Towns, and Villages, under the 107th section of the Act 48 Vic. No. 18.	.....	" .....	7 "	" "	
Do	of Sites for Cities, Towns, and Villages declared under the 4th and 101st sections of the Act 48 Vic. No. 18.	.....	" .....	7 "	" "	
By-laws	of the Municipal District of Yass .....	.....	Mr. Brunker	7 "	" "	
Do	of the Municipal District of West Narabri .....	.....	" .....	7 "	" "	

No. 3 Committee Room,
Legislative Assembly, 8th July, 1897.

JAMES GORMLY,
Chairman.

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1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 11.

REPORT FROM PRINTING COMMITTEE.

THE PRINTING COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed under the Sessional Order of 23th April, 1897, Votes No. 2, Entry 24, have agreed to report to your Honorable House, in relation to the Papers referred to them since their Report No. 10, dated 8th July, 1897, as follows:—

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
Report.....	from Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, on proposed Duplicate Main from Prospect to Potts' Hill, together with Minutes of Evidence, Appendix, and Plans.	.....	Mr. Ewing	1897. 8 July.....	To be printed.	
Correspondence, &c.	respecting the discharge of thirty-nine boys, and the resignation of the late Superintendent of the Carpenterian Reformatory.	.....	Mr. Garrard.....	8 "	" "	
Report.....	of the Sydney Grammar School for 1896 .....	.....	" .....	8 "	" "	
Notification.....	of withdrawal, under the Crown Lands Act of 1895, of certain lands from the Pastoral Lease of the Egelabra Leasehold Area, for settlement by other holdings.	.....	Mr. Brunker.....	8 "	Not to be printed.	
Do	of withdrawal, under the Crown Lands Act of 1895, of certain lands from the Pastoral Lease of the Ellengerah Leasehold Area, for settlement by other holdings.	.....	" .....	8 "	" "	
Correspondence	respecting a scheme for the Temporary Employment of the Unemployed, submitted by Mr. Chas. O'Neill, M.L.C.E., during the years 1894-5.	.....	" .....	8 "	To be printed.	

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
Minutes	Copies of, of His Excellency the Governor and the Executive Council,— (1.) Authorising the transfer of an amount from the Contingent Vote for "Medical Adviser to the Government" to supplement the Contingent Vote for "Coast Hospital." (2.) Authorising the transfer of an amount from the Vote for "Lunatic Patients" to supplement the Contingent Vote for "Hospitals for the Insane generally."	.....	Mr. Speaker	1877. 13 July.....	Not to be printed.	
Notification	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for the construction of the Willandra Weir, on the Lachlan River.	.....	Mr. Young	13 ,,	,, ,,	
Return to Order	"Molong Marble".....	Dr. Ross	,,	13 ,,	To be printed.	
Notification	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for a Bridge over Caffall's Creek.	.....	,, .....	13 ,,	Not to be printed.	
Do	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for providing access to siding at Tragarah, on the Lismore to Tweed Railway.	.....	Mr. Brunker	13 ,,	,, ,,	
Do	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for improving grades and curves on the Great Southern Railway, near Frampton.	.....	,, .....	13 ,,	,, ,,	
Letter	from the Hon. the Acting Premier, referring to the presentation of the congratulatory address from the Parliament of New South Wales to Her Majesty the Queen on the completion of the sixtieth year of Her reign.	.....	Mr. Speaker	13 ,,	,, ,,	
Return to Order	"Expenditure from Votes for 1896-7 on works undertaken in 1895-6"	Mr. Wood	Mr. Young	14 ,,	To be printed.	

No. 3 Committee Room,
Legislative Assembly, 15th July, 1897.

JAMES GORMLY,
Chairman.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 12.

REPORT FROM PRINTING COMMITTEE.

THE PRINTING COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed under the Sessional Order of 28th April, 1897, Votes No. 2, Entry 24, have agreed to report to your Honorable House, in relation to the Papers referred to them since their Report No. 11, dated 15th July, 1897, as follows:—

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
Notification.....	of withdrawal, under the Crown Lands Act of 1895, of certain lands from the Pastoral Lease of the Gillendoon Leaschold Area, for settlement by other holdings.	.....	Mr. Brunker.....	1897. 15 July.....	Not to be printed.	
Do	of withdrawal, under the Crown Lands Act of 1895, of certain lands from the Pastoral Lease of the Boyd Leaschold Area, for settlement by other holdings.	.....	" .....	15 "	" "	
Do	of withdrawal, under the Crown Lands Act of 1895, of certain lands from the Pastoral Lease of the Ariah Leaschold Area, for settlement by other holdings.	.....	" .....	15 "	" "	
Gazette Notices... ..	Copies of, setting forth the mode in which it is proposed to deal with the dedication of certain lands, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Act 48 Vic. No. 18, and the 41st section of the Act 53 Vic. No. 21.	.....	" .....	15 "	" "	
Statement	of Payments from Treasurer's Advance Account for June, 1897 .....	.....	" .....	15 "	To be printed.	
Notification	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for a Post and Telegraph Office at Collarindabri.	.....	Mr. Young	20 "	Not to be printed.	
Amended Notification	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land, for approaches to Bridge over Almy Creek, at Southgate.	.....	" .....	20 "	" "	

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
By-laws	of the Borough of Vaucluse .....	.....	Mr. Brunker	1897. 21 July.....	Not to be printed.	
Return to Order	"The Permanent Artillery"	Mr. Thomas Brown	"	21 "	" "	
Report.....	of the Fire Brigades Board, Sydney, for 1896 .....	.....	" .....	21 "	To be printed.	
Regulations	respecting the Mercantile Explosives Department, and Amendments in the Regulations for Competitive Examinations under the Public Service Act, 1895.	.....	" .....	21 "	Not to be printed.	
Report	of the Railway Commissioners on Railways and Tramways for quarter ended 30th June, 1897.	.....	" .....	21 "	To be printed.	Already in print.
Annual Report	of the Stock and Brands Branch of the Department of Mines and Agriculture for the year 1896. (<i>In substitution for the Report laid upon the Table on 3rd June, 1897.</i>)	.....	Mr. Sydney Smith	21 "	" "	" "
Return to Order	"Wallsend Colliery"	Mr. Watkins	"	21 "	" "	

No. 3 Committee Room,
Legislative Assembly, 22nd July, 1897.

JAMES GORMLY,
Chairman.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 13.

REPORT FROM PRINTING COMMITTEE.

THE PRINTING COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed under the Sessional Order of 28th April, 1897, Votes No. 2, Entry 21, have agreed to report to your Honorable House, in relation to the Papers referred to them since their Report No. 12, dated 22nd July, 1897, as follows:—

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
Notification	Of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for improving existing Railway facilities on the main suburban line, between Sydney and Parramatta, at Newtown.	.....	Mr. Brunner.....	1897. 27 July.....	Not to be printed.	
Report	On the conditions of Aqueducts at Johnstone's Creek, White's Creek, and across Sewage Farm.	.....	Mr. Young	27 „	„ „	
Regulations and Form	Under the Public Roads Act of 1897.....	.....	Mr. Brunner.....	28 „	„ „	

No. 3 Committee Room,
Legislative Assembly, 29th July, 1897.

JAMES GORMLY,
Chairman.

[3d.]

Sydney : William Applegate Gullick, Government Printer.—1897.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 14.

REPORT FROM PRINTING COMMITTEE.

THE PRINTING COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed under the Sessional Order of 28th April, 1897, Votes No. 2, Entry 24, have agreed to report to your Honorable House, in relation to the Papers referred to them since their Report No. 13, dated 29th July, 1897, as follows:—

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
				1897.		
Notification	of withdrawal, under the Crown Lands Act of 1895, of certain lands from the pastoral lease of the Tapio leasehold area for settlement by other holdings.	.....	Mr. Brunker.....	29 July	Not to be printed.	
“	of withdrawal, under the Crown Lands Act of 1895, of certain lands from the pastoral lease of the Bulgandramine leasehold area for settlement by other holdings.	.....	“ .....	29 “	“ “	
Police Report.....	respecting accidents on the Canterbury Park, Rosebery Park, and Brighton Racecourses.	.....	“ .....	3 August.....	“ “	
Return to Order	“ Gaol and Court-house at Mudgee ”	Mr. Robert Jones	Mr. Young	3 “	“ “	
“	“ Resumption of land for railway purposes at South Lismore ”	Mr. Ewing	“	4 “	“ “	
Abstract	of alterations of designs of cities, towns, and villages, under the 107th section of the Act 48 Vic. No. 18.	.....	Mr. Brunker.....	4 “	“ “	

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
				1897.		
<i>Gazette Notice</i>	Copy of, setting forth the mode in which it is proposed to deal with the dedication of certain lands, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Act 48 Vic. No. 18, and the 41st section of the Act 53 Vic. No. 21.	.....	Mr. Brunker.....	4 August.....	Not to be printed.	
<i>Abstract</i>	of Crown lands authorised to be dedicated to public purposes, in accordance with the 104th section of the Act 48 Vic. No. 18.	.....	" .....	4 "	" "	
"	of Crown lands reserved from sale for the preservation of water supply or other public purposes, in accordance with 101st, 109th, and 112th sections of the Act 48 Vic. No. 18.	.....	" .....	4 "	" "	
"	of sites for cities, towns, and villages, declared under the 4th and 101st sections of the Act 48 Vic. No. 18.	.....	" .....	4 "	" "	
<i>Report</i>	of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the management of the Murine Board of New South Wales.	.....	" .....	4 "	To be printed	Already in print.
<i>Amended Regulation</i>	(No. 78) respecting travelling expenses and regulation respecting examination to be passed by officers to qualify for appointment as Clerk of Petty Sessions, to which a salary of £300 per annum or upwards is attached, under the Public Service Act of 1895.	.....	" .....	4 "	Not to be printed.	
<i>Return to Order</i>	"Applications for compensation from certain land-holders on Deepwater Creek, Ulmarra."	Mr. McFarlane	"	4 "	" "	
"	"Travelling stock and camping reserves, Wagga Wagga Land District."	Mr. Gormly	"	4 "	" "	
"	"Application of John Lyster for an original conditional purchase, county of Ashburnham."	Dr. Ross	"	4 "	" "	

No. 3 Committee Room,
Legislative Assembly, 5th August, 1897.

JAMES GORMLY,
Chairman.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES

No. 15.

REPORT FROM PRINTING COMMITTEE.

THE PRINTING COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed under the Sessional Order of 28th April, 1897, Votes No. 2, Entry 24, have agreed to report to your Honorable House, in relation to the Papers referred to them since their Report No. 14, dated 5th August, 1897, as follows:—

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
Return to Order	"Case of John Wild and George Hensworth, applicants for gold lease on Mr. Henry Butler's private land, parish of Mount Lawson."	Mr. Hurley	Mr. Sydney Smith	1897. 5 August.....	Not to be printed.	
Report.....	respecting the accident to Thomas J. Sampson at Broken Hill .....	.....	.....	5 "	" "	
Evidence and Appendices	to the Report of the Royal Commission to inquire into the management of the Marine Board of New South Wales.	.....	Mr. Brunker.....	10 "	To be printed.	
Return to Order	"Bridges erected across the River Murray"	Mr. Morgan	"	10 "	Not to be printed.	
Return	showing number of Hindoos in The Tweed, Brunswick, Richmond, and Clarence River Districts.	.....	" .....	10 "	To be printed.	
By-laws	of the Municipal District of Bingara .....	.....	.....	10 "	Not to be printed.	
Return to Order	"North Coast Railway"	Mr. F. Clarke	Mr. Young	10 " .....	.....	Postponed for further consideration.
Report.....	of the completion of Pipe-sewers at The Glebe .....	.....	" .....	11 "	Not to be printed.	
Notification	of resumption, under the Public Works Act, of land for Public School Purposes at Bundawarra, Darling Road (Balmain), Fox Hill, Genowlan, Great Central, King's Vale, and Lalla Rookh.	.....	Mr. Garrard.....	11 "	" "	
Return to Order	"Application of John Finneran for lease of water reserve, county of Ashburnham."	Dr. Ross	Mr. Brunker.....	11 "	" "	
"	"Land and Income Taxation Department"	Mr. Crick	"	11 "	To be printed.	Already in print.
Report.....	of the Railway Commissioners for year ended 30th June, 1897 .....	.....	" .....	11 "	" "	
Correspondence	relating to the transfer of Norfolk Island to the Government of New South Wales.	.....	" .....	11 "	" "	

No. 3 Committee Room,
Legislative Assembly, 12th August, 1897.

JAMES GORMLY,
Chairman.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES

No. 16.

REPORT FROM PRINTING COMMITTEE.

THE PRINTING COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed under the Sessional Order of 23rd April, 1897, Votes No. 2, Entry 24, have agreed to report to your Honorable House, in relation to the Papers referred to them since their Report No. 15, dated 12th August, 1897, as follows:—

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
Return to Order	"Gaol and Court-house at Mudgee"	Mr. Robert Jones	Mr. Young	1897. 3 August.....	Not to be printed...	Reported on 5th August, 1897; referred back to the Committee for re-consideration, 12th August, 1897.
"	"North Coast Railway"	Mr. F. Clarke	"	10 "	To be printed	Certain portions only.
Notification	of withdrawal, under the Crown Lands Act of 1895, of certain lands from the Pastoral Lease of the Gunningbar Leasehold Area, for settlement by other Holdings.	.....	Mr. Brunker.....	12 "	Not to be printed.	
"	of withdrawal, under the Crown Lands Act of 1895, of certain lands from the Pastoral Lease of The Troffs Leasehold Area, for settlement by other Holdings.	.....	" .....	12 "	" "	
"	of withdrawal, under the Crown Lands Act of 1895, of certain lands from the Pastoral Lease of the Timberrymbungan Leasehold Area, for settlement by other Holdings.	.....	" .....	12 "	" "	
Statement	of payments from Treasurer's Advance Account for July, 1897 .....	.....	" .....	12 "	To be printed.	
Return to Order	"Closing of Branch Road, Double Bay"	Mr. E. M. Clark	"	17 "	Not to be printed.	
General Abstracts	of Bank Liabilities and Assets for quarter ended 30th June, 1897 .....	.....	" .....	17 "	" "	
"	of Banking, Land, Building, and Investment Companies' Liabilities and Assets for quarter ended 30th June, 1897.	.....	" .....	17 "	" "	
Report.....	of the Postmaster-General for 1896 .....	.....	Mr. Cook	18 "	To be printed	Already in print.
Return to Order	"Closing of Whaling Road, North Sydney"	Mr. E. M. Clark	Mr. Brunker.....	18 "	Not to be printed.	
By-laws	of the Borough of Plattsburg .....	.....	" .....	18 "	" "	
"	of the Borough of Newcastle, under the Newcastle Paving and Public Vehicles Regulation Act.	.....	" .....	18 "	" "	
Report.....	from the Standing Orders Committee on Limitation of Speeches (with proposed Standing Orders), and on Balloting for Select Committees.	.....	Mr. McCourt	18 "	To be printed.	

No. 3 Committee Room,
Legislative Assembly, 19th August, 1897.

JAMES GORMLY,
Chairman.

[3d.]

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES

No. 17.

REPORT FROM PRINTING COMMITTEE.

THE PRINTING COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed under the Sessional Order of 28th April, 1897, Votes No. 2, Entry 24, have agreed to report to your Honorable House, in relation to the Papers referred to them since their Report No. 16, dated 19th August, 1897, as follows:—

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
Report.....	of the Department of Public Works for year ended 30th June, 1896	.....	Mr. Young	19 August.....	To be printed	Already in print.
Accounts.....	of the South Head Roads Trust and Richmond Road Trust for half-year ended 31st December, 1896.	.....	" .....	19 "	Not to be printed.	
Report.....	of the Public Service Board respecting the appointment of an Expert in connection with the Dairying Industry, Department of Mines and Agriculture.	.....	Mr. Brunker.....	19 "	" "	
Statement	of Receipts and Expenditure of the Sydney Cricket Ground for the year ended 30th September, 1896.	.....	" .....	19 "	" "	
Report from Select Committee.....	"Conditional Purchase by George Vincent, in the District of Gundagai."	.....	Mr. Travers Jones	19 "	To be printed.	
Return to Order	"Public School Teacher at Wilberforce"	Mr. Morgan	Mr. Garrard.....	24 "	Not to be printed.	
Return to Address.....	"Fine imposed upon Mrs. Flood, Paddington Police Court"	Mr. Knox	Mr. Gould	24 "	" "	
Return to Order	"Appointment of Mr. Payten as Stipendiary Magistrate at Newcastle."	Dr. Ross	"	24 "	" "	
Return	respecting distribution of blankets by the Government .....	.....	Mr. Brunker.....	24 "	To be printed.	
Proceedings	of the Australasian Federal Convention (with papers ordered to be printed), held at Adelaide during March, April, and May, 1897.	.....	" .....	24 "	" "	
Papers*	on Federation, circulated on consideration of Draft Federal Constitution, 1897, by Legislature of Victoria.	.....	" .....	24 "	" "	These papers only which have not already been ordered to be printed.
Notes	on Federation, and the Draft Bills of 1891 and 1897, by G. B. Barton.	.....	Mr. Schey (pursuant to leave granted on 18th August, 1897).	.....	" "
Abstract	of Crown lands authorised to be dedicated to Public Purposes, in accordance with the 104th section of the Act 48 Vic. No. 18.	.....	Mr. Brunker.....	25 August.....	Not to be printed.	

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
<i>Gazette Notices</i>	Copies of, setting forth the mode in which it is proposed to deal with the dedication of certain lands, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Act 48 Vic. No. 18, the 41st section of the Act 53 Vic. No. 21, and the 7th section of the Public Trusts Act, 1897.	.....	Mr. Brunker.....	1897. 25 August.....	Not to be printed.	
<i>Abstract</i>	of Crown lands reserved from sale for the Preservation of Water Supply or other Public Purposes, in accordance with the 101st, 109th, and 112th sections of the Act 48 Vic. No. 18.	.....	" .....	25 "	" "	
"	of sites for Cities, Towns, and Villages, declared under the 4th and 101st sections of the Act 48 Vic. No. 18.	.....	" .....	25 "	" "	
<i>Notification</i>	of an additional subsection (d) to Regulation No. 35, and Amended Regulations Nos. 165 and 170, under the Crown Lands Acts.	.....	" .....	25 "	" "	
<i>Report</i>	of the Public Service Board in connection with the appointment of a Principal Assistant Medical Officer to the Government and Microbiologist to the Board of Health.	.....	" .....	25 "	" "	
"	of the Public Service Board in connection with the appointment of a Viticultural Expert in the Department of Mines and Agriculture.	.....	" .....	25 "	" "	
<i>Regulations</i>	under the Public Service Act of 1895, relating to Charitable Institutions.	.....	" .....	25 "	" "	
<i>Notes</i>	by Sir Samuel Griffith, G.C.M.G., on the Draft Federal Constitution framed by the Adelaide Convention of 1897.	.....	Mr. Schoy (pursuant to leave granted on 18th August, 1897).	25 "	" "	Already ordered to be printed with other papers. See *.
<i>Report</i>	from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on proposed Railway Extension for Redfern to St. James'-road, together with Minutes of Evidence and Appendix.	.....	Mr. Ewing	26 "	To be printed	Already in print.
"	of Commissioners of Fisheries for 1895 .....	.....	Mr. Brunker.....	26 "	" "	" "
"	of Commissioners of Fisheries for 1896 .....	.....	" .....	26 "	" "	" "
"	on Vaccination for 1896 .....	.....	" .....	26 "	" "	" "
<i>Amended Regulations</i>	under the Public Service Act respecting Police Magistrates' Examinations.	.....	" .....	26 "	Not to be printed.	
<i>Return to Order</i>	"Selection by Arthur Jeffries, Land District of Deniliquin".....	Mr. Chanter	"	26 "	" "	
<i>Report</i>	of the Department of Lands for 1896 .....	.....	" .....	26 "	To be printed	Already in print.

No. 3 Committee Room,
Legislative Assembly, 26th August, 1897.

JAMES GOBMLY,
Chairman.

[3d.]

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES

No. 18.

REPORT FROM PRINTING COMMITTEE.

THE PRINTING COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed under the Sessional Order of 28th April, 1897, Votes No. 2, Entry 24, have agreed to report to your Honorable House, in relation to the Papers referred to them since their Report No. 17, dated 26th August, 1897, as follows:—

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
				1897.		
Report.....	on Loss of Stock since 1st January, 1897 .....	.....	Mr. Sydney Smith	26 August.....	To be printed.	
By-laws.....	of the Borough of East Maitland .....	.....	Mr. Brunker.....	5 October	Not to be printed.	
By-law	of the Municipal District of West Narrabri .....	.....	" .....	5 "	" "	
"	of the Municipal District of Waratah .....	.....	" .....	5 "	" "	
"	of the Municipal District of Camden .....	.....	" .....	5 "	" "	
Report.....	of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the charges preferred against the Medical Attendant and Matron of the Mudgee Hospital in connection with the treatment of Mary Beattie, now deceased, together with evidence, &c. ....	.....	" .....	5 "	To be printed.	
"	of the Nautical s.s. "Sobraon" for the year ended 30th April, 1897 .....	.....	Mr. Garrard.....	6 "	" "	
Amended Regulation.....	No. 156, under the Crown Lands Acts .....	.....	Mr. Sydney Smith	6 "	Not to be printed.	
Abstract	of the Crown lands reserved from sale for the Preservation of Water Supply or other public purposes, in accordance with the 101st, 109th, and 112th sections of the Act 48 Vic. No. 18. ....	.....	" .....	6 "	" "	
"	of Alterations and Cancellations of Designs of Cities, Towns, and Villages, under the 107th section of the Act 48 Vic. No. 18. ....	.....	" .....	6 "	" "	
"	of Sites for Cities, Towns, and Villages, declared under the 4th and 101st sections of the Act 48 Vic. No. 18. ....	.....	" .....	6 "	" "	
Gazette Notices	Copies of, setting forth the mode in which it is proposed to deal with the dedication of certain lands in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Act 48 Vic. No. 18 and the 41st section of the Act 53 Vic. No. 21. ....	.....	" .....	6 "	" "	

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
Abstract	of Crown Lands authorised to be dedicated to Public Purposes, in accordance with the 104th section of the Act 48 Vic. No. 18.	.....	Mr. Sydney Smith	1897. 6 October	Not to be printed.	
Return to Order	"Exchange of Land on Yaanga Station, near Balranald"	Mr. Chanter	"	6 "	To be printed	Plans not to be printed. Certain portions only.
"	"Stockton Colliery Disaster"	Mr. Fegan	"	6 "	" "	
Notification	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for the supply of water to the town of Condobolin.	.....	Mr. Young	6 "	Not to be printed.	
"	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for drainage works for Western Suburbs of Sydney.	.....	" .....	6 "	" "	
Return to Order	"Roads in the Walcha Division, Tamworth Road District"	Mr. W. H. B. Piddington	"	6 "	" "	
Amended Regulation	No. 324, under the Crown Lands Acts .....	.....	" .....	6 "	" "	
Return to Order	"The Unemployed"	Mr. Affleck	Mr. Brunker	6 "	To be printed.	
By-law	of the Borough of North Sydney .....	.....	" .....	6 "	Not to be printed.	
Amended Regulations	"under the Volunteer Force Regulation Act, 1867" .....	.....	" .....	6 "	" "	
Fourteenth Annual Report	under the Inscribed Stock Act of 1833 .....	.....	Mr. Reid	6 "	To be printed.	
Amended Regulation	No. 43, under the Public Service Act of 1895 .....	.....	" .....	6 "	Not to be printed.	
"	No. 18, under the Public Service Act of 1895 .....	.....	" .....	6 "	" "	
Regulation	under the Public Service Act of 1895 .....	.....	" .....	6 "	" "	
Substituted Regulation	No. 20, under the Public Service Act, 1895 .....	.....	" .....	6 "	" "	
Statement	of payments made from the Treasurer's Advances Account during August, 1897.	.....	" .....	6 "	To be printed.	
Return to Order	"The Civil Service"	Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick	"	6 "	" "	
"	"Temporary Labourers and Watchmen, Public Wharves, Sydney"	Mr. Neild	"	6 "	Not to be printed.	

No. 3 Committee Room,
Legislative Assembly, 7th October, 1897.

JAMES GORMLY,
Chairman.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES

No. 19.

REPORT FROM PRINTING COMMITTEE.

THE PRINTING COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed under the Sessional Order of 28th April, 1897. Votes No. 2, Entry 24, have agreed to report to your Honorable House, in relation to the Papers referred to them since their Report No. 18, dated 7th October, 1897, as follows:—

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
Abstract	of after auction purchases proposed to be validated under the 104th section of the Act 53 Vic. No. 18.	.....	Mr. Sydney Smith	1897. 7 October	Not to be printed.	
Notification	of withdrawal, under the Crown Lands Act, 1895, of certain lands from the Pastoral Lease of the Bruc Plains Leasehold Area, for settlement by other Holdings.	.....	" .....	7 "	" "	
"	of withdrawal, under the Crown Lands Act, 1895, of certain lands from the Pastoral Lease of the Spicer's Creek Leasehold Area, for settlement by other Holdings.	.....	" .....	7 "	" "	
Contracts	with the Peninsular and Oriental and Orient Steam Navigation Companies respecting the Australian Mail Service.	.....	Mr. Cook	7 "	To be printed.	
Return	respecting the South Head Roads Trust .....	.....	Mr. Young	12 "	Not to be printed.	
Notification	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for improvement of Cook's River, near Tempe.	.....	" .....	12 "	" "	
"	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for a Bridge over Lagoon Creek.	.....	" .....	12 "	" "	
"	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for Drainage Works for the Western Suburbs of Sydney.	.....	" .....	12 "	" "	
Return to Order	"Vote for Unclassified Roads for 1897-98"	Mr. Frank Farnell	"	12 "	To be printed.	
Report	together with plans, on the prospects of Irrigation and Water Conservation in New South Wales, by Colonel F. J. Home, C.S.I., Royal Engineers (retired).	.....	" .....	12 "	" "	
Return to Order	"Closing of Branch Road, Double Bay"	Mr. E. M. Clark	Mr. Brunker	17 August .....	.....	Reported on on 19th August, 1897; referred back to the Committee for reconsideration 12th October, 1897. Postponed for further consideration.
"	"Closing of Whaling Road, North Sydney"	"	"	18 " .....	.....
Return	respecting Typhoid Fever in Sydney and Suburbs from 1876 to 1895, and certain particulars respecting other infectious diseases, viz., Measles, Scarlet Fever, and Diphtheria.	.....	" .....	13 October .....	.....	Postponed for further consideration.
Regulations	of the Orange Fire Brigade Board under the Fire Brigades Act, 1884.	.....	" .....	13 "	Not to be printed.	
Return to Order	"Leave of Absence granted by Public Service Board"	Mr. E. M. Clark	Mr. Reid	13 "	" "	

No. 3 Committee Room,
Legislative Assembly, 14th October, 1897.

JAMES GORMLY,
Chairman.

[3d.]

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 20.

REPORT FROM PRINTING COMMITTEE.

THE PRINTING COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed under the Sessional Order of 28th April, 1897, Votes No. 2, Entry 24, have agreed to report to your Honorable House, in relation to the Papers referred to them since their Report No. 19, dated 14th October, 1897, as follows:—

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
Return to Order	" Closing of Branch Road, Double Bay "	Mr. E. M. Clark	Mr. Bruncker	1897. 17 August	To be printed	Reported on on 19th August, 1897; referred back to the Committee for reconsideration, 12th October, 1897.
"	" Closing of Whaling Road, North Sydney "	"	"	18 "	"	
Report	from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on proposed new bridge at Glebe Island, together with Minutes of Evidence, Appendix, and Plans.	.....	Mr. Lee	14 October	"	
Statement	of payments from Treasurers' Advance Account during September, 1897.	.....	Mr. Reid	14 "	"	
Accounts	of the South Head Roads Trust for half-year ending 30th June, 1897	.....	Mr. Young	14 "	Not to be printed.	
Return	respecting the Public School Cadet Corps .....	.....	Mr. Garrard	19 "	To be printed.	
"	showing names and rank of persons employed on board the N.S.S. " Sobraon." .....	.....	" .....	19 "	Not to be printed.	
Regulation	Amended Gaol, No. 35 .....	.....	Mr. Gould	19 "	"	
Return	respecting the Finances of the Colony .....	.....	Mr. Reid	19 "	To be printed	
Report	of the Royal Commission to Inquire into the Management of the Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board; together with Minutes of Proceedings, Evidence, and Appendices.	.....	Mr. Bruncker	19 "	"	
Report from Select Committee	" Claim of James and Patrick Guiben of Kangaroo Valley " .....	.....	Mr. Alexander Campbell	19 "	"	
Report	of the Government Labour Bureau for the year ended 30th June, 1897.	.....	Mr. Garrard	20 "	"	
Plan	of Sydney and Suburban Sewerage system—Appendix to accompany Report of Royal Commission to Inquire into the Management of the Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, laid upon the Table on 19th October, 1897.	.....	Mr. Bruncker	20 "	"	with Report on same subject.
Comparative Statement	by the Victorian Statist respecting the average number of hands employed in the Industries of Victoria and New South Wales.	.....	Mr. Reid	20 "	"	

No. 3 Committee Room,
Legislative Assembly, 21st October, 1897.

[3d.]

R. ATKINSON PRICE,
Chairman pro tem.

1897.
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 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
 NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 21.

REPORT FROM PRINTING COMMITTEE.

THE PRINTING COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed under the Sessional Order of 28th April, 1897, Votes No. 2, Entry 24, have agreed to report to your Honorable House, in relation to the Papers referred to them since their Report No. 20, dated 21st October, 1897, as follows:—

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
Return	respecting Typhoid Fever in Sydney and Suburbs, from 1876 to 1895, and certain particulars respecting other infectious diseases, viz., Measles, Scarlet Fever, and Diphtheria.	.....	Mr. Brunker.....	1897. 13 October	To be printed	
Schedule	of allowances to Jurors .....	.....	Mr. Gould	21 „	Not to be printed.	
Notification.....	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land, for erection of a Post and Telegraph Office at Drake.	.....	Mr. Young	27 „	„ „	
Return to Order	“Coal used by the Railway Department”	Mr. Edden	Mr. Reid	27 „	To be printed.	
Notice	of intention to declare that, under section 44 of the Act 58 Vic. No. 18, Homestead Selection, No. 97-1, by Frederick William Tilse, 1,280 acres, portion 68, and Homestead Selection 97-10, by William Simpson, 1,280, portion 67, parish of Moonan Land District of Scone, shall cease to be voidable.	.....	Mr. Brunker.....	27 „	Not to be printed.	
Return to Order	Public School Teacher at Wilberforce	Mr. Morgan	Mr. Garrard	24 August.....	„ „	Reported on, on 26th August, 1897; referred back to the Committee for reconsideration, 27th October, 1897.

No. 3 Committee Room,
 Legislative Assembly, 28th October, 1897.

JAMES GORMLY,
 Chairman.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 22.

REPORT FROM PRINTING COMMITTEE.

THE PRINTING COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed under the Sessional Order of 28th April, 1897, Votes No. 2, Entry 24, have agreed to report to your Honorable House, in relation to the Papers referred to them since their Report No. 21, dated 28th October, 1897, as follows:—

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
Return to Order	"Application for suspension of labour conditions by Wentworth Proprietary Gold-mining Company, Lucknow."	Mr. Lyne	Mr. Sydney Smith	1897. 2 November	To be printed.	
By-law	of the Municipal District of Carrington		Mr. Brunker	4 "	Not to be printed.	
By-laws	of the Municipal District of Katoomba		"	4 "	" "	
By-laws	of the Municipal District of Moree		"	4 "	" "	
Notification	of the Municipal District of Parkes		"	4 "	" "	
"	of withdrawal, under the Crown Lands Act of 1895, of certain lands from the Pastoral Lease of the Euroka Leasehold Area, for settlement by other Holdings.		"	4 "	" "	
"	of resumption, under the Public Works Act, of land for the establishment and construction of a punt over the Darling River near Louth.		Mr. Young	4 "	" "	
"	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for deviation of a road, Casino to Coraki.		"	4 "	" "	
Regulations	in connection with the Dredge Service		Mr. Reid	4 "	" "	
Return to Order	Pilot Service, Newcastle and Sydney	Mr. Dick	"	4 "	" "	
Report	of the Railway Commissioners on Railways and Tramways, for quarter ended September, 1897.		"	4 "	To be printed.	Already in print.
Return to Order	"Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation, Limited"	Mr. Neild	"	4 "		Postponed for further consideration.

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
Schedule	to the Estimates for 1897-8, showing the total remuneration estimated to be received by all public officers who hold more than one office, or who receive any fees, special allowance, quarters, fuel, or light, in addition to their fixed annual salaries, during the year ending 30th June, 1898.	.....	Mr. Reid	1897. 4 November	To be printed	Already in print.
Regulation	Amended Gaol .....	.....	Mr. Gould	10	Not to be printed.	
Abstract	of alterations and cancellations of designs of Cities, Towns, and Villages, under the 107th section of the Act 48 Vic. No. 18.	.....	Mr. Carruthers	10	" "	
"	of sites for Cities, Towns, and Villages, declared under the 4th and 101st sections of the Act 48 Vic. No. 18.	.....	" .....	10	" "	
"	of Crown Lands reserved from sale for the preservation of Water Supply or other Public Purposes, in accordance with the 101st, 109th, and 112th sections of the Act 48 Vic. No. 18.	.....	" .....	10	" "	
Gazette Notice.....	Copy of, setting forth the mode in which it is proposed to deal with the dedication of certain Lands, in accordance with the provisions of the 105th section of the Act 48 Vic. No. 18, and the 41st section of the Act 53 Vic. No. 21.	.....	" .....	10	" "	
Abstract	of Crown Lands authorised to be dedicated to Public Purposes, in accordance with the 104th section of the Act 48 Vic. No. 18.	.....	" .....	10	" "	
Return	respecting Mail Contracts for the years 1897 and 1898 .....	.....	Mr. Cook	10	To be printed.	
Schedule	to Military Allowances proposed for the year 1897-8 .....	.....	Mr. Reid	10	"	Already in print.
Schedules	A. to E., Estimates 1897-8, Public Works Department .....	.....	Mr. Young	16	"	"
Return to Order	" Complaint against Warden Smith of Tuena"	Mr. Crick	Mr. Sydney Smith	16	Not to be printed.	
Proclamation	under the Imported Stock Acts, prohibiting the importation of cattle, camels, &c., infected with the cattle-tick or other disease, and prohibiting the introduction of any cattle, camels, &c., from certain portions of Queensland.	.....	" .....	16	"	
Statement	of payments from Treasurer's Advance Account during October, 1897	.....	Mr. Reid	16	To be printed.	
Memorandum.....	by the President of the Board of Health on Prevention of Tuberculosis in man and in cattle.	.....	" .....	16	"	
Rates	for Telegraphic Messages between South Murwillumbah and Murwillumbah and all stations in Queensland.	.....	Mr. Cook	17	Not to be printed.	
Report.....	by the Government Architect (W. L. Vernon, Esq., F.R.I.B.A.) in connection with his recent visit to the United Kingdom and Continent of Europe.	.....	Mr. Young	17	To be printed.	

No. 3 Committee Room,
Legislative Assembly, 18th November, 1897.

JAMES GORMLY,
Chairman.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 23.

REPORT FROM PRINTING COMMITTEE.

THE PRINTING COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed under the Sessional Order of 28th April, 1897, Votes No. 2, Entry 24, have agreed to report to your Honorable House, in relation to the Papers referred to them since their Report No. 22, dated 18th November, 1897, as follows:—

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
				1897.		
Return to Order	"Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation Limited"	Mr. Neild	Mr. Reid	4 November	Not to be printed.	
Notification	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for improving the grades on the Great Western Railway, near Orange.		"	18	" "	
"	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for improving the grades on the Great Western Railway, near Blayney.		"	18	" "	
"	of withdrawal, under the Crown Lands Act of 1895, of certain lands from the Pastoral Lease of the Burrawong Leasehold Area, for settlement by other Holdings.		Mr. Carruthers	18	" "	
"	of withdrawal, under the Crown Lands Act of 1895, of certain lands from the Pastoral Lease of the Welbendahah Leasehold Area, for settlement by other holdings.		"	18	" "	
By-laws	under the Public Vehicles Regulation Act of 1873		Mr. Bruncker	23	" "	
General Abstract	of Bank Liabilities and Assets for quarter ended 30th September, 1897		Mr. Reid	24	" "	
Notification	of resumption, under Public Works Act, of land for the construction of a new entrance to the Macleay River.		Mr. Young	24	" "	
Abstract	of Crown Lands, authorised to be dedicated to Public Purposes, in accordance with the 104th section of the Act 48 Vic. No. 18.		Mr. Carruthers	24	" "	
"	of Crown Lands reserved from sale for the preservation of Water Supply, or other Public Purposes, in accordance with the 101st, 109th, and 112th sections of the Act 48 Vic. No. 18.		"	24	" "	
Notification	of Rates for Telephone Messages between the Post Office and Railway Station, Gunnedah.		Mr. Cook	24	" "	

No. 3 Committee Room,
Legislative Assembly, 25th November, 1897.

JAMES GORMLY,
Chairman.

[3d.]

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 24.

REPORT FROM PRINTING COMMITTEE.

THE PRINTING COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed under the Sessional Order of 28th April, 1897, Votes No. 2, Entry 24, have agreed to report to your Honorable House, in relation to the Papers referred to them since their Report No. 23, dated 25th November, 1897, as follows:—

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
Regulations	under the Pharmacy Act, 1897 .....	.....	Mr. Reid	1897. 25 November	Not to be printed.	
Return to Order	"Payments made to Sir John Fowler"	Mr. McGowen	"	25 "	" "	
General Abstracts	of Banking, Land, Building, and Investment Companies—Liabilities and Assets—for Quarter ended 30th September, 1897. ....	.....	" .....	25 "	" "	
<i>Précis</i>	of facts relating to Campbelltown Reservoir Acts Repeal Bill .....	.....	Mr. Carruthers.....	25 "	" "	Postponed for further consideration.
"	of facts relating to the Stockton Graving Dock (Leasing) Bill .....	.....	" .....	25 "	" "	
Report	on the Military Forces of the Colony, by Major-General G. A. French, R.A., C.M.G., commanding Military Forces. ....	.....	Mr. Brunker.....	25 "	To be printed.	
Return to Order	"Technological Museum"	Mr. Bavister	Mr. Garrard.....	30 "	Not to be printed.	Already in print.
Report	of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Management of the Hunter District Water Supply and Sewerage Board; together with Minutes of Proceedings, Evidence, and Appendices. ....	.....	Mr. Brunker	30 "	To be printed	
"	of the Royal Commission, appointed on 7th July, 1897, to inquire into the Working of Mines and Quarries in the Albert Mining District, together with Minutes of Proceedings, Evidence, and Appendices. ....	.....	" .....	30 "	" "	"
Return to Order.....	"Non-residential Conditional Purchase, Cowra, taken up by Ellen Josephine Ormsby."	Mr. Wood	"	30 "	Not to be printed.	
"	"Deductions from Salaries of Temporary Officers during Jubilee Holidays."	Mr. E. M. Clark	"	30 "	" "	
By-law	of the Borough of Wollongong .....	.....	" .....	30 "	" "	
By-laws	of the Borough of Young.....	.....	" .....	30 "	" "	
"	of the Borough of Albury .....	.....	" .....	30 "	" "	
Regulations	under the Public Service Act, 1895, respecting Leave of Absence to Employees in the General Division. ....	.....	Mr. Reid	30 "	" "	
Regulation	under the Public Service Act, 1895, respecting Sick Leave in exceptional cases. ....	.....	" .....	30 "	" "	
Report from Select Committee	"Consolidation of the Land Laws" .....	.....	Mr. Carruthers	30 "	To be printed.	

No. 3 Committee Room,
Legislative Assembly, 2nd December, 1897.

JAMES GORMLY,
Chairman.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 25.

REPORT FROM PRINTING COMMITTEE.

THE PRINTING COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed under the Sessional Order of 23rd April, 1897, Votes No. 2, Entry 24, have agreed to report to your Honorable House, in relation to the Papers referred to them since their Report No. 24, dated 2nd December, 1897, as follows:—

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
				1897.		
<i>Précis</i>	of facts relating to the Stockton Graving Dock (Leasing) Bill .....	.....	Mr. Carruthers	25 November	Not to be printed.	
Abstract	of Crown Lands reserved from sale for the preservation of Water Supply or other Public Purposes, in accordance with the 101st, 109th, and 112th sections of the Act 48 Vic. No. 18.	.....	Mr. Brunker.....	2 December	" "	
"	of Crown Lands authorised to be dedicated to Public Purposes, in accordance with the 104th section of the Act 48 Vic. No. 18.	.....	" .....	2 "	" "	
Statement	respecting the Wollongong Harbour Arbitration Case .....	.....	Mr. Young	2 " .....	.....	Postponed for further consideration.
Return to Order	" Appointment of Chief Inspector of Mines"	Mr. Fegan	Mr. Sydney Smith	2 "	Not to be printed.	
Correspondence	referring to the Harbour Trust of Wollongong, and the Arbitration Case, Hungerford against that Trust.	.....	Mr. Young	3 " A.M. ....	.....	"
Statement	showing Balances at credit of the Government in the various Banks on the 6th December, 1897.	.....	Mr. Reid	7 "	To be printed.	
Report.....	of the Public Service Board relative to the appointment of George McRae, Esq., as Principal Assistant Architect, Department of Public Works.	.....	Mr. Young	7 "	Not to be printed.	
Ninth Report.....	of the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage, from 1st July, 1896, to 30th June, 1897.	.....	" .....	7 " .....	.....	"
Return to Order	" Proposal to transfer Emmaville, Deepwater, and the Nine-mile from the Police District of Glen Innes to that of Tenterfield."	Mr. Wright	Mr. Gould	7 "	Not to be printed.	
Report.....	of the Coast Hospital, Little Bay, for 1895 .....	.....	Mr. Brunker	7 "	To be printed	Already in print.
"	of the State Children's Relief Board for the year ended 5th April, 1897	.....	" .....	7 "	" "	"
Return to Order.....	" Leasing of portion of Church and School Estate, Randwick—Kensington Racecourse.	Mr. Haynes	"	7 "	Not to be printed.	
"	" Land Statistics—Gosford Population Area"	Mr. Wheeler	"	7 "	" "	
Report.....	from Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on proposed Railway from The Rock to Green's Gully; together with Minutes of Evidence, Appendices, and Plan.	.....	Mr. Ewing	7 "	To be printed	"
"	from Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on proposed Railway from Coolamon to Ariah; together with Minutes of Evidence, Appendix, and Plan.	.....	" .....	7 "	" "	"
Report from Select Committee	" Public Service Board—Retiring Allowances and Gratuities" .....	.....	Mr. Neild.....	7 "	" "	

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 26.

REPORT FROM PRINTING COMMITTEE.

THE PRINTING COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed under the Sessional Order of 28th April, 1897, Votes No. 2, Entry 24, have agreed to report to your Honorable House, in relation to the Papers referred to them since their Report No. 25, dated 8th December, 1897, as follows:—

Description of Paper.	Subject of Paper.	By whom Moved for.	By whom laid upon Table.	When laid upon Table.	Recommended by the Committee.	Remarks.
				1897.		
Statement	respecting the Wollongong Harbour Arbitration Case .....	.....	Mr. Young	2 December	Not to be printed.	
Correspondence	referring to the Harbour Trust of Wollongong, and the Arbitration Case, Hungerford against that Trust. ....	.....	" .....	2 "	" "	
Ninth Report.....	of the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage, from 1st July, 1896, to 30th June, 1897. ....	.....	" .....	7 "	To be printed.	
Report from Select Committee	" Day Labour—Railway Deviations " .....	.....	Mr. McGowen	8 "	" "	
" "	" Case of Sydney Cooper, as to mining under a road, parish of Clive, county of Gough." .....	.....	Mr. Cruickshank	8 "	" "	
Return to Order	" Sunny Corner Mining Leases "	Mr. Hurley	Mr. Sydney Smith	8 "	Not to be printed.	
Progress Report from Select Committee.	" Construction of the Telephone Tunnels " .....	.....	Mr. Lyne	8 "	To be printed.	
Notification	of resumptions, under Public Works Act, of land for Public School Purposes at Big Leather and Coramba Township. ....	.....	Mr. Garrard.....	9 "	Not to be printed.	
Return to Order	" Ryan's and Daley's Conditional Purchases, parish of Yetholme, county of Roxburgh."	Mr. Neild	Mr. Brunker	9 "	" "	
Return	respecting the improvement leases on the Toorale and Dunlop resumed areas. ....	.....	" .....	9 "	" "	
"	respecting the improvement leases at Jervis Bay.....	.....	" .....	9 "	" "	
Correspondence	respecting Mr. Groves, Auditor to the Rookwood Borough Council... ..	.....	" .....	9 "	" "	
Return to Order.....	" Coal shipped at the Newcastle Dyke "	Mr. Fegan	Mr. Reid	9 "	" "	
"	" Transhipment of Tonnage and Live Stock per rail on the Border between New South Wales and Victoria."	Mr. Neild	"	9 "	" "	
"	" Coal from the Northern Collieries "	Mr. Fegan	"	9 "	" "	
Return	respecting stoppage of pay to certain Officials in the Prisons Department from Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on New Houses of Parliament for the Colony; together with Minutes of Evidence, Appendices, and Plans. ....	.....	Mr. Gould	9 "	" "	
Report.....	from Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on proposed Railway from Condobolin to Euabalong; together with Minutes of Evidence, Appendices, and Plan. ....	.....	Mr. Ewing	9 "	To be printed	Already in print.
"	from Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on proposed Railway from Condobolin to Euabalong; together with Minutes of Evidence, Appendices, and Plan. ....	.....	" .....	9 "	" "	"
Report from Select Committee	" Additions and Alterations to the Government Printing Office".....	.....	Mr. McLean	9 "	" "	

No. 3 Committee Room,
Legislative Assembly, 9th December, 1897.

JAMES GORMLY,
Chairman.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

INTERFERENCE BY THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD WITH VOTES
FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY DEPARTMENTS.

(CORRESPONDENCE AND MINUTES RESPECTING.)

Printed under No. 7 Report from Printing Committee, 10 June, 1897.

The Deputy Postmaster-General to The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

Postal and Electric Telegraph Department,

General Post Office, Sydney, 15 July, 1896.

Sir,

I am directed to intimate, in connection with the grading of this Department by the Public Service Board, that the discontinuance of the following allowances (amongst others) has been determined on:—

J. S. Fitzmaurice, Chief Engineer, Electric Lights, £26 per annum for extra services at Parliament House (paid by Legislative Council and Assembly).

G. E. Letton, Engineer, Electric Lights, £26 per annum for extra services at Parliament House (paid by Legislative Council and Assembly).

I have, &c.,

S. H. LAMBTON.

This should be forwarded to the Clerk of the Parliaments.—F.W.W., 20/7/96. I think it well to ask the Deputy Postmaster-General by what authority the votes of the House are interfered with. Is it by the Civil Service Board?—J. P. ABBOTT, Speaker. Approved.—JOHN LACKY, President.
Letter to Under Secretary, G.P.O., 23/7/96.

The Deputy Postmaster-General to The Clerk of the Parliaments.

Postal and Electric Telegraph Department,

General Post Office, Sydney, 15 July, 1896.

Sir,

I am directed to intimate, in connection with the grading of this Department by the Public Service Board, that the discontinuance of the following allowances (amongst others) has been determined on:—

J. S. Fitzmaurice, Chief Engineer, Electric Lights, £26 per annum for extra services at Parliament House (paid by Legislative Council and Assembly).

G. E. Letton, Engineer, Electric Lights, £26 per annum for extra services at Parliament House (paid by Legislative Council and Assembly).

I have, &c.,

S. H. LAMBTON.

The Clerk of the Parliaments to The Honorable the President and the Honorable the Speaker.

MEMO:

22 July, 1896.

I CANNOT understand upon what authority the Public Service Board can be said to have determined on the discontinuance of the allowances granted by Parliament to Messrs. Fitzmaurice and Letton.

The amounts were originally sanctioned by the President and Speaker in payment of services rendered in connection with the discharge of certain extra duties, which necessitated increased hours of attendance and work on the Parliamentary premises, and have been for some years annually voted for this purpose on the Estimates of the joint Department of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly, under the heading, "Remuneration to Engineers of Electric Lights and assistant, for extra services, £62."

In my opinion, the Public Service Board is not justified in thus interfering with an item appearing on the Estimates of the Legislature.

JOHN J. CALVERT.

The Honorable the Speaker to The Clerk of the Parliaments.

My Dear Mr. Calvert, Speaker's Room, Sydney, 23 July, 1896.
I had drafted, in pencil, the memo. herewith, and then I showed the papers to Mr. Reid, who suggested that the course taken may not have been by the Board. I think you should write to the Deputy Postmaster-General, and ask as in my minute. When you get a reply, see me.

Yours, &c.,
J. P. ABBOTT.

Legislative Assembly, 21 July, 1896.

I quite agree with the memorandum of Mr. Calvert, and can only think that the action of the Board has been taken under a misconception of the facts of the case. The votes are given by Parliament for services rendered to it by the men referred to, and cannot in any way be interfered with by the Public Service Board. Parliament, and not the Board, must determine this matter. I regret that the Board should attempt in any way to interfere with our votes, and, so far as I am concerned, the payments will not be discontinued. If the President concurs, the Clerk of Parliaments should so inform the Deputy Postmaster-General.

The Clerk of the Parliaments to The Deputy Postmaster-General.

Sir, Sydney, 23 July, 1896.
As the determination of the Public Service Board, in reference to the discontinuance of the Parliamentary allowances to Messrs. Fitzmaurice and Letton, as set forth in your letter of the 15th instant, appears to be an undoubted interference with the Estimates of the Legislature, I am directed by the President and the Speaker to request that you will state for their information if your communication was made under the direction of the Board.

I have, &c.,
JOHN J. CALVERT,
Clerk of the Parliaments.

The Deputy Postmaster-General to The Clerk of the Parliaments.

Sir, Postal and Electric Telegraph Department,
General Post Office, Sydney, 28 July, 1896.
Referring to the inquiry made in your communication of the 23rd instant, 96-52, relative to the discontinuance of the Parliamentary allowances to Messrs. Fitzmaurice and Letton, I am directed by the Postmaster-General to state that the Public Service Board informed this Department that these allowances would be discontinued, and this office accordingly informed all concerned, including the Departments by whom the allowances were made.

I have, &c.,
S. H. LAMBTON,
Deputy Postmaster-General.

The Clerk of the Parliaments to The Honorable the President and the Honorable the Speaker.

MEMO: 30 July, 1896.
PROBABLY the best course to pursue would be to submit the vote (£62) on the Estimate of the joint Department for the decision of the Legislative Assembly, who would thus be able to determine as to the expediency of Messrs. Fitzmaurice and Letton still receiving the amount.

JOHN J. CALVERT.

Approved.—J.P.A., 30/7/96. Approved.—J.L., 12/8/96.

The Deputy Postmaster-General to The Clerk of the Parliaments.

Sir, Postal and Electric Telegraph Department,
General Post Office, Sydney, 28 December, 1896.
Adverting to my communication, dated the 28th July last, in reply to yours of the 23rd idem, on the subject of the allowances hitherto granted to Messrs. J. S. Fitzmaurice and G. E. Letton, of this Department, for services rendered in connection with the electric light and bells at Parliament House, I am directed to intimate that a communication has now been received from the Public Service Board, stating that as such extra duties were fully considered when the salaries of the officers in question were being determined, the payment of any extra allowance therefor cannot be approved.

I have, &c.,
S. H. LAMBTON.

The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade to The Clerk of the Parliaments.

Sir, The Treasury, New South Wales, Sydney, 29 January, 1897.
With reference to the Abstracts (3) for £4 19s. each, dated 27th October, 24th November, and 23rd December, 1896, respectively, forwarded by you to this Department, I am directed to inform you that the Public Service Board, to whom the matter was referred, advise that they are unable to approve of the payment of the allowances previously received by Messrs. Fitzmaurice and Letton, of the Postal and Electric Telegraph Department, for services rendered in connection with the electric light and bells at Parliament House, such extra duties having been allowed for when their salaries were determined.

I have, &c.,
F. KIRKPATRICK,
Under-Secretary for Finance and Trade.

The

The Clerk of the Parliaments to The Honorable the President and the Honorable the Speaker.

22 April, 1897.

I WOULD ask the opinion of the President and Speaker as to what course I had better pursue with respect to the letter herewith from the Under-Secretary for Finance and Trade, in reference to certain payments made to Messrs. Fitzmaurice and Letton, of the Postal and Telegraph Departments, for special services rendered in connection with the electric light and bells at the Parliament House. By the terms of this letter it will be seen that the matter has been improperly, I think, referred by the Treasury to the Public Service Board, who have declined to approve of the payment of the said allowances. As under the Estimate of the Legislative Council and Assembly a sum of £62 was specially set apart by the Legislature for this purpose, and as the Public Service Board have no control whatever over the Parliamentary Departments, I would submit that the Board have no power to prevent me, as the officer responsible for all payments of the joint Department, from paying the amount voted to Messrs. Fitzmaurice and Letton.

JOHN J. CALVERT.

Minute by The Honorable the Speaker.

3 June, 1897.

It appears to me that Fitzmaurice and Letton are "not officers of either House of Parliament"; but I am not equally clear that they are not "persons employed in either House of the Legislature under the separate control of the President or Speaker, or under their joint control," within the meaning of the 3rd section of the Public Service Act, 59 Vic. No. 25.

The true test as to whether they are or not would be,—Has the President or Speaker, or both jointly, power to dismiss or to punish them? And I think, applying that test, that they have no such power, and the most that they could do would be to make representations to the heads of their Departments either to remove or punish them.

Although I think the Public Service Board exhibited a want of courtesy to myself and to the President in interfering with the Vote given by Parliament to these persons without reference to either of us, still I am not able to say that the Public Service Board did not act within their rights when they directed these persons, who are not in the employ of Parliament, not to accept the gratuity given by Parliament.

If the President thinks it desirable to do so, the amount can again be placed upon the Estimates, so as to allow the Legislative Assembly to determine whether it will tolerate any interference by the Public Service Board with its wish in reference to those engaged in the duties appertaining to Parliament. It has always jealously refused to allow Ministers to interfere with the Estimates for services of Parliament as submitted by the President and Speaker, holding that those Estimates must be dealt with by itself, and I very much doubt whether it will allow the Public Service Board to stint its bounty. These two men occupy humble positions; but the same principles must be applied to them as would guide us in reference to men in a higher degree.

J. P. ABBOTT,
Speaker.

Minute by The Honorable the President.

3 June, 1897.

I CONCUR with the Speaker's minute, and it would perhaps be advisable to again submit this amount for the consideration of Parliament, as I think the Public Service Board is not justified in interfering, directly or indirectly, with any item voted on the Parliamentary Estimates.

In the meantime, the Clerk of the Parliaments had better defer further payments from this Vote to Messrs. Fitzmaurice and Letton.

JOHN LACKEY,
President.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

INTERFERENCE BY THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD WITH VOTES FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY DEPARTMENTS.

(FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE RESPECTING.)

Printed under No. 8 Report from Printing Committee, 17 June, 1897.

J. Barling, Esq., to The Honorable The Chief Secretary.

Public Service Board, 50, Young-street, Sydney, 12 June, 1897.

My dear Mr. Brunker,

The Public Service Board desire me to address you on the subject of the papers which the Honorable the Speaker laid upon the Table of the House on 9th instant "respecting the interference by the Public Service Board with votes for the Parliamentary Departments."

I need hardly assure you that the Board has had no intention whatever of interfering with the prerogative of either the Honorable the President or the Honorable the Speaker.

Section 7 of the Public Service Act provides that "within a reasonable time after the appointment of the Board the permanent head of each Ministerial Department of the Public Service shall furnish the Board with a return showing the number of officers in such Department * * * the emoluments, salaries, allowances, and fees paid to * * * each officer, &c."

In the return furnished by the Postal Department under this section, Messrs. Fitzmaurice and Letton, the officers in question, were entered in the way shown on the slip attached.

It has been the policy of the Board, with a view to enable Parliament to know exactly what is paid to every officer, to amalgamate salaries and allowances. The advantage of this is obvious, as Parliament can see at a glance what is being paid without having to refer to the Schedule, which it has been the practice to lay upon the Table. In pursuance of this policy the Board graded the salary of Mr. Fitzmaurice at £325 per annum, and of Mr. Letton at £175 per annum. The Board further increased Mr. Fitzmaurice's salary, on appeal, to £350 per annum, as from 1st July last; and he, therefore, receives an actual increase of £34 per annum over what was previously paid him, including both salary and allowance. When the vouchers were furnished to the Treasury for the allowances in addition to the salaries which had been given, and which included the allowances, the matter was referred to the Board by the Treasury, and the Board then pointed out what were the actual facts of the case.

If the Honorable the President and the Honorable the Speaker still desire to have the amounts voted separately, the Board have nothing to say, and they will deal only with the salaries.

The Board had not the remotest suspicion that they were in any way touching upon the functions of either the President or the Speaker, and they think it is only just to themselves that this explanation should be made.

Yours, &c.,

J. BARLING.

P.S.—Since writing this letter I have had further inquiry made, and have ascertained that the amounts actually received were:—

Mr. Fitzmaurice	...	...	...	...	£23 8s. per annum.
Mr. Letton	...	...	...	...	£36 per annum.

The return furnished to us by the Postal Department was therefore apparently incorrect. Mr. Fitzmaurice's salary has been actually increased by £36 12s. per annum; but with regard to Mr. Letton, owing to the mistake in the return, his salary would appear to have been decreased by the sum of £22 per annum. This will necessitate a review of the case, which will be at once done.

I have seen the Honorable the Speaker and explained the whole matter to him, and I think he is quite satisfied; and I may also, I think, say that he will be perfectly willing to allow the salaries and allowances to be amalgamated so that they may appear as one.

J.B., 14 June, 1897.

For the information of the Hon. the Speaker.—J.N.B., 15/6/97.

It appears to me that the action of the Board was taken without a knowledge that the gratuities were the vote of Parliament for special services to the Parliament. I am now satisfied that the Board did not intend to interfere with the Parliamentary votes.—J. P. ABBOTT, 16/6/97.

POSTAL AND ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

Permanent Staff.

Public Service Board.

RETURN of Officers employed, with particulars of salaries, &c., length of service, and duties performed, as required by Section 7 of the Public Service Act of 1895.

Name of Officer.	Position held.	Date of birth.	Age.	Date of appointment.	Length of service to 31 Dec., 1895.	Break in service.	Amount of salary received.	Amount of allowances, fees, or other emoluments.	Total amount of salary and emoluments.	Nature of allowance.
					yrs. ms.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Fitzmaurice, Jps Simcoe.	Chief Engineer....	1 Nov., 1861	34	1 Dec., 1884	11 1	....	200 0 0	26 0 0*	316 0 0†	Extra service at Parliament Houses.
Letton, Geo. Edward.	Assistant Engineer	23 Nov., 1852	43	20 July, 1886	9 6	....	161 0 0	26 0 0*	187 0 0‡	do do

* This return has subsequently been found to be incorrect. The amounts stated by the Treasury to have been actually paid are:—Mr. Fitzmaurice, £23 8s.; Mr. Letton, £36.

† Mr. Fitzmaurice's salary was graded by the Board at £325 per annum, and subsequently, on appeal, it was further increased to £350 per annum, such increase to take effect from 1st July, 1896.

‡ Mr. Letton's salary was graded by the Board at £175 per annum from 1st July, 1896.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

LIMITATION OF SPEECHES.
BALLOTING FOR SELECT COMMITTEES.

REPORT

FROM THE

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

ON

LIMITATION OF SPEECHES

(WITH PROPOSED STANDING ORDERS),

AND ON

BALLOTING FOR SELECT COMMITTEES.

PRINTED UNDER No. 16 REPORT FROM PRINTING COMMITTEE,
19 *August*, 1897.

SYDNEY: WILLIAM APPLIGATE GULLICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1897.

1897.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VOTES NO. 2. WEDNESDAY, 28 APRIL, 1897.

21. **STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE (*Sessional Order*)**:—Mr. Reid moved, pursuant to Notice, That the Standing Orders Committee for the present Session shall consist of Mr. Speaker, Mr. McCourt, Mr. Lync, Mr. Sce, Mr. Lee, Mr. Molesworth, Mr. McGowen, Mr. Crick, Mr. Young, and the Mover, with leave to sit during any adjournment, to report in any matter or thing referred to or pending before the said Committee, and to confer upon subjects of mutual concernment with any Committee appointed for similar purposes by the Legislative Council.
Debate ensued.
Question put and passed.

VOTES NO. 25. WEDNESDAY, 23 JUNE, 1897.

6. **LIMITATION TO SPEECHES (*Formal Motion*)**:—Mr. Schey moved, pursuant to Notice, That it be an instruction to the Standing Orders Committee to frame a Standing or Sessional Order, for submission to this House hereafter, for the purpose of fixing time-limits to the speeches of Honorable Members, and making distinctions in fixing same between the various classes of debate which take place in this House.
Question put.
The House divided.

Ayes, 44.

Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Carruthers,	Mr. Griffith,
Mr. Young,	Mr. Dugald Thomson,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Bavister,
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Rose,
Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Barnes,
Mr. Schey,	Mr. Harris,
Mr. Moore,	Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Macdonald,	Mr. Law,
Mr. Hawthorne,	Mr. Wilks,
Mr. Jessep,	Mr. Mackay,
Mr. Whiddon,	Mr. Davis,
Mr. McLean,	Mr. Pyers,
Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Raymond,
Mr. Ferguson,	Mr. Edden,
Mr. E. M. Clark,	Mr. Hughes,
Mr. Collins,	Mr. O'Reilly,
Mr. McMillan,	Mr. Ashton,
Mr. Frank Farnell,	Mr. Black.
Mr. Watkins,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. James Thomson,	Mr. Morgan,
Mr. Kelly,	Mr. W. H. B. Piddington.
Mr. Affleck,	

Noes, 32.

Mr. T. R. Smith,	Mr. Harvey,
Mr. Copeland,	Mr. Dick,
Dr. Ross,	Mr. Gormly,
Mr. Sec,	Mr. Bull,
Mr. Lync,	Mr. Fegan,
Mr. Perry,	Mr. Hassall,
Mr. Chanter,	Mr. Willis.
Mr. Thomas,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Cann,	Mr. Hogue,
Mr. McGowen,	Mr. Haynes.
Mr. Goodwin,	
Mr. McFarlane,	
Mr. Hurley,	
Mr. Carroll,	
Mr. Sleath,	
Mr. Price,	
Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,	
Mr. Lee,	
Mr. Neild,	
Mr. Wheeler,	
Mr. Robert Jones,	
Mr. Haynes,	
Mr. Simeon Phillips,	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

VOTES NO. 33. TUESDAY, 13 JULY, 1897.

9. **BALLOTING FOR SELECT COMMITTEES**:—Mr. Cann moved, pursuant to Notice, That the Standing Orders Committee be requested to consider the question of preparing a Standing Order to the following effect, to stand new Standing Order 346:—

- (a) When a ballot for a Select Committee shall have been demanded by any Member, Mr. Speaker shall announce to the House that nominations shall be received by the Clerk of the Assembly up to the close of the present sitting; but if the demand for a ballot shall have been made after 10 p.m. then Mr. Speaker shall announce that such nominations will be received up to the close of the first succeeding sitting day. Counts-out shall not be considered a sitting day for the purposes of this Standing Order.
- (b) No Member shall be a candidate unless nominated in writing by six members of the Assembly.

(c)

- (c) After the expiration of the time announced by Mr. Speaker, if more shall have been nominated than are required for service on such Select Committee, Mr. Speaker shall (after announcing to the House the names of those Members who have become candidates) cause to be circulated to Members present in the Chamber on the next succeeding sitting day ballot-papers containing the names of Members who have been nominated; and Members present shall vote by striking out the names of candidates they do not wish to vote for, and hand the ballot-paper to the Clerk of the Assembly. All such papers not containing the full number required for service on such Committee shall be counted as informal.
- (d) All those candidates who shall have received an absolute majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected. Any candidates not receiving 10 per cent. of the votes cast shall be struck off the ballot-paper; the balance of the candidates shall be re-submitted, as provided in sub-section (c), Mr. Speaker announcing the remaining number required to constitute the Committee.
- (e) The ballot shall be conducted without interruption to the ordinary business of the House, except so much time as required by Mr. Speaker to announce what is required by the ballot or the result.
- (f) This Standing Order not to apply to Select Committees appointed for drawing up Addresses.

Debate ensued.

Mr. Hogue moved, That the Question be amended by adding to paragraph (f) the words "or to " Select Committees on Private Bills."

Question proposed,—That the words proposed to be added be so added.

Debate continued.

Question put,—That the words proposed to be added be so added.

The House divided.

Ayes, 13.

Mr. Hassall,
Mr. Perry,
Mr. Wright,
Mr. Henry Clarke,
Mr. Whiddon,
Mr. Alexander Campbell,
Mr. Robert Jones,
Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Gormly,
Mr. Wood,
Mr. Carroll.
Tellers,
Mr. Griffith,
Mr. Hogue.

Mr. Brunker,
Mr. Sydney Smith,
Dr. Ross,
Mr. Hayes,
Mr. Gould,
Mr. Wilks,
Mr. Cann,
Mr. Anderson,
Mr. McCourt,
Mr. Hawthorne,
Mr. Travers Jones,
Mr. Cook,
Mr. McLoughlin,
Mr. Jessop,
Mr. Sec.

Noes, 42.

Mr. Kelly,
Mr. Waddell,
Mr. Fegan,
Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Ball,
Mr. Watson,
Mr. Pyers,
Mr. Hurley,
Mr. Davis,
Mr. McLean,
Mr. Affleck,
Mr. Ferguson,
Mr. Rose,
Mr. Macdonald,
Mr. Millard,
Mr. Millen,
Mr. Nicholson,
Mr. Hughes,
Mr. O'Reilly,
Mr. Dick,
Mr. Harris,
Mr. Ashton,
Mr. Carruthers,
Mr. Barister,
Mr. Haynes.
Tellers,
Mr. Thomas,
Mr. Moore.

And so it passed in the negative.

Original Question put,—and Division called for,—but there not being Tellers on the part of the Noes, no Division could be had, and Mr. Speaker declared the Question to have been resolved in the affirmative.

Votes No 49

Wednesday 18 August 1897

Y

X

Y

Y

X

3. STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE (*Limitation of Speeches—Balloting for Select Committees*):—Mr. McCourt, on behalf of the Chairman, brought up from the Standing Orders Committee a Report on Limitation of Speeches (with proposed Standing Orders) and on Balloting for Select Committees. Referred by Sessional Order to the Printing Committee.

1897.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

LIMITATION OF SPEECHES.
BALLOTING FOR SELECT COMMITTEES.

REPORT

FROM THE

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

WITH

PROPOSED STANDING ORDERS.

THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE to whom was referred,—

- (1.) On the 23rd June, 1897, an instruction to frame a Standing or Sessional Order, for submission to this House hereafter, for the purpose of fixing time-limits to the speeches of Honorable Members, and making distinctions in fixing same between the various classes of debate which take place in this House; and
- (2.) On the 13th July, 1897, a request to consider the question of preparing a Standing Order to the following effect, to stand new Standing Order 346 :—
 - (a) When a ballot for a Select Committee shall have been demanded by any Member, Mr. Speaker shall announce to the House that nominations shall be received by the Clerk of the Assembly up to the close of the present sitting; but if the demand for a ballot shall have been made after 10 p.m., then Mr. Speaker shall announce that such nominations will be received up to the close of the first succeeding sitting day. Counts-out shall not be considered a sitting day for the purposes of this Standing Order.
 - (b) No member shall be a candidate unless nominated in writing by six Members of the Assembly.
 - (c) After the expiration of the time announced by Mr. Speaker, if more shall have been nominated than are required for service on such Select Committee, Mr. Speaker shall (after announcing to the House the names of those Members who have become candidates) cause to be circulated to Members present in the Chamber on the next succeeding sitting day ballot-papers containing the names of Members who have been nominated; and Members present shall vote by striking out the names of candidates they do not wish to vote for, and hand the ballot-paper to the Clerk of the Assembly. All such papers not containing the full number required for service on such Committee shall be counted as informal.
 - (d) All those candidates who shall have received an absolute majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected. Any candidates not receiving 10 per cent. of the votes cast shall be struck off the ballot-paper; the balance of the candidates shall be re-submitted, as provided in sub-section (c), Mr. Speaker announcing the remaining number required to constitute the Committee.

(e)

- (e) The ballot shall be conducted without interruption to the ordinary business of the House, except so much time as required by Mr. Speaker to announce what is required by the ballot or the result.
- (f) This Standing Order not to apply to Select Committees appointed for drawing up Addresses.

have agreed to the following Report:—

1.—LIMITATION OF SPEECHES.

Your Committee having considered the reference of the 23rd June, 1897, have prepared and have now the honor to present to your Honorable House two Standing Orders to deal with the limitation of speeches in the House and in Committees of the Whole as follows:—

LIMITATION OF SPEECHES.

(1.) No Member shall speak for more than an half-an-hour at a time in any debate in the House, except

- in the debate on the Address-in-Reply, or
- on the Financial Statement, or
- in a debate on a motion of "No Confidence," or
- in moving the Second Reading of a Bill, or
- in the debate on the Appropriation Bill,

when a Member shall be at liberty to speak for one hour.

(2.) In Committees of the Whole House, no Member shall speak more than twice on any one question before the Committee: Provided that this Rule shall not apply to a Member in charge of a Bill, or to the debate on the Financial Statement, or to the consideration of the Estimates.

2.—BALLOTING FOR SELECT COMMITTEES.

Your Committee have given the whole subject of the reference to the Committee, as well as the existing Standing Order, their earnest and careful consideration.

The present practice has been in force since 1856 without change or serious complaint in the appointment of the ordinary Select Committees of the House, and is, moreover, practically identical with that followed in the Parliaments of most of the other British Colonies.

The mode of ballot suggested in the reference would extend over a number of days, and would involve the issue possibly of several sets of ballot-papers and your Committee consider that it would be altogether unsuitable and too irksome to be used for the appointment of the Select Committees usually moved for.

Your Committee consider that the objection to the application of the prescribed mode of ballot to the appointment of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works would be better dealt with by an amendment of the Public Works Act, rather than by altering the Standing Order dealing with the conduct of ballots for Select Committees of the House.

3.—APPENDIX.

Appended to this Report will be found the information which was collected for the guidance of your Committee in considering the two subjects referred to.

J. P. ABBOTT,
Chairman.

*The Speaker's Room,
Legislative Assembly,
18th August, 1897.*

APPENDIX.

A.

THE TIME-LIMIT TO SPEECHES.

The following information as to the practice of various Legislatures in reference to a time-limit of speeches is furnished for the use of the Members of the Standing Orders Committee:—

A time-limit for speeches has been adopted by the following Houses of Parliament, and the rules and practice in reference thereto are subjoined, viz.:—

UNITED STATES—HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

“*Rule 14, sec. 2.* When two or more Members rise at once, the Speaker shall name the Member who is first to speak; and no Member shall occupy more than *one hour* in debate on any question in the House or in the Committee, except as further provided in this rule.

“*Sec. 3.* The Member reporting the measure under consideration from a Committee may open and close, where general debate has been had thereon; and if it shall extend beyond one day, he shall be entitled to *one hour* to close, notwithstanding he may have used *an hour* in opening.

“*Sec. 4.* If any Member, in speaking, or otherwise, transgress the rules of the House, the Speaker shall, or any Member may, call him to order; in which case he shall immediately sit down, unless permitted on motion of another Member, to explain, and the House shall, if appealed to, decide on the case without debate; if the decision is in favour of the Member called to order, he shall be at liberty to proceed, but not otherwise; and, if the case require it, he shall be liable to censure or such punishment as the House may deem proper.

“*Sec. 6.* No Member shall speak more than once to the same question without leave of the House, unless he be the mover, proposer, or introducer of the matter pending, in which case he shall be permitted to speak in reply, but not until every Member choosing to speak shall have spoken.”

Rule 17, sec. 1, provides that * * * “When the previous question is ordered on any proposition on which there has been no debate, it shall be in order to debate the proposition to be voted on for *thirty minutes, one-half* of such time to be given to debate in favour of and *one-half* to debate in opposition to such proposition.”

(A similar rule applies when a motion to suspend the rules has been seconded.—*Rule 28, sec. 3.*)

In Committee of the Whole.

“*Rule 23, sec. 5.* When general debate is closed by order of the House, any Member shall be allowed *five minutes* to explain any amendment he may offer, after which the Member who shall first obtain the floor shall be allowed to speak *five minutes* in opposition to it, and there shall be no further debate thereon; but the same privilege of debate shall be allowed in favour of and against any amendment that may be offered to an amendment, and neither an amendment nor an amendment to an amendment shall be withdrawn by the mover thereof, unless by the unanimous consent of the Committee.

“*Sec. 6.* The House or the Committee may, by the vote of a majority of the Members present, at any time after the five minutes debate has begun upon proposed amendments to any section or paragraph to a Bill, close all debate upon such section or paragraph, or, at its election, upon the pending amendments only (which motion shall be decided without debate); but this shall not preclude further amendment to be decided without debate.”

The practice of the House permits a Member to yield to another Member such portion of his time as he may see fit, and to then reclaim the floor. He may yield the floor to another for explanation of the pending measure, as well as for personal explanation. So, too, he may yield it for a motion to adjourn, or that the Committee rise, without losing his right to re-occupy it for the remainder of his time whenever the pending question shall be resumed; but it is otherwise when he yields to enable another to offer or withdraw an amendment.

FOREIGN PARLIAMENTS.

The rules relating to speaking in most of the Foreign Parliaments are very similar to those of the French Chamber, in which no Member can speak, except after having demanded and obtained permission from the President. A list of those Members who desire to speak is kept by the Secretary. In debate, speeches are made alternately in support of and against the motion.

In the Italian Parliament Deputies who are inscribed on the list of speakers are at liberty to read their speeches, so long as the reading does not exceed a *quarter of an hour*. No speech can be interrupted and adjourned for its continuation from one sitting to another.

NEW ZEALAND—HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

“*Standing Order 103.* No Member shall speak for more than half an hour at a time in any debate in the House, except in the debate on the Address-in-Reply, or on the Financial Statement, or in a debate on a motion of ‘No Confidence,’ or in moving the Second Reading of a Bill, or on the debate on the Appropriation Bill, when a Member shall be at liberty to speak for one hour. In Committee of the House no Member shall speak for more than ten minutes at any one time, or more than four times on any one question before the Committee: Provided that this rule shall not apply in Committee to a Member in charge of a Bill or to a Minister when delivering the Financial Statement in Committee of Supply.” *Adjournment*

Adjournment of the House.

Seven Members must rise in support of a motion to discuss a specific question, and a Member in making a second motion must be supported by at least nine Members.

“*Standing Order 105.* In speaking to such motion the mover shall not exceed *thirty minutes*, and any other Member shall not exceed *fifteen minutes*, and the whole discussion on the subject shall not exceed *two hours*.”

In the other Australian Legislative Assemblies in which the “Adjournment” rule obtains, the conditions are as follows:—

N. S. Wales—	5	Members must support,	30 m. to mover,	15 m. other speakers.
Victoria—	12	„	„	30 m. „ 15 m. „
Queensland—	5	„	„	30 m. „ 20 m. „

SOUTH AUSTRALIA—HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

During the Session of 1895 the following motion was debated, and withdrawn on the understanding that the Standing Orders Committee would immediately deal with the matter, viz.:—

“That it is desirable that a Standing Order should be adopted by this House limiting the length of speeches in the House to thirty minutes, and in the Committee to ten minutes, except in the case of a Member moving the Second Reading of a Bill, or a substantive resolution, or of the Treasurer making his Budget Speech, when the limit shall be sixty minutes: Provided always that the rule shall not apply where the House shall, on motion moved and put without discussion, declare the matter in question to be of extraordinary importance.”

Whereupon the Committee brought up a Standing Order which was amended by the House and adopted in the form as follows:—

“If the Speaker or Chairman of Committees shall have twice warned any Member then speaking that his speech is irrelevant to the question being discussed, or that he is guilty of undue repetition or prolixity, a motion, that such Member be not further heard, may be moved at any time, so as to interrupt such Member speaking, whether in the House or in Committee, if supported by the rising in their places of not less than seven Members.

“Such motion shall then be put without debate, and if it be carried by a majority of the Members present, being not less than fourteen Members, the Member so interrupted shall not be again heard on that question in the House or during the sitting of the Committee: Provided that the Committee may at any time, on motion without debate, permit a Member so interrupted to speak on any subsequent question during that sitting, but no such motion shall be put unless supported by the rising in their places of at least fourteen Members: Provided also that in the warning the Speaker or Chairman of Committees shall call the Member’s attention to this Standing Order.”

J. P. ABBOTT.

1st July, 1897.

B.

BALLOTING FOR SELECT COMMITTEES.

The following information as to the practice of the House of Commons and the Legislatures of various British Colonies has been extracted from such standard works and Standing Orders as are available:—

IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

On page 381 of the 10th edition of *May’s Parliamentary Practice* it is stated,—

“The nomination of Select Committees has, in special cases, been entrusted, by the order of the House, to sources other than its own decision. For instance, the House has appointed certain Committees by ballot; or has named two Members and appointed the rest of the Committee by ballot; or having chosen twenty-one names by ballot has permitted each of two Members nominated by the House to strike off four from that number; and the House habitually resorts to the Committee of Selection for the nomination, either wholly or partially, of the Members of Select Committees.”

The Committees for which a ballot has been demanded were principally Committees of Secrecy and Committees to inquire into charges of bribery and corrupt practices at elections.

For the Committees of Secrecy, certain quaint orders are made by the House as to the manner in which the prepared lists are to be dropped into glasses placed upon the Table of the House, and so on, and the result of the ballot is announced in the House on a later day.

In all cases a future day for the ballot is fixed, and sometimes the hour is named and the ballot is made an Order of the Day.

Formerly, in cases where twenty-one names were selected to be reduced to thirteen by two Members nominated by the House, these twenty-one names seem to have been named by the Speaker, as in the case of the Elections and Qualifications Committee, but, latterly, this duty has been cast upon a Committee of Selection.

I have not been able to discover any description of the method of ballot adopted by the House of Commons.

COLONIAL

COLONIAL PARLIAMENTS.

The practice in the various Colonial Parliaments appears to be similar to our own, with slight variations.

VICTORIA.

Standing Order 150, Legislative Assembly. Six Members are required to demand the ballot, and Mr. Speaker appoints two Members to act as scrutineers with the Clerk.

Standing Order 186, Legislative Council, is similar in its provisions.

QUEENSLAND.

Standing Order 187. A Select Committee may be *ordered* to be elected by ballot.

Standing Order 188 prescribes the method of carrying out the ballot, which is identical with the Victorian Standing Order.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Standing Order 347 seems to infer that all Select Committees are appointed by ballot, the method being similar to our own, except that the mover acts as a scrutineer with the Clerk, and only the number required, exclusive of the mover (who must be one of the Committee) is balloted for. In the event of a tie the Speaker decides by lot.

NEW ZEALAND.

Standing Orders do not provide for a ballot.

TASMANIA.

Standing Order 267. The mover reads over the names of the Committee he proposes, and then moves each name separately; or the Committee may be ordered to be chosen by ballot.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Standing Orders 303-305, Legislative Council. Select Committees consist of only three members, of which two are balloted for, and they, with the mover, form the Committee. The mover, with another member named by the President, and the Clerk, act as scrutineers, and the ballot is conducted as with us.

Standing Orders 330-332, Legislative Assembly. The number of the Committee is fixed at five, and four are balloted for, the mover and the Clerk acting as scrutineers.

CANADA.

Bourinot does not disclose any system of ballot as applied to the election of Select Committees. A Committee of Selection is appointed at the commencement of each session to name the Standing and Sessional Committees, and a system of open voting for Select Committees is also described.

11th August, 1897.

J. P. ABBOTT.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC WORKS.

REPORT

TOGETHER WITH

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE, APPENDICES, AND PLANS,

RELATING TO THE PROPOSED

NEW HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT FOR
THE COLONY.

Presented to Parliament in accordance with the provisions of the Public Works Act,
51 Vic. No. 37.

Printed under No. 26 Report from Printing Committee, 9 December, 1897.

SYDNEY : WILLIAM APPELGATE GULLICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The Honorable FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHERY, Vice-Chairman.
 The Honorable JAMES HOSKINS.
 The Honorable CHARLES JAMES ROBERTS, C.M.G.
 The Honorable WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT.
 The Honorable DANIEL O'CONNOR.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esquire, Chairman.
 HENRY CLARKE, Esquire.
 CHARLES ALFRED LEE, Esquire.
 JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, Esquire.
 THOMAS HENRY HASSALL, Esquire.
 GEORGE BLACK, Esquire.
 FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WRIGHT, Esquire.
 FRANK FARNELL, Esquire.

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PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS.

NEW HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE COLONY.

REPORT.

THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS, appointed during the first Session of the present Parliament, under the Public Works Act of 1888, 51 Vic. No. 37, the Public Works Act Amendment Act of 1889, 52 Vic. No. 26, and the Public Works (Committees' Remuneration) Act of 1889, 53 Vic. No. 11, to whom was referred the duty of considering and reporting upon "the expediency of erecting New Houses of Parliament for the Colony," have, after due inquiry, resolved that it is not expedient the building, as designed and submitted by the Department of Public Works, should be constructed; but they recommend the adoption of a scheme prepared, at their instance, by the Government Architect, providing for alterations to the present Parliamentary Buildings at a cost not exceeding £15,000; and, in accordance with the provision of sub-section (IV), of clause 13, of the Public Works Act, report their recommendation to the Legislative Assembly:—

GENERAL STATEMENT.

1. The question of erecting New Houses of Parliament has been under consideration for some years. From official statements made to the Committee it appears that the present building, part of which was the General Hospital of Sydney, erected by Governor Macquarie, was first brought into use as a Legislative Chamber in 1829, when the Executive Council transferred its meetings from Government House to the room now known as the Assembly reading-room. In 1843 it was necessary to find accommodation for the partly elective and partly nominee House created by the new Constitution Act, and a portion of the present Legislative Assembly Chamber was erected for that purpose. In 1856, when Responsible Government came into operation, under the Constitution Act of that date, the building was adapted to the purposes of the new Parliament, the Legislative Council Chamber being then erected; and, since that time, it has been repaired and added to, as found necessary, to meet the necessities arising from either the age and decay of the older parts of the structure or the requirements of Members and officers. In its present condition the building is described as a constant source of expense, the average annual sum expended upon it during the last six years amounting to £3,340 13s., or a total of £20,043 18s., which includes £13,000 spent on additions made two or three years ago. The total outlay has been about £100,000.

The utilisation of the present building for parliamentary purposes is regarded as having been, in the first instance, only a temporary expedient; and, in support of this, it is pointed out by the Under Secretary for Public Works that, as early as 1860, the Government of the day invited the architects of Great Britain and Ireland, and of France, to submit competitive designs for new Houses of Parliament, with public offices attached, and a premium of £600 was paid to a Dublin architect, who was the prize-winner in the competition. Beyond receiving the designs and awarding the premiums, however,

however, nothing was done in connection with this competition; and, with the exception of the laying of a foundation-stone in the Domain, near the corner of Macquarie and Bent Streets, in 1888, no step has been taken since 1860 towards the erection of a new building.

UNSUITABLENESS OF THE PRESENT BUILDING.

2. The present building is regarded as, in many respects, defective in the accommodation it provides.

It is pointed out by the Government Architect that it has been erected piecemeal, at different periods, with the result that, though to a certain extent comfortable, it is unsuited to present requirements. The Legislative Council portion of the building was originally imported from England to be used in Melbourne as a lodging-house during the gold-fever; and it was purchased by the New South Wales Government, and brought over and erected as a Legislative Council Chamber.

On the Legislative Assembly side the accommodation for Ministers and Ministerial supporters is good and comfortable; but that for the Opposition is insufficient, while the space for the public is too limited. It is regarded as very necessary that there should be a number of rooms where constituents may interview their representatives, or Members see the public on business; these rooms to be situated in portions of the building to which the general public are not admitted. The accommodation for the officials and for the general work in connection with Parliament is said, by the Government Architect, to also need improvement,—though Mr. Speaker informed the Committee he had not received a complaint on this subject from any officer of the House; *Hansard* Staff are very inadequately served; and the rooms used by the Press are insufficient. The refreshment and dining room is excellent, and respecting the other rooms in the newer portions of the building there is no ground of complaint.

The part of the present building most unsuited to the purpose to which it is put is the Library. There the accommodation is quite inadequate, and as the rooms are constructed chiefly of wood, which is affected by the white ant, their condition is a source of danger not only to the very valuable collection of books they contain but to the building and its contents generally, as a fire breaking out there might lead to the destruction of everything. Four rooms are occupied by the Library, and in these the wall space, together with that of the adjoining corridor, is fitted with shelving, which holds about 38,000 volumes, valued at £25,000 and including many works which, if destroyed, could not be replaced. A large apartment in the Librarian's quarters is also utilised for the storage of books. During the last six years the annual accessions to the Library have averaged 1,000 volumes, a number that will probably be exceeded in the future.

THE PROPOSED NEW BUILDING.

3. Drawings, representing four designs for Parliamentary Houses, were submitted to the Committee by the Government Architect, and with these a plaster model, on a scale of 4 feet to an inch, showing the exterior of the building in the design preferred by the Department. This building is so designed that the Council Chamber shall provide accommodation for eighty Members or more, and the Assembly Chamber for 142 Members, but with a capacity for an increase of accommodation to what may be required by 294 Members; and there is special accommodation for His Excellency the Governor, the President, the Speaker, and the Ministry, and accommodation, other than that provided by the two Chambers, for Members of both Houses. Improved arrangements are made also for the *Hansard* Staff, the reporters of the Press, the Parliamentary officials, and the general public, and for the safe storage of State documents and treasure.

The general disposition of the plan shows a right and left wing to the block of buildings, to be occupied by the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly respectively; a central block, to provide accommodation common to both Houses; and two connecting blocks or waists, taken up by public lobbies, offices, &c.; the style of architecture being severe Classic Renaissance. The front of the building would face Macquarie-street, which it is proposed to widen and otherwise improve, in order the better to suit the proportions of the new edifice.

The

The façade towards Macquarie-street is broken by the north and south wings and the central portico, all of which are pedimented and connected with each other by colonnaded waists. The portico consists of massive Corinthian columns, strengthened at angles with piers of severe ashlar masonry, the whole finished with a pediment, the tympanum of which is richly carved and crowned with a group of statuary.

The north and south wings have a solid ashlar appearance, broken on the first floor by a recessed loggia, with a slightly projecting balcony and solid piers to support the cornice above. The waists are plain in treatment, the chief embellishment being Ionic colonnades forming the verandahs.

Centrally, behind the north and south wings, rise octagonal walls and domical roof, forming the upper part of each Chamber, the crown of each dome being glazed for lighting purposes. Behind the portico roof ascends the main dome, which is flanked at each angle by four attendant domed towers, richly decorated with small columns; the whole, including the small domes, being of stone, connected with each other by a plain ashlar parapet wall. From the enclosure thus formed, rises the lower story of the main dome, enriched by an Ionic colonnade, which becomes solid when diagonally opposite the flanking towers, in order to give the dome an imposing appearance. Behind the balustrade of this colonnade rises a minor story pierced with circular windows, and from this springs the dome proper, deeply ribbed and covered with copper. Above the dome is a gallery, slightly bracketed out, and an enriched cupola, inside which it is proposed to place a great arc light, to be shining at night while either House is sitting, and extinguished when it adjourns.

At each corner of the building is a square staircase tower, carried up considerably above the main roof level, brought from the square to the circle by clusters of Ionic columns, and finished with a conical dome.

The northern and southern façades are kept almost plain ashlar, with the addition of a central circular bay in each case. The eastern façade, which would, of course, face the Domain, is, like the façade facing Macquarie-street, broken by north and south wings and central projection. The wings have pediments supported by Corinthian columns with strong angle piers of ashlar work. A projection in the building, forming part of the Library, has plain ashlar work below with a circular bay at the end; and the dining-room, which will be above the Library, is treated as solid ashlar for some distance, while the remainder is colonnaded so as to form an open loggia for the convenience of Members in fine weather. The connecting waists are colonnaded in two stories, forming wide and spacious verandahs and balconies, which command a fine view across the harbour and are also for the use of Members.

The basement will be of rusticated trachyte and will be effectively lighted and ventilated, those advantages being secured by means of a sunken garden, to be formed on the Macquarie-street front of the building, about six feet below the present level of the street, in order to make the ground uniform from the street to the Domain. This garden would be finished with an ornamental balustraded retaining wall.

The interior of the building is arranged so as to provide ample space and convenience, combined with suitable ornamental treatment. Entering at the central portico the visitor would pass through the vestibules to the grand hall, from which ascends a grand staircase to the first floor, where spacious balconies overlook the entrance floor; the whole being crowned, as already mentioned, by the main dome. To the right and left of this hall are the public lobbies, treated architecturally and intended to resemble the French Salles des Pas Perdus, where Members may be met by any of the public they may desire to see without encroaching on the parts of the House to which strangers are not admitted. Off these lobbies are the post, telegraph, and telephone offices, public rooms for constituents, and staircases to the House galleries.

Each of the two Chambers is planned as a semi-octagon, with a square base, changing above the ceiling to a true octagon or a circle, the roof being carried up in this form, and treated as an important feature in the external design. The seats of each Chamber are arranged in semi-circular fashion round the table of the House, at the head of which, on a raised dais, is the Speaker's or President's chair. In the case

case of the Assembly, special provision has been made for future additional seating accommodation in the Chamber, without any alterations being necessary to the structural portions of the building, this possibility of enlargement being secured by carrying the floor of the House behind a movable screen and under the galleries.

On the right and left of the Speaker's Chair are division lobbies for ayes and noes, the divisions to be recorded at the connecting doorway; and around the whole Chamber block is a private corridor, on the ayes side of which is the Ministerial supporters' room, and on the noes side the Opposition room and Labour Members' room. Off this corridor, also, the Speaker's official quarters are situated, overlooking the harbour, and on the north side are rooms for the accommodation of Ministers.

The Legislative Council Chamber has no division lobbies, but otherwise the arrangement in connection with it is similar to what is provided on the Assembly side of the building. On the Macquarie-street front are the rooms provided for His Excellency the Governor, and on the southern side are a large reception-room and the rooms intended for the Vice-President of the Executive Council and the Minister representing the Government in the Legislative Council.

In the centre block the Library, large and spacious, is situated. Off this are smaller special libraries and a writing-room, and by means of a staircase direct access is provided to a large archives library in the basement.

Immediately above the main Library is the Members' dining-room, common to both Houses, a portion of the length being arranged as the open loggia already mentioned. Committee-rooms, for the use of both Houses, are on the right and left of the dining-room, the Chairmen of Committees having their official rooms immediately over those of the President and Speaker respectively.

The north wing of the building, facing Macquarie-street, is arranged principally for the accommodation of Under Secretaries, Parliamentary officials, *Hansard*, and the Press. On the second-floor there are extra rooms for the Press and for Parliamentary officials, and also for kitchen and general service as well as for the steward's quarters.

In the basement, official quarters are provided for the Librarian and the Sergeant-at-Arms respectively; and there are quarters for a caretaker for each House, for the storage of records, and for machinery to be used for heating, ventilation, and lighting purposes. Next to the rooms of the Sergeant-at-Arms, and entered from what would be called the Members' Terrace, overlooking the Domain, would be a tea-room where Members could entertain their friends or constituents.

It is proposed that the new building should be constructed of brick, encased in Sydney stone, with the basement of Bowral trachyte. Subsequently it might be found desirable to line the Chambers and public portions of the building, including the central dome, with stone and local marbles.

ALTERATIONS IN THE DOMAIN AND MACQUARIE-STREET.

4. The position of the proposed building involves alteration to the main entrance to the Garden Palace Grounds, to the Domain Avenue, and to Macquarie-street.

To enclose and lay out a Members' Terrace Garden on the eastern side would necessitate the appropriation of a strip of the Domain, and also the reforming in a new position of the road in the Domain skirting its western boundary. The land taken from the Domain would be 120 feet deep, and it is proposed that the appropriated strip should extend from the Members' Terrace to the entrance gates of the Domain near St. Mary's, a convalescents' garden being formed out of it in connection with the Sydney Hospital, and, at the rear of the Mint and Chancery-square, a garden or reserve which, it is explained, might with convenience be used in conjunction with the Law Courts it is presumed will some day be erected on a site in this locality. These enclosed spaces are proposed in return for a width of 22 feet which it is intended to take from the land in front of the Hospital and Mint for the purpose of widening Macquarie-street.

The

The position of the new building as shown in the design is 80 feet from the northern wall of the Hospital, extending 528 feet northwards, and terminating at the Avenue in the Domain near the Garden Palace Grounds. In this situation the centre of the building and the principal entrance would be nearly opposite Hunter-street. The statue of Governor Bourke, near Bent-street, would have to be removed, and a suggestion is made that it be placed in front of the new building in Macquarie-street.

A COMPARISON OF THE PRESENT WITH THE PROPOSED ACCOMMODATION.

5. A comparative statement of the accommodation afforded by the present buildings, and that which would be provided by the proposed new structure, was laid before the Committee, and may be found in the evidence of the Under Secretary for Public Works.

With the exception of the accommodation to be afforded the general public visiting the Legislative Assembly, which is reduced from 1,196 to 900 feet area, and that provided for *Hansard* Staff in the Assembly, which, though superior to what the staff has at present, is less in area by 146 feet, the provision made in the design for the new building shows a very considerable increase in area as well as an increase in the number of rooms.

Members of the Legislative Council, if the proposed plan should be adopted, will have a chamber with an area of 2,564 feet, as compared with the present chamber which contains an area of 1,540 feet. The area of the Members' lounge-room will be increased by 350 feet; the smoking-room by 522 feet, or two and a quarter times beyond its present dimensions; and the lavatories, &c., by 1,698 feet, or more than four times their present size; and, in addition to this, a new writing-room, with an area of 400 feet, is provided. The Clerk of Parliaments and the other officials will have their present accommodation enlarged by 326 feet, and, in addition, there will be seven new rooms, with an area of 3,076 feet, to be used as additional offices, in the basement. His Excellency the Governor will be provided with two rooms, and a lavatory, covering an area of 755 feet; the President will receive additional accommodation to the extent of 150 feet; and the Vice-President, who has no private quarters in the present building, will have one room with an area of 300 feet. The Ministers' room will be larger than now by 76 feet, and the accommodation for the Chairman of Committees by an additional room and an area of 199 feet. The new design also provides for two reception-rooms with an area of 1,628 feet; 4,760 feet additional area in the strong-room for the keeping of records; 615 feet more area for the accommodation of the messengers; four new rooms, called public rooms, with an area of 1,278 feet; the same number of rooms, covering 907 feet, in the basement, for the accommodation of a caretaker; one room, of 436 feet, for a post-office; one having an area of 157 feet, to be used as a ladies' cloak-room; additional accommodation for *Hansard* Staff and the reporters of the Press; and an increase of 621 feet in the galleries for the accommodation of the public.

Comparing the total number of rooms in connection with the Legislative Council, and the area of them, in the present building, with what is proposed in the design for the new building, the figures stand as follows:—

Legislative Council—As at present.

Number of rooms	21
Area... ..	7,845 feet.

Legislative Council—As proposed.

Number of rooms	49
Area... ..	28,118 feet.

or an increase of 28 rooms, and 20,273 feet area.

In the Legislative Assembly, it is proposed to increase the accommodation for Members in the Chamber by 2,693 feet; in addition to which, provision is made for two division lobbies, with an area of 980 feet. What is called the Members' room will be increased in area by 122 feet, and the Members' lavatories by one in number and an area of 716 feet; and there is to be provided a Members' writing-room with an area of 620 feet. The Ministerial supporters' room is to be enlarged 517 feet, and the room for the accommodation of Opposition supporters by 542 feet. The Speaker's quarters,

quarters, though reduced by one in the number of rooms, will be increased in area by 232 feet; and the room used by the Chairman of Committees by 108 feet. Ministers, it is proposed, shall have more space by 454 feet, and the size of the Leader of the Opposition's room is to be increased by 156 feet. The accommodation for the Clerk of the Assembly in connection with the Chamber shows an increase of one room and 188 feet in area, and that for the clerk and officials by three rooms and an area of 2,063 feet. The Sergeant-at-Arms is provided with an additional room and 630 feet larger area. The design also contains provision, in connection with the Legislative Assembly, for a room for the Clerk of Committees; larger accommodation than is provided at present for Under Secretaries; a strong-room of 5,248 feet area for the custody of records; a ladies' cloak-room; larger accommodation for the messengers; four additional rooms in the basement, making eight in all, called public rooms, with an additional area of 2,135 feet; increased accommodation to the extent of two rooms and 971 feet area for the Press; and a few other additions. *Hansard*, in its work in the Assembly, is, in the new design, as already mentioned, reduced in the accommodation provided for it, and the space for the public in connection with the Chamber is curtailed to the extent of 296 feet.

A comparison between the accommodation in the present building, and that proposed in the new, for the Legislative Assembly, shows:—

Legislative Assembly—As at present.

Number of rooms	49
Area	15,522 feet.

Legislative Assembly—As proposed.

Number of rooms	74
Area	37,478 feet.

or an increase of 25 rooms, and 21,956 feet area.

In addition to the foregoing there is, in the present building, and will be in the new, certain accommodation which is common to both Houses. This relates principally to the Library and refreshment-room, and includes servants' quarters and conveniences. With reference to this the design for the new building shows that the rooms for the Library are increased from six to nine, and enlarged from 2,997 feet area to 15,536 feet, in addition to a muniment room with an area of 2,720 feet. A room is also provided for the Librarian, having an area of 190 feet, and quarters comprising six rooms with an area of 1,362 feet. The area of the dining-room is increased by 176 feet, and that of the bar by 42 feet; the room for the dining service by 410 feet; and a room is provided for private dinners, another for the wine steward, and third as a dining-room for the officers of the two Houses. The smoking-room common to both Houses is, in the new building, to be reduced in area by 99 feet; but a billiard-room is provided with an area of 837 feet, and also a tea-room in the garden, 669 feet in area. The committee-rooms are increased in number from eight to ten, and extended in area from 2,640 to 4,904 feet. The kitchen space is nearly doubled, and the accommodation for the servants is increased; but the steward's quarters, though increased by an additional room, are decreased in area from 1,048 feet to 715 feet. The new building will also provide the following accommodation not existing in the present building:—Machinery-room, 2,720 feet; crypt, 2,500 feet; stores in basement, seven rooms, 1,990 feet; messengers' lavatories, two rooms, 1,320 feet; and laundry, one room, 700 feet.

Comparing the present with the proposed building, as before, we have the following in relation to the accommodation common to both Houses:—

Accommodation for both Houses—As at present.

Number of rooms	32
Area... ..	11,519 feet.

Accommodation for both Houses—As proposed.

Number of rooms	65
Area... ..	44,167 feet,

or an increase of 33 in the number of rooms, and 32,648 feet in area.

Taking

Taking the present building as a whole, and comparing it with the building according to the design, it is found that the former contains in all 102 rooms, with an area of 34,886 feet, and that in the new building the rooms will be increased in number to 188, and the area to 109,763 feet; the difference between the present and the proposed building being 66 rooms, and 74,877 feet area.

ESTIMATED COST.

6. The estimated cost of the proposed building is £533,484, or 1s. 8d. per cube foot for the building up to the general roof level, 60 feet from the basement; and 3s. per cube foot for those portions above that height. This estimate is based by the Government Architect on the cost of buildings of a character nearly approaching to what he proposes, and concerning which information is available, those buildings being the Victorian Houses of Parliament, South Australian Houses of Parliament; Parliament House, Westminster; Foreign Offices, Whitehall; Manchester Assize Courts; and General Post Office, Colonial Secretary's and Public Works Offices, Lands Office, Custom House, and New Markets, Sydney.

Cost, however, in relation to a work of this kind, the Committee were informed by the Under Secretary for Public Works, is, in the opinion of the Minister at the head of that Department, a secondary consideration. In a national building of this description, the cost, while it should as far as possible be treated on an economical basis, is not, he considers, of so much importance as the character of the building. It may be fairly urged, it is pointed out, that while in course of time such a building as that proposed to be erected will have become an object of national pride, its original cost will be but a matter of record; and therefore, though the accommodation has been planned in the most economical way consistent with requirements, it is admitted that the main idea of the Department has been to design a national building of which the people of New South Wales may be proud. Dealt with in that manner, the cost necessarily depends, it is explained, upon the mode in which the scheme develops, and according as it may be determined to embellish the building or otherwise.

It is proposed to carry out the work gradually, about £100,000 to be expended annually, and the building to be completed within six years. The dome would be the last thing dealt with, as it is intended to allow the lower portions of the building, including the base of the dome, to stand for three years before the dome itself is erected.

COMMITTEE'S INQUIRY.

7. The inquiry by the Committee, which commenced in April last, was interrupted by the absence of the Government Architect in England. The Under Secretary for Public Works and the Government Architect were the first witnesses examined, and they were followed by the Honorable the President of the Legislative Council, and the Honorable the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the principal officers of Parliament, the Director of the Botanic Gardens, the leader of the *Hansard* Staff, representatives of the newspaper press engaged in the reporters' gallery, architects practising in Sydney, and a few others whose evidence seemed likely to be of importance.

THE EVIDENCE.

8. The general effect of the evidence supports the contention that the present building is defective in its accommodation, and in provisions for the safety of the Library from the risk of fire; but, while this is the case, it is made clear that substantial improvement may be brought about at a moderate cost by alterations judiciously designed and carefully carried out.

The evidence of the officers of the House, with one exception, is that new Houses of Parliament are required; and this is the opinion of the Honorable the President of the Legislative Council. But Mr. Speaker thinks differently. He is "utterly opposed to the proposal to expend money upon a new building," not considering it justifiable. While admitting that the accommodation in the present building is, for many reasons, insufficient, he is of opinion that if the necessary improvements

improvements be made in connection with the Library, the ventilation of the Legislative Assembly Chamber improved, and a little more accommodation provided for *Hansard* and the public, the existing building will serve the purposes of the Colony for many years to come. With his own quarters in the present building Mr. Speaker is perfectly satisfied.

ALTERNATIVE SCHEMES.

9. The possibility of improving the present building at a reasonable cost has engaged the attention of the Committee. The large accommodation provided in the design submitted to them, and the amount involved in the estimated cost, at once suggested the advisableness of considering whether this wholly unproductive outlay could not be avoided, either by improving, at a moderate expense, the present building to such an extent as would meet the most urgent requirements, or by erecting a new one which, while providing all the accommodation necessary, would be of a much less costly character than that proposed. What may be done in either of these directions the Committee have carefully ascertained, and are able from evidence given and plans submitted to recommend a course they believe will prove sufficiently satisfactory. Under instructions from the Committee, the Government Architect prepared two designs—one for altering and improving the accommodation in the present building, at a cost of from £10,000 to £15,000, and the other for a new building, which could be erected for about £250,000.

IMPROVING THE PRESENT BUILDING.

10. The scheme by which the present building would be improved, so as to afford better accommodation where it is most needed, is as follows:—

By removing the present back Library and the steward's and messengers' rooms adjoining, and reducing the size of the reading-room in connection with the Legislative Council from 25 feet x 19 feet to 19 feet x 19 feet, space may be obtained for the erection of a central Library 47 feet x 41 feet, as much as possible of which will be built of fire-resisting material, the floor and roof being of concrete, and the walls of brick. The lighting of this Library will be mainly from a top skylight constructed with metal bars and thick glass, but also from a horizontal window opening into the large area adjacent to the Legislative Council. Over one portion of this new Library on the first floor, will be provided three rooms for the use of the *Hansard* Staff, in lieu of the altogether inadequate accommodation afforded in the present ill-arranged corridor, which will be opened to its full extent so as to permit of uninterrupted access to every part of the building on this floor. By this alteration *Hansard* will be given more floor space than the staff at present occupies, and they will be much better served.

Under the staircase leading to the refreshment-room and immediately facing the post-office, and other similar rooms, it is proposed to construct two small additional rooms for the use of Members when interviewing their constituents or others of the public. The present post-office will also be used as a Members' room, by which plan there will be three additional rooms for this purpose, or six in all.

A new room will be erected for use as a post-office.

The Opposition Members' room will be enlarged and generally improved, the lighting of the room being provided for by a horizontal bay window and a top light.

By continuing in brick what is known as the Speaker's wing there will be provided on the ground floor a room for records, and some alterations incidental to the design will be made to the Speaker's rooms; while above, on the first floor, the whole space will be set apart for the accommodation of the Press, this extra accommodation, with the existing rooms used by the reporting staffs, making a total of seven rooms for this purpose. In addition to this the two Press rooms immediately behind the Press gallery, and used by the *Herald* and *Telegraph*, will be increased in length from 12 feet to 19 feet, their size being then 19 x 12 instead of 12 x 12.

The small staircase in the central hall on the ground floor, now used by *Hansard* and the Press, will be removed, and a wider and better staircase erected in the lobby, from the ground floor to the wide corridor above near the Press gallery.

The

The House steward and messengers, who will be displaced to make room for the Library, will be provided for in the following manner:—The steward will be accommodated in a detached cottage on the site of the laundry yard overlooking the Domain; the messengers will receive two rooms on the ground floor now used by the steward.

Danger to the building from fire will be considerably reduced by carrying four of the walls through the roof as fire-breaks.

By this scheme 3,460 additional superficial feet of floor space are obtained.

A comparison of the accommodation at present afforded in those parts of the building it is proposed to alter, with the accommodation which will be available when the alterations shall have been made, is shown in the following:—

	At present.		Altered.	
	Rooms.	Area.	Rooms.	Area.
<i>Legislative Council.</i>				
Reading-room	1	475	1	266
<i>Legislative Assembly.</i>				
Members'-rooms	3	578	6	865
Opposition-room	1	480	1	792
Speaker (incidental to design)	4	976	4	1,071
Clerks and Records ... ..	.....	.....	1	513
<i>Hansard</i>	6	1,434	6	1,852
Press-rooms	4	620	6	1,128
Press dining-room	1	240	1	300
Clerk of Assembly	1	324	1	414
Printed papers	1	198	1	253
Post-office	1	143	1	120
<i>Common to both Houses.</i>				
Back library	1	777	1	1,927
Messengers' quarters	3	900	5	1,152
Stewards' quarters	4	1,048	5	1,000
	.....	8,193	.....	11,653

The estimated cost of the alterations is £15,000, and, with regard to this, it is pointed out by the Government Architect that the estimate provides for some addition to the ventilating plant of the Legislative Assembly, to which will be added that of the new Library. It is believed the sum mentioned will not be exceeded, but it is possible that the rebuilding or alteration of other portions of the present premises may be found advisable, and necessarily the cost will, in that case, be somewhat increased.

THE AMENDED DESIGN FOR A NEW BUILDING.

11. By the modified design for new Houses of Parliament, submitted by the Government Architect at the request of the Committee, it is proposed to adopt the site intended to be used in the original plan, and to erect upon it a building similar to that in the original proposal in regard to internal arrangements, but with a different exterior, and necessarily occupying a smaller area.

The space required is generally stated as that lying north of the existing building as far as the Bourke statue, and extending east from Macquarie-street to a line 60 feet beyond the eastern boundary of the present premises. A strip of land 60 feet in depth will, therefore, be required from the Domain, as compared with 120 feet contemplated in the first design. Compared with the original proposal, no alteration of any consequence is shown in the amended plan in relation to the accommodation provided for Members and officials, but considerable change is made in the disposition and area of those portions of the building set apart for the public, and also in architectural effect. While, in some cases, corridors have been curtailed, in others they have been omitted, and suites of rooms are carried out in wings extending eastward instead of being provided for in the main body of the building.

The

The two Chambers are of practically the same dimensions, and in the same central positions, as in the original design; but the arrangements for admitting light are different from those in the first proposal, as in the amended design direct outside light is provided for at each corner of the surrounding corridor. This central position for the Chambers is recommended by the Government Architect for the reasons—(1) that in the majority of the Parliamentary buildings in other parts of the world this principle is adopted; and (2) it ensures within the Chambers a much cooler temperature than could be obtained if the outside walls were exposed to the intense heat radiation of a Sydney summer.

The style of the building in this design is Italian Renaissance, treated generally as in the original scheme, but necessarily with some important modifications. On the eastern front there is a considerable difference in treatment, necessitated by the prolongation of the wings, the fronts of these, instead of the main building, being treated as a façade. This affords an opportunity for introducing two connecting double colonnades, enclosing two garden courts. The towers in the original design are absent from the amended one; but the scheme is so designed as to permit of the erection of a central dome whenever that may be considered desirable.

The superficial area of the building in this scheme is 58,150 feet, as compared with 83,500 feet in the original design, and 37,341 feet in the present building. As proposed, the new Houses could be erected without disturbing the present building, the only removals that would be necessary being Richmond House and Terrace and the Lending Branch of the Free Public Library. The estimated cost of this scheme, without providing for the dome, which would cost about £60,000, is £257,000.

CONCLUSIONS TO BE DRAWN FROM THE INQUIRY.

12. An examination of the foregoing statements, and a review of the evidence, will show that the great size and cost of the building proposed in the design originally submitted to the Committee are strong reasons against its adoption. The Legislative Council, which, with 21 rooms and an area of 7,845 feet, transacts its business without inconvenience, except, perhaps, at the opening or closing of Parliament, is, by this design, to be given more than twice the number of rooms and an area nearly four times what it has at present. The Legislative Assembly is to be enlarged to the extent of half as many more rooms than it now possesses, and nearly two and a half times more than its present area. In addition to this, there is the very considerable increase in the accommodation common to both Houses, the number of rooms in these parts of the building being more than doubled, and the area quadrupled. Altogether there is a difference between the present building and what is proposed in this design, of a little more than an additional two-thirds in the number of the rooms, and over three times the area of space.

If it were certain that Sydney will be the capital of federated Australasia, it would be reasonable to look forward to the erection of a building suitable in size and appearance for the accommodation of the Federal Parliament, but in that case the cost of such a building would be a matter of federal, not local expenditure. The Houses of Parliament required now, however, are those necessary for the legislative business of a colony only,—somewhat more conveniently arranged than the present building, but certainly not much larger nor very costly.

The amended design by which, excepting the size of the two Legislative Chambers, and the area of two or three other sections, a smaller and less elaborately ornamented building is proposed, at a little less than half the cost, recommends itself to favourable consideration; though before it could be adopted it would need more scrutiny than the Committee consider it necessary at the present time to give it. The absence of a dome withholds an attractive feature from the structure; but the exterior of the building, as shown in the drawings of the elevation, is very effective, and the interior arrangements appear to provide ample accommodation.

Much of the additional space which the proposed new building would provide is, however, not really required; and the question arises whether, when it is believed that the present building may be so improved, for £15,000, as to afford all the accommodation necessary for many years to come, it is wise to spend even £257,000 on a new building which, although worthy of the site and possessing a handsome and attractive elevation, cannot be much more useful than the present Houses will be when improved as described.

It

It must also be remembered that some parts of the existing building are almost new, and that the wing lately erected, containing the rooms occupied by Ministers, a Members' room, the Ministerial room, and the room used by Under Secretaries, is in good repair. So are the refreshment-room, the kitchen, the Members' lavatories, and some additions made to parts of the building occupied by the Legislative Council. The Back Library, which is constructed of inflammable material, certainly requires renewing and enlarging, and some additional rooms are needed for the greater convenience of Members when meeting their constituents, and for the accommodation of the Opposition, *Hansard*, and the Press. But these are defects which, as already shown, can easily be remedied, and, in addition, the ventilation of the Legislative Assembly Chamber improved, at an expenditure less than a year's interest upon the estimated cost of the proposal placed before the Committee. Every immediate requirement may be met without difficulty, and if, later on, it should be deemed necessary to increase the size of the Chambers, so as to afford further accommodation there, or to add to the rooms provided for officials, that may be done by erecting a new front to the building further out towards Macquarie-street, a plan that would not only give additional area, but also impart to the building generally a much improved architectural aspect.

In the opinion of the Committee, with the proposed alterations, the existing building should suffice for the business of Parliament for many years to come, and, therefore, the erection of new Houses of Parliament may be deferred.

RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE COMMITTEE.

13. The decision of the Committee, which is in favour of the present building being improved, is shown in the following extract from the Minutes of Proceedings:—

"Mr. C. J. Roberts moved,—'That, in the opinion of the Committee, it is not expedient the proposed New Houses of Parliament for the Colony, estimated to cost £533,484, as referred to the Committee by the Legislative Assembly, be carried out; but the Committee recommend the adoption of the amended design submitted by the Government Architect, at a cost, without a dome, not exceeding £257,000.'

"The motion was seconded by Mr. O'Connor, and negatived on the following division:—

Ayes, 3.	Noes, 10.
Mr. Roberts,	Mr. Ewing,
Mr. O'Connor,	Mr. Humphery,
Mr. Fegan.	Mr. Hoskins,
	Mr. Trickett,
	Mr. Clarke,
	Mr. Lee,
	Mr. Hassall,
	Mr. Black,
	Mr. Wright,
	Mr. Farnell.

"Mr. Wright moved,—'That, in the opinion of the Committee, it is not expedient the proposed New Houses of Parliament for the Colony, as referred to the Committee by the Legislative Assembly, be carried out; but the Committee recommend the adoption of the scheme submitted by the Government Architect, providing for alterations to the present Parliamentary Buildings at a cost not exceeding £15,000.'

"The motion was seconded by Mr. Humphery, and passed on the following division:—

Ayes, 9.	Noes, 3.
Mr. Ewing,	Mr. Roberts,
Mr. Hoskins,	Mr. O'Connor,
Mr. Trickett,	Mr. Fegan."
Mr. Clarke,	
Mr. Lee,	
Mr. Hassall,	
Mr. Black,	
Mr. Wright,	
Mr. Farnell.	

THOS. EWING,
Chairman.

Office of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works,
Sydney, 6th December, 1897.

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

NEW HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE COLONY.

WEDNESDAY, 14 APRIL, 1897.

Present:—

THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esq. (CHAIRMAN).

The Hon. FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHERY.
The Hon. JAMES HOSKINS.
The Hon. CHARLES JAMES ROBERTS, C.M.G.
The Hon. WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT.
The Hon. DANIEL O'CONNOR.
HENRY CLARKE, Esq.

CHARLES ALFRED LEE, Esq.
JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, Esq.
THOMAS HENRY HASSALL, Esq.
GEORGE BLACK, Esq.
FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WRIGHT, Esq.
FRANK FARNELL, Esq.

The Committee proceeded to consider the expediency of erecting New Houses of Parliament for the Colony.

Robert R. P. Hickson, Under Secretary for Public Works and Commissioner for Roads, sworn, and examined:—

1. *Chairman.*] Are you prepared to make a statement with regard to the subject under consideration? Yes; it is as follows:—

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Hickson.

Department of Public Works, Sydney, 30 March, 1897.

In submitting the designs (as per Schedule "A") for the proposed New Parliament Buildings for the consideration of the Public Works Committee, I would draw attention to the following extracts from the speech made by the Honorable Minister for Works when introducing the scheme to Parliament on the 11th November, 1896.

14 April, 1897.

The state of the present buildings and the necessity that has arisen for the erection of new ones are referred to by him as follows:—

NEW HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT (11th November, 1896).

Proposed New Houses of Parliament.

"The necessity for the erection of the new houses for the accommodation of Parliament has been under consideration at various times for many years past. The buildings at present in use, which were originally erected for other purposes, have been altered and added to from time to time to meet the ever-growing requirements, but the limit of addition has now practically been reached, and it is hardly possible to provide any further accommodation in the buildings as they at present stand.

"The original portion of the present building was erected in the time of Governor Macquarie, apparently, so far as can be ascertained, for the purposes of a convicts' hospital. It was afterwards, however, turned to other uses, as, for some time preceding the inauguration of Responsible Government, the building, or a portion of it, was occupied by the old Legislative Council, the present Assembly Chamber having been used for the deliberations of that body.

"In 1856, on the inauguration of Responsible Government, the buildings were taken and adapted for the purposes of the new Parliament. The present Council Chamber was purchased by the then Colonial Architect in Melbourne, where it had been imported during the gold rush, and was apparently intended for use as a lodging-house. The present back library was about the same time constructed for a refreshment-room, and served that purpose for some years until the present refreshment-room was built, about twenty-two years ago.

"The existing buildings are a constant source of expense, the average annual sum expended upon them during the last six years amounting to £3,340 13s., or a total of £20,043 18s. This includes, however, an item of over £13,000 for the additions made two or three years ago. The total outlay on the existing building amounts to about £100,000.

"The older portions of the building, unfortunately, are seriously affected by white ant, and while every precaution has been taken, it has not been possible to eradicate them. The central library is one of the portions so affected, and, in addition, being constructed of wood, it is a source of danger to the whole building, as a fire happening there would probably lay the whole block in ruins.

"It seems clear that the utilisation of these buildings for Parliamentary purposes at all was only a temporary expedient, and that it was never intended that they should be permanently used for the purpose. As early as 1860 the Government of the day invited the architects of Great Britain and Ireland and of France to submit competitive designs for new houses of Parliament for the Colony, with public offices attached. The premiums offered were £600 for the approved design, and £300 for the second best design. The conditions for the competition, which bear date 1st January, 1860, set out in detail the accommodation for which provision was to be made, and which apparently included the whole of the public departments at that time. It is, perhaps, fortunate that the plan then proposed was not adopted, so far as the public departments were concerned, as the accommodation would have been altogether inadequate for the requirements of the present day. As an instance, it may be stated that the space provided for the Railway Department, including Chief Commissioner, engineers, draughtsmen, accountants, clerks, and waiting and extra rooms, was only seventeen rooms in all. The accommodation provided for the Public Works Department represented a floor space of 3,836 square feet. The Department now occupies 49,267 square feet. The works policy of the Colony was of course at that time in its infancy; but it certainly would not appear that those responsible in any way realised the immense strides which were to take place in what was, after all, the not very remote future.

"The design to which the first prize in this competition was awarded was the work of Mr. R. H. Lynn, an architect of Dublin. The plans, which are now in the possession of the Department, show a building of a very handsome description, in the Gothic style, of the same character as the Parliamentary buildings erected at Ottawa. The cost of erection was estimated at about £640,000.

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"Beyond receiving the designs, however, and awarding the premiums, no further steps appear to have been taken towards erecting the buildings. It would, of course, be out of the question to utilise this design at the present time, as the requirements provided for are so entirely different to what is now necessary."

The Site.

The present building occupies a site in somewhat close proximity to Macquarie-street, and in disposing of the area available for new buildings it has been found possible, as well as desirable, to place the main Macquarie-street alignment of the new buildings somewhat in the rear of the existing buildings, so that with the exception of the librarian's residence, the committee-rooms, and the refreshment-room, and a small portion of the Speaker's quarters, no other interference with the existing buildings or their occupants would be necessary until the new building is completed and ready for occupation. This is, however, of very little importance, as the new building could be erected in such a way as to provide accommodation for the officers using those rooms before the old rooms were pulled down.

The site-plan submitted speaks for itself as to the proposals generally, the dispositions having been determined by the foregoing circumstances, and giving the Macquarie-street frontage an open space 240 feet in width.

It will be seen that the position of the buildings involves alterations and improvements in the entrances to the Garden Palace grounds and to the Domain-avenue. To enclose and lay out a members' terrace-garden on the eastern side, having its level some 7 feet above that of the Domain adjoining, will necessitate the enclosing of a strip of the Domain, and also the re-forming, in a new position, of the Domain-road skirting its western boundary.

The general levels of the site are particularly easy to deal with, and the building will be clear of all obstructions, so that the rooms on the basement floor will be equally well lighted as those on the upper floors.

As an improvement upon the usual system of basement areas, on the eastern side of the building it is proposed that the gardens on that side (tinted green) should be sunk generally to the level of the basement floor, and to that of the terrace-garden on the eastern side; in fact, to one general level throughout, with retaining-wall and balustrade erected on the Parliament-place and Macquarie-street frontage as boundary.

The site is a sound one for foundations, and their cost will be under the average for work of this character.

In connection with the foregoing proposals, an improvement in Macquarie-street should at the same time be carried out, namely, its widening from 60 feet to 82 feet, extending to its termination at King-street, making the new alignment the external face of the central steps to the Sydney Hospital.

This will give a clear roadway of 57 feet, as against 35 feet, and will admit, if thought desirable, of a modified system of street-planting.

In order to compensate the Sydney Hospital for the deprivation of the land so taken, the scheme comprises an enclosure on the Domain side, measuring 120 feet in depth by the width of the hospital grounds, as a convalescents' garden, advantage being taken of the present avenue of trees to secure very desirable shelter for the patients.

The continuation of this new boundary southerly give an additional reserve, which, in the future, might with convenience be used in conjunction with the Law Courts which, it is presumed, will some day be erected on the site of Chancery-square.

In recommending this utilisation of the Domain land, it is not considered that the public rights are at all detrimentally affected, inasmuch as Macquarie-street will be widened for the benefit of the general public, the hospital will receive a valuable and much-needed addition to its advantages, while the site of Parliament buildings will be cleared of a large number of old buildings now checking the proper flow of light and air. These may be considered as fully compensating for the enclosure of the 120 feet.

Proposed accommodation in the new buildings.

The new buildings are designed to include an Upper Chamber, with accommodation for 80 Members, or more; a Lower Chamber, to accommodate 142 Members, with capability of increasing to 294; also accommodation and convenience for His Excellency the Governor, the President, the Speaker, the Ministry, and the Members of both Houses. Full accommodation has also been provided for Hansard, the public press, the Parliament officials, and the public generally; and for the safe storage of State documents and treasure.

A statement of the accommodation, comparing it with that now existing, is attached to this Report (see Schedule "B").

In addition to the accommodation, &c., set forth in the Schedule, every possible convenience has been designed, including lifts for the Members and the general public, and for the service; dinner-lifts; telegraph and telephone offices; and a system of supplying the chambers with cooled air in the summer and warmed air in the winter.

Architectural features.

In order to give the Committee the fullest possible means of considering this most important matter, four designs are submitted, with a further exemplification in the plaster model produced at a scale of 4 feet to the inch. Design No. 3 was placed before the House by the Minister for Public Works when first submitting his proposals.

In preparing these designs the Government Architect has endeavoured to keep the permanent and historical character of the buildings closely in view, and the architectural features and details of so simple and classic a character that they will stand the test of time, he being of opinion that though a more florid treatment of the design might appear at first more attractive, it would be quite out of place in this undertaking.

It may be remarked that all the notable buildings of the world are the simplest in their architectural treatment, and, conversely, many an expensive and laboured design has become obsolete and gained but a flitting reputation.

With this in view, Mr. Vernon has kept the designs as simple as possible, more care and thought being bestowed upon grouping and proportion than upon elaboration of detail. For the sake of comparison No. 2 Design embraces a central tower, as distinct from the dome in Designs Nos. 1 and 3. The latter is designed in the Italian Renaissance. Design No. 4 has been prepared in Decorated Gothic, and is submitted to assist the Committee in their deliberations, although it is not anticipated that they will consider this style, irrespective of its cost, as suitable for adoption.

Cost.

In dealing with this important aspect of the case, the Minister is of opinion that in a national building of this description, the cost—while it should, as far as possible, be treated on an economical basis—should be the second consideration; and it may be fairly urged that while, in course of time, such a building as now proposed to be erected will have become an object of national pride, its original cost will be but a matter of record only. While, therefore, the accommodation has been planned in the most economical way consistent with the requirements, it is frankly admitted that the main object has been to design a national building of which the citizens of New South Wales might be proud. The cost must necessarily depend much upon the mode in which the scheme develops, and according as it may be determined to embellish the building or otherwise.

The work shown upon the plans embraces a brick building encased in Sydney stone, and a basement in Bowral stone. Beyond this nothing has been attempted, although it may be subsequently found desirable to line the Chambers and the public portions, including the central dome, with stone and local marbles.

The Government Architect has based his approximate estimate of the cost on a comparison with that of buildings of a character nearly approaching it, and concerning which information is available; and he has accordingly, after full consideration, fixed his estimate at 1s. 8d. per cube foot for the building up to the general roof level, 60ft. from the basement, and at 3s. per cube foot for those portions above that height.

For the sake of comparison—although, in some cases, the circumstances differ—the following statement of actual costs may be of value:—

Melbourne Houses of Parliament (unfinished), built in Stawell stone in "boom" times, 3s. 2d. per cube foot.
 Adelaide Houses of Parliament (partly built), encased in white marble, 2s. 4½d. per cube foot.
 Parliament Houses, Westminster, 2s. 6d. per cube foot.
 Foreign Offices, Whitehall, 1s. 0½d. per cube foot.
 Manchester Assizes Courts, 9½d. per cube foot.
 General Post Office, Sydney, 2s. 5d. per cube foot.
 Colonial Secretary's and Public Works Offices, Sydney, 1s. 5½d. per cube foot.
 Lands Office, 1s. 7d. per cube foot.
 Custom House, 1s. 7d. per cube foot.
 Markets, George-street, 9½d. per cube foot.

Judging.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE—NEW HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE COLONY.

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Judging from the above, his estimates of 1s. 8d. and 9s. may be considered as reliable.

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Hickson.

The cubic contents of the buildings at these rates give an estimated cost of £533,484. Therefore an annual expenditure of £100,000 will mean that the building will take six years to erect.

It will be necessary to carry up the base of the dome to a height of 60 ft. from the ground at least three years before the superstructure is placed upon it.

The sum of £100,000, as a first instalment towards cost of erection, has already been voted, but it will be necessary to make further provision from time to time in the event of its adoption.

The Government Architect will be able to give full particulars of the designs, of which the foregoing is only a short summary.

SCHEDULE "A."

NEW PARLIAMENTARY BUILDINGS.

Drawings, &c.

	Scale.
Site plan	16 ft. to 1 inch.
Plan of basement	8 " " "
Plan of ground floor	8 " " "
Plan of first floor	8 " " "
Plan of second floor	8 " " "
Geometrical elevation of design No. 1	32 " " "
Perspective do do .....	.....
Geometrical elevation of design No. 2	32 ft. to 1 inch.
Perspective do do .....	.....
Geometrical elevation of design No. 3	32 ft. to 1 inch.
Do do	8 " " "
Perspective do do .....	.....
Geometrical elevation of design No. 4	32 ft. to 1 inch.
Perspective drawing of the interior of the Assembly Chambers .....	.....
Do of public lobbies .....	.....
Plan of ground floor of the existing building	16 ft. to 1 inch.
Plan of first floor of the existing building	16 " " "
Model of the exterior of the proposed new building .....	.....

SCHEDULE "B."

NEW PARLIAMENTARY BUILDINGS.

Comparative Statement of Accommodation.

	Present building.		New design.	
	Rooms.	Area.	Rooms.	Area.
<i>Upper House.</i>				
Chamber (Members)	1	1,540	1	2,564
(public)	Gallery.	1,260	Galleries.	1,881
The Governor	2 and lavatory.	811	2 and lavatory.	755
The President	2 and lavatory.	.....	2 and lavatory.	961
The Vice-President	1	300	1	300
Ministers' room	1	224	1	300
Chairman of Committees	1	224	2	423
Reception-rooms	2	1,628	2	1,628
Members' lounge-room	1	612	1	962
writing-room	1	400	1	400
smoking-room	1	228	1	750
lavatories, &c.	378	.....	.....	2,076
Clerk of Parliament, and officials	8	1,555	8	1,881
Additional offices (basement)	7	3,076	7	3,076
Strong-room for records	2	488	1	5,248
Hansard gallery	13-ft. desk.	.....	19-ft. desk.	.....
room	1	300	2	520
Press reporters' gallery	11-ft. desk.	.....	38-ft. desk.	.....
room	1	165	4	940
Messengers	2	60	2	383
Ladies' cloak-room .....	.....	.....	1 and lavatory.	157
Public rooms .....	.....	.....	4	1,278
Post office .....	.....	.....	1	436
Caretaker (basement) .....	.....	.....	4	907
Messengers' mess-room .....	.....	.....	1	292
<i>Lower House.</i>				
Chamber (Members)	1	1,512	1	3,255
(enlargement) .....	.....	.....	.....	950
division lobbies .....	.....	.....	2	980
(public) .....	.....	1,196	.....	900
The Speaker	4	976	3	1,208
The Ministers	8	2,402	8	2,856
Ministerial supporters' room	1	798	1	1,315
Opposition supporters' room	1	480	1	1,022
Leader of Opposition	1	224	1	380
Members' room	1	308	1	430
Members' writing-room	1	620	1	620
Members' lavatories	2	1,360	3	2,076
Chairman of Committees	2	308	2	416
Clerk of Committees	1	204	1	204
Under Secretaries' room	1	240	1	360
Clerk of Assembly (Chamber)	1	104	2	292
and officials	7	1,720	5	1,613
2nd floor	5	2,170
Strong-room for records	1	5,248

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	Present Building.		New Design.	
	Rooms.	Area.	Rooms.	Area.
<i>Lower House—continued.</i>				
Sergeant-at-Arms	2	308	3	938
Hansard gallery	11-ft. desk	.....	12-ft. desk	.....
„ rooms	6	1,434	4	1,288
Press gallery	28-ft. desk	.....	31-ft. desk	.....
„ rooms	4	620	5	1,140
„ dining-rooms .....	.....	.....	1	451
Messengers	1	140	2	398
Ladies' cloak-room .....	.....	.....	1	165
Public rooms	4	578	4	1,278
Basement rooms .....	.....	.....	4	1,435
Telegraph and telephone-room	1	130	1	436
Messengers' mess-room	2	684	2	581
Caretaker (basement) .....	.....	.....	4	772
Additional offices (basement) .....	.....	.....	4	2,301
<i>Accommodation common to both Houses.</i>				
Library (ground floor)	6	2,997	3	6,188
„ archives .....	.....	.....	6	9,348
Librarian .....	.....	.....	1	190
Dining-room	1	1,560	1	1,736
„ service	1	210	1	620
„ private .....	.....	.....	1	350
„ wine steward .....	.....	.....	1	234
„ officers .....	.....	.....	1	336
Smoking-room	1	459	1	360
Bar	1	640	1	682
Billiard-room .....	.....	.....	1	837
Tea-room (garden) .....	.....	.....	1	669
Committee-rooms	8	2,640	10	4,904
Muniment-room .....	.....	.....	1	2,720
Librarian's quarters	Richmond Villa	.....	6	1,362
Machinery-room .....	.....	.....	1	2,720
Crypt .....	.....	.....	1	2,500
Stores (basement) .....	.....	.....	7	1,990
Messengers' lavatories .....	.....	.....	2	1,320
Laundry .....	.....	.....	1	700
Kitchen	1	784	1	1,404
„ stores	3	521	1	308
Larders	1	100	2	330
Waiters' dormitories	5	560	3	639
Housekeeper's rooms .....	.....	.....	2	460
Female servants	cottage	.....	3	515
Steward's quarters	4	1,048	5	715

Walter Liberty Vernon, Government Architect, Department of Public Works, sworn, and examined:—

W. L. Vernon. 2. *Chairman.*] Are you prepared to submit a statement in detail with regard to the proposed new Parliament Houses? I did prepare a statement, but it is followed so closely by the statement submitted just now in Mr. Hickson's evidence that it will not be necessary to repeat it.

3. Will you give us some reasons as to the necessity for erecting new Houses of Parliament? The present buildings were erected piecemeal and at different times. As a consequence, the accommodation, although comfortable to a certain extent, is thoroughly unsuitable for present requirements. The Opposition room is very badly designed, and there is very bad accommodation generally for the officials and for the general work in connection with Parliament Houses. As far as the Legislative Council building is concerned, it is nothing but a mere shell, which was originally imported from England to be used as a lodging-house in Melbourne during the gold fever. The building was purchased and brought over here, where it was erected as a Chamber for the Legislative Council. One great inconvenience which is felt is the want of accommodation at the opening and closing of Parliament. The general appearance of the Legislative Council Chamber is very provincial and out of date. Then the officers in connection with the Council have inconvenient rooms. The Members' rooms are perhaps fairly comfortable, but are not what they should be. The lighting of the library is very bad. The messengers are not properly placed so that they may be of the greatest use to Members, and there is not proper accommodation for the telephonic and telegraphic business, and for the posting of letters. In the portion of the buildings devoted to the Legislative Assembly the accommodation for Ministers and Ministerial supporters is good and comfortable, but the accommodation for the Opposition, for the Leader of the Opposition, and the Chairman of Committees is very inferior. As far as the public is concerned, the accommodation is altogether too limited. It is very necessary that there should be a certain number of rooms where constituents can interview their representatives, and where the public can see Members on business. At present the accommodation is absurdly small and very inconvenient. Owing to the present accidental arrangements for access to the larger portions of the building, the public traverse the hall which should really belong to Members alone. The public should be kept in the public part of the buildings, and Members should be left free to do their business apart from the public. One point very prominently brought out in the design now submitted to the Committee, is that the public should have fair access to rooms where they can interview Members and also to the galleries of the house, but not beyond that, except under some very special circumstances. Then the officials of the house and the records are all mixed up in great confusion. The officials are doing

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the best they can under the circumstances, but the accommodation is now strained to such a point that it cannot go any further. The Press is very inadequately served and the Hansard staff particularly so. Only half the work of the Press is really done in the chamber. The more laborious part of the work is the transcription and the preparation of the reports for publication. For those purposes there should be specially-adapted rooms, a sufficient number of them, quiet and well ventilated, so that this important work can be done properly and in an entirely different way to what it is done now. The members of the Hansard staff and the members of the Press have to work in little cubicals close to each other, where the voices in dictating are intensely annoying and cause extreme disadvantage. With regard to dining and refreshment accommodation, there is at present an excellent dining-room, and it is probably the best part of the building. At the same time, more accommodation is required in the way of smoking and retiring rooms. The library is very disconnected in its arrangements, and the Librarian, instead of having all his reference books easily accessible, has to remove them to his residence apart from the building altogether. The consequence is that he cannot carry out a proper classification of his books, and Members do not get them as readily as they should. In addition, he has no room for an extension of the library. That is one strong reason for reconsidering the accommodation of the library, but a stronger reason still is the absolute insecurity of the books. With regard to the structure itself, the white ant is causing great destruction in certain parts of the building. That is particularly the case with regard to the library rooms on the right and left of the present entrance, the official rooms over them, and, more particularly, the library at the back which used to be the old refreshment rooms. I have that room tested periodically, and so far I am not prepared to say that it is unsafe, but I do not know the moment when it will be unsafe. It is impossible to trace the white ant there unless I gut the whole of that portion of the building which would so much upset the present arrangements that I should not be able to get permission to do so. The newer portions of the present buildings are substantial and good for present purposes, although a great many of the rooms are built of wood; in fact the whole structure between the Upper Chamber and the library is of wood. It is of the lightest material and of the most inflammable character. No doubt the whole building is subject every day to the risk of destruction by fire. A fire did occur and it was by a mere chance that it was discovered and put out, and the probability is that some day the whole place would be destroyed. There has been no attempt at warming the chamber in winter. The appliances for ventilation, and for cooling in summer, are the best that could be used in the present building, but they have never had a fair chance on account of the extremely compressed space in which the machinery is placed. Even now it is so close to the Speaker that he constantly and properly orders that it should be stopped. Although noiseless machinery has been erected, there is a certain amount of throbbing in connection with it, and it is found to be inconvenient. I do not see that it is possible to make any enlargements or improvements in the present building. I do not see where they could be placed except at great inconvenience to those who would use the accommodation. We have instructions, which have been delayed from recess to recess, to improve the present Opposition room. It would be with the greatest difficulty that we could find a way of increasing that accommodation. It can only be done by robbing other portions of the buildings. Whatever extra area is added to that room must be taken off something else. We have added rooms and accommodation until I do not see where it is possible to add more. The annual cost, including the additions we made three or four years ago, is about £3,000—that is, for improvements and repairs. So far as I can gather from the records, which are not complete, the total cost of the buildings has been something about £100,000.

4. As the cost of the additions a few years ago is included in the amount put down for maintenance and repairs, would it not be more correct to say that the annual cost is about £1,500 a year? Approximately, the cost of repairing the buildings comes to £1,000 a year; but at any moment I may be called upon to do some unforeseen work in connection with those buildings.

5. Can you give us a comparative statement showing the accommodation provided in the present buildings and the accommodation which will be provided in the new buildings? Yes, that is shown in Schedule B. Under the heading of Upper House, the present accommodation in the Members' Chamber consists of 1,540 superficial feet; in the new design the area is 2,564 feet. The space given to the public in the present Legislative Council building is 1,260 feet; in the new design the area will be 1,881 feet. I have provided rooms for His Excellency the Governor which do not exist in the present building. The President will have about the same accommodation in the new building as he has in the present building, that is 961 feet, as against 811 feet. In the new building the Vice-President of the Executive Council will have one room of an area of 300 feet. At present the Ministers have one room 224 feet in area; in the new buildings they will have one room of 300 feet. I have provided reception-rooms which will be convenient if there are distinguished visitors; they will be for any public occasion. The Chairman of Committees will have two rooms with an area of 423 feet in the new buildings, as against one room of an area of 224 feet in the present buildings. There will be a Members' lounge-room with an area of 962 feet, as against 612 feet at present. There will be a Members' writing-room 400 feet, a Members' smoking-room 750 feet. There will be Members' lavatories, &c., 2,076 feet. The Clerk of Parliament and his officials will have the same number of rooms as at present with an area of 1,881 feet, as against 1,555 feet at present. In the basement I have provided seven additional rooms which have not yet been appropriated. We recently erected two small strong rooms for records, because they were absolutely insecure before. We now provide a sort of crypt under the chamber, of fire-proof construction, and the whole of the records can be kept there as they accumulate. There will be a space of 5,248 feet for that purpose. The accommodation in the Hansard-gallery is not increased very much. There will be a 19-foot desk instead of 13 feet. Instead of one Hansard-room, with an area of 300 feet, there will be two with an area of 520 feet. There will be two retiring-rooms for the Press instead of one. I have increased the Press reporters' gallery from 11 feet to 38 feet, and instead of one room they will have four rooms. I give the messengers considerably better accommodation than they have now. At present they have only two little places with an area of 60 feet. I intend to give them two offices with 383 feet accommodation, and they will be placed in a better position with regard to the whole chamber. Then there will be a ladies' retiring-room in connection with the ladies' gallery. There will be four public rooms, a post-office, four rooms for the caretaker in the basement, and a mess-room for the messengers at the top of the building next to the kitchen. I now come to the accommodation in connection with the Legislative Assembly Chamber. The Chamber will be enlarged from 1,512 feet to 3,255 feet. Then I have also provided for

W.L. Vernon. 950 feet extra for enlargement by carrying the floor of the house behind the screen, shown in the plan, and under the galleries. I did that in accordance with the instructions of the Premier, who said that I should provide a room with elastic accommodation so that it would be able to contain 180 Members or 260 Members. I have, therefore, designed it in the way shown in the plan. The screen can be removed and the benches taken up into the recesses. The spectacular effect will be just as good, and of course the accommodation will be much larger.

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6. *Mr. Black.*] How would that effect the acoustics of the Chamber? I think the Member who wished to speak would come forward into the open part of the Chamber.

7. What would be the height under the galleries? 12 feet; but the floor would be on an inclined plane. So far as I can ascertain, in all large chambers the speakers come forward to a tribune. In the House of Commons there is accommodation for 100 Members less than are actually in the House, but Members go into the galleries and when they wish to speak they come down on to the floor of the House. I have provided two division lobbies in connection with the Lower House. They are in close connection with the House itself, and they can also be reached from the outside.

8. Why did you put in division lobbies? I thought I had better provide for them whether the House uses them or not. If they are not used as division lobbies, they can be used as hat and cloak lobbies. I have not provided so much space for the public in the new building as there is in the existing building. If, however, the whole of the lower portion of the House is not used by Members, some of it can be used as a gallery for the public. In the present buildings the area for the public is 1,100 feet; in the new buildings I have provided 900 feet.

9. Do you think it is wise to curtail that accommodation? I thought it was very improbable that the House would consist of 260 Members, and, therefore, the excess space could be used by the public. In that case you would have an area of 1,800 feet for the public, as against 1,100 feet at present. The ladies' gallery will be upstairs.

10. Will it not be very hot under the galleries? I intend to provide a very complete system of ventilation. The Speaker will have about the same accommodation as he has now, but there will be better provision for obtaining refreshment or meals by means of a small lift. The Ministers have the same number of rooms as at present, namely, eight; and the Ministerial supporters and the Opposition will have one room each. Of course they will be large rooms, and the Opposition will have 1,022 feet, as against 480 feet at present. The Ministerial supporters will have 1,315 feet, as against 798 feet. The leader of the Opposition will also have a room which will be larger than the present one. Then there will be an additional room which will correspond with that now used by the Labour party. It will have a space of 410 feet, as against a space of 308 feet at present. There will be a Members' writing-room, which they have not got at present, which will have 620 feet space, and it will be in connection with the library. Members' lavatories will have a space of 2,076 feet, as against 1,360 feet at present. The Chairman of Committees will have two rooms 416 feet in area, as against 308 feet at present. There will be a room for the Clerk of Committees, and a number of secretaries' rooms. The Clerk of the Assembly will have two rooms on the same level as the chamber, as against one room at present; the area will be 292 feet, as against 104 feet at present. The Clerk of the Assembly and his officials upstairs will have ten rooms, as against seven in the present building, and, of course, a much larger area. There will be a strong-room for records in the basement with an area of 5,248 feet. At present there is no strong-room for records in the Lower House, and if a fire occurred there would be great danger of their being destroyed. I give the Sergeant-at-Arms three rooms, as against two at present. I may say that in providing this accommodation I got all the information possible from the officials engaged in the buildings. In connection with the Hansard staff accommodation, I have been guided by the chief of the staff. The gallery will be practically the same as in the present building with a 12-ft. desk instead of 11 feet. I have made an altogether improved arrangement in connection with the Hansard and Press galleries. Each reporter will have his own cubical or enclosed desk with a door in the rear leading into the passage, so that there will be no passing and repassing. I find that that is the best arrangement adopted in most modern Houses of Parliament. With regard to the Hansard-rooms, I give about the same as at present, but I have increased the accommodation in the Upper House, so that altogether they get more room and of course of a better character. Their rooms will be entirely to themselves, in the front of the building and on the first floor. The space of the rooms in the Lower House will be 1,288 feet as against 12,434 feet at present.

11. *Chairman.*] We know that the rooms at present at the disposal of the Hansard staff are very inadequate, and would it not be better to consider the advisability of increasing the space at their disposal in the Lower House instead of decreasing it as you propose? That is a matter I will reconsider and I think more space can be given there. In the Press gallery I have given 31 feet, as against 28 feet at present. It is practically the same but it will be much better arranged, and we can add to that by taking another gallery if wanted. The new Press rooms will have an area of 1,140 feet as against 620 feet at present. I also provide a Press dining-room at the top of the building. I give the messengers much improved accommodation, with an area of 400 feet, as against 140 feet. There will also be a ladies' cloak-room added.

12. *Mr. Fegan.*] Will there be a room for the chief messenger, who has got one now? I have not provided for that. The room for the messengers could of course be subdivided—the chief messenger might have a portion of it and yet leave ample room. I provide four public rooms with 1,278 feet, as compared with 578 feet at present. If those rooms are not sufficient, there are additional rooms in the basement approached by well-lighted staircases which can be added, and that will give eight rooms with a total accommodation of 2,700 feet. Then there are telegraph and telephone rooms. There will be a messengers' mess-room. I provide caretakers' quarters in the basement, and there are four additional offices in the basement not appropriated in the Macquarie-street front.

13. *Chairman.*] What guided you with regard to the space and accommodation given to the officers of Parliament? I saw Mr. Webb personally, and I discussed the question with a responsible officer in all the important branches. With regard to the minor branches, I used my own judgment.

14. Were you guided by the custom in other places with regard to air space, and so on? With regard to air space, we are guided by ordinary building rules. When we get floor space, the rest is worked in as part of the design. In connection with the library, I consulted with the Librarian. He gave me his requirements by foot run of shelf room; but for the purposes of the plan I have reduced them to superficial feet of floor. I have provided on the ground floor one large central library, with so many docks, which can be used by Members individually, and subsidiary libraries on either flank.

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15. *Mr. Hoskins.*] Do you propose to make the library fire-proof? Yes.
16. Will the rafters and joists be iron? Yes, with concrete; and the building will be perfectly fire-proof. There will be 6,188 feet for the library in the new building, as against 2,997 feet. On the basement I will provide 9,348 feet for reference-books and archives. I have given the Librarian one room, which he has not at present.
17. *Mr. Fegan.*] Will you also give him quarters? Yes; in the basement at the southern end of the building. For the dining-room, I have increased the space to 1,736 feet, as compared with 1,560 feet at present. That will be on the first floor. If necessary, the wall could be removed, and the loggia, for open-air dining, might be trespassed upon so as to make the dining-room larger; but I do not think that will be necessary. Then I give much more service room. There will also be a private room for dining, a room for the wine steward, and also one for the officers of the House. On the first floor I have made use of the space in front of the dome on the Macquarie-street side for a bar, a billiard-room, and a lavatory. I have placed them there because they will be isolated, and in an admirable position. They will be approached from the dining-room by a corridor on either side of the dome, and they are exclusively for the Members. There will also be a smoking-room, which will be larger than the present one. There will also be a tea-room, on the same level as the terrace garden, to which Members can invite their friends. There will be two full-sized tables in the billiard-room. On the first floor I have provided for all the committee rooms, and also joint-committee rooms. There will be ten of those rooms, as against eight at present. I have also provided in the basement another large strong-room, which I have called the muniment room, which may be useful some day. There is also a room for machinery, which will be all hydraulic, so that there will no smoke, dust, or dirt. I would use electricity if brought into the building, but I would not recommend that it should be generated on the premises.
18. *Mr. Roberts.*] Would it not be better to purchase the hydraulic power outside? Yes; that is what I propose to do. At present the main of the Hydraulic Company passes the building, and I would recommend that that should be utilised. The machinery which I provide for will be driven by the power which will be brought in. I have placed a laundry on the basement for kitchen purposes. I have placed the kitchen in the centre of the building, but on the top floor, with all proper lifts. I have also provided for kitchen stores, larders, waiters' dormitories, housekeeper's room, female servants' rooms, and stewards' quarters. I have also provided means for supplying the building with cool air in summer and with warm air in winter. When the road into the Domain from Macquarie-street is altered, as proposed on the plan, I propose to build an ornamental rotunda, as shown, which would be the inlet for fresh air. It will be surrounded with trees, and it will be away from the dust of Macquarie-street. The air will be conveyed by means of a large subway into the building. In the winter I would pass the air through a chamber of hot steam coils in the same way as is done at Melbourne, but with improvement. In summer I would deal with it as they do at Adelaide. Across the subway they have fine water jets forming a complete lattice work, through which the air is passed and drawn into the building. I propose that the whole ventilation of the building should be treated from that one centre. Now, with regard to the question of the site, as it will be necessary for the work of Parliament to go on while the new building is in course of erection, it will necessitate the new structure being put so far back as not to interfere to any serious extent with the work of the present buildings. I only propose to curtail the present buildings by taking away the Speaker's bedroom and the dining-room, and, of course, the committee rooms would also have to go. To make up for the loss of the dining-room, I would suggest that either the old dining-room should be temporarily used or that a covered way should be erected to the present Free Lending Library, which should be converted into a dining-room.
19. *Mr. Hoskins.*] How long would it take to build the new Houses? Six years. I have reported that it would not be a proper thing to build the upper portion of the dome until the lower portion had stood for three years.
20. But in the meantime the building could be used? Yes. In order to make the basement in all respects equal to the ground floor, the scheme shows that the ground, which now falls gradually from Macquarie-street into the Domain, should be cut off to a level all round the building, and that the difference on the Macquarie-street side should be made up by a retaining wall and balustrading. That would have the effect of forming a sort of enclosed sunk lawn inside the balustrading, while the public street would be at a higher level of something like 6 feet. That would give the great advantage of having the whole of the basement absolutely clear of obstruction.
21. *Mr. Lee.*] Would that mean that you would have to go down to the building from Macquarie-street? No; you would only have to go down to the basement, but you would not have to go down to the ground floor. There would have to be a removal of all the buildings in the Domain, and the drive, which now runs through the Domain, skirting the present Hospital grounds, and running out at the gate in front of St. Mary's, would have to be removed further back. There will be no destruction of trees to any extent.
22. *Mr. Fegan.*] How much land would it take from the public? The Domain would lose 120 feet on that side.
23. *Mr. Lee.*] How much would it take from the hospital? Twenty-two feet from the hospital in front; but the proposal is to give them 120 feet at the back, and to leave the trees there as shade. Governor Burke's statue, which now faces the Garden Palace grounds, would have to be removed, and if thought desirable it might be placed in front of the new buildings in Macquarie-street; but that is only a detail. The new building will start 80 feet from the northern wall of the hospital building, and it will extend 528 feet to the north, terminating at the avenue in the domain.
24. *Mr. Fegan.*] In your estimate of the cost of the building, do you include the cost of making the proposed new roads in the Domain? No. There is only one difficulty with regard to the removal of the buildings now on the proposed site—that is, the Free Lending Library. The only alternative I can see is for the Government to rent some portion of the new public Markets, which are very central. The present Free Library building cannot remain much longer where it is, because it is dilapidated and unsafe.
25. *Mr. Roberts.*] In the plan, the Opposition room and several others are represented as having six sides;—would it not be better to make those rooms square? They are large rooms with recesses, but your suggestion will receive consideration.

THURSDAY,

THURSDAY, 15 APRIL, 1897.

Present:—

THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esq. (CHAIRMAN).

The Hon. FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHREY.	CHARLES ALFRED LEE, Esq.
The Hon. JAMES HOSKINS.	JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, Esq.
The Hon. CHARLES JAMES ROBERTS, C.M.G.	THOMAS HENRY HASSALL, Esq.
The Hon. WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT.	GEORGE BLACK, Esq.
The Hon. DANIEL O'CONNOR.	FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WRIGHT, Esq.
HENRY CLARKE, Esq.	FRANK FARNELL, Esq.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting New Houses of Parliament for the Colony.

Walter Liberty Vernon, Government Architect, Department of Public Works, sworn, and further examined:—

W.L. Vernon. 26. *Chairman.*] Will you continue your evidence at the point at which it was interrupted yesterday? I wish to describe the accommodation provided in the new buildings for the public. The public will enter at the central door in Macquarie-street, and they will immediately come under the large central dome. It will be a place for public gatherings and for sight-seeing, because the dome is altogether of a monumental character. On the right and left hand are two public lobbies, measuring 76 ft. x 34 ft. These are two halls, to which the public will be properly confined. Out of these open rooms, in which the public can see Members and transact their business with anyone in the House. At the end of these two halls there is a staircase leading up to the public galleries of both Chambers. There is also a small room, to be used as a ladies' cloak-room, which is very much needed at the present time. Beyond that, the public are not supposed to be in the House at all. Owing to the importance of the building, I have ventured to deal with the public entrance in an elaborate ornamental manner, so that the building will certainly be of a monumental character. I have a trial section here showing the central dome in which there is a staircase leading to the Members' corridor, the committee-rooms and refreshment-rooms, with which the public have nothing to do. There is a separate staircase for the public, which will bring them up to the first gallery, 60 feet from the ground. They can ascend again to another gallery at the head of the internal dome, 120 feet from the ground. There will be a spiral staircase inside the upper dome, leading to a sort of belvedere or outlook over the whole city. It is proposed to put a very powerful electric light in the centre of the upper dome. The top of the dome will be 200 feet high. It will be about 100 feet higher than the top of the Post Office tower, owing to the difference in level. The public also have a lobby which leads to the Chambers on both sides of the building.

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27. *Mr. Fegan.*] Is it not possible to give more space to the public galleries, seeing the immense crowds who wish to be present on important occasions? As I explained yesterday, if the number of Members is kept down to 160 the accommodation proposed to be given to the public will be doubled; but if the number of Members increase to 280, then of course the accommodation for the public will be kept down. I am of opinion that there should be some limit to the capacity of the Chamber, because the larger you make the Chamber the less successful we shall be with regard to its acoustics. We want a Chamber of such a character that a man can speak in his natural voice and be heard all over it.

28. *Chairman.*] If there are 280 Members in the Parliament, the space given for the public will only be, roughly speaking, about 900 feet; in designing a building of this kind, of such dimensions, does it not appear reasonable to you to assume that the Parliament will consist of 280 Members, in view of the growth of the community? It is a very difficult question to answer. I must remind the Committee that, as regards the accommodation in the Lower Chamber, I am acting altogether under the instructions of the Premier. I must provide a House that will seat so many, or which will be capable of being increased so as to seat so many, and that I have done; otherwise it is purely a political question.

29. If these were Parliament buildings only for the present, you would not be justified in designing so expensive a building; this is clearly to be a Parliament House for a great many years, and, therefore, you will require to seat a considerable number more representatives than there are at present; in that case the accommodation for the public will be a great deal less than is provided at present; therefore, do you not think it is undesirable to design the Chamber in such a way? If I give my own personal opinion, I should say that the public to be admitted should be limited to a comparatively small number, in order that the acoustic principles of the House should not be interfered with.

30. Can you give us any information with regard to the space afforded to the public in other Houses of Parliament? At Westminster I do not suppose that more than 200 people ever get inside of the House of Commons. Of course the ladies are behind a grill, and I do not include them in that estimate.

31. Will you obtain some information as to the accommodation provided for the public in other Houses of Parliament? Yes; I will do the best I can. I have visited the Parliament Houses at Melbourne, Adelaide, and Brisbane, and in all those cases the greatest amount of accommodation for the public is provided in the Upper Houses, because those Chambers are not only to accommodate their own Members, but also the Members of the Lower House and the general public who come to the opening and closing of Parliament.

32. *Mr. Fegan.*] Do you provide accommodation for the public on the floor of the House? If the House consists of a small number of Members, there will be considerable accommodation for the public on the floor. I do not know whether we can arrive by analogy at the proper space to be given to the public in this case, but at present we are building Supreme Courts and principal Courts throughout the colony, and accommodation is provided for only fifty members of the public in those places. It has been a matter of very great study on the part of His Honor the Chief Justice, and the result is that we are providing for only fifty members of the public in order to insure that there shall be public access to the courts of justice, and at the same time that they shall not be thronged by undesirable persons who really block up the place because they have nothing else to do.

33. *Mr. O'Connor.*] How far away will Governor Burke's statue be from the new building? I propose to move the statue from its present position, and to place it immediately in front of the new buildings in Macquarie-street.

Macquarie-street. I may state that I have prepared the return referred to yesterday, relating to the buildings which will have to be demolished, and to their tenancies. It is as follows:—

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Buildings to be demolished according to Scheme for the New Parliamentary Buildings.

	Present occupant.	To be Accommodated.
Richmond House	Librarian of the House.	In private lodgings until new quarters are ready.
Richmond Terrace, No. 1 ...	Commissioners of Fisheries.	Must find accommodation elsewhere (say old Naval Stores).
Nos. 2 and 3	Government Medical Officers for Sydney. Medical and Pharmacy Boards.	New buildings now in course of erection in Macquarie-street.
Nos. 4 and 5	Government Charitable Institutions—Director of Asylums; Children's Protection Board; State Children's Relief.	Must find accommodation elsewhere (say old Naval Stores).
No. 6.	Unoccupied (lately used by Treasury Inspectors). Free Lending Library. Two Stableman's Cottages in connection with House.	Must be accommodated elsewhere (say New Markets). Must be vacated.

34. *Mr. Hoskins.*] It will not be necessary to dispossess all of those tenants for some time? Of course some portion of the buildings could be commenced before other portions, but it is not desirable to carry the buildings to any great height until they are commenced all round.

35. What will be the cost of the buildings? £530,000 for the buildings alone.

36. *Mr. Fegan.*] Does that include furnishing or anything of that kind? No. It will be seen from the model before the Committee that I have placed the basement absolutely on a level site, and that is easily obtainable. It is gained by lowering the front facing Macquarie-street. I can get a perfectly level site, finishing with a retaining wall, about 6 feet above the level of the Domain. It will be 4 or 5 feet below the level of the street in front and 6 feet above the level at the back. The proposition is to build the basement from the ground-line up to the string of the ground-floor in Bowral trachyte. It would be desirable in some respects to construct the whole building in trachyte, but the question of cost comes in, and that makes it prohibitive. The remainder of the building will be of the best Sydney sandstone. Internally, wherever we can manage it, we will build with brick. I am in hopes that there will be some opportunity of developing our Colonial marbles in connection with the building, especially marbles from the Bathurst district, by enriching the internal portions of the building—that is, the dome and the two lobbies. The only way to do that will be for the Minister in charge to offer inducements of a somewhat extensive character to quarrymen to open up the marble quarries and to send in probably £8,000 or £10,000 worth of marble. The columns should be granite or trachyte.

37. *Mr. Roberts.*] Would it not be well to build those columns with Colonial marble? The drawback about marble is that it fades in the open air.

38. *Mr. Hoskins.*] Could you get marble in large blocks in this Colony? Not at present; it is simply a matter of capital. If the idea of using marble were carried out, it would be necessary to offer inducements to open up the quarries; it would be necessary to buy largely.

39. *Mr. Clarke.*] Would not granite answer the purpose just as well? Yes.

40. *Mr. Black.*] Of what material would the portico be constructed? Sydney sandstone.

41. Do you not think it is bad taste to construct the columns with different material from the rest of the portico? It is purely a matter of taste; but the opportunity is often seized to construct columns with more expensive and handsome material than the rest of the building. The roofs will probably be constructed of copper or Muntz metal.

42. *Mr. Trickett.*] Why are the circular spires out of character with the other portions of the building? They are not out of style with the other portions of the roof, but they are not in dome shape. There is no rule guiding us on that point. As long as you keep within the canons of the particular style you are designing, it is quite correct to put in those circular spires. I thought they gave more character to the design.

43. What is the architectural style of the design? Early Italian Renaissance—that is, the Italian style of about the end of the fourteenth century. Inside the roofs of the two chambers as shown on the model there are large chambers to receive and diffuse the light. The tops are composed of glass. We propose to build a large chamber to receive the light and afterwards diffuse it in the House, so that there will be no direct sun rays inside the building, while there will be a proper amount of light—on the same principle as a picture gallery.

44. *Mr. Lee.*] Are there no means by which you could light the chamber at night without throwing direct rays on the eyes of those in the chamber? We could adopt the same system as at Westminster. The chambers there are entirely lighted from lights above the skylight, passed through glass. There is no reason why that system should not be adapted here. If you light from the crown of the room, you must design the room accordingly.

45. *Mr. Black.*] What is the purpose of the gallery around the dome? That is for the gratification of the public.

46. You propose to cover the cupolas and dome with metal;—with what will you cover the rest of the roof? I should say the whole of it should be covered with copper. It does not matter whether it is Muntz metal or copper; but the roof should be of uniform material. Copper is now so cheap that the roof could be constructed of that material almost as cheaply as with slate.

47. Can you give us an approximate estimate of the cost of furniture, electric light, and all other incidentals? No; that will all depend upon what is required at the time.

48. *Mr. Trickett.*] With regard to the interior lighting, will it be of such a character that there will be a good light in the day time? Every room will have a direct light from the outside.

49. And the corridors also? Yes.

50. *Chairman.*] Can you give us any idea as to what will be the cost of the furniture? I do not know

W. L. Vernon. what will be needed. I have really confined my calculations to the cost of the building itself. The Adelaide Parliament buildings, a little more than one third of which has been erected, has cost £150,000 for building and furnishing. I estimate the whole cost of the Adelaide Parliament buildings, if carried out, and including furniture, will be nearly £450,000.

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51. You do not know how much will have to be added to your estimate in order to put the new Parliament buildings in working order? It is quite possible that I have over-estimated the actual cost of the new buildings, and there may be a saving to meet the expense of furnishing, and so on; but I have done the best I can. I have based my estimate on actual facts and on my judgment. I propose that the internal portions of the building shall be very simple in character. In the Victorian Parliament buildings you will notice that the ceilings, the corridors, and staircases are of the most elaborate character, so much so that I consider they are quite vulgar, and are more suited to a restaurant than to a Parliament House. The design I have placed before you proposes there shall be nothing of that kind. In that way I propose to save a considerable amount of useless expenditure, so that the money can be spent on the main portion of the building and possibly in furniture.

52. *Mr. Farnell.*] Do you propose that there should be marble staircases? Not necessarily so. In the Victorian Parliament House you will find in the rooms used by sub-officials that the ceilings, doors, and windows are all of the most expensive character. Up to 1896 the buildings had cost £590,000. The future extension of the superstructure and the completion of the whole plan will cost another £300,000. I have no information as to the cost of the furniture. I think they began with a wrong internal design, and such elaborate detail does not appeal to anyone.

53. *Mr. Roberts.*] Have you prepared specifications for these buildings? No.

54. *Mr. Lee.*] Which portion do you propose to carry out first? The whole of it will be carried out so far as the foundation is concerned.

55. But will not the construction be spread over six years, and will you not have to enclose the old buildings? I propose that the Upper House wing should be left out for a time, as it interferes with the Speaker's room and the refreshment-room. I propose that before the dome is finished the lower portions should stand for three years.

56. Do you propose to first carry out those portions of the buildings which are necessary for Members and officials of Parliament? Yes; and it will be all the better to delay for some time the completion of the upper portions of the building.

57. *Mr. Clarke.*] Will it be possible to carry on the business of Parliament in the present buildings until the new buildings are ready? Yes.

TUESDAY, 20 APRIL, 1897.

Present:—

THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esq. (CHAIRMAN).

The Hon. FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHERY.
The Hon. JAMES HOSKINS.
The Hon. CHARLES JAMES ROBERTS, C.M.G.
The Hon. WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT.
The Hon. DANIEL O'CONNOR.
HENRY CLARKE, Esq.

CHARLES ALFRED LEE, Esq.
JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, Esq.
THOMAS HENRY HASSALL, Esq.
GEORGE BLACK, Esq.
FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WRIGHT, Esq.
FRANK FARNELL, Esq.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting New Houses of Parliament for the Colony.

Walter Liberty Vernon, Government Architect, Department of Public Works, sworn, and further examined:—

W. L. Vernon. 58. *Chairman.*] You desire to make some statement to the Committee? With regard to design No. 3, I would like to say that it has been placed before the Committee rather more prominently than the two other designs because it was considered desirable to exhibit the model of one design to the Committee, and that design was chosen.

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59. Design No. 3 has the departmental preference? I could not go so far as to say that.

60. *Mr. Humphery.*] Is the accommodation afforded similar in all cases? Yes. The designs are built upon the same plan, and they could be carried out absolutely on the same plan. Design No. 2 was being prepared before the plan placed before the Committee was drafted in all its details; but, generally speaking, it covers that plan, and could be made to cover it exactly. In connection with design No. 2 I have shown how a tower could be substituted for a dome.

61. What was your reason for doing that? I thought that it would be desirable to show the effect of a tower as compared with the effect of a dome; but I know that a dome is a popular idea for a House of Legislature. There is a precedent for a tower at Westminster; but, almost with that one exception, Parliamentary buildings elsewhere have domes.

62. Do you know why a tower was preferred to a dome at Westminster? A tower was erected at Westminster because the building was designed in the only type of Gothic which is really English, and it does not admit of a dome. The designs placed before the Committee are classic in style, and in this case there is nothing to bind one to any particular form of construction. Design No. 2 contains more characteristic treatment in its architectural details than design No. 3, though it is not so pure in its classic character. Design No. 1 is more modest in its features than the other two, and might, in some respects, be less expensive. There is a French character about its classic style, and the Domain front has something of the French château about it. Of course the character of the architectural design is an abstract matter; but, if I may venture to say so, I think that a building like this should not be designed in any passing style. In my opinion such a building should be constructed on lines which would be unaffected by any change in fashion. A great many buildings of very clever design are put up in accordance with the prevailing fashion of the time, but they soon become quite obsolete in style. The architectural fashion passes and the style of the building becomes out of date. For that reason I think it is safer to carry out a structure of this character in the purest classic style, which is always in date.

63. Would there be an appreciable difference between the cost of the various designs? I do not think so. I think that, if the details were worked out, it would be found that they would each cost about the same.

same. Of course design No. 1 has not the four towers which appear in the other designs, and its dome is on a smaller scale than theirs, so that a saving would be affected to that extent in adopting it; but otherwise I do not think the difference in cost would be appreciable. W.L. Vernon.
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64. Would the site for all three be the same? Yes, and the general plan would be the same.

65. Would the area occupied by each be the same? Yes.

66. Would the cost of designs Nos. 2 and 3 be similar? There is more actual material in the central dome of No. 2 than in that of No. 3, and, of course, with a tower, design No. 2 would cost a great deal more than design No. 3. My original estimate for design No. 2, carried out with a tower, was £566,000. I think it is worth the Committee's consideration whether a model should not be prepared of design No. 2. The Committee could then make a better comparison of the two designs.

67. What would be the cost of preparing a model? About £100.

68. Do you propose to use similar material in each case—trachyte and sandstone? Yes. In my preliminary statement I suggested that the internal public portions of the building should be lined with sandstone instead of plaster; but I have not included the cost of that construction in the estimate before the Committee.

69. I suppose you have no means of placing before the Committee an estimate of the aggregate cost? I can only give an estimate in accordance with what I know is the cost of other buildings, and the experience of the office. Its actual cost would be the aggregate amount of the actual expenses of the contractors, which it would be impossible to ascertain.

70. What would be the difference in cost between designs No. 2 and No. 3? Design No. 2 with the tower would cost £25,000 or £30,000 more than design No. 3.

71. Would the cost of the building be considerably lessened if you made provision for the accommodation of fewer Members of Parliament;—I think you have provided for double the existing number? I have designed a building capable of providing accommodation for double the number of Members of the existing Parliament, and it would not make much difference in the cost of the design if I provided for a less number, because the cost of the accommodation provided in the two Chambers is only a small part of the total cost. It would not be advisable to plan the general building on too small a scale, because the character of the structure would not very well admit of its expansion in the future.

72. I suppose the great cost of the building will be its exterior? Yes.

73. Are you able to supply figures which would allow us to make a comparison between the cost of the interior and exterior portions of the building? I estimate the total cost of design No. 3 at £533,000. The cost of that part of the building which would be within 50 feet of the ground-floor—that is, omitting the four towers, the central dome, and the small towers that support the dome—would be £413,000.

74. *Mr. Black.*] You have also supplied the Committee with a fourth design? That is only to enable the Committee to judge of the effect of a building in the Gothic style.

75. *Mr. Humphery.*] Can you give us any information as to the cost of the Houses of Parliament in the other Colonial capitals? The Melbourne Houses of Parliament have, up to the present, been built, and are to be completed, in sections. The cost of the completed portions is as follows:—Legislative Assembly and Council Chambers, £165,000; library and adjoining buildings, £100,000; public hall, £37,500; west front, £213,500; north-east wing, £16,000; and additions and alterations, £58,000; or a total cost up to 1896 of £590,000.

76. Can you tell us what will be the cost of completing the design? The cost of the future extension of the superstructure of the north-east wing and of the basement, and the superstructure of the south-east wing, together with the completion of the dome, will be £300,000, or a total of £890,000.

77. How does the accommodation provided by the Melbourne building compare as to area with that provided by your design? The floor area of the Melbourne building is 99,840 feet, and that of my design 94,240 feet. The accommodation afforded by my design will compare favourably with that afforded by the Melbourne building. The Upper House in Melbourne measures 72 feet x 40 feet, and contains forty-eight seats; while there is also a lobby 22 feet x 14 feet, a reporters' gallery, and a strangers' gallery. My design allows for the seating of eighty Members in the Upper Chamber, while in Melbourne seats are provided for forty-eight. Of course, more could be provided for there, if necessary, but the present seating accommodation is forty-eight. In the Lower Chamber I provide seating accommodation for 142 Members, and the accommodation can be increased to provide for 294 Members. In Melbourne there is seating accommodation for ninety-five Members.

78. To what extent can the accommodation in the Lower Chamber at Melbourne be increased? Not so much as the accommodation in my design. The Chamber in Melbourne measures 72 feet x 40 feet, while my Chamber is octagonal, and measures 64 feet across.

79. *Chairman.*] Then the Melbourne Chamber has 300 or 400 feet of floor space more than your Chamber? Yes.

80. *Mr. Humphery.*] What material has been used in Melbourne? The exterior of the building has been constructed of Stawell stone, which is very similar to the bluestone which we used to get here for the pavements.

81. Is the cost of obtaining and working that stone greater or less than the cost of obtaining and working trachyte? It is about the same; but the Houses of Parliament in Melbourne were erected during much more prosperous times than we can expect again, and the prices paid were much higher than would be paid in Sydney at the present time.

82. But would not there be more railway carriage to pay here for trachyte than was paid there for their stone? I do not think so. The Melbourne stone came from Lethbridge and Stawell. Since the Melbourne quarries were opened the quarrymen at Bowral have erected machinery which is reducing the cost of trachyte more and more every day. I should say that the cost of the labour employed in procuring trachyte is much less than was the cost of procuring the Melbourne stone.

83. How do you explain the great difference in cost between the Melbourne buildings and your design? In the first place, the whole of the Melbourne exterior is constructed of Stawell bluestone. The buildings are to a certain extent detached from each other, and they are all faced with this stone in the interior areas. The design before the Committee provides for the use of trachyte in the basement and sandstone in the interior, while the smaller areas, such as those which ventilate the lavatories, will be covered with glazed tiles, which can easily be kept clean and bright. I anticipate a great saving there. Sydney sandstone can be put up at a cost of from 4s. 6d. to 5s. per foot cube; and I undertake to say that

- W. L. Vernon. that the stone used in the Melbourne buildings cost at least twice as much. Then, the interior of the Melbourne building is overloaded with detail and enrichment. The staircases are of the most elaborate character, while the joinery and woodwork and the cornices and ceilings are all lavish. My design provides for a simple interior without elaboration. The materials will be of good quality, and the building substantial; but I shall avoid the elaboration of the Melbourne design. There, too, I anticipate to save a large sum. Finally, the Melbourne building was put up at a time when money was no object, and everything was at a very high price. The Melbourne building cost 3s. 2d. per foot cube, while the Adelaide building, which is constructed of white marble, only cost 2s. 4½d. per foot cube.
- 20 April, 1897.
84. Is it an equally massive building? Yes; but it is treated more quietly inside. Externally the Adelaide design is the most expensive of the three.
85. What area is occupied by the Adelaide buildings? Only a little more than one-third of the structure is at present completed. The information which I have obtained from Adelaide in regard to their building reads as follows:—"I regret I have no data for estimate for the complete building; in fact, I doubt if one estimate was prepared. The present building, furnished complete, cost about £150,000." Cubing the building—because I have all the plans—I find that the cost of the part completed was 2s. 4½d. a foot, and I estimate the cost of completing the design on the same scale at about £450,000.
86. I suppose the Adelaide building will be more costly by being built in portions than if the whole were constructed at once? A building can be carried out more cheaply if the whole is constructed at once than if it is put up in sections.
87. I suppose the most costly portion of the Adelaide building is the exterior? I should say so.
88. In comparison, the South Australian building has not cost two-thirds as much as the Victorian building? The cost is as 28 to 38.
89. Notwithstanding that the Adelaide building is of much more costly material than the Melbourne building? Yes, the external portion of it.
90. Is marble much more costly than trachyte or bluestone? Yes.
91. Do you know where the Adelaide marble was obtained? It came from the Marble Hill quarries, which are at some distance from Adelaide.
92. And you know that it was more costly than Melbourne bluestone? I cannot say that I know it as a fact, but I should say that it was.
93. What about the Tasmanian Parliamentary buildings? I have no information about them.
94. What about the Brisbane buildings;—are they of sandstone? Yes, partly. I have the plans of the Brisbane buildings, but there is very little to be gained in making a comparison there. The same may be said of the Wellington buildings; they are wooden, and of an indifferent design, and, I believe, are in a bad state of repair.
95. Have you any information with regard to the cost of the Ottawa Houses of Parliament? I have all the plans here, and also some photographs of the building; but I cannot tell you what the cost was. It is a Gothic building.
96. Is the interior of the Adelaide chamber more elaborate than that provided by you in design No. 3? No; it is about the same. One building which I think offers very good suggestions is that at Tokio, Japan. It was designed by a German architect, and has such capital arrangements for the public, and for the approaches to the chambers, that I have had it very much in mind in making my design. Of course, there is a great deal of detail that would be unsuitable here; but the guiding principle is a very good one. It is the best I have seen.
97. *Mr. Black.*] What is the style of design No. 2? Late classic, with a certain Romanesque character about the dome. It is a very happy combination of two styles. Whether it will meet the popular view or not I am not prepared to say.
98. *Chairman.*] Do you abandon the Gothic design? I do not think it is worth considering. I do not consider it suitable for the climate, and it would be costly. The Government offices in Bombay are in Venetian Gothic, and they are notable as being very successful buildings; but I doubt if the Committee would care to consider the cost of the Gothic buildings here. A Gothic building must be full of small details to make it handsome.
99. *Mr. Humphery.*] Is not design No. 2 higher than design No. 3? In some respects it is, because the side wings are carried up into a sort of fourth story; but then there are no wing towers.
100. *Mr. Black.*] I suppose you would call design No. 1 a variation of the Renaissance? It is a variation of French Renaissance.
101. *Mr. Roberts.*] Is not a central tower more in keeping with the character of design No. 2 than a dome? I do not think so; but I have shown a tower in order to enable the Committee to see its effect.

THURSDAY, 22 APRIL, 1897.

Present:—

THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esq. (CHAIRMAN).

The Hon. FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHERY.	HENRY CLARKE, Esq.
The Hon. JAMES HOSKINS.	CHARLES ALFRED LEE, Esq.
The Hon. CHARLES JAMES ROBERTS, C.M.G.	JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, Esq.
The Hon. WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT.	GEORGE BLACK, Esq.
The Hon. DANIEL O'CONNOR.	FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WRIGHT, Esq.
	FRANK FARNELL, Esq.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting New Houses of Parliament for the Colony.

Joseph Henry Maiden, Director of the Botanic Gardens, sworn, and examined:—

J. H. Maiden. 102. *Mr. Trickett.*] Have you had an opportunity to consider the proposed design for the erection of New Houses of Parliament upon a portion of the Domain? Yes.

22 April, 1897.

103.

103. Have you any opinion to offer with regard to the proposal? Yes. I have very carefully considered the alteration in the Domain which Mr. Vernon's design, if carried out, would entail, and I have written out the following statement in regard thereto :—

J. H. Maiden.
22 April, 1897.

The area of the Outer Domain is 90 acres, from which the following areas have already been taken :—

Art Gallery	2	acres.
Quarantine Reserve	$\frac{1}{2}$	"
Baths, boat-houses, &c.	3	"
Below high-water mark.....	2	"
Total	$5\frac{1}{2}$	"
Or including below high-water mark	$7\frac{1}{2}$	"

The scheme prepared by Mr. Vernon for Parliamentary buildings, &c., would require an additional 4 acres. Total, $11\frac{1}{2}$ acres.

I would respectfully submit that the three areas in the Domain most desirable for their own natural beauty, and for woodland and marine scenery, are as follows :—

1. Macquarie Point (vicinity of Mrs. Macquarie's Chair).
2. The water frontages from Sydney Rowing Club's shed to Cowper Wharf, and including the grassy slopes from the Domain-road thereto.
3. The high land from the Garden Palace entrance in the direction of the back of the Hospital and Mint.

No. 1 it is not proposed to interfere with.

No. 2. No less than a quarter of a mile (1,300 feet) of water frontage has been withdrawn from free access of the public (including leases below high-water mark, 2 acres), and an additional 3 acres or so as bath-keepers' residences, drying grounds, &c.

As regards No. 3, the Committee will at once observe that it is largely made use of by the public, and towards the back of the Mint it includes the best arboricultural land in the Domain. Near the back of the Mint are some of the rarest species of trees in the Domain.

Whatever the area of land the Committee propose to take for the Parliamentary buildings, I would respectfully suggest that at least an equal area of land be restored to the public from that fronting Woolloomooloo Bay.

At present this land is held on readily terminable leases, and the construction of floating baths (requiring no *terra firma*) would not only result in cleaner, healthier baths for the public, but the abominable eyesores of clothes-drying and (in one place) nude bathers would be done away with. The best views are on this side, and the sun is off those grassy slopes in the afternoon. If people were again allowed access to their own property I am sure they would appreciate it very much. Woolloomooloo Bay is now sweet and clean, and people could rest on these grassy slopes without offence to their olfactory organs.

104. Is it necessary to bring the Parliamentary buildings so far into the Domain? I can hardly answer this. I come here as the custodian of the Domain in the interests of the general public.

105. How much will the ground attached to the New Houses of Parliament and the proposed extension of the Hospital enclosure encroach upon the Domain? It will take in the whole of that part of the Domain between Macquarie-street and a line passing through the old Technological Museum to the Figtree Avenue. The proposed alteration will practically take away from the public the greater part of the slope which leads down to the present cricket ground. It takes in six or seven of the fig trees.

106. Could not that portion of the Domain which it is proposed to take for the benefit of the hospital patients well be spared. It is not used much now by the public? It is rather hard to ask me to part with any portion of the Domain. I wish to preserve the existing trees there, and it is my intention, if I am spared, to increase the variety of trees in the Domain, utilising that portion of it for the purpose.

107. At the present time that portion of the Domain is not the most attractive? No.

108. But you say it is capable of being very much improved? That portion of ground contains the best soil in the Domain. Mr. Moore tested it over and over again. Elsewhere the rock comes within a very few feet of the surface.

109. Is that the case on the cricket ground? Yes. Of course the cricket ground is in a hollow, and there is a good deal of alluvial there; but there is not enough soil there for good tree growing.

110. That is your chief objection to the proposal—that it would take away this good land? I do not presume to object to the use of the Domain for the purpose under consideration. I come here to suggest how the diminution of its area might be minimised. I do not think we can afford to give a great slice of ground to the hospital, considering the comparatively small area that we have.

111. You think that the gain to the Hospital patients would not compensate the loss to the public? That is my view.

112. Do you not think that if the old wall at the back of the Hospital were removed, and a low wall with an iron railing were substituted, Mr. Vernon's design would result in a decided improvement of the locality? No doubt the carrying out of Mr. Vernon's design would very much improve what I might call the amenities of the Domain. A great many of his suggestions are most admirable, and would result in more graceful curves and many advantages; but I submit that the acreage of the Domain should not be reduced.

113. You recognise that Mr. Vernon's scheme is not a patchwork one—it would make a uniform improvement if carried out? Yes. I have studied the plan, and I think it a noble scheme.

114. You agree that if anything is done in the direction suggested, the scheme should be a thorough one, of the nature proposed by Mr. Vernon? Yes. Personally, I would like to see the scheme carried out in its entirety. I am aware that a good part of the area to be taken would not be entirely covered with buildings; but the public would be excluded.

115. That is your main objection to the scheme? That is the only objection I have to it.

116. I suppose that the carrying out of the proposed design would very much curtail the size of the present cricket ground? Yes. I am very much afraid that the cricket ground will have to go eventually. At the present time I receive a great many complaints about the danger from cricket balls flying about.

117. It has been a vexed question for a long time whether the cricket ground should continue to exist? Yes; and personally I should be sorry to see the discontinuance of cricket-playing there, and I am giving facilities to allow of the playing of cricket in the Domain by little boys; but people are continually crossing by short cuts, and there is some danger of their being injured.

118. You suggest that in return for the land which it is proposed to take in order to carry out this scheme, the foreshores of Woolloomooloo Bay should be given back to the public? Yes. Of course I shall bring the matter before my own Minister independently of any action that the Committee may take. I think that that is the only way in which the taking of the upper part of the Domain could be justified. If no compensation is made, no doubt the public will feel it keenly, and there will be an outcry against the proposal.

- J. H. Maiden, 119. How much of the Domain is occupied by the quarantine authorities? About half an acre.
- 22 April, 1897. 120. Is that in connection with the quarantining of animals or of human beings? It is not used in connection with the quarantining of animals. I believe the authorities keep bedding there, and that patients embark there.
121. How long has the land been used for that purpose? Since 1884 or 1886.
122. Do you think that the site is a suitable one for the purpose? I cannot express an opinion, but if it were found undesirable in the public interest that the land should be used in this way, the difficulty could be got over.
123. *Mr. Hoskins.*] Do you not think that the curtailment of the Domain area, proposed by the scheme we are considering, will result to a gain to the public by reason of the increased beauty which it will give to this part of the city? The public would be largely compensated in that way, but the area proposed to be taken—4 acres—is very considerable.
124. *Mr. Trickett.*] Would the proposed improvement result in the sacrifice of the old oak trees at the back of the Mint? No. Some of them would be taken into the Hospital grounds, and some into what is called the reserve gardens. If the reserve garden were left to me I would save some of the trees, and I might be able to save one or two of the rare trees in the angle. It is easier to cut down trees than to plant them again.
125. *Mr. Hoskins.*] Do you not think that the proposed arrangement would be of great advantage to the sick poor in the hospital? I feel almost ashamed to have to protest against the proposal to give this land to the hospital; but I do not think that we have it to spare.
126. *Mr. Fegan.*] You have no ground to give away? That is my opinion, and we must look to the future.
127. If the Government withdrew the leases to the water-frontage in Woolloomooloo Bay, that would to some extent get rid of your objection to the proposal before the Committee? Very largely.
128. *Mr. Black.*] When do these leases fall in? Messrs. Wilson, the executors of the late Mr. C. Robinson, have a lease there of 3 roods 6 perches, for which they pay £20 per annum. That lease terminates on the 31st December, 1904. The East Sydney Rowing Club pay £10 per annum for 11½ perches, the lease being terminable on the 31st December, 1900, though it has not yet been gazetted. The Sydney University Boat Club lease 6½ perches for £10 per annum, the lease being terminable in 1900. The Sydney Municipal Council holds 3 roods 22 perches on an annual lease, for which they pay £20 per annum; and H. C. Press pays £30 per annum for 19½ perches, with a 10-foot right of access, on an annual lease. Practically, the whole of the land on the Woolloomooloo Bay side of the Domain is shut off from the public by the fences which these people have erected.
129. *Mr. Roberts.*] If Mr. Vernon's scheme were carried out, what acreage would be left for public recreation? In the Domain, under 80 acres.
130. What area is contained in the Botanic Gardens? A little over 40 acres. Altogether there are about 150 acres in the Botanic Gardens, Garden Palace Grounds, and Outer Domain.
131. *Mr. Fegan.*] To how many acres have the public access at night? Only to the Domain. The Gardens are closed from sunset to 6 in the morning.
132. *Mr. Wright.*] If the width of the area of ground proposed to be taken were reduced by 50 or 60 feet, would that enable you to save the trees that you prize? The trees that I prize would not be affected by that.
133. What are the trees that you are anxious to preserve? They are some trees in the angle towards St. Mary's Cathedral, and include one or two good species of oak, some Dammaras, two or three of the rarer pines, a Podocarpus, one or two rare figs, a good elm, a specimen *Avicariae rulci*, and others. We have not many public places about Sydney for tree growing. We cannot grow trees well in the Centennial Park, and we have already too many in the Gardens.
134. How many of the trees in the Figtree Avenue would be destroyed by the carrying out of this proposed design? I think eight.
135. Do you know how long they have been growing? Fifty years, I have been told. I do not put the loss of these trees as the first matter to be considered.
136. You object to any curtailment of the Domain? Yes.
137. Is not the part we are speaking of damp and unused? A number of people go there to sit and smoke or read.
138. They are shaded there from the afternoon sun? Yes.
139. Are there not noxious smells there caused by the drains? Well, I would not sit there very long myself; but the drainage can be improved.
140. Would not the proposed design, if carried out, make the place more beautiful and healthier? It would make a great improvement.
141. But you still think that the area of the Domain should not be curtailed? I think so. From an aesthetic point of view it would be a grand thing to carry out this design.

FRIDAY, 23 APRIL, 1897.

Present:—

THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esq. (CHAIRMAN).
 The Hon. FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHERY. HENRY CLARKE, Esq.
 The Hon. JAMES HOSKINS. CHARLES ALFRED LEE, Esq.
 The Hon. CHARLES JAMES ROBERTS, C.M.G. JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, Esq.
 The Hon. WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT. GEORGE BLACK, Esq.
 The Hon. DANIEL O'CONNOR. FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WRIGHT, Esq.
 FRANK FARNELL, Esq.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting New Houses of Parliament for the Colony.

John Jackson Calvert, Clerk of the Parliaments, sworn, and examined:—

142. *Chairman.*] Are the whole of the Parliamentary buildings presumed to be under your control? The J. J. Calvert.
 whole of the buildings are under my control in certain respects, but, of course, the rooms set apart for the Legislative Assembly and for the Library are under the immediate control, in the one case, of the Clerk of the Assembly, and in the other, of the Parliamentary Librarian. All joint matters are under the control of the Clerk of the Parliaments. 23 April, 1897.

143. *Mr. Clarke.*] Have you seen the various designs which have been submitted to the Committee? No. That is one of the difficulties I am in. I have had no means of examining the plans, therefore, I cannot give the Committee any evidence of value in regard to the designs which have been submitted. I think it would be very much better, if the Chairman has no objection, if sectional plans of the proposed arrangements for the new Legislative Council were sent to the President, for the new Legislative Assembly to the Speaker, for the Library to the Librarian, who would lay them before the Library Committee, and for the Refreshment-room to the Usher of the Black Rod, who would lay them before the Refreshment-room Committee.

144. But these gentlemen can see the plans by coming here? Personally I am not prepared to give any opinion in regard to the external design; I am only prepared to give evidence as regards the internal accommodation to be provided, and I cannot do that until I have seen some of the sectional plans, and have thus obtained some idea of what is going to be done.

145. Did you make a statement to Mr. Vernon, the Government Architect, in regard to this matter? I gave Mr. Vernon, as I thought it might be of advantage to him, a list of certain requirements which I considered necessary; but I cannot say if my suggestion has been followed, because I have not yet seen the plans.

146. Can you give us any expression of opinion as to the necessity of increasing the accommodation in the Legislative Council buildings? That is a point upon which, I think, I can give the Committee information, because I have been in the office either of the Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council since the inauguration of Responsible Government. The present buildings, though to a certain extent comfortable, are really most unsuitable, at all events looking to what are likely to be the future requirements of Parliament. Then, too, the expense incurred in annual repairs is much more than ought to be spent upon what I should call proper buildings. More than £100,000 have been spent upon the present buildings; but there is very little to show for the expenditure.

147. In what way is the present accommodation defective? I do not think that the accommodation of either House, though to a certain extent suitable, can be looked upon as desirable, in comparison with the accommodation provided in the other colonies. I am not speaking of the exterior of the building, the appearance of which I think is disgraceful. The library accommodation is utterly unsuitable and a source of great danger, though Mr. Walsh is better able to speak on this subject than I am. We have a most valuable collection of books in the library.

148. I understand that the present building is hardly safe—the woodwork having been greatly destroyed by white ants? I saw the library floor taken up some years ago, and then there were large nests of white ants underneath, nests almost as big as large vats. That may occur again almost at any time.

149. Is not the accommodation in the Council Chamber sufficient at the present time? It answers its purpose to some extent, but the accommodation for strangers is very insufficient, and the lavatory arrangements are inferior to those in any ordinary club.

150. Can you speak as to the necessity for increasing the accommodation for officials and the press? This is a list of the rooms which at the time the matter was referred to us we considered necessary:

President—	Galleries for—	Lavatories, urinals, bathrooms, &c., for officers.
Official-room.	Press.	Lavatories, urinals, bathrooms, &c., for Members.
Sitting-room.	Hansard.	Refreshment-rooms—
Dining-room.	Members of Assembly.	One for Members and their guests.
Bedroom and lavatory.	Distinguished visitors.	One for Members of both Houses.
Chairman of Committees—	Ladies.	One for general public.
Office.	Families of Members of Council.	Billiard and card-rooms.
Dining and bedroom.	Ministers, Judges, &c.	Barber's saloon.
Lavatory.	The President of Federated Australia.	Smoking-room for Members.
Usher of the Black Rod—	General public.	Lounge-room for Members.
Office.	Reception-room.	Reading-room for Members.
Dining and bedroom.	Waiting-rooms for Heads of Departments, Judges, &c., &c.	Smoking-room } For strangers intro-
Clerk of the Parliaments—	Strangers' room.	Lounge-room } duced by Members,
Office.	Strangers' waiting-room.	Reading-room } Heads of Depart-
Dining and bedroom.	Reception-room for ladies.	Card-room } ments, &c., &c.
Lavatory.	Refreshment-room for Members of the Council and their friends.	Steward and housekeeper—Rooms.
Clerk Assistant—Same as Clerk of Parliaments.	Committee-rooms.	Assistant steward and housekeeper—Rooms.
First Clerk—Office and private room.	Smoking-room.	Head-waiter—Room.
Second Clerk—Office and private room.	Reading-room.	Assistant waiters—Rooms.
Third Clerk—Office and private room.	Writing-room.	Upper housemaid—Sitting-room and bedroom.
Clerk of Select Committees—Office and private room.	Billiard-room.	Housemaids—Rooms.
Officer-in-charge of Records—Office.	Card-room.	Cellarman—Room.
Officer in charge of Printed Papers—Office.	Doorkeeper's room.	Head stableman—Rooms.
Clerks—Offices.	Assistant doorkeeper's room.	Assistants—Room.
General dining-room.	Messengers.	Cook, &c.
Chamber.	Record-room.	Lavatories and urinals for Members of both Houses, also for the general public.
Galleries for—	Strong-room	
Reporters.	Store-room for printed papers.	
	Lavatories, urinals, bathrooms, &c., for doorkeeper and messengers.	

- J. J. Calvert.
23 April, 1897.
151. Do you think that any of the rooms proposed by Mr. Vernon could be dispensed with? I certainly think not.
152. *Mr. Farnell.*] In your list you do not include stabling accommodation? No; though I am of opinion that stabling should be included in the premises.
153. As a matter of fact, Mr. Vernon has not provided for stables? I believe not.
154. *Mr. Lee.*] Can you give the Committee an idea as to the necessity of increasing the superficial area of the Legislative Council Chamber? If we have a Federal Parliament, I think very likely the present Council accommodation will be sufficient for the future; but at the present time it is very insufficient, especially for any ceremonial. There is no adequate accommodation for the friends of Members, or for their wives and families, though in Melbourne and elsewhere ample accommodation of that kind is provided. Even in the smaller colonies better provision is made than has been made here.
155. It is proposed to increase the area of the Council Chamber from 1,540 feet to 2,564 feet? Yes. That, in my opinion, would be sufficient.
156. So long as the number of Members in the Upper Chamber continues in certain proportion to the number of Members in the Lower Chamber, the existing floor space for Members will be sufficient? Yes.
157. Then, if Mr. Vernon's plan is carried out there will be more space than is required? Yes, for Members, if the number of Members is not increased.
158. What is your opinion with regard to the accommodation allotted to the general public? It is pretty well sufficient for ordinary occasions, but upon any extraordinary occasion it is quite insufficient.
159. It is proposed to extend that accommodation from 1,260 feet to 1,881 feet; that will materially assist in meeting the requirements of the public upon the occasion of the opening of Parliament, and at times of similar ceremonies? Yes.
160. Is the gallery of the Legislative Council open to the general public, or is it reserved for ladies? Upon the occasion of the opening of Parliament it is entirely reserved for ladies. There is no accommodation for gentlemen at all. It does not matter how distinguished a stranger may be, it may happen that he cannot get into the Chamber at all upon such an occasion.
161. No part of your Chamber is designated the ladies' gallery? No.
162. Have you any opinion to offer as to the best shape for a Chamber of this kind? The Chamber that I like best of all I have seen is that at Brussels, which is something of a horseshoe in shape. I like the shape of the Chamber designed by Mr. Vernon very well. I like it a great deal better than that of the existing Chamber.
163. Is the arrangement the most suitable that could be designed? As far as I can see it is as good as any that could be suggested.
164. In your list you mention a great many rooms which are not provided by the Government Architect in his design? Unfortunately I have not been able to compare my list with Mr. Vernon's design, and therefore I do not know how far he has met my suggestions.
165. Have complaints reached you as to the insufficiency of the press accommodation in the Legislative Council? My opinion is that the press accommodation there is utterly unsuitable.
166. There are at present 11 feet of desk, and Mr. Vernon proposes to give 38 feet. Do you think that will be sufficient? That is a matter upon which I think Mr. Robinson would be able to give a better opinion than I can; but so far as I know it would be sufficient. That is, of course, supposing the *Hansard* staff were arranged for separately.
167. Is the gallery at the present time located in the proper place;—can those sitting there hear and see properly? I am not able to say, because I do not work there myself.
168. Is it necessary that the messenger staff of the Legislative Council should be kept separate from and accommodated separately from the messenger staff of the Legislative Assembly? I think so. You will find that in every Legislature in the world they are kept separate.
169. Could not the two staffs be accommodated in the same quarters? I think not. I think it is absolutely necessary that the quarters assigned to each staff should be immediately contiguous to the Chamber in which they have to act.
170. Can you tell us why there should be two post and telegraph offices? I do not see why one centrally-situated office would not do.
171. It is proposed to give the President 150 feet more accommodation;—would that be ample for his requirements? I think so. I think he has fairly good accommodation now.
172. What portion of your staff is most inconvenienced by the present arrangements? I think there is no real inconvenience suffered by any officer of the Department. The only officer who has very bad accommodation is the Usher of the Black Rod.
173. Have you been led to suppose that it would be convenient for the members of the Upper Chamber if there were a reception-room in which they could meet members of the public? Certainly.
174. Do you think that such a room is necessary? I should consider it indispensable.
175. At the present time there is no such room? No; though what used to be the Smoking-room is used for the purpose, Members are now compelled to use the lounge-room as a smoking-room.
176. Do you think that one reception-room would be enough? I should say so.
177. Do you desire to offer any opinion as to the site of the proposed building? I do not suppose that I am able to offer an opinion of much value, but I think that the site which has been selected is a splendid one. I think, however, that care should be taken to see that it has plenty of ground around it. Probably the whole of the buildings in Richmond-terrace would have to be levelled to make room for the new building. While I admire the Melbourne structure I do not like to have a building brought right on to the street.
178. In that respect this design meets with your approval? Yes.
179. *Mr. Wright.*] I suppose you have seen a number of Parliamentary buildings? I have seen a good many. I have been through seven or eight, not counting the colonial buildings.
180. How does the present design compare as to its exterior with buildings which you have seen elsewhere? I have not examined the design, so that I could give no opinion upon that point.
181. Is it a common thing to provide a barber's shop within a Parliamentary building? In some places they have one.
182. Or billiard-rooms? Yes. In Melbourne they have a billiard-room, and an application was once made to the Speaker and to the late Sir John Hay for a billiard-room here; but Sir John Hay objected to it, although I believe the Speaker favoured the idea.

183. Is it necessary to provide two rooms and a lavatory for the Governor? Similar provision is made in most Parliamentary buildings, because the Governor may happen to be detained. In Melbourne on one occasion the Governor was detained for some hours. Should such a thing happen, some provision should be made for the Governor's comfort. J. J. Calvert.
23 April, 1897.
184. The accommodation proposed for the officers of Parliament is not more than is absolutely necessary? No.
185. In your list you mention a doorkeeper's room and an assistant-doorkeeper's room;—are those bed-rooms, or merely retiring rooms? They are the rooms in which the men would change their clothes.
186. Would not the one room do for both men? Of course, if you are narrowing down the accommodation, you could put all the messengers into one room like a barracks, but we have generally found it advisable to keep the head doorkeeper and messenger away from the others. They ought to have as much control over the other messengers as I have over the officers of my Department, and it is not a good thing to mix them up too much.
187. But surely the difference in rank is not such as to necessitate the allotment of special rooms? What is intended is to give the doorkeeper a room and the chief messenger a room. If there were two doorkeepers they would have to share the same room; but the chief messenger should have a room to himself.
188. Then there is the messenger's mess-room? That is absolutely necessary.
189. You think that the messengers of the Assembly could not possibly mess with the messengers of the Council? That would never do. The two staffs are entirely distinct, and they may mess at different times, so that you would gain very little by having them in the same room.
190. Would you like, before finally expressing an opinion upon the design, to have it explained to you by some officer from the Colonial Architect's Department? Yes, and I should like to have the plans laid before the President and myself in the Council offices.
191. You could then speak definitely in regard to the design? Yes; I should be in a better position to give an opinion upon it. Besides, I do not consider myself infallible, and some of my officers might be found competent to give better suggestions than I myself could give.
192. You think that before the other Parliamentary officials are asked to give an opinion in regard to this matter they should be allowed to see the plans? Certainly.
193. *Mr. Fegan.*] Is the ventilation of the Council Chamber inadequate? Certainly.
194. Have you heard complaints about it? When the Chamber is crowded the atmosphere is not pleasant.
195. And on an ordinary summer's evening it is unpleasant? Yes.
196. You have tried to improve the ventilation, but without effect? The Chamber as arranged is incapable of being properly ventilated.
197. And the other accommodation there is inadequate? Very inadequate.
198. *Mr. Roberts.*] You think that the time has arrived when the present Parliamentary buildings should be pulled down, and new buildings erected? I arrived at that conclusion fifteen or twenty years ago.
199. Have serious complaints been made against the present buildings? They are very inconvenient with regard to certain of the arrangements for carrying on the business of the House. They are inconvenient because the ventilation is bad, and because they are constantly needing repair. The amount spent upon repairs comes to £2,000 or £3,000 a year, and is almost absolutely wasted when it is considered that very shortly the buildings must be got rid of altogether.
200. Has it become your duty to officially draw the attention of the authorities to the state of the buildings, having regard more especially to the ravages of the white ants? I do not know that I have specially called attention to the fact that the white ants have considerably damaged the library. I think the Librarian did that; but I am constantly having to ask for repairs. Scarcely a month passes without some repairs being asked for, and I regret to say that some of the repairs I asked for during the last recess were not carried out because of the want of funds.
201. What repairs were they? The repair of certain parts of the furniture—for instance, the seats in the Legislative Council, which have been in a bad state for three years past.
202. Except upon ceremonial occasions, is not the accommodation in the Council Chamber sufficient for the requirements of the public? Yes; except on some special occasion, like that upon which Sir Julian Salomons became such a prominent figure. Then there was not accommodation for one-half of those who wanted to get into the Chamber. I remember other occasions, when Land Bills or other important measures were coming to a climax, when the accommodation in the Chamber has not been sufficient.
203. *Mr. Hoskins.*] Is not a want of accommodation for crowds found even in the House of Commons? Certainly; such a thing might happen in any House of Legislature.
204. *Mr. O'Connor.*] The Parliament of England belongs to the classes, but the Parliament of Australia belongs to the masses? I certainly think that the accommodation for the public should be of such a character that upon every important occasion the Chamber should be easily accessible to those who want to go there.
205. *Mr. Roberts.*] Have you conferred with the Government Architect as to the accommodation required for the Legislative Council? No; I have not had any opportunity of going into these matters with any officer of his Department.
- 206-7. *Mr. O'Connor.*] What provision is there at the present time for the reception of strangers who are Members of the Upper House? None whatever, except in the small room which was originally the smoking-room.
208. In any Parliamentary buildings in the world is the accommodation so wretched as in the Parliamentary buildings of New South Wales? The present accommodation is utterly insufficient. After going carefully through the Parliamentary buildings in Melbourne the other day, I was greatly struck with the utter want of proper accommodation here. While I think that the accommodation in Melbourne is rather excessive, I think that here our accommodation is equally insufficient.
209. *Mr. Roberts.*] Is there not only one Ministerial room in the Council, although for several years past there have been two Ministers? Yes. That room is used by the two Ministers and the officer who assists them.

- J. J. Calvert. 210. I think there have been as many as three Ministers at one time in the Council? Yes.
- 23 April, 1897. 211. *Mr. Hoskins.*] Was the Secretary for Public Works moved by the officers of Parliament to ask the Assembly to submit this matter to the Committee? I have no knowledge of such a thing. I never made any representations to that effect myself.
212. You have said that £100,000 has been expended on our Parliamentary buildings;—has not the greater part of that expenditure been incurred in increasing the accommodation upon the Assembly side, by the addition of Ministers' rooms, ladies' gallery, Members' rooms, and so on? The officers of the Legislative Assembly could give you more information upon that point than I can. I only know that the annual expenditure upon repairs is very heavy indeed.
213. Is not there a large yearly expenditure upon the Houses of Parliament in Melbourne? There must be an annual expenditure in connection with the maintenance of all buildings; but the expenditure upon a new building in no way compares with the expenditure upon an old building.
214. Is it not a fact that two-thirds of the amount which has been spent upon our buildings has been spent in providing additional accommodation upon the Assembly side? I have no doubt that a large portion of the expenditure was incurred in that way, although it is a matter with which I have had nothing to do. I think the only person who can give you the information you require upon that subject is an officer from the Treasury.
215. Then how do you know that £100,000 has been spent in maintaining the building? I think that I got the information from a return which was laid before Parliament some time ago.
216. You propose that a number of additional rooms should be provided for the officers of Parliament? I do not know that I proposed many additional rooms.
217. Different officers, I understand, are to have each an office, a bedroom, and a lavatory? The only two officers that are to have a bedroom and a lavatory are the President and the Chairman.
218. What do you propose for the Clerk of the Parliaments? He will have exactly what he has now—an office and a sitting-room. The lavatory is the only thing that is added to his accommodation. I have an extra room now as well as my office.
219. Are there not other officers to whom you propose to give the same accommodation? In almost every case it was proposed that they should have the same accommodation here as similar officers have in Melbourne and in the other colonies.
220. Do you know that in Melbourne they were so ambitious that they are now hard up for money, and that it will cost £300,000 to finish their building? That portion of the building containing the Parliamentary offices has been completed. My object in preparing this list was to suggest all the accommodation that might be thought of service, and it was left to the Colonial Architect in considering the matter to cut out what might be thought to be beyond the requirements.
221. Do you think it would be of service for half a dozen officers to have each a private lavatory while the Members had only one between them? It is not suggested that a private lavatory should be given to anyone except to the Clerk of the Parliaments, and I do not trouble myself in the least whether I get it or not. I certainly think that the President and the Chairman of Committees should have that accommodation.
222. You say that part of these buildings has been damaged by white ants;—would not the same thing apply to a large number of buildings in Sydney? No doubt it might apply to other buildings, but the danger of loss could not be so great in their case. We have a most valuable library—one which could not be replaced.—and there should be proper accommodation for it.
223. Are the ravages of white ants more noticeable in the rooms of the library than elsewhere? I believe so, though I have not seen any of the other floors taken up.
224. I suppose you consider that the library should be housed in a fireproof building? If a fireproof building could be put up without going to enormous expense I think that the library should be housed in such building.
225. If a fireproof building were erected in front of the present library, coming out as far as Macquarie-street, would not the present library rooms give all the accommodation required? I should be very sorry to give an opinion upon that point, because it involves many matters which concern an architect rather than myself.
226. Would not the expenditure of £530,000, exclusive of furniture, be a matter of very great importance? Of course the question of cost is a very grave one, and one which will have to be considered by the proper persons when the time comes. Whatever course is taken there are two things which should be borne in mind by Members of the Committee. One of these is that it is absolutely necessary that both the library and the refreshment room should be within easy access of and as close as possible to both chambers. When it is recollected that only two minutes are allowed before the taking of a division, it will be seen that it is necessary to have these rooms close to the chambers themselves.
227. If a new library were built where I suggest Members would have no great distance to go to get to their respective chambers when the division bell rang? No.
228. You have stated that the Legislative Council Chamber is inconvenient. I would like to know how it is inconvenient? It is a very difficult Chamber to ventilate. The ventilation is all on one side, and Members sitting there complain of the draught. So far as ventilation is concerned, the Chamber is one of the worst that I was ever in.
229. Is that your only objection to it? No. The gallery accommodation is utterly insufficient. In an Upper Chamber there should be sufficient accommodation for the public to allow proper arrangements to be made upon ceremonial occasions. An Upper Chamber should have galleries all round it.
230. Are you aware that the oratory in the Legislative Council is so unattractive that the gallery is generally empty, and that there are very few people in the part set aside for strangers? I am sorry if the public cannot appreciate the oratory of the Members of what I think is one of the ablest bodies in Australia.
231. Is not the gallery upstairs nearly as large as the gallery set apart for strangers in the House of Commons? There are galleries all round the House of Commons.
232. But they are for Members? Parts of them are, but the accommodation for distinguished strangers and for the public is much bigger in the House of Commons than it is here. There they have a distinguished strangers' gallery, the ambassadors' gallery, and a gallery for the general public right at the back. Some years ago the Speaker of the House of Commons told me that he constantly had to disappoint

disappoint people who had a right to be present; but, notwithstanding that, they had three times the accommodation there that we have. J. J. Calvert.

233. Do you know that the Parliamentary Buildings in Wellington, New Zealand, are built of wood? 23 April, 1897.
Yes. I have been over them.

234. *Mr. Wright.*] How much of the £100,000 that you spoke of has been spent in erecting marble busts to the memory of defunct councillors? No public money has been spent in that way. The busts you speak of were all placed there by private subscription.

235. *Mr. Trickett.*] How does the size of the Legislative Council Chamber, which accommodates about sixty Members, compare with that of this room, which accommodates thirteen members? If I had my choice I should prefer this room.

236. In furnishing the new chamber it is proposed to have the ordinary circular benches. I suppose in your travels you have seen chambers such as the Chamber of Deputies in Paris and the Legislative Assembly in Adelaide, where each Member has a separate seat and a separate desk allotted to him? Yes; I believe that is the arrangement now at Brussels.

237. Which do you think is the better way of furnishing? In some respects I prefer the old way. Perhaps in the Assembly it would be better to have desks; but Members of the Council might not so much appreciate the proposed arrangement.

238. Would not desks be a great convenience to allow Members to have at hand papers to which they might have to make a hurried reference? No doubt it would be a great convenience for Members personally to have separate desks, but it is questionable whether it would be convenient to the Members as a whole. Besides, in a Council chamber the furniture has at times to be removed to create sufficient space to accommodate all who attend at ceremonials. I am not sure that if I were a Member of the Lower House I would not like to have a desk in front of me. Of course, if the desks could be moved my objection to the arrangement would be minimised.

239. Do you not think the matter worthy of consideration by the constructing authorities? Most certainly.

240. *Mr. O'Connor.*] If the improvement suggested by Mr. Hoskins were carried out, and the building were desecrated by the erection of a new library in front, would that in any way preserve the old antecaten structure at the rear? No; it would simply mean the addition of a new piece to an old coat.

241. *Mr. Wright.*] Would not re-carpeting and re-decorating have to be done in a new building just as much as in an old building? There would not be the same amount of wear and tear in a new building.

242. The carpets would wear out just as soon? Of course you cannot prevent that.

243. Is not that where the money is expended? I think the minimum amount has been spent in that direction, because it has been considered necessary to keep down the expenditure upon these old buildings.

Francis Walsh, Parliamentary Librarian, sworn, and examined:—

244. *Mr. Lee.*] Have you had an opportunity of examining the plans before the Committee? I examined them cursorily to-day, and I have had them explained to me. F. Walsh.

245. I think the Government Architect consulted with you in regard to the library requirements before he designed his plans? He did. 23 April, 1897.

246. Will you briefly state to the Committee on what principle you suggested that the library accommodation should be designed? I submitted a memorandum to the President, who is Chairman of the Library Committee, showing the accommodation in the existing building, and suggesting what accommodation should be provided in the new premises. I understand that that memorandum was forwarded to the Secretary for Public Works, and by him was sent to the Government Architect, and that the library accommodation in the new buildings has been designed in accordance with the suggestions which it contains.

247. Do you favour one general library for the joint use of both Houses? Yes.

248. Have you suggested that there should be one library containing the whole of the books for the common use of Members of both Houses? I think there should be one library to contain the whole of the general literature. What I suggested was that separate rooms should be available to Members of each House for their exclusive use as reading-rooms, and in these rooms books of reference should be kept.

249. But so far as the library itself is concerned, you suggest that there should be one building containing the whole of the books instead of having the books located in different places? Yes.

250. That building would be conducted exclusively as a library for the joint use of Members of both Houses? Yes.

251. Did you favour the construction of a building as nearly fireproof as possible? I made no reference to the character of construction, though certainly such a building should be fireproof.

252. Can you give us an idea of the value of the books in the present Parliamentary Library? The present collection is valued at about £25,000. There are also many Parliamentary records which have been received as exchanges from various other countries and colonies.

253. Is the collection insured? Yes; for £20,000.

254. There is no disputing the fact, I presume, that the premises in which the books are at present kept are so badly constructed that if a fire occurred it would be impossible to rescue the books? Certainly; and any books not destroyed by fire would assuredly be destroyed by water.

255. Many parts of the building at present in use are very old and very frail? Yes.

256. You think that the Parliament would be wise to take steps to secure the safety of this valuable collection? Yes.

257. Are there not some books in the Library which it would be difficult to replace? Many of them could not be replaced; more particularly the records.

258. Mr. Vernon proposes to have the library on the ground-floor;—do you think that that would be the most suitable place for it? Certainly. It should be on the same floor as the Chambers.

259. So as to admit of the books being readily accessible to Members? Yes.

260. How do you consider that the library should be lighted;—by ordinary windows, or from the top? The recommendation I made was that the openings for the purpose of giving light and ventilation should be above the line of shelving, and that the shelves should not be more than 8 feet high.

261. What would be the object of that? To preclude damp air, as far as possible, the admission of which seriously affects books. 262.

- F. Walsh. 262. And to give a better light by which to read in the daytime? Yes; that arrangement would also give a better light.
- 23 April, 1897. 263. How should the room be lighted at night? If electric light be used, I think it should be placed above the line of shelving.
264. With movable table-lights, if necessary? Yes.
265. Would you then apprehend any danger from fire? Not so great a danger as there is under existing conditions with a partial gas service.
266. Were you in the library when gas was used to illuminate it? Yes.
267. Did you find that it destroyed the books? Yes; it was most destructive. Many of the bindings of books above the gas were quite impoverished by the intense heat.
268. Has that ceased since the electric light has been installed? There has been nothing of the kind since. As far back as 1866 attention was called to the matter, and it was left with the President and the Speaker to decide whether gas should not be dispensed with, and wax lights used.
269. I believe you are familiar with the history of the Parliamentary buildings from the beginning? I have notes which will enable me to give their history. It was stated by the Secretary for Public Works in the Assembly, when he moved the House to refer the expediency of erecting New Houses of Parliament to the Public Works Committee, that the present building was known originally as the old Convict Hospital; but I find that that is not the case. Mr. Commissioner Bigge, in his report made to the then Secretary of State for the Colonies in 1823, referring to the general hospital which was constructed in 1814, says:—

The situation of the general hospital is well chosen, airy, and free from damp, and the principal buildings, as well as the quarters of the surgeon and assistant surgeons, are surrounded by a wall of 12 feet, separating the spacious area in which they stand from the Government pleasure grounds towards the east and from Macquarie-street towards the west. At each end of the principal building, and detached from it, are the houses of the principal and assistant surgeons. The first of these contains three spacious rooms on the ground floor with a room that was originally destined for a dispensary, and one on the upper story for a dispenser of medicine, both of which have been always appropriated to the use of the judge of the Supreme Court. The wing appropriated to the use of the assistant surgeons is divided into two separate residences, each containing two rooms on the ground floor and three on the upper floor. The kitchens and domestic offices of this as well as the principal surgeon's wing are detached from their houses but are within the area of the hospital.

This description of the surgeon's quarters corresponds with the original portion of the Parliamentary buildings, and identifies them as separated from the hospital. As to when the buildings were first used as a place of legislature, I find that they were brought into use for that purpose in 1829, when the then Executive Council transferred its meetings from Government House to the room now known as the Assembly Reading-room. In 1843, in order to accommodate the partly elective and partly nominee House created by the new Constitution Act, a portion of the present Legislative Assembly Chamber was erected. The *Sydney Morning Herald* of the 2nd August, 1843, referring to this building says:—

We may take this opportunity of remarking that the new Council Chamber is a very handsome room, 48 feet long, 28 feet wide, and 26 feet high, with a gallery which will hold about fifty people comfortably, but in which about one hundred were packed yesterday. The Members' seats are very comfortable, and the whole building well adapted for the purposes for which it is intended.

The next addition was the erection of the Legislative Council Chamber in 1856. It was first occupied on the 22nd of May in that year. With regard to the Library, it was established in 1843, and the books were then located in the room vacated by the old Executive Council, the present Assembly Reading-room. The Legislative Council Library was located in the wooden building now forming part of the Legislative Council Reading-room, which was constructed in 1857. At that time the Library Committee, considering the question of providing library accommodation for the Legislative Council, decided, as several proposals had been made for largely increasing the accommodation of the premises—

That it is inexpedient to enter upon any expensive work such as a room calculated to serve the purposes of a general library for both Houses, unless in connection with and as part of a new suite of buildings, which is daily becoming more necessary for the accommodation of the two Houses of Legislature.

In connection with the same proposals the Committee, after determining in favour of the erection of a wooden building for the Council Library, approved of—

Additional temporary accommodation for the library and other purposes at a comparatively small cost, to meet the necessities of both Houses for a year or two longer, in the hope that the next outlay of public money in this direction will be on permanent buildings of a character to reflect credit on the Colony and to afford convenience and healthful accommodation to its Legislature.

Up to the year 1860 each House had its own library. In 1860, as the result of a conference of the Members of the two Library Committees, it was resolved to establish a general library, in the room known as the main library. In 1870, upon the completion of the new refreshment-room, the present back library was handed over to the Library Committee, and has been in use as a library ever since that time.

270. Were not some plans prepared for new Houses of Parliament prior to that date? That was in 1860.

271. What was the library accommodation then? The Assembly had its library in what is known as the Assembly Reading-room, while the Council had the back portion of the present Council Library.

272. What was the room now known as the main library used for? It was the refreshment-room then. On that room being handed over to the library committee the back library was built as a refreshment-room.

273. What provision is made in the plans prepared in 1860 for new library accommodation? I could not say. I have not had an opportunity of examining those plans. Since 1870, except for some slight alterations in 1893, no change has been made in the library accommodation, though all the available shelving space has been utilized.

274. Is not a large number of books stored in the cellars and rooms of some of the houses in Richmond-terrace? There are none stored in cellars, but about 5,000 volumes are shelved in one of the rooms of the building used as Librarian's quarters.

275. Because there is not accommodation for them in the library? Yes.

276. They are books not frequently required? Some of them are occasionally required. They consist of records of the United States Congress, records of the Canadian Parliament, some of the records of the House of Commons, and a number of bound newspapers and annuals.

277. The records of the House of Commons are frequently required? Yes.

278. Taking into consideration the present stock of books and the accommodation proposed to be given in the new library, how long do you think it will be before all the shelves are filled? The space available in the existing library for shelving is 6,570 feet. That shelving accommodates upwards of 38,000 volumes. The accommodation asked for is 14,500 feet.

279. That will accommodate how many volumes? 100,000—50,000 books in the library, and 50,000 records in the archives.
280. Three times as many as you have now? Yes.
281. That space will be ample for many years? Yes.
282. Is there any other point which you would like to bring before the Committee? No. The proposed accommodation appears quite ample. The only feature of the design about which I have any doubt is the distance of the library from the chambers—150 feet.
283. But it is very centrally situated? Yes.
284. One hundred and fifty feet is not a great distance for Members to have to go? It is much further than they have to go now.
285. Is it not desirable that the library should be of some little distance from the noise of the Chamber? That is an advantage.
286. But if it could be nearer the Chambers it would be better? Merely for the convenience of Members when hurriedly summoned to the House.
287. *Mr. Regan.*] Has the Library Committee ever represented to the Speaker or President the necessity for more accommodation? The matter has been frequently before the Library Committee.
288. What does it cost you to insure your books? I think the premium is £56 per annum.
289. I suppose the present inadequate accommodation, and the inflammable character of the library building, are often a source of anxiety to you now? Yes.
290. Had you seen Mr. Vernon's designs before to-day? Not the completed plans, and I would like to look at them more closely. As to the accommodation necessary for the library, I think every requirement was embodied in the memorandum forwarded to the Government Architect, and I understand that that officer prepared his designs in accordance with those recommendations.

F. Walsh.
23 April, 1897.

TUESDAY, 27 APRIL, 1897.

Present:—

THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esq. (CHAIRMAN).

The Hon. FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHERY.
The Hon. JAMES HOSKINS.
The Hon. CHARLES JAMES ROBERTS, C.M.G.
The Hon. WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT.
The Hon. DANIEL O'CONNOR.
HENRY CLARKE, Esq.

CHARLES ALFRED LEE, Esq.
JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, Esq.
THOMAS HENRY HASSALL, Esq.
GEORGE BLACK, Esq.
FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WRIGHT, Esq.
FRANK FARNELL, Esq.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting New Houses of Parliament for the Colony.

Frederick William Webb, C.M.G., Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, sworn, and examined:—

291. *Chairman.*] Have you had an opportunity of seeing the plans of the new Parliamentary buildings? I am at some disadvantage in regard to this matter, because I have not had an opportunity of seeing either lithographs or photographs of the larger plans exhibited here, or of being able to study them privately; but Mr. Vernon kindly permitted an officer of his Department to explain the plans to me here, so that I have a general knowledge of them.
292. *Mr. Wright.*] Are you sufficiently familiar with the design to be able to express an opinion as to its general suitability internally? Yes; and I can give my unqualified approval of it. By the courtesy of Mr. Vernon, I was enabled to see the plans in the rough, and in them I suggested some alterations. The present design, so far as I can ascertain, is in accordance with the requirements of the Department.
293. Do you think that the Legislative Assembly Chamber is suitable for the requirements of the Members it is intended to accommodate? I do.
294. The accommodation is ample? Yes; more than sufficient.
295. Is there ample provision for the accommodation of strangers? Well, there are five galleries; that ought to be sufficient.
296. Is there ample accommodation for the *Hansard* staff;—for some time past, I believe, complaints have been made in regard to the inadequacy of the *Hansard* accommodation? The accommodation in the *Hansard* gallery is, I think, sufficient, but the transcribing-rooms are too small, and they are inconvenient. I am quite sure, however, that the provision for *Hansard* in the new buildings will be sufficient. I have no doubt that Mr. Robinson has been consulted in the matter.
297. Do the same remarks apply to the Press gallery? The proposed Press gallery is wider and longer than the present gallery, and would give very much more accommodation.
298. I suppose you prefer to speak only of the Assembly accommodation, and to leave the accommodation of the Council to be discussed by the Council's officers? Yes. One peculiarity about the Council Chamber is that on ceremonial occasions, like that of to-day, it has to accommodate the Members of the Assembly and a large number of the public, in addition to its own Members.
299. Has there been any complaint about the inadequacy of Mr. Speaker's present accommodation? I have not heard any complaints from him lately. As you are aware, some additions have recently been made, and I think that the Speaker now considers that his rooms are comfortable. It seems to me, however, that his dining room is much too small.
300. I see by the statement before me that the number of rooms allotted to him has been reduced, though the area has been increased;—at all events his accommodation would be ample? I think so.
301. And I take it that the requisite accommodation will be provided for Ministers? Yes; Ministers have told me they have been greatly inconvenienced at various times for want of room.
302. The accommodation given to Opposition Members has also been increased? Yes; that was absolutely necessary.
303. It is proposed to slightly increase the accommodation given to the Chairman of Committees? Yes; but only very slightly.

F. W. Webb,
C.M.G.
27 April, 1897.

- F. W. Webb, C.M.G.
27 April, 1897.
304. A new room is provided for the Clerk of Committees;—has he no room now? Yes; he has two very small rooms. He must have a room close to his work, where he can put his books and papers while attending Committees, and he has another room upstairs where he transacts his ordinary business during the day, and at night when the House sits. His present accommodation consists of a small room near the Assembly Committee Rooms in the new wing, and a small room upstairs in the main building.
305. It is proposed also to increase the space given to Under Secretaries;—I suppose that, too, is necessary? The Under Secretaries have to attend the sittings of the Assembly during the whole time that the Estimates are under consideration, and I think that they require a private room. They have now no place in which to put their papers, coats, or hats. They had a room, but I think the Premier now has taken it.
306. Do you think that the additional accommodation proposed for the Clerk of the Assembly and the officials is necessary? I do, because the necessity for it seems to be growing day by day.
307. The present accommodation is rather small? It is altogether inadequate.
308. You approve, I suppose, of the construction of a strong-room for the preservation of records? Yes; especially of a fire-proof room.
309. If a fire took place in the existing building to-day, what probability would there be of saving the records it contains? None whatever. I have heard that the Superintendent of Fire Brigades has said that it is the most dangerous public building in the city.
310. If a fire took place there, the building would be destroyed with all its contents? Undoubtedly. There would be no means of saving it, the building being so combustible.
311. Do you desire to express an opinion as to the accommodation provided for Members in respect to dining-rooms, billiard-rooms, and so on? No; I have nothing to say on that point. Members may have complained about the existing arrangements, but their complaints do not reach me.
312. What do you think of the position proposed for the new library? I think it is the very best possible position. The library will be at the back of the building, facing the Domain, and, while it will be quite near to the Chambers, it will be quiet, and away from all the noise of the streets.
313. Is it to be fire-proof? I understand that the whole building will be fire-proof.
314. Do you think it likely that a building of so costly a character as that designed will be built? I think that it is unlikely, in view of the probability of Federation becoming an accomplished fact, when so large a building will not be required for what will then be only a State Parliament.
315. You think that a much smaller building would meet the requirements of a State Parliament? I think that a less costly building would suffice. In my opinion, there is no justification for putting up such a large and expensive building as this, considering the probability of Federation, and a Federal city being proclaimed.
316. If this building were erected, and Federation took place, it would be a useless, costly structure? It would be more than we should require.
317. It would be too large and too costly? That is my opinion.
318. *Mr. Fegan.*] It seems to me that very little accommodation has been provided for the general public? A number of rooms have been set aside for them, in which they can interview Members of Parliament. That accommodation, I think, will be ample.
319. Do you think that the accommodation given to the public in the present Assembly Chamber is sufficient? I do not.
320. But in the design still less space is allowed for the public? If that is so, I think some alteration should be made in the plan to give more accommodation to the public.
321. I suppose you have seen the present galleries packed time and again? Yes; but the galleries have not been so crowded since the Speaker decided that strangers should not be admitted except upon tickets signed by Members of the House. Before that rule was made, the public used to rush the galleries directly the doors were opened and fill all the available space.
322. I suppose you have seen other Halls of Legislature? I have seen the Victorian, New Zealand, Tasmanian, and South Australian Parliamentary buildings.
323. Have you seen the House of Commons? Yes; I spent two or three evenings there. The proposed accommodation for Members in the Legislative Assembly Chamber, according to this design, is much greater, in proportion, than the accommodation given to Members in the House of Commons. As a matter of fact, that Chamber will not accommodate all the Members on the floor of the House, and many have to go into the galleries. Under the Standing Orders, indeed, a Member is allowed to speak from the galleries. There are, I believe, 670 Members of the House of Commons, but seating accommodation is provided for a much less number; and Members wishing to secure seats on the floor of the House have to go early and leave their hat or gloves on the seats they wish to secure.
324. Mr. Vernon proposes to give three rooms to the Sergeant-at-Arms;—is that necessary? The Sergeant-at-Arms has always had a bedroom on the premises and a small office or sitting-room. I do not know why a third room should be given to him, unless to provide a place in which to lock up refractory Members.
325. But in the past, when he has arrested Members, he has not locked them up? No.
326. Do you think that a third room is necessary? I do not think it is absolutely necessary.
327. You think that if he gets two fair-sized rooms that will be enough? I think so.
328. He is supposed to live on the premises? Yes; provision has always been made for him on the premises.
329. What space have you in the present building? I have one small room downstairs near the Speaker's room, and a larger room upstairs—the ordinary office belonging to the Clerk of the House.
330. I understand that the downstairs room is most inconvenient? Yes; there is no privacy there, and it is not properly lighted. If a Member wants to consult me privately on any matter connected with the business of the House I have no place to take him where what he says may not be overheard.
331. How many rooms are necessary for you there? I want a room opening out of the front room into which I could take a Member and hear what he had to say without his being heard by other people.
332. I suppose the accommodation provided in the plan will be ample for fifty years to come? I think so. Very often it happens during late sittings of the House that I am unable to reach my own home, and I have therefore to remain on the premises. For that reason I want some place in which to sleep, and where I can change my official dress after leaving the Chamber.
333. *Mr. Roberts.*] Are you prepared to suggest any improvement upon the plan? No; because, as I have already explained, the suggestions which I made to Mr. Vernon have been embodied in it.

334. Did you confer with Mr. Vernon in regard to your accommodation? Yes, as also regarding the general accommodation. F. W. Webb,
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335. And you consider that the design gives all the accommodation requisite? Yes; it is very complete, indeed. 27 April, 1897
336. Have you ever thought whether a more desirable site could be obtained for Parliamentary buildings than that proposed? I have always considered this the best site that could be chosen. One great advantage of Mr. Vernon's design is that it places the building 240 feet back from Macquarie-street. That will take it away from the noise of the street traffic, and will make it in many respects more comfortable than a building close to the street ever can be.
337. The design provides accommodation in the Assembly Chamber for 142 Members, but the accommodation can be increased to meet the requirements of 294 Members? Yes; at the present time it is found when the House goes into division that occasionally there is not room on one side of the Chamber for all the Members who wish to vote on that side, and a number of them have to stand on the floor, or in the passages between the seats.
338. At any rate, the accommodation in the new Chamber will be ample? Quite so.
339. Has the condition of the present building come under your notice in any way? I remember seeing a piece of one of the joists taken from beneath the floor of the Library, which was completely riddled by white ants—in fact, there was no substance left in it. In my opinion the building is unsafe at this moment. It has been strengthened from time to time by the insertion of additional joists, but no one can tell how dangerous it is without making an examination beneath the flooring.
340. Is the ventilation, or want of ventilation, in the present Chamber in any way detrimental to health? I think the Chamber is fairly well ventilated now. When we used gas it used to get very hot; but since the electric light has been installed, and horizontal and vertical air-shafts have been put in, the ventilation is very fair. Of course, I am speaking of the Chamber itself. Some of the offices are stuffy and close.
341. Has the construction of the ladies' gallery and of the offices at the north of the Chamber interfered at all with its ventilation? Yes; because some of the external windows have been built in. I daresay the reporters and those who occupy the galleries feel the want of ventilation more than we who are down stairs do, because the air-shafts only go up a certain height, and we get the benefit of the cool air which they distribute more than do those who are higher up.
342. Still you would not say that the ventilation of the Chamber is unsatisfactory? No; I would say that it is fairly satisfactory.
343. *Mr. Farnell.*] Have you measured the distance from the proposed new library to either Chamber? Yes; I made it out to be about 120 feet.
344. Do you think that that distance would cause any inconvenience to Members? I do not. I think that the communication with the proposed library is all that can be required. I suppose that books of reference will be kept in that part of the library nearest the Chamber.
345. No provision is made in the design for the accommodation of either the Government or the Opposition Whip? Such rooms would be very convenient.
346. Considering the responsible position which those gentlemen occupy, do you not think they should be provided with rooms? I think it would be a convenience, because they must often want to speak confidentially to Members.
347. Neither is there any stabling accommodation provided;—do you think that stabling accommodation is necessary? No.
348. You think that the present stabling accommodation is not sufficiently used to justify accommodation of the kind being given in the design? Yes.
349. If there are no stables, it will not be necessary to have quarters for a head stableman? I imagine not. I suppose the stableman protects the back premises to some extent, and for that reason has quarters provided; but, of course, if there is no stable there will be no need for a stableman.
350. Have you noticed how much the stables are used at the present time? Only casually. I have never seen more than three or four horses there.
351. Have you ever known the stables to be full? Never. That part of the building is not under my control in any way. It belongs to the joint department, and comes under the purview of the Clerk of the Parliaments, and the President and Speaker.
352. Have you considered the harm that would be done to the public if part of the Domain were taken away? I see that it is proposed to go back into the Domain 120 feet. Of course, I should like to see every inch of the Domain preserved, if possible; but it must be remembered that it is also proposed to widen Macquarie-street by 22 feet right through from Hunter-street to King-street. The public would therefore get a *quid pro quo*.
353. *Mr. O'Connor.*] You have been connected with the Legislative Assembly for over a quarter of a century? Yes, considerably more.
354. And from experience you know that the accommodation provided in the present building is inadequate for the requirements of officials, of Members of Parliament, and of the public? Yes.
355. *Mr. Trickett.*] You have lately been in Adelaide? Yes; I have only just returned from there.
356. What is your opinion of the seating accommodation given to Members of the Legislative Assembly there as compared with the style proposed to be adopted by Mr. Vernon? I like the style which Mr. Vernon proposes to adopt very much better than that which is in vogue in Adelaide.
357. Why? The system of having desks placed in the Chamber is, I think, most inconvenient. When two Members are sitting in one of their semi-circular seats it is almost impossible for a third Member to pass in or out, because of the desks. This evidently causes a good deal of trouble, and Members do not like to disturb each other. The desks seem to be a nuisance rather than convenience. Then, too, I think that the Assembly Chamber is not a place for letter-writing; and Members only inconvenience each other when they endeavour to transact their business there instead of going to a writing-room. Writing is not permitted in the House of Commons. There are no chairs in the House of Commons except those which are occupied by the Clerks.
358. I understand that these desks are used largely for the accommodation of papers which may be wanted for ready reference? Yes; there are drawers in the desks, but drawers might equally well be placed under the seats. I am sure that desks are inconvenient. In the early days, in the old Assembly Chamber, Members were permitted to write at the centre table, and a certain number of chairs were placed on either side of this table; but Members were constantly having unpleasant altercations in regard to the

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- the limited space. One Member would want to write in close proximity to another, who would not consider that there was sufficient room. Finally, Mr. Speaker Arnold ordered that the chairs be removed altogether, and that the table be completely boarded in, in order to prevent Members from writing at it. This was found a much more convenient arrangement for the Members themselves.
359. This is a matter which has occupied your attention? Yes; I noticed the Adelaide arrangement at once, and after watching what took place there I came to the conclusion that it was not an advantage to have desks in the Chamber.
360. You told Mr. Fegan that you thought more accommodation should be given to the public;—how far do you think the public accommodation should be increased? In the House of Commons the accommodation for the public is very limited, indeed. I think only between sixty and seventy people can get into the strangers' gallery there, and frequently two or three ballots are taken before the panel of applicants for admission is exhausted. When a larger number than the gallery will accommodate apply for admission they ballot, and the first sixty obtain the places, the others waiting their turns as vacancies occur.
361. You do not think that that would be a desirable arrangement to have out here? No, I do not; and therefore I suggest that more accommodation should be given to the public.
362. Are you prepared to say what the limit should be? Well, I have not thought that out; but the average attendance now would be about 100 in the upper gallery, and sixty or seventy in the lower gallery—say 200 altogether.
363. It is only on special occasions that there is a very great demand for seats? Quite so. We frequently see whole benches empty in both galleries.
364. It would be impossible to meet the requirements of every occasion? Quite impossible.
365. Therefore, some limit must be fixed? Yes. I think that the accommodation provided should be liberal; but I am not prepared to say what the limit should be.
366. Would you provide for another 200 people? Yes.
367. To provide for more than that would necessarily increase the size of the Chamber, and perhaps impair its acoustic properties? Yes; it would make the Chamber needlessly large.
368. Did you give Mr. Vernon advice in regard to the size of the Assembly Chamber? Yes; and with regard to the arrangement of the rooms.
369. With regard to the Legislative Council accommodation, the design gives much more accommodation in the Legislative Council Chamber than they have at present? Yes; there is the difference between 1,540 and 2,564 feet. That seems to me to be a very liberal arrangement. Of course, on the occasion of the opening or prorogation of Parliament, there is a great crowd in the Council Chamber, the attendance of ladies being especially large.
370. At the present time Members of the Assembly are inconvenienced by not being able to get into the Chamber? Yes; some of them are unable to get in at all.
371. If Mr. Vernon's design were carried out, this state of things would be remedied? Yes; but I have purposely refrained from speaking about the Council arrangements, because Mr. Calvert has already been before you.
372. The library will be at a considerable distance from both Chambers;—do you think that that will be found an inconvenience? I think not. The means of access to the library seem perfect. It is a great advantage to have the library in a quiet part of the building, and that will more than counterbalance the inconvenience of distance, if there should be such an inconvenience, which I doubt.
373. I suppose you require a small library of your own for purposes of reference? I generally use the down-stairs library. I keep very few books in my room.
374. A little while ago, you spoke about being inconvenienced by reason of having no place in which to hold conferences with Members,—I suppose those conferences would be chiefly about questions of procedure? Yes; and with reference to business which Members wished to bring before the House. I should have a room into which I could take a Member when he wished to speak to me privately. At the present time my room is public in more senses than one. The Press reporters have to come there to see any papers which may be laid upon the Table. Such papers are not allowed out of my custody; so to see them, and to make extracts from them, the reporters have to come into my room, and to stay there while they make their notes. When a Member comes to speak to me privately, I do not know where to take him. If the Speaker is out of his room I generally go there; but I ought to have a private room of my own.
375. With regard to the records of Parliament, how are you situated now? The records of the House are spread all over the building—in nooks and corners, and, in fact, wherever we can find a place for them. They are neither safe from fire, nor secure from inspection.
376. I suppose it is necessary, not only that they should be kept in a safe place, but that they should be readily accessible? Yes.
377. To make them so you would require a considerable amount of extra space? Yes; that will be given in the basement of the new building.
378. You spoke just now about a less expensive building meeting the requirements;—in what way would you suggest that a saving might be effected? I suppose a cheaper design could be drawn out. I think the expense of the building depends greatly upon the style of its construction and ornamentation, and especially upon its external appearance.
379. You think that extra accommodation is required, but that some saving might be effected in the style of the building? Yes; especially in view of the possibility of Federation.
380. You are convinced of the necessity for the erection of a more modern and better-arranged building than we have at present, but you think that the proposed expenditure is too large? I think that a cheaper building would do better.
381. *Mr. Lee.*] Is it not a fact that in certain conditions of weather, especially in summer time, the atmosphere of the Assembly Chamber is almost unbearable? I have not experienced that great heat of late years. It was very much worse when we had gas.
382. Owing to the continuous use of the Chamber for so many years, is there not always a certain smell prevailing, which, in some conditions of weather, becomes extremely disagreeable? I have not noticed it. The smell of the carpets is about the only thing we notice.
383. During a long sitting, does not the atmosphere become unpleasant? I have not noticed it. During

a long sitting there is generally only a sufficient number of Members in the Chamber to keep a quorum. Other Members are away trying to get a rest. F. W. Webb,
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384. Are you of opinion that the present Chamber is sufficiently large and sufficiently well ventilated for its purpose? No; I am of the contrary opinion. Very often in taking divisions it is found that there is not nearly enough room on one side of the House for those who wish to vote on that side. 27 April, 1897.

385. If it is necessary to enlarge this Chamber, the question arises, could that be better done by constructing a new building or by altering the present building? I think it would be easier to construct a new building.

386. Have you any suggestion to offer the Committee in regard to the proposed new Chamber? I have not. I approve generally of the plans which I have seen, and I do not know how they could be improved. I like the form of the Chamber as designed, and I think the whole scheme a very good one.

387. Do you think that the rooms proposed to be allotted to the Clerk of the Assembly are conveniently situated? I do.

388. They are not too far away from the Chamber? No, and they are quite close to Mr. Speaker's room. That was one matter as to which Mr. Vernon did me the honor of consulting me. I should be near the Speaker, and near the Chamber, because the moment the Chairman leaves the chair, the Speaker must enter the Chamber, and I must go with him.

389. *Mr. Hoskins.*] Did you inspect the House of Commons at a time when the House was not sitting? Yes; I went through both the House of Commons and the House of Lords when Parliament was not sitting.

390. Did you take notice of the space allotted to strangers in the House of Commons? Yes; the strangers are placed in the gallery above the clock.

391. Will that gallery hold many more than the Assembly galleries will hold? I think it holds about the same number. I was present on one occasion when three ballots had to be taken before those who applied for admission could get in.

392. How many new rooms have been added to the Legislative Assembly buildings during the last ten years? I should think about fourteen.

393. Together with the Ladies Gallery? Yes.

394. Have you any idea of the cost of these additions? I have not.

395. These are all new rooms? Comparatively new.

396. Do you think it advisable, in the interest of the country, that these new buildings should be destroyed in order to make room for other new buildings? If the remaining portions of the buildings are out of repair, and provide inadequate accommodation, and cannot be improved, a new building must be built, and these new premises could not then be allowed to stand without spoiling the appearance and the design of the new structure.

397. But the present accommodation would be sufficient for a State Legislature? It is sufficient now, apparently, because we manage with it; but it is not what it ought to be, and it is a reflection upon the Colony that we should have such a dilapidated, miserable-looking barn when the other Colonies have such fine structures.

398. But they have been so ambitious in the other Colonies that they have commenced to build on a design which they have not been able to complete? That is so in South Australia. There they have a number of rooms which have never been occupied.

399. Does that apply also to the Victorian Parliamentary buildings? Yes; it is the same in Melbourne.

400. The portion of the building most out of repair here is the Library? Yes; and especially what is known as the back library.

401. Do you think that if new rooms were built in front of the present library, the building being brought out more towards Macquarie-street and made fire-proof, that would be sufficient? I am not prepared to say. The question is one rather for an architect, or an expert. If more accommodation could be given in the present building, it might then serve the purposes of a State Parliament; but I am not prepared to say how much of the present building would have to be pulled down.

402. A good many of the repairs and additions made during some years past have been brought about by the fads and ideas of different Presidents and Speakers and the Clerks of Parliament? I am not prepared to say that. Very expensive additions have been made from time to time, so that now the additions are larger than the original buildings.

403. Do you not think that it would be a great shame to sacrifice these new portions of the building? I understand that even if Mr. Vernon's design were approved the present buildings would be used for the next five years or so.

404. Do you know what percentage is generally expended in keeping Government buildings in repair, and in painting them? I know that an enormous sum is spent in this way; but I do not remember how much.

405. Do you know what percentage is expended yearly upon the present Parliamentary buildings? I do not.

Francis Walsh, Parliamentary Librarian, sworn, and further examined:—

406. *Mr. Egan.*] Have you brought any statement with you? I have a copy of the memorandum which I prepared for the guidance of the Government Architect; but, inasmuch as the original was forwarded to the Under Secretary for Public Works, and is now in his possession, I think it might, perhaps, be better for you to get it from him. However, I can give you the substance of my recommendations. I pointed out that the Library contains a collection of books and records valued at nearly £25,000, and I suggested that, in providing for the future accommodation of these, every care should be taken to ensure protection against fire, the admission of damp air or dust, and other destructive elements. The existing accommodation, and the extent to which it is utilised for books, will afford some guide in determining what is required in this respect. The Library occupies four rooms, the whole wall-space of which, together with the wall-space of the adjoining corridor, is fitted with shelving, besides which a large apartment in the Librarian's quarters is also utilised for books. The extent of shelving is 6,570 feet, which at present holds about 38,000 volumes. During the last six years the annual accessions have averaged about 1,000 volumes, but it is anticipated that this number will be exceeded in the future. I recommended F. Walsh,
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recommended that provision be made for at least 50,000 books in the library, and for 50,000 records in archives beneath the library. To accommodate this number of books would require 6,250 feet of shelving in the library, allowing eight books to the foot, and about 8,300 feet in the archives, allowing six books to the foot. This extent of shelf space should not only be sufficient for all requirements under existing conditions, but would also if necessary be adequate for Federal purposes.* The method of arrangement will largely depend on the design and dimensions of the space allotted to the library. The shelving, however, should not be higher than 8 feet from the floor, allowing an average of 12 inches between each shelf; and, if necessary to economise space, the shelving might be arranged in alcoves; but the introduction of the "gallery" system would be both unsuitable and undesirable in a library of this character. The location of the library is a matter of importance, and it should be so situated as to be readily accessible to Members of both Houses. The present arrangement of a central general library, having separate rooms adjoining for the exclusive use of Members of each House, might be adopted with advantage. It is, however, essential that there should be direct communication between the library and both Chambers to ensure to Members entire freedom from public intrusion when passing to and fro. To lessen, as far as possible, the admission of damp air or dust, the lighting and ventilation should be provided for above the line of shelving, as experience, under existing conditions, has shown that any damage sustained by the books from these causes is attributable to the windows being placed too low. The Canadian and United States libraries furnish examples of the mode of lighting recommended. The general design of these libraries is also a matter worthy of consideration. I pointed out that, to further mitigate the dust nuisance, any improved method of flooring by which the use of carpets can be dispensed with would be an advantage. Further, I showed that the use of the library for writing purposes is found to be inconvenient, and, with the exception of a very limited provision in this respect, I recommended that all such accommodation should be provided for in rooms apart from the library. In addition to the rooms mentioned, I asked that there should be a room for maps and newspapers, a room for holding conferences between the two Houses, which could be also utilised for meetings of the Library Committee, a room for the Librarian of each House, and a common room for the use of the other library officials; also a small apartment for the use of officials from Government Departments, and other persons who have occasional recourse to the library. The land now occupied by the building used as Librarian's quarters will, I understand, be required in connection with the erection of new Houses. As the Librarian has the personal custody of the books, and in consequence has to reside on the premises, I presumed that suitable accommodation will be provided as quarters for him in the new structure. I have looked over the details of the Government Architect's plans, and I find that almost the whole of my recommendations have been embodied in them.

407. Where do you suggest that the room designed for the use of departmental officials should be placed? It might adjoin any part of the library facing one of the corridors, or it might be in the basement, if that were found more convenient. It is very inconvenient to have the public making use of the library; but at the present time people come there to get information which they could not obtain elsewhere, and, there being no room specially available for them, they have to be permitted to use the accommodation intended solely for Members. I have suggested also that room should be provided for the Librarians of each House. This could be done simply by screening off portions of the library.

408. Where will your suite of rooms be situated? The Librarian's quarters are placed in the south-east corner of the basement.

409. Will that give you sufficient accommodation? Quite sufficient.

410. At the present time your quarters are away from the library, and not so convenient as you would like them to be? The quarters themselves are very convenient; but a large room in the building has to be used as a depôt or store, and the records placed there are not as readily accessible as I should like them to be.

411. What has been the cost of repairing or adding to the Library during the last five or six years? With the exception of some alterations made in 1893, very little money has been spent upon the Library. The rooms acquired from time to time have always been those vacated by other Legislative departments.

412. The accommodation at the present time is unsuitable? Totally unsuitable. Except in the front rooms, the lighting is bad, and the destruction of books from damp is considerable. This arises because of the badly arranged disposition of the windows.

413. After carefully looking into Mr. Vernon's plans, and taking all things into consideration, you are satisfied with the provision that has been suggested? Yes; there is only one thing that might be altered. Mr. Vernon has allotted the larger of the two rooms off the library to the Council, whereas the Members of the Assembly require more accommodation than Members of the Council. That, however, could, I think, be easily remedied.

414. Otherwise you are perfectly satisfied with the proposed arrangements? Yes, quite.

415. *Mr. Roberts.*] Do you think the position of the library is the best that could have been chosen? It is very central, and I think the only way in which it could be improved would be by placing the library right in the middle of the building, in the line of communication between the two Chambers.

416. It would then be nearer the Chambers? The main portion of the library would be no nearer, but if the space marked on the plan as "public lobbies" were given up to the library accommodation, the arrangement would be more convenient than the proposed one.

417. Have you pointed that out to the Government Architect? Not officially. I merely mentioned it to him as my own view of the matter.

418. Did he favour your view? No; and he showed by the plans of various European buildings, that the library accommodation is always placed on one side of the building, with the outlook beyond the building.

419. Would not the space under the dome be large enough for the library, without taking in the public lobbies? I think not, and, besides, that arrangement would have the objection that Members could not go from the Chamber to the library without running the risk of being accosted by the public in the lobby.

420. I suppose the library should be upon the same floor as the Chambers? Undoubtedly.

421. Would it not also be desirable to have the refreshment room on the same floor, so that Members could get into the Chambers quickly upon the ringing of the division bell? Of course, any difficulty of that kind could be got over by extending the time for reaching the Chamber. I think that as much as five minutes is allowed in Adelaide. You could not very well have all the large rooms for the accommodation of Members upon the ground floor.

422.

* NOTE (on revision):—If required for Federal purposes I assume that the Library will be purely for the Legislature and not a national Library; otherwise it would be necessary to provide a greater extent of book accommodation.

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422. *Chairman.*] Is there anything else you would like to speak upon? There is one matter I would like to mention. I would point out that the portion of the present buildings occupied by the library has suffered more from the ravages of the white ant than any other. On one occasion the white ants were found to be making their way from the basement to the upper floor, and they not only destroyed a good deal of the woodwork, but also some of the books. A few years ago it was found necessary to open up the floor of the library, and to raise up the girders upon which the joists rest. The floor was sagging in places.

423. What are the walls of the front library constructed of? Ordinary rubble, I think.

424. What are the division walls? Lath and plaster and wood.

425. What is the back library built of? Entirely of wood.

426. And the Council library? Partly of rubble and partly of wood.

427. It is only the wooden portions of the building that are affected by the white ant? Yes; and some books have been destroyed by them.

428. *Mr. Hoskins.*] The Government Architect told us that he had taken up the floor of the Library and had substituted iron girders for wooden ones? To get rid of the white ant it would be necessary to remove almost the whole of the wooden portion of the building. I believe that the white ants are in the roof of the back Library as well as in the walls and floor.

429. Are not they all through the older portions of the building, from basement to ceiling? Undoubtedly. Quite recently a number was unearthed beneath the Legislative Assembly Chamber.

430. *Mr. Lee.*] You said that the library was increasing at the average rate of 1,000 volumes per annum? Yes.

431. If that continues, where are you going to find accommodation for all your books? Only by making additions in some way, or by getting rid of some of the books.

432. To stack away books means their ultimate destruction? Yes.

433. If the books are to be kept in the library you must have additional accommodation? Undoubtedly. Of course the extent of accommodation required depends entirely upon the character of the Library. A Parliamentary library should, I consider, be a reference library only, but our present Library is both a reference and a general library.

434. Do not matters of social legislation necessitate the gathering together of all works in regard to them? The perusal of such works is perhaps necessary; but the question is, should all such books be placed in a Parliamentary library.

435. Where else could Members obtain their information? By obtaining the books from subscription libraries, or by acquiring copies.

436. A more reference library would be practically of little value? The two Libraries of the Imperial Parliament are reference libraries, and they have 70,000 volumes.

437. Those volumes comprise a great many more than works of reference? I think you will find that almost all of them are works of reference.

438. Unless works have some direct bearing upon questions likely to be of interest to Members of Parliament, they are not purchased for the library? As a rule they are not.

439. No other books find their way there unless such as are presented? I would not say that altogether. The selection of the books rests entirely with the Library Committee.

440. That Committee is appointed by Parliament, and it is in the interests of Parliament that the books are purchased? Yes.

441. During the many years that you have been a Librarian have you noticed a disposition on the part of the Committee to purchase fewer books? I think that during the last two or three years that has been the disposition of the Committee. Of course, we are getting a larger number of records now. That keeps up the average.

442. A copy of nearly every modern work of value is purchased for the library? Yes; and the purchase of a book depends upon what the Committee regards as its value in affording useful information.

443. A question like the labour question in all its various ramifications has, I suppose, necessitated the purchase of a very large number of books belonging to a certain class of literature? Undoubtedly.

444. And other social questions must continue to demand the purchase of books to develop their discussion? Yes.

WEDNESDAY, 28 APRIL, 1897.

Present:—

THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esq. (CHAIRMAN).

The Hon. FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHREY.

The Hon. JAMES HOSKINS.

The Hon. CHARLES JAMES ROBERTS, C.M.G.

The Hon. WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT.

The Hon. DANIEL O'CONNOR.

HENRY CLARKE, Esq.

CHARLES ALFRED LEE, Esq.

JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, Esq.

THOMAS HENRY HASSALL, Esq.

GEORGE BLACK, Esq.

FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WRIGHT, Esq.

FRANK FARNELL, Esq.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting New Houses of Parliament for the Colony.

Charles Robinson, Principal Shorthand Writer, Debates Staff, Legislative Assembly, sworn, and examined:—

445. *Mr. Hassall.*] I believe you have some statement to make bearing on the accommodation proposed for the *Hansard* staff in the design for the New Houses of Parliament? When I received an intimation from your Secretary that I should be called as a witness it occurred to me that I might economise the time of the Committee by throwing what I have to say into the form of a statement. C. Robinson:
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446. Will you kindly read your statement? It is as follows:—

The arrangement proposed with regard to official reporting does not appear to me to be satisfactory.

In the House of Lords, in both Houses of the United States Congress, Dominion Parliament of Canada, in the Parliament of Victoria, Legislative Council of Queensland, and I believe also in the different Legislatures of Europe, the official reporting staff are required to take notes from the floor—the only position which gives a really fair chance of hearing.

In

C. Robinson.
28 April, 1897.

In the present Assembly Chamber much of what is said on the Opposition side can be rendered intelligible only after personal interview on the part of the reporter with the Member who has spoken; and much that is said by Ministers in charge of Bills in Committee cannot be heard in the present gallery. It may well happen that a sentence of half-a-dozen words may be more important than a speech of two hours duration; and I think it by no means improbable that remarks exchanged between Ministers, and, say, the Leader of the Opposition, would be deemed important by honorable Members generally, and if they could be reported, would conduce to a better understanding of public measures in the Legislative Council.

The official reports have on several occasions been made the groundwork of important judicial and other inquiries—as, for example, the speech made by Mr. (now Sir Joseph) Abbott which led to the removal of one of the Judges, and the speech by Mr. Crick which probably brought about the Dean Commission. It seems to me anomalous that Parliament should provide an official staff and yet place it in a position where it can only imperfectly discharge its duty. If a similar course were taken in recording evidence in Courts of Justice, Select Committees, &c., it would, I think, produce much error and confusion. I am very sensible of the generosity and forbearance of honorable Members in their appreciation of the work done by the Debates Staff; and, so long as that work is accepted as sufficiently complete and accurate, I should not suggest any change in existing arrangements; but, in view of the proposal now before the Committee, it seems incumbent that I should point out that it would probably not be expedient to perpetuate them.

The gallery space now reserved for *Hansard* could be made available for the newspaper Press, and my criticism is therefore not really an objection to the plan.

If it be held that the note-taking should be done from the gallery, I would then ask to be allowed to point out that the proposed allotment of space for transcription is objectionable. It is most important that the shorthand-writers should all work together, if for no other reason than that each should learn how his predecessor proposed to end, and his successor to begin his "turn." In every debate there is much said by way of allusion rather than express statement, and it is only by constant personal conference that an accurate report can be compiled where, as here, the transcription must necessarily be done by several persons. If, as in the allotment of space marked on the plan, the reporters are to be placed, say, 150 yards from each other, such conferences could not take place.

Presuming the gallery arrangement to be decided upon, the most suitable position for the transcribing rooms would be immediately behind the gallery.

Bearing in mind that the whole of the reporting for the Council and Assembly—Select Committees as well as debates—is done by the one staff, I trust that the Committee will not think I suggest an extravagant apportionment of space when I desire that some such allotment as this may be made on the Assembly side:—

1. A room for the Principal Shorthand-writer.
2. " Second " "
3. A large room partitioned off into six compartments for the use of the staff when dictating to typewriters.
4. A room large enough to accommodate eight shorthand writers. When only one House is sitting typewriters or other extra assistance is not employed, and the whole staff then need to be together. After the typewriters leave, say, at 11 p.m., the same necessity occurs.
5. A room to which some of the staff can resort when necessary for sleep. As far as practicable, members of the staff appointed to attend Committees or Royal Commissions early in the day are detached before midnight, but pressure of work sometimes does not admit of that being done. As soon, however, as it becomes apparent that the House is going to sit all night, some relief may thus be given. After doing twenty-four hours continuous work at the Assembly we have often been called upon to begin a new day at the Council, or to keep pace with the utterances of Members of the Assembly, who, having had the advantage of a night's sleep, continue the debate with vigour from about 10 the next morning. In asking for this room I am only asking that an arrangement which Mr. Speaker Abbott has very considerably approved may be continued.

The arrangement proposed for transcription space on the Council side sufficiently meets our requirements.

The accommodation asked for in paragraphs 1 to 5 is the same as at present enjoyed; but present accommodation is defective, because rooms occupied cannot be warmed or ventilated, and the amount of space allotted to a shorthand-writer and a typewriter is 16 superficial feet in two of the boxes, 35 feet in a third, and 40 in a fourth.

447. *Chairman.*] I understand that the proposed accommodation for *Hansard* in connection with the Legislative Council Chamber is satisfactory? Yes.

448. *Mr. Hassall.*] The present accommodation given to *Hansard* in connection with the Legislative Assembly is unsatisfactory? It is defective.

449. Have you seen the designs for the proposed New Houses of Parliament? Yes.

450. Have you given attention to the accommodation provided therein for *Hansard*? Yes.

451. In placing the *Hansard* rooms so far from each other as is therein proposed do you think an objectionable feature occurs? It makes it almost impossible that an accurate report can be produced.

452. Have you any suggestion to offer for the removal of this objectionable feature? Presuming the reporting to be done from the gallery, the most desirable arrangement for the accommodation of the staff would be in rooms immediately behind it.

453. Is the proposed position of the gallery a suitable one? It is somewhat better than the position of our present Assembly gallery; but whether it would be entirely suitable would depend upon the acoustic properties of the chamber, of which I, of course, can form no opinion now.

454. But so far as you can judge at the present time, the position would be a suitable one? Yes, though not nearly so suitable as a position on the floor of the House. Of course, if the reporters were placed on the floor of the House, their rooms should be within as short a distance as convenient from the place where the notes were taken.

455. Could you hear better from a position on the floor than you could from a gallery? Very much better. There is no comparison whatever between the two positions. I have had many opportunities of ascertaining this. The late Sir John Robertson in the concluding years of his life was sometimes almost unintelligible except to myself. Having known him for many years I was acquainted with the peculiarities of his voice, but several of his later speeches I had to take from the floor of the House simply because I could not make anything of him in the gallery.

456. Do you know where the official reporters are placed in other halls of legislature? When I was in Washington I saw that the official reporters there were placed immediately in front of the President and Speaker of either chamber.

457. On the floor? Yes. I have knowledge from other sources that in the House of Lords, in the Canada Parliament, in the Upper House of Queensland, and in both Houses of the Victorian Legislature, the official reporters are placed on the floor of the chamber, and I have seen pictures which have given me the impression that a similar arrangement is adopted in some, at least, of the European Chambers.

458. With regard to your present accommodation at the Assembly, I understand that you think it absolutely necessary that some change should be made, even though no new Houses of Parliament are erected? I can hardly say that a change is absolutely necessary, though it is very desirable. In point of fact I think no better accommodation for transcribing could be given owing to the want of space.

459. You think it is almost impossible to overcome the inconvenience in the present building? Yes.

460. How many men are there upon the *Hansard* Staff? Ten.

461.

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461. Most of these being employed in connection with the Legislative Assembly debates? When both Houses are sitting, the whole of the available staff is equally divided between the two galleries. It may be that one or more shorthand-writers have previously been detached to take the evidence of Select Committees, or of Commissions, and the others are divided between the two Chambers. If only one House is sitting the whole strength of the staff is concentrated upon the work of reporting the debates of that House.

462. Is the gallery you occupy at present large enough for your requirements? Quite large enough.

463. *Chairman.*] Besides the reporters, do you not employ typewriters? In addition to the ten shorthand-writers there is a permanent typewriter, and, when the pressure of work requires the employment of extra assistance, six temporary typewriters are employed at so much per hour.

464. *Mr. Hassall.*] The shorthand-writers have nothing to do with the typewriting? They dictate their notes to the typewriters.

465. But they do not manipulate the machines? No. There would be no economy of time in such an arrangement.

466. Then, when there is any press of business you must find accommodation for seventeen persons? Yes.

467. You think that the space allowed on the plan would be ample? So far as I can judge, the space allowed would be ample, and the accommodation considerably better than we now enjoy; but, not having scaled the plan, and being without much knowledge of architectural drawing, I am unable to say exactly how much space we should have.

468. Your objection to the design is the distance of the *Hansard* rooms from one another? Yes.

469. And you think it desirable that the official reporters should take notes from the floor of the House instead of from the gallery? Yes.

470. The reporters have to relieve each other at stated intervals, and their rooms must therefore adjoin the gallery? Yes, and they should be close together, so that the note-takers can speak to each other in regard to their "turns." If the note-takers did not confer with each other, it might often happen that the speech of one Member would be attributed to another, and all sorts of defects would find their way into the reports by reason of one reporter thinking that the man he followed had reported something which he had omitted. Errors very trifling in their cause, but very serious when they appeared in print, would be the result of any system whereby the reporters worked independently of each other.

471. You want to have the staff so concentrated that each man may be in touch with what is going on, and may pick up the thread of any debate exactly at the point where it was dropped by his predecessor? Yes; and to enable one man to consult with another whenever he gets anything upon his notes the bearing of which he does not understand. It must be borne in mind that each note-taker is in the gallery for only a short period of time, and he has therefore often to inquire from those whom he followed what such and such a statement means. To make the whole report intelligible the reporters must act in harmony with each other. With the proposed arrangement of rooms another shorthand-writer would be required to make up for the loss of time incurred in going to and from the galleries and to other rooms. Then, too, if the rooms were scattered, the indolence which is natural to most men would probably lead reporters to risk inaccuracy rather than take the trouble of going some distance to compare their notes.

472. You also think it necessary to have a room for resting? Yes; that is very necessary.

473. *Mr. Black.*] I gather from what you have said that you think it would be an advantage if the *Hansard* reporters were located on the floor of the House? I think they should take their notes from the floor of the House.

474. I suppose there is nothing to be said against that arrangement, except that it is not customary? I am not aware whether there is any objection to it.

475. But it is not a usual arrangement? It is not the arrangement in New South Wales. When I was called upon to organise the *Hansard* Staff I found all the arrangements as to gallery accommodation and transcription rooms already made, and I therefore had no opportunity to offer an opinion upon the matter then.

476. *Mr. Hoskins.*] In the House of Commons the reporters are not upon the floor of the House? No; but they are in the various other places which I have mentioned; the Commons Debates have for the most part been compiled from newspaper reports, and only become official after proofs have been supplied to Members for revision.

477. *Mr. Black.*] If the note-taking were done on the floor of the House, the transcribing rooms would have to be on the same floor? Not necessarily. Of course, such an arrangement would be desirable. Wherever these rooms are placed, it is important that they should be altogether.

478. *Mr. Trickett.*] In your statement you made a comparison between the arrangement for note-taking in the Assembly and Council, and that prevailing in the Courts of Justice; but is it not a fact that in Courts of Justice the witnesses always speak from the same position;—does not that affect the comparison? The deposition clerk is not placed in a gallery, but between the Bench and the witness whose evidence he is taking down. In our case, we are perched up where we can only hear clearly the Members on the Government side of the House, and it frequently happens, especially in the early part of a sitting, that after a Member upon the Opposition side has said something, we have to invite him to come out, and repeat it, so that we thus give a second-hand report.

479. I suppose you have seen in some of the Legislative Chambers which you have visited, a rostrum for the accommodation of Members addressing the House? I believe that a rostrum is used in France.

480. How would that arrangement suit your ideas? I think that is a question for Members themselves to consider.

481. But it would facilitate the work of the reporters? It would probably compel Members to speak in a louder voice than some of them do now. One of the difficulties of reporting from a gallery is this: that very often a speaker, in reading from a book, or perhaps through natural infirmity, especially if he is of advanced years, inclines his head downwards, and speaks into his boots. His voice, instead of coming towards the reporters, goes away from them.

482. *Mr. Lee.*] What would you consider a suitable distance for a Member to be from the *Hansard* reporter, to ensure a correct reporting of his remarks? I think it would be rather difficult to state exactly what would be a suitable distance. Much would depend upon the acoustic properties of the Chamber, the strength of the speaker's voice, and the clearness of his utterance.

- C. Robinson. 483. Have you any difficulty in hearing a Member, who may be speaking, from the extreme end of the present Chamber? Not unless there is great noise of conversation amongst the Members themselves. Distance is a small matter as compared with the present difficulty of reporting Members of the Opposition.
- 28 April, 1897. 484. If you find it difficult now under certain conditions to hear the speaker, would it not be more difficult in the new building, when your gallery would be further away from the furthest Member's seat than it is now? I hardly think the distance will be appreciable. The proposed gallery would have this advantage, that it would enable us to see the whole of the Members. At present we only see part of the Chamber, and in recording interjections we have generally to be content to attribute them to the Members whose voices we think we recognise.
485. It is most difficult to hear any Member who speaks from beneath your gallery? Yes.
486. And it is the practice of your staff to consult such a speaker afterwards? Yes; when in doubt upon any important point in his speech.
487. Has that led to the practice of proofs of Members' speeches being placed in their hands for correction? Certainly not, though any Member can obtain a proof-copy of his speech for his own use.
488. Does it not frequently happen that Members make suggestions in regard to their speeches? No; the explanations are made before the notes are transcribed.
489. A gallery in the proposed position, giving a full view of the seating accommodation of the House as arranged for the present number of Members, would enable you to report without difficulty? I think the position of the proposed gallery is better than the position of the present gallery.
490. But we are to understand that a still better arrangement would be to have the reporters on the floor of the House? Yes.
491. Where would you suggest that they should be placed? In front of the clerks. All voices should be directed to Mr. Speaker. I would like it to be understood that I am not seeking this as a present alteration. So long as the House is satisfied with the work that we do it is a matter of perfect indifference to me where we are put; but in considering designs for a new building, I would suggest that the most effective position for the official staff is on the floor of the House.
492. Prior to your connection with the *Hansard* Staff you were engaged on the Press? Yes, I was senior reporter for the *Sydney Morning Herald* for some years, and leader of their Parliamentary Staff.
493. The Press gallery was not as commodious then as it is now? It was more commodious, because the demand for seats was not then so large. In those days the *Herald* practically did all the reporting. We had practically nearly the whole gallery to ourselves.
494. Are you prepared to offer an opinion as to the accommodation proposed for the newspaper reporters in the Press gallery;—do you think it meets modern requirements? I do not think that the number of seats provided is sufficient. Each of the daily newspapers ought to have at least three seats, and, besides their reporters, there are the representatives of the country Press and telegraphic agents to be accommodated. There are now four daily newspapers published in Sydney, and it cannot be supposed that there will ever be fewer; in all probability the number will increase. Then, too, as the country progresses and population grows denser, people in the remote districts, when questions affecting their local interests are discussed in Parliament, will do as they do in England, that is, they will make arrangements for the telegraphing of the speeches of their own Members *in extenso*. Accommodation will have to be given for the men who would do that work.
495. I suppose you are aware that it is intended to increase the number of rooms given to the Press? The plan appears to give them but one room, which is situated directly behind their gallery. That room could not be expected to accommodate more than eight men, whereas, as a matter of fact, three times as much accommodation is required.
496. But four additional rooms are provided on the floor above? That gives more accommodation, but I think the arrangement is open to the same objection that I made to the arrangement of the *Hansard* rooms—that they are too far from the gallery. My opinion is that if the Press is to have anything like reasonable accommodation all the space immediately behind the gallery should be allotted to them. It does not seem reasonable to require them to ascend and descend a flight of stairs every time they have to enter or leave their gallery.
497. Do you think that much more room should be given to the Press than is allowed in the design? When I made that remark I was under the impression that only one room had been set aside for the Press. If the rooms on the upper floor correspond in size with that immediately behind the gallery, I think sufficient space has been given to the Press, but the arrangement of the rooms is a bad one. The accommodation is very much in the wrong place.
498. As a matter of fact, the Press will have six rooms—five transcribing-rooms and a dining-room? The dining-room I do not take into consideration; I am thinking only of the space required by the reporters for the transaction of their ordinary business.
499. But you still say that the accommodation provided in the gallery is insufficient? It seems to me that the country Press is practically excluded. If I mistake not, some of the country journals are already represented in the gallery now, and more of them may desire to be represented. In the new gallery, however, I do not think that a desk is provided for any such representatives.
500. I suppose the Press arrangements are controlled by Mr. Speaker? I believe so.
501. You have nothing to do with them? I have nothing whatever to do with them.
502. You are not in a position to know whether any complaints have been made? I am not. For anything I know, the members of the Press may be satisfied with their present accommodation, but if they are, they are thankful for small mercies.
503. *Chairman.*] Is the present Select Committee accommodation sufficient? I should think so.
504. Have you anything to do with the custody of the Records;—do you know if the arrangements in regard to the Records is unsatisfactory? No; I have nothing to do with the Records, though I really do not know in what way the present arrangements can be unsatisfactory. All important records are printed and bound up as "Votes and Proceedings," and can be consulted in the Library, or in either of the Chambers, or in the Select Committee rooms.
505. 5,248 feet of space is provided in the design for the storage of Records? I see that a large amount of space is provided for that purpose: but I imagine that the only space necessary would be a room in which to store Bills, Select Committee Reports, and documents having reference to motions to be discussed or to legislation proposed during the current session, so that these could be supplied on the instant inquiry might be

be made for them. All other records could be read in the bound volumes of "Minutes" or "Votes and Proceedings," and if a copy of any particular document included in those volumes were required, it could be telephoned for from the Government Printer. If the Government Printer keeps a store for the custody of Parliamentary and other papers, as I believe he does, I see no reason for duplicating it beyond the limited extent of the session's requirements.

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506. The Government Architect seems to have set aside for the use of the Clerks of the House the space which you think is admirably adapted for the requirements of the Press and of *Hansard*? Yes.

507. It has been suggested that the proposed new building should be used before completion as an exhibition building? As to that I would say that it might be suitable if only the outer walls were put up; but if the inner dividing walls had to be built at the same time, the building would, in my judgment, prove quite unsuitable for the purposes of an exhibition building. In an exhibition building you require large open spaces to admit of the free movement of crowds of people, and of the uninterrupted view of the objects exhibited. Neither of these purposes could be answered if the building were divided into a number of small rooms.

508. If it were possible to erect merely the shell of the building it might do well enough? I think so.

509. But if it were necessary to carry up the internal walls at the same time, the building would be unsuitable for an exhibition building? I think so.

Walter Liberty Vernon, Government Architect, Department of Public Works, sworn, and further examined:—

510. *Chairman.*] There are three points upon which the Committee desire further information from you. W.L. Vernon. The first is as to the material of the walls of the various rooms in the present Parliamentary buildings; the next question is as to the possibility of utilising the proposed New Houses of Parliament as an exhibition building; and thirdly, we desire information in regard to the 5,000 feet of space which have been set aside to provide for the storage of records? In regard to the first question, I have here a plan in which the walls of the present buildings which are built of wood are shown in black, while the other walls are shown in red. By glancing at this plan it will be seen that the walls of the back Library and of the rooms over it are constructed entirely of wood. The plan, of course, does not show the flooring or roofing of the building; but if that were shown it would be seen at once that the proportion of wood-work in the building is very great, and gives a very extensive range to the white ants. The front portion of the old building is constructed of cut stone, and was put up in the convict times. Our experience goes to show that a stone wall is one of the best places for the ingress and egress of the white ant.

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511. Must the white ant commence its operations from the ground in every case? They must work where it is damp and dark.

512. But must they commence from the ground? Generally they do; but, sometimes after a migration, they commence at some place above ground, though that is very rare. They commence operations from some damp situation in the earth, and nothing makes a better habitat for them than an old damp stone wall into which wooden plates and joists have been built. More damage is caused by white ants where there is such a construction than where wood only is used. I am prepared to say that the walls of the old part of the building are infested with white ants.

513. *Mr. Black.*] They are in the interstices? Yes. Some time ago it was discovered that white ants which had their nests under the pavement had travelled up to the roof of the Museum, a distance of 50 or 60 feet, through the wall; but during their progress they gave no indication of their presence in the wall.

514. *Chairman.*] What sort of a wall is that? A cut stone wall.

515. Would it be possible to eradicate the white ant from the present Parliamentary buildings? I think not.

516. Could you reduce their ravages to a minimum? One can always check them by constant examination of the premises, and by the removal of wooden partitions and floors; but when they are in the walls it is extremely difficult to deal with them.

517. *Mr. Hassall.*] Have you ever used colonial pine? Yes. It is a good wood for resisting the white ant; but it is a very bad wood for stability.

518. *Mr. Pegan.*] I suppose the examination you speak of is a source of continual expense? Yes.

519. *Chairman.*] At the present time the repairing of Parliament House is costing you about £1,000 a year;—suppose you were instructed to take the present buildings and do the best you could to make them suitable for their purpose, what would you do with them? I do not know.

520. Would it be possible to replace the wooden structure to which you have referred by something more durable? It would be quite possible to replace the wooden walls by stone walls; but that would be continuing a bad system of accommodation.

521. Suppose you replaced the wooden walls with brick walls? I would not recommend that. With brick walls you would have less space than you have now, because bricks take up more space than wood.

522. I suppose the new Committee rooms are satisfactory? Yes, for ordinary business purposes, but they are in no sense buildings of a national character. The wing in which the Ministers' rooms are situated is an ordinary building, and fairly substantial, but it has no appearance or anything else to commend it as a permanent public building. That wing is the best portion of the present structure.

523. *Mr. Wright.*] Are the walls there 9 or 14 inches thick? The outside walls are 14 inches thick, and the partitions 9 inches thick.

524. I suppose a building of this kind would last a century? No; it should last about sixty years, according to the life of buildings in this country.

525. *Chairman.*] You are opposed to a proposal to potter with a building which ought to be replaced by a better one? I am sure that money voted to improve the present building would be badly spent.

526. You think it would be wiser to abandon the new portions of the present structure than to attempt to replace the bad portions? I think it would be wise to abandon the present structure altogether, and to erect a more permanent and important building. With regard to your question as to whether the New Houses of Parliament could be used as an exhibition building, I was instructed by the Premier to look into that matter, and to see whether by simply building the outer walls, and putting on a temporary roof and a temporary floor, the building could not be used for the purposes of an exhibition. I, therefore, prepared a scheme based upon design No. 1, and it is of course applicable to any of the designs wherein the new Parliamentary

W. L. Vernon. Parliamentary buildings would form one of a group of buildings stretching across the Domain as far as the Art Gallery. I have here a plan showing the scheme suggested. I have also had prepared a drawing showing the elevation of the Parliamentary buildings while in use as part of the exhibition buildings. In this connection I have designed an alternative portico.

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527. It is possible to build the shell of the proposed buildings in such a way that it could be utilised for exhibition purposes? Yes.

528. Would it be wise to do it? That is another question altogether. Under certain circumstances it might be wise. By the scheme I suggest, I think you would get a very complete set of buildings for the purpose of an exhibition. Parliament House would not be large enough to form the main hall of an exhibition building.

529. What would be the extra cost of Parliament House if it were built in that way? £15,000.

530. What distance is it from the proposed site of Parliament House to the Art Gallery? About 1,300 feet as the bird flies.

531. That space you intend to cover with buildings? I have suggested a series of buildings stretching across the Domain and connected by colonnades. The drawing which I have here has been prepared to show the exterior appearance of these buildings.

532. What would the scheme cost? The Garden Palace provided 445,000 superficial feet of floor space, and cost £181,388. My scheme provides 536,818 feet of floor space, and I estimate that it will cost £141,303.

533. In that amount is the total cost of the new Parliamentary buildings included, or only the extra £15,000 you spoke of? Only the extra £15,000.

534. If Parliament House were not used, what would be the cost of the exhibition buildings? I do not think the difference would be very much. I think that £15,000 would provide accommodation of a temporary character quite equal to that which would be gained by using the shell of the Parliamentary buildings.

535. Then £150,000 would cover the whole thing? Yes.

536. How much of that expenditure would be of value after the exhibition was over? That I am not prepared to say.

537. Can you suggest any purpose for which the buildings could be used? I designed the spans of the roofs so that they might be sold afterwards for wool-sheds and stores, and could be easily taken down. I have one or two other designs of the kind in my head, but I have not thoroughly worked them out.

538. What would be the value of the material after the exhibition was over? You might get £15,000 or £20,000 for it.

539. So that the net cost of the structure would be between £130,000 and £135,000? Yes.

540. *Mr. Wright.*] The connecting corridors would be comparatively low buildings? Yes; they are designed simply to connect the pavilions, and would have an upper floor to connect the galleries.

541. On what basis did you design your accommodation? On the basis of the 1879 accommodation.

542. How does the space you provide compare with that given at the Melbourne exhibition? The space at the Melbourne exhibition was larger, but I have not been able to ascertain what it was.

543. Do you know the cost of the Melbourne buildings? No, I have not been able to ascertain that, but it was pretty considerable.

544. What is the space given in the new Parliamentary buildings? The total space in the Parliamentary buildings will be 53,568 feet; the total space in the pavilion would be 273,700 feet; in the galleries, 142,550 feet; in the Art Gallery, 30,000 feet; and in the corridors, 37,000 feet; making a total of 536,818 feet.

545. That is about 453,000 feet, excluding the Art Gallery and the Parliamentary buildings? Yes.

546. How did you arrive at your estimate of cost—by taking out the actual quantities, or by cubing the buildings? I got the old drawings of the Garden Palace, and, measuring the floor space, I estimated its cost at 9s. a square foot, with a less sum for the galleries; that gave me £177,140 as the total cost. I found that the actual cost was £181,000, but the two amounts were so close that I felt justified in estimating the cost of the proposed building upon the same plan. At the same time I took into consideration the rise in wages likely to ensue upon such a demand for labour. I do not know much about the way in which the Garden Palace was put up; but it is possible that there might be a less expensive way of putting up the proposed buildings.

547. Are the buildings you propose to erect of the same class as the Garden Palace? Yes; though there have been improvements which allow better effects to be obtained now-a-days with iron and plaster than could be got then.

548. Was the Garden Palace built of pine? Yes, of Oregon.

549. *Chairman.*] In your design for the new Parliamentary buildings you set aside some 5,000 feet for the storage of records? Yes; the space is given under the chambers, and, no doubt, in course of time, if the records are kept in presses, as they should be, the space will be to a very large extent occupied; but I admit that it is ample.

550. You have no other purpose to which to put it? No.

551. You could suggest no other use for it? Other uses would, no doubt, be found for it as necessity arose; but I have no suggestion to make with regard to it. I think it would be a very suitable place for the storing of records, and there is no reason why records from other Government offices which are overcrowded should not be removed there.

552. *Mr. Hoskins.*] I understand that you are going to England;—that being so, do you not think it would be wise to postpone the erection of new Houses of Parliament until after your return, in order that we might have the benefit of the knowledge you are likely to obtain from the inspection of buildings elsewhere? So far as regards the accommodation required in this building, I can learn nothing while I am away, though in the adaptation of different portions, and in contrivances of various kinds, and in decoration and design, I may learn something.

553. You would not like the work to be taken in hand unless you were present? Well, I have taken a great personal interest in the matter, and I should like to have a hand in the construction of the building.

554. We were informed that fourteen new rooms, and the ladies' gallery, have been added to the Legislative buildings during the last ten years? Yes; about that number.

555. You also recently put an extra storey upon the steward's house;—what have these new buildings cost? £13,000 were expended upon the additions you speak of—that is, upon the rooms for Ministers, and

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and so on, and the Committee rooms at the back. During the last six years the average expenditure upon new buildings, repairs, and improvements generally has been £3,340.

556. What is the average cost of keeping a public building in repair, based on a percentage of its value? I think about 1·42 per cent.

557. What has been the cost of maintaining the Parliamentary buildings during the last ten years? About £1,000 a year.

558. You do not consider that excessive? No. I could very easily spend more money there if I had it.

559. Is it not a fact that whenever a new Government building is erected a large number of repairs and alterations have to be effected? There have to be alterations, but not repairs. There would be no repairs of value in this building.

560. Have not a great many alterations been made in the Parliamentary buildings? Yes. The original buildings have been altered out of knowledge. More money has been spent upon them than is generally spent upon Government buildings.

561. Are there not white ants in other buildings besides the Parliamentary buildings? Yes.

562. Do you consider that the presence of the white ants in the Museum makes that building unsuitable or dangerous? Their eradication has been a very costly business. Last year we spent about £1,500 on the Museum. That expenditure was due almost entirely to the ravages of the white ants. After we had put a new roof on to the main building we found that the floor in another part of the building was affected.

563. Are the white ants in the Parliamentary buildings worse than they are in the Museum or other buildings? They have a better chance of doing mischief in the Parliamentary buildings, because these buildings are old, and they have a great many wooden partitions. The Museum is a building with very few walls and only a few floors.

564. I understand that when you have found rafters or joists in the Parliamentary buildings to have been destroyed by white ants you have replaced them with iron girders? Yes, where I could, and I have been putting in pitch-pine floors in place of kauri.

565. The ravages of the white ant are more apparent in the Library than in any other part of the building? We have great trouble with the back and with the front Library.

566. Do you not think that if two or three fire-proof rooms were erected in front of the present Library sufficient accommodation would be provided in the existing buildings? I do not think so.

567. Why? Of course, you could erect a building in which the books of the Library would be secure, but the arrangement would be very inconvenient for the Members of both Houses, and would block out the light from the rooms at the back.

568. Do you think it is fair to the country to abandon the new buildings which have been recently erected at Parliament House? If you build a new structure I think you will be perfectly justified in sweeping away the present buildings.

569. *Mr. Clarke.*] They are unsatisfactory, and in a dangerous state? They are unsatisfactory.

570. They are not absolutely dangerous? I do not think so. The ceiling and the roof of the back Library may be dangerous. I am constantly examining them, but I cannot say that they are dangerous at present.

571. Do you consider it a waste of money to spend £1,000 a year upon the old buildings? I do.

572. You are of opinion that it would be better to have new buildings? The present buildings are altogether inadequate for the requirements of the country.

573. In that case new buildings will soon be absolutely necessary? I am sure of it.

574. *Mr. Lee.*] It is thought that the provision designed for the Press will not be sufficient;—would it be possible to increase that accommodation without interfering with the general plan? Yes; all the accommodation for the officials is elastic. I consulted all whom I thought I should consult in regard to this matter, but it is quite possible that some rearrangements will be necessary. The Press gallery, however, provides I think far more accommodation than I have been asked for.

575. Would it be possible to increase that accommodation? Not without taking from the public galleries, except by providing two rows of benches instead of one. I provide for ten seats in the Press gallery.

576. But it is thought that that is not sufficient for the present requirements of the metropolitan Press? Of course I could double the accommodation by putting in a second row of desks.

577. Would the reporters in the back row be able to see as well as those in the front row? Yes; that could be arranged.

578. And do you know of any instance in which a reporting staff has been placed on the floor of the House? I cannot call any to mind, though it is quite possible that that arrangement is made in some places. The ordinary way is to have the reporters in galleries.

579. If a Member were speaking from the extreme back cross-bench, what distance would he be in a direct line from the *Hansard* gallery? About 48 or 49 feet.

580. That would not be too far, if the acoustic properties of the building were good? No.

581. It is thought that the *Hansard* Staff should be placed on the floor of the House in front of the Clerks, so that the utterances of honorable Members might be addressed directly to them? I do not see any objection to that arrangement. The space allotted to *Hansard* might be sunk to some extent, like the orchestra of a theatre, and approached from the basement in the same way. I do not think the staff would get the same command of the House from such a position.

582. Would it be possible to so design the accommodation for the staff that they could obtain a verbatim report under any conditions? The matter would have to be carefully thought out; but there is no doubt that it could be done.

583. *Mr. Hassall.*] The question arises whether the accommodation provided for the *Hansard* Staff is not inconveniently situated? The room at the back of the gallery would be used for transcribing, and the ordinary work of the day could be done in the other rooms, which are not at all inconvenient. They are on the same floor as the gallery, and front on to a passage which is designed exclusively to give access to them.

584. What are the other rooms at the back of the gallery designed for? They are for the use of Mr. Webb and his staff.

585. Could they not be given to the *Hansard* Staff? Certainly; but I presume that the arrangement of rooms would be a matter to be settled between the various staffs. The rooms provided for *Hansard* are fairly within reach of the gallery, and are more suitable in their form than those allotted to the Clerks.

THURSDAY, 29 APRIL, 1897.

Present:—

THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esq. (CHAIRMAN).

The Hon. FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHREY.
 The Hon. JAMES HOSKINS.
 The Hon. CHARLES JAMES ROBERTS, C.M.G.
 The Hon. WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT.
 The Hon. DANIEL O'CONNOR.
 HENRY CLARKE, Esq.

CHARLES ALFRED LEE, Esq.
 JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, Esq.
 THOMAS HENRY HASSALL, Esq.
 GEORGE BLACK, Esq.
 FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WRIGHT, Esq.
 FRANK FARNELL, Esq.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting New Houses of Parliament for the Colony.

The Honorable Sir Joseph Palmer Abbott, K.C.M.G., Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, sworn, and examined:—

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586. *Chairman.*] How long have you held your present office? For nearly seven years.
 587. You have had an opportunity of reading the evidence already taken before this Committee in reference to the proposal for the erection of new Houses of Parliament? I have seen some of the evidence. I have seen the statement of the Under Secretary for Works, and the evidence given by Mr. Vernon, the Government Architect, during his first examination. Mr. Vernon is reported to have stated on that occasion that it is hardly possible to provide further accommodation in the existing buildings as they at present stand. Now, while I admit that the accommodation in the present buildings is for many reasons quite insufficient, I am of opinion that there is ample space adjacent to them to provide room for a new library. The new library, if one is deemed to be necessary, could be erected at the rear of the present Committee rooms, and would there be conveniently situated and easily accessible to honorable Members, while one of the rooms of the present Library could be used as a reading-room, and the other as a room for the accommodation of strangers who desire to interview honorable Members. Another suggestion which I would make is that, as a temporary expedient, the lending branch of the Public Library, which is adjacent to the Assembly buildings, might be used for the accommodation of the library books and old records. Of course, one of the reasons urged in favour of the erection of new Houses of Parliament is the dangerous state of the present Library. We all know well enough that there are books in that library which money could not replace. To avert any danger of the books being destroyed, I would suggest either that the lending branch of the Free Public Library should be taken for the storage of our books, or, if that building was not available, that some building might be erected at the back of the present Committee rooms. All the reference books might be kept in a small room close to the Chamber, while the valuable books and records of the Library could be placed elsewhere, out of danger. The Committee will gather from my remarks that I do not favour the proposal to expend money upon new Houses of Parliament. I think that if the public were afforded a little more accommodation in the present buildings, and the library properly protected, the accommodation which we have now would serve our purposes for many years, or at all events until such time as it is decided what the future requirements of Parliament will be. I consider that at the present juncture it is premature to think of expending such an enormous sum as is proposed upon the erection of new Houses of Parliament. I have seen all the Houses of Parliament in the Australian colonies, except those in West Australia, and I should say that one of the cheapest and the one affording comparatively the greatest amount of convenience is that at Wellington, New Zealand. That building is constructed of wood. It stands in a very good position, and is a very handsome structure. I need not tell honorable Members, except as a matter of evidence, that Parliament House in Victoria, and the Parliamentary buildings in South Australia, were started on the most extravagant and unjustifiable scale, and are not yet completed. Of course, if the colonies federate, it is hardly likely that the Federal Parliament will meet in Sydney.

588. Or in any of the present capitals? Or in any of the present capitals. Therefore, I think that if it were determined to put up these buildings, it would be found in the end that they could not be used for the Federal Parliament, and that they were unnecessarily expensive and large for a State Parliament. If we have Federation, the possibility is that the State Parliaments will not expand, while it is quite probable that the number of their Members may be considerably reduced. Therefore, I think it unwise to enter upon an expenditure such as that which the Committee are considering. I have not given much attention to the proposed accommodation in the new buildings, but, from a cursory glance at the design, I should think that it is a great deal more than is required at the present time.

589. With regard to the existing Assembly Chamber, has it, in your opinion, sufficient accommodation for the present number of Members? If the Chamber were properly ventilated the accommodation would be sufficient.

590. Is it possible to make the ventilation better? I understand that Mr. Vernon has stated that it would not be possible to give the Chamber better ventilation than it has now, but, in my opinion, the ventilation could be improved. At the present time the fan of the ventilating shaft when it is being driven at a great speed makes so much noise that it has ordinarily to be driven at a lower rate of speed than is necessary. This noise is caused by the vibration of the ventilating pipes, which are of galvanised iron. Frequently the noise has been so great as to interrupt the course of business in the Chamber, and I have had to direct that the fan must be driven at a lower rate of speed. But it seems to me that if the pipes were made of iron or steel instead of galvanised iron—and I cannot see why such pipes should not be used—this noise would not be created, and, it being possible to drive the fan at a greater rate of speed, a greater volume of fresh air would be sent into the Chamber. Many expedients have been tried for ventilating the Chamber, and I think that the present arrangement is the best that we have had, but, because of the noise to which I refer, less air is sent into the Chamber than might be sent in under other conditions.

591. If the fan were working at full speed there would be enough air? I think so. There are some air outlets near my table, and sometimes when the fan is being driven very fast on a hot night there has been such a strong current close to where I sit that I have had to shut off these outlets.

592. Turning from the question of ventilation, what is your opinion with regard to the arrangements for the accommodation of the public in the Chamber? I do not think that the public have sufficient accommodation there. Mr. Justin McCarthy, writing some time ago, said that he was much struck by the anxiety displayed at Washington to give accommodation to the public in the House of Representatives, while in the House of Commons and other similar Chambers in British communities the object seemed to be to give the public as little accommodation as possible. Very little accommodation is provided for the public in the House of Commons, while a great deal of accommodation is given to them in the House of Representatives. In the one case an attempt seems to be made to shut out the public, and in the other the authorities try to give all the accommodation that they can.

593. Generally speaking, is the space at your disposal for the accommodation of the public sufficient? It is generally sufficient, but, at times, when any question of importance, or any question causing public excitement, is before the House, the accommodation is altogether insufficient.

594. *Mr. Hoskins.*] Is it not the same in all Legislative Chambers? I suppose so.

595. *Chairman.*] Then another defect in the present Chamber is that the accommodation given to the public is not sufficient? For my own part, I should like to see greater facilities given for the attendance of the public. I daresay many people who would like to come to listen to the debates do not come now, because they are not sure that they would be able to get in.

596. What about the accommodation afforded to the Press? Since I have been Speaker I have increased the Press accommodation very much by removing some of the officers who were occupying rooms adjoining the Press rooms, and by giving those rooms to the Press. I am told that the Press accommodation in our House is quite equal to that in the House of Commons. Of course, that does not say much for the House of Commons accommodation, but I think there is ample space for the reporters of the morning and evening daily papers. Many persons, however, get on to the Press list and go into the galleries who, I think, are not engaged at all in the reporting of the proceedings, though they are there in the interests of the papers they represent, and they take up space. I imagine, however, that that occurs everywhere else. At the present time the arrangements of the Press gallery are regulated by a Committee of Pressmen, subject to my control, and I find that this system is working very well. The Press people seem to agree much better amongst themselves in regard to the accommodation than they did with the officers of the House. Still they have not enough room.

597. What about *Hansard*? The *Hansard* people have wretched accommodation.

598. Some alteration is wanted there? Yes; but I do not know how the arrangements for *Hansard* can be improved. I notice that it has been stated before the Committee that it was a good thing that the proposal put forward in 1860 to erect new Houses of Parliament then was not carried out, and I say now, that if we carry out the proposal we may regret it hereafter.

599. With regard to the present accommodation, what is wanted is better ventilation for the Assembly Chamber, safer arrangements for the Library, and more accommodation for the Press and for *Hansard*? Yes; and more accommodation for the public. I think that better arrangements should be made for the accommodation of members of the public desiring to interview honorable Members, and I also think that it is desirable that members of the public should not be allowed to frequent those parts of the building generally used by honorable Members. At the present time the public have to be admitted into the vestibule through which Members have to pass to get to all parts of the House, and I do not consider that a desirable arrangement.

600. In your opinion is there sufficient room to make these alterations in connection with the present building? Yes; I think it would be a good thing to make a better front towards Macquarie-street.

601. *Mr. Hoskins* has some idea about putting a new library in front of the present building? I think that other accommodation might be provided for the Library, and that the present front Library room might be used as a place where Members could see persons who wished to interview them. I would not advocate the construction of rooms which would be very costly to put up, but if further accommodation of a temporary character could be provided it would be a good thing.

602. *Mr. Hoskins.*] I have asked the Government Architect and one or two other witnesses whether it would not be desirable to erect two fire-proof rooms in front of the present Library to provide library accommodation. That would allow the present Library rooms to be used for other purposes? I think it would be an excellent arrangement. Such an arrangement would give a room in which Members could see persons who wished to interview them, while, at the same time, the public could be shut off from those portions of the building usually frequented by Members.

603. Do you consider the present offices sufficiently well adapted to the requirements of the officials? I have never heard any complaint from the Clerks of the House about the accommodation which has been given to them. The building of new committee rooms greatly increased their accommodation, inasmuch as they were thereby allowed to use the rooms which formerly were used as committee rooms. I have heard no complaint in regard to the accommodation from the officers of the House; the complaints come from *Hansard*. I think that the *Hansard* accommodation is the worst in the House, though in my opinion it ought to be the best. They have the hardest work to do.

604. Do you think there would be any great difficulty in giving the *Hansard* reporters better accommodation? I do not know. The *Hansard* accommodation must be adjacent to the *Hansard* gallery, because the reporters must be able to pass into and out of the gallery quickly in order to take one another's places, and it would be troublesome to give them better accommodation close to the gallery. It would mean a lot of alterations, and, if the building is in the rotten state described by Mr. Vernon, there is no saying whether these alterations could be made.

605. Are you aware that the Strangers' gallery in your House is about as large as the Strangers' gallery in the House of Commons, and would hold as many people? Yes. Of course the people who come to hear the debates now are prompted chiefly by motives of curiosity. I believe that many people like to see how their Members shape, and they come there for that purpose; but the facilities for obtaining reports of the Proceedings of the House are now so great that the reason for the attendance of the public which existed in times past does not now exist. Still the accommodation for the public is very limited. Of course we know that the floor of the House of Commons will not seat all the Members of that body.

606. Yesterday the gentleman in charge of the *Hansard* Staff suggested that the *Hansard* reporters should be accommodated upon the floor of the House in the new Parliament;—do you favour that suggestion? I think that such an arrangement would be a great convenience to the *Hansard* Staff, but I do not know that it would be convenient for honorable Members.

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607. I presume you are aware that the reporters in the House of Commons have a gallery somewhat similar to that in your Chamber over the Chair? Yes; and there is another gallery over them to accommodate ladies.

608. Might not the *Hansard* reporters sit in front of the Clerks? I do not think so. I think that they should be at one side. At the Convention in Adelaide the official reporters sat in front of the Clerks, but it struck me as a very inconvenient arrangement, because they were constantly moving in and out of the Chamber, and passing in front of Members who were addressing the Convention.

609. And disturbing the proceedings? Yes. If they could be put into a recess alongside the Speaker's Chair that might prove a desirable arrangement; but to have them on the floor would not add to the orderly conduct of the business of the House.

610. *Mr. O'Connor.*] Mr. Hoskins asked you if the accommodation for the public in our Legislative Assembly Chamber was not equal to that provided in the House of Commons. Under ordinary circumstances such a statement would be an absolute answer to any suggestion for an improvement. But is it not a fact that in the House of Commons it is a great compliment, and you have to be a person of considerable importance to procure admission? I know that there is very great difficulty in getting into the House of Commons gallery.

611. *Mr. Hoskins.*] Do you know that in the House of Representatives at Washington, where they give so much room for spectators, whenever an exciting debate is in progress more applause and interference comes from the spectators than from Members? Yes, and the same thing occurs in the French National Assembly.

612. There the spectators obstruct the proceedings, and even throw bombs amongst the members? Well, they ought to have a Speaker who is capable of stopping that.

613. *Mr. Black.*] With regard to what you said about the advisability of delaying the erection of new Houses of Parliament, do you take the view that you expressed simply because you think we are going to have Federation soon? No; but I think that public opinion is averse to having so many Members as we have at present. Most of the people with whom I am brought into contact say that there are too many Members now for the population. Our representation in the Assembly is enormous compared with that of other countries. If the number of Members were reduced to seventy or eighty, we should have more accommodation in the present building.

614. If Federation were accomplished, there would be still more reason for reducing the number of Members? Undoubtedly.

615. *Mr. Fegan.*] Have you had any trouble with the public whilst you have been Speaker? Of course, trouble is always arising because we cannot find accommodation for all who apply to be admitted.

616. You find that when a vote of censure is threatened, or some exciting debate is taking place, you cannot supply tickets to all who ask for them? Yes; and the public are unreasonable. They act as if they thought I could expand the accommodation already provided.

617. But you have often felt that you would like to expand the accommodation? Yes; though at the same time I say that in a great many cases it is merely curiosity that brings people there.

618. That being your view, do you think it would be right to go to a large expense to cater for this curiosity? I do not think it would. I think more accommodation should be given than we have at present, but I would not provide an extravagant amount of accommodation. Ordinarily there is more than enough room in the galleries. The Members' gallery is hardly ever full now.

619. Is it not a fact that prior to the enforcement of a new rule which you have made, that gallery was crowded every night? Yes; and principally, I believe, by people many of whom unfortunately had probably no other place to go to.

620. But who, at the same time, behaved themselves exceedingly well? Yes.

621. *Mr. O'Connor.*] They used to sleep there? Yes.

622. *Mr. Fegan.*] You do not think it would be detrimental, either to the good order of the House, or to the discipline of the officers of the House, to give more facilities for the admission of the public? I think that while the Speaker has the power to clear the galleries upon his own motion, and the public know that he has that power, there cannot be much danger of disorder there. It is a power which I myself have not had to exercise more than two or three times in seven years. I have had no trouble with the people in the galleries.

623. With regard to Mr. Hoskins' suggestion that fire-proof rooms should be built in front of the present Library, how would that fit in with your proposal, if the front Library were given up to the public;—would not such an arrangement bring the public into contact with Members proceeding towards the Library? I think an arrangement could be made whereby Members could have access to the Library without fear of interference on the part of members of the public. The front Library could be approached by a door opening out of the present passage, while the entrance to the Library could be shut off from the front Library. Of course the space which would thus be given to the public would be very limited.

624. *Mr. Hussall.*] Mr. Vernon, on page 5 of his evidence, makes this statement:—

I do not see that it is possible to make any enlargements or improvements in the present building. I do not see where they could be placed except at great inconvenience to those who would use the accommodation. We have instructions, which have been delayed from recess to recess, to improve the present Opposition Room. It would be with the greatest difficulty that we could find a way of increasing that accommodation. It can only be done by robbing other portions of the buildings. Whatever extra area is added to that room must be taken off something else.

? That is not so, because some time ago Mr. Vernon submitted plans to me of which I approved, very much increasing the accommodation of the Opposition; but the Government refused to put the necessary amount of money on the Estimates. I forget what the alteration was estimated to cost, but not very much. It would have deprived me of the access to my room which I have now by means of a passage alongside the Opposition Room, but another passage could be made to the south, coming into my dining-room, and giving me access that way.

625. Do you not think that there is room for the building of further accommodation in the grounds attached to the present buildings? Yes; there is plenty of space in front for such a building as that which Mr. Hoskins suggests, and there is plenty of space at the back alongside the Committee Rooms, and where the lawns are now.

626. And at the side of the stables? Yes; but I should think that space would be required for laundry purposes. The lawns are chiefly used for those purposes now.

627. Holding the views you do in regard to the possibility of the establishment of a Federal City outside of Sydney, you think it inadvisable to incur the expense which would be entailed in the erection of the proposed new Parliamentary buildings? Yes. Such buildings would only be justified in view of the probability of their being required to accommodate a larger Parliament than we have now, whereas if we get Federation we shall probably have a smaller Parliament, because the various State Parliaments will be deprived by the Federal Parliament of many of their present functions. Whether we get Federation or not, I think it would be wise to wait a few years until it can be ascertained what our future requirements really are.

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628. And you think that a reasonable amount of money expended upon the present buildings would provide sufficient accommodation at the present time? Yes. I notice that Mr. Vernon has stated that £1,000 are annually expended in maintaining the present Parliamentary buildings. I should think, however, that it would take more than that to keep the proposed buildings in order. I do not like the patchwork arrangement which I suggest; but I do not see that we can do without it. At the present time the Opposition have certainly very bad accommodation, though of course they are always looked upon as only temporary lodgers.

629. *Mr. Humphery.*] Assuming it to be necessary that the new Houses of Parliament should be built, do you consider that 900 feet of space is sufficient for the accommodation of the public, when in the present building 1,196 feet are allotted to them? I certainly do not think that the space set apart for the public should be diminished.

630. What increase of space do you think might fairly be provided? I could not tell you in feet. I think a great deal more accommodation could be given in the present galleries if they were better constructed. I was very much struck with the amount of accommodation given in the Adelaide Chamber. While they have not the space there that we have, they have utilised it to the best possible advantage, and consequently the public are very well accommodated there. The gallery for strangers in the Adelaide Chamber is, I think, worse than our gallery. It is dimmer and more forlorn looking; but it is better arranged than ours.

631. Are you of opinion that more accommodation for the public could be obtained in the present Assembly Chamber? No.

632. Not by a rearrangement of seats? I doubt it.

633. *Chairman.*] Could the front wall be moved out? I have never heard that suggested; but I do not know why it could not be done.

634. *Mr. Humphery.*] According to the design, the accommodation for *Hansard* in the proposed new building will be 150 feet less than they have in the present building? I think that is undesirable.

635. The present accommodation being wholly insufficient, you do not approve of the suggestion that the accommodation of the new Houses of Parliament should be less? I do not. I do not think, however, that it is fair to question me about the arrangements in the new design, because I have not looked properly into the matter. I am utterly opposed to the proposal to expend money upon a new building. I do not think it is justifiable.

636. So I have gathered from your evidence; but, apart from that, in regard to the matters to which I have directed your attention, you think that the accommodation should be increased rather than diminished? Yes. I think, as I said before, that the accommodation given to the *Hansard* reporters is worse than that of anyone else connected with the House, and they have undoubtedly the hardest work to do. The public really do not know the work they have to do after the House rises.

637. With regard to the accommodation common to both Houses, you have no wish to express any opinion as to the details of the plan? No.

638. *Mr. Roberts.*] Since you have had a great deal of experience in the Colonies, might I ask you to give the Committee your opinion as to what you would consider a fair amount to expend upon the erection of new Houses of Parliament should their erection be deemed necessary? I cannot answer that question. Any opinion I might give would be utterly valueless, because I have no idea of the cost of such buildings, which must vary, according to the material used and the state of the labour market, which are matters about which I know nothing. If you ask me the value of the land I might be able to give you some information.

639. Would you consider sandstone suitable for the exterior walls and foundations of such a building? Our best public buildings are built of sandstone, so that I do not see why it could not be used for Parliament Houses.

640. Assuming sandstone to be cheaper than trachyte, would you favour the expenditure of the larger sum upon what would be the more durable stone, or would you consider sandstone sufficiently good? I could not offer an opinion upon the subject. The exterior walls of some of our handsomest buildings—the Post Office for example—are built of Pyrmont sandstone, and I do not think we want anything better. I can give you no opinion as to the kind of material that should be used for foundations.

641. Do you consider £530,000 an extravagant amount to spend upon the proposed buildings—that is, without the furniture? Yes; I think that the furniture alone for such a building as that designed would be unwarrantably expensive.

642. Do you think that the country should be able to get a suitable building for £250,000? I do.

643. Including furniture? Yes.

644. Would you give the Committee your opinion as to what is the proper number of Members to be accommodated in the Assembly? No; I shall not do that.

645. But do you consider that it would be sufficient to provide accommodation for 125 Members? I think that would be ample for many years—for more years than most of us are likely to live.

646. *Mr. Trickett.*] You stated that you would like to see ample accommodation provided for the public? I do not think I said that exactly; but I think that more accommodation is necessary because of the demand made for admission at the present time. I have no strong feeling in the matter, however, one way or the other.

647. For what number of persons do you think accommodation should be provided? One could not fix any number. Occasionally now it happens that there are applications for admission from three people for every one who can be accommodated.

648. We could not give accommodation to every one on every occasion? No; that would be impossible.

649. You do not consider that a sufficient reason for pulling down the present building is the desire for further

The Hon. Sir J. P. Abbott, K.C.M.G.

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further accommodation on the part of the public? Certainly not. As I said before, the public have such facilities for reading what takes place in Parliament that the reason for their accommodation in the chamber is not so great as it used to be.

650. You also stated that you did not think any of the existing capitals would be the seat of the Federal Government? Yes; and I form my opinion upon the views I have heard expressed by Members of Parliament from all the Colonies. It seemed to be the unanimous opinion of the Representatives to the recent Convention that the capital of the Commonwealth should not be situated in any of the State capitals.

651. It should be upon neutral territory? It should be upon neutral territory.

Donald Murray, M.A., Reporting Staff, *Sydney Morning Herald*, sworn, and examined:—

D. Murray, M.A.

29 April, 1897.

652. *Mr. Roberts.*] Have your professional duties taken you constantly to the present Legislative Assembly for any lengthy period? I have attended there frequently during the last three years.

653. Consequently, you are familiar with the accommodation provided there for the Press? Yes; thoroughly familiar with it.

654. Is it adequate for the work that has to be done there? No; the accommodation provided both for *Hansard* and for the Press is very inadequate.

655. Would you be kind enough to explain to the Committee in what way it is inadequate? Not only is there want of space; but the arrangement of the space allotted is very bad. I think that the *Hansard* reporters should be placed on the ground floor. The present *Hansard* arrangements could not be worse, and if the reporters were accommodated on the ground floor, more accommodation could be given to the Press by allotting them the rooms vacated by *Hansard*.

656. Is that how you would remedy the present defects in the accommodation? Yes; I think some arrangement of that kind should be made. I think it would be a very great convenience to the *Hansard* reporters to be on the floor of the House. That was where they were placed during the sittings of the Federal Convention in Adelaide. There they had seats just in front of the President and the Clerks, and they found the arrangement very suitable.

657. Do you think there is space for the accommodation of *Hansard* on the floor of the House? I think there is ample room for them there. Of course they might obstruct the view of the Clerks; but I think that difficulty might be got over by having a sort of "well" arrangement—something like what you have here. The advantage of getting *Hansard* out of the gallery upstairs, is that more accommodation could then be given to the Press.

658. Is that the only way in which you think the accommodation of the press could be increased? The Press accommodation could, I think, be increased by adding another storey to the Opposition Room. That would give us a lot of extra accommodation. The rooms occupied by the *Herald*, the *Telegraph*, the *Star*, and the *Evening News* reporters are very small. To-night a budget speech is to be delivered, and we shall hardly have room to turn round.

659. The Press accommodation is under the management of a Committee of Press-men? Yes.

660. Has the Committee ever made any suggestion to Mr. Speaker, with a view to getting him to increase the accommodation? We did make some suggestion; but I cannot remember exactly what it was. The Secretary of the Committee—Mr. Moody of the *Star*—would be able to tell you.

661. How long is it since the representation was made? I think about a year ago.

662. Was Mr. Speaker asked to consent to the building of this extra storey? I think that that was one of the suggestions; but I do not remember the details.

663. Do you think if what you suggested were done, ample accommodation would be given for some years to come? The accommodation would not be ample, but we should have room to move about. If a new paper were started in Sydney, its men would require gallery accommodation, but at present there is absolutely none to be given. Every year the number of men who want admission to the Press gallery is increasing. At the present time tickets for the Press gallery have been issued to sixty people. Of course only a comparatively small number of these are present in the gallery on any one day.

664. How many newspapers are actively represented in the gallery? It all depends upon the occasion. Upon an ordinary day there are representatives of the *Herald*, the *Telegraph*, the *Star*, the *News*, the *Newcastle Herald*, and several press-agencies. On a big night like to-night, the *Sunday Times* will also be represented. *Truth* will be there, and a number of other papers will send special representatives. That simply crowds the gallery.

665. And puts every one engaged there to great inconvenience? Yes.

666. *Chairman.*] There is not enough room in the gallery, and there is not enough room in the transcribing offices? Yes.

667. Have you had an opportunity of examining the designs for the proposed new Houses of Parliament? Yes; I saw them this morning. I went over them with an officer from the Government Architect's Department.

668. Does the proposed Press accommodation meet with your approval? No; there is sufficient accommodation there, but it is not properly distributed. It has been appropriated by other people.

669. You are not properly located? That is it.

670. *Mr. Roberts.*] But sufficient space is allotted to you? Yes; and there is sufficient space behind the gallery to serve our purpose if it were given to us; but a good deal of it is taken up by the officers of the House.

671. What alterations do you think should be made? I think accommodation should be given to *Hansard* on the ground floor. There would then be one or two *Hansard* reporters on the floor of the House, sitting just in front of the Clerks, and rooms should be provided somewhere at the back of the Chamber where they could do their transcribing. The Clerks and other officers of the House should also, I think, have their offices on the ground floor. The accommodation on the next floor should, I think, be entirely devoted to the Press, though most of it has been allotted to the officers of the House. Only one room there is set apart for the Press; but such an arrangement is utterly ridiculous, in view of our requirements. In discussing the matter between ourselves, it was suggested that a very suitable arrangement would be to allot one Press room to the *Daily Telegraph*, and the *Hansard* room to the *Herald*. A passage could be run through the large room now set apart for the clerks, and the two new rooms thus erected could be allotted to the *Star* and the *Evening News*. The other rooms could be used by representatives of the country Press, telegraphic agents, and so on.

672. You think that the whole of the space on that floor to the north of the Chamber should be reserved for the Press? Yes. The arrangement proposed, viz., that the Press should be accommodated in one small room behind the gallery, is simply absurd. The accommodation in the new building would really be worse than that which we have at present. Of course there are other Press rooms on the second floor; but it would be simply out of the question for men to go up and down stairs every turn.

673. Are you aware that the length of the desk in the present building is 28 feet, while the desk in the new building will be 31 feet long? That is not enough. Not only that, but it is proposed to box in each desk, which would still further limit the space. In the present gallery the *Herald* has two seats, and in emergencies we can crowd in another chair; but we could not do anything of that kind with this box arrangement.

674. In the new building you think more accommodation should be given to the Press? Yes, undoubtedly. If *Hansard* were put on the ground floor, and the whole of their accommodation given to the Press, I think that that would be sufficient.

675. I understand that you have four rooms in the present building? Four rooms and a dining-room.

676. In the new building you will have six? Yes, but the five upstairs rooms would be quite useless to us for the purposes of our work.

677. In the new building you would have 1,591 feet of space as against 620 feet in the present building? There is plenty of space allotted to us, but we are not properly located.

678. Has the Press Committee fully considered this matter? It was fully considered last Session, and this morning we had a short consultation about it.

679. May we regard your answers as expressing the views of your committee? Yes, I think I have expressed what I believe to be the unanimous opinion of our committee.

680. *Mr. Black.*] I gather from your remarks that you have no doubt that the country is under an obligation to make arrangements in its Parliamentary buildings for the convenience of the Press? Well, that is a matter which has nothing to do with me; but the accommodation, if given, should be convenient.

681. You think that the country is under an obligation to give great convenience to the Press in this matter, irrespective of cost? The cost is no consideration to us. All we want is the accommodation. If it cost only a £10 note we should be content, so long as the arrangements were convenient.

682. There is no suspicion in your mind that the newspaper proprietors of the colony are simply in the same position as ordinary tradespeople, and might so be viewed by the Parliament of the country? I do not think the Press is at all in the same position—quite the contrary.

683. Do you think the accommodation given to the Press in the present House is altogether insufficient? Yes.

684. With regard to what you said about having *Hansard* in a "well" on the floor of the Chamber, do you make that suggestion in the interests of *Hansard* or in the interests of the unattached Press? It is decidedly in the interests of *Hansard* that those reporters should be on the floor of the House. The "well" I spoke of is only a matter of detail.

685. It might be to the interests of *Hansard* in affording them better opportunities for hearing, but would they not then be too far from their transcribing-rooms? If the *Hansard* reporters are placed on the floor of the House their transcribing-rooms must be on the same floor.

686. Would it not be inconvenient to have reporters constantly passing in and out of the Chamber amongst the Members? It was done at Adelaide, and I do not know that it proved inconvenient there.

687. Some objection was made to the arrangement there;—would it not be difficult to make sure that one man would be ready to follow the "take" of another man? I do not think so. There was no trouble in Adelaide. I know that the men there were delighted with their position, and said that it could not have been better.

688. You also think that it would be an advantage to the daily Press to have *Hansard* on the floor of the House? Of course that would give us additional accommodation. Under present arrangements *Hansard* takes up a considerable amount of space which would otherwise be available to the Press.

689. You want not only more gallery room, but more office room? Yes. The *Hansard* accommodation is about the worst in the building, and then comes the Press accommodation.

690. But the Press accommodation now is better than it was six or seven years ago? Yes; though that is not saying very much. The rooms allotted to the various papers are so small that on a busy night one can hardly turn round.

691. Are they badly ventilated? They are badly ventilated, and they are over-heated. In short, there is everything that is bad about them.

692. Have you had an opportunity of comparing them with the Press rooms in other colonial Parliaments? Yes; I know the accommodation provided in New Zealand, in Victoria, and in South Australia.

693. Does your accommodation compare unfavourably? Yes, very unfavourably; especially with that provided in Melbourne and in Adelaide. The Press accommodation in Adelaide is splendid, and there is good accommodation in Melbourne too.

694. Do you think we, in New South Wales, should be justified in spending as much money in the erection of Parliamentary buildings as they will be obliged to spend in South Australia and in Victoria in completing their Parliamentary buildings? That is a matter for the politicians; I have no opinion to express in regard to it. A galvanised-iron shed might be provided, for all I would care, so long as the accommodation was comfortable and adequate.

Garner Ward, Reporting Staff, *Daily Telegraph*, sworn, and examined:—

695. *Mr. Farnell.*] You have been connected with the *Daily Telegraph* for a considerable time? Yes.

696. You are conversant with the accommodation afforded to the Press in our present Parliamentary buildings? Yes.

697. Is it adequate for the requirements of the Press? Quite inadequate.

698. When you first took charge of the *Daily Telegraph* staff was the accommodation the same as it is now? Practically the same.

699. It has not been increased very much? No; it has rather been decreased. Part of the *Herald* room was taken away to give space for a passage leading to a lavatory.

700. What amount of room have you in the gallery? We have two desks in the front row of the gallery and a desk in the second row.

701. Is that sufficient? No; altogether insufficient.

D. Murray,
M.A.

29 April, 1897.

G. Ward.

29 April, 1897

- G. Ward.
29 April, 1897.
702. How many transcription-rooms have you? Only one.
703. On the average, how many people would use that room? On the average we have half-a-dozen people there every night when both Houses are sitting.
704. What would be its dimensions? I should say not more than about 12 feet by 12 feet.
705. Consequently you must be hampered by want of space? Yes; very considerably.
706. Have you experienced any inconvenience in connection with the refreshment-room service? There has been much trouble at various times.
707. Is there a mess-room set aside for the Press? Only during the last year or two—since the alterations were made in the building.
708. Do you agree with the views expressed by Mr. Murray in regard to the necessity for improved accommodation? Yes, I quite agree with him in his views in regard to that matter.
709. What do you think would be a desirable arrangement for the Press in the new Houses of Parliament? I concur in the suggestions made by Mr. Murray. No doubt if the arrangements designed by Mr. Vernon were carried into effect we should be worse off than we are now. If, however, in addition to the space set apart for us, we got the accommodation which has been set aside for *Hansard*, we should be a little better off than we are now; but there would then only be sufficient room for present requirements, and I think that for future requirements the whole of the space behind the gallery should be allotted to the Press.
710. You want, not a curtailment, but an extension of accommodation? Yes.
711. Supposing it were determined to improve the Press accommodation in the existing building, what suggestions would you make? I think that additional accommodation might be given to us by carrying up the Opposition room another storey. That was suggested to Mr. Lync, then Minister for Public Works, when the recent alterations were being made; but Mr. Vernon said that it could not be adopted, because it would interfere with the lighting of the Opposition Room. I hardly think that Mr. Vernon is sufficiently acquainted with the requirements of the Press to be able to understand them.
712. Have you experienced any difficulty in obtaining access to public documents which have been laid upon the Table of the House? Not to any considerable extent.
713. Do you think that if proper accommodation were provided for enabling you to examine these documents it would be an advantage? Yes. The room downstairs is a very small one, and when there are a lot of documents to be examined, as there will be to-night, it is full of reporters. Still, on the whole, no serious complaints can be made against the present arrangements.
714. Is the country Press represented in the gallery now to any extent? Not very largely. It is chiefly served by agencies.
715. One man would represent three or four country newspapers? Yes, and more than that.
716. Does everybody obtain admission to the Press gallery as a *bonâ fide* reporter, or do some people go there simply out of curiosity? A number of people go there simply to hear the speakers, and not to report. The reporting is done by the Sydney daily Press, and by one or two representatives of the country Press.
717. So that no large expenditure would be necessary to provide accommodation for the country Press? No; but those representatives want some accommodation. At present they have no room at all, and they have to use the rooms of the evening papers. The *Newcastle Herald* always has a representative in the gallery, and he has to use one of the rooms of the evening papers. There ought to be a room for the country Press.
718. Are you satisfied with the Press accommodation in the Upper House? No; it is very limited.
719. Is it worse than that in the Lower House? Yes; though the bad accommodation there does not entail so much inconvenience upon us, because, except in important crises, the Council reports are not so extensive as those given of the Assembly debates. Still, the accommodation allotted to the Press in the Legislative Council is very limited.
720. *Mr. Black.*] Have you any difficulty in hearing the speeches of Members of the Council? No; the acoustic properties of the Council Chamber are good, and we are nearer the floor there than we are in the Assembly.
721. You do not think it necessary that *Hansard* should be put on the floor of the Upper House? I am not in a position to say anything about that.
722. But regarding the arrangement as a convenience to the Press? We should have quite enough accommodation on the Council side if we had the space allotted to *Hansard* in addition to our own. There is only one Press room on the Council side.
723. It is transcribing-room rather than gallery space that you want on the Council side? No; we want both; but, as I have said, the inadequacy of our accommodation is felt more on the Assembly side, because the bulk of our work is done there. The accommodation provided for us in both Chambers is, however, quite out of date.

FRIDAY, 30 APRIL, 1897.

Present:—

THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esq. (CHAIRMAN).

The Hon. FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHERY.

The Hon. JAMES HOSKINS.

The Hon. CHARLES JAMES ROBERTS, C.M.G.

The Hon. WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT.

The Hon. DANIEL O'CONNOR.

HENRY CLARKE, Esq.

CHARLES ALFRED LEE, Esq.

JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, Esq.

THOMAS HENRY HASSALL, Esq.

GEORGE BLACK, Esq.

FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WRIGHT, Esq.

FRANK FARNELL, Esq.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting New Houses of Parliament for the Colony.

Stewart Marjoribanks Mowle, Usher of the Black Rod, Legislative Council, sworn, and examined:—

S. M. Mowle.
30 April, 1897.

724. *Chairman.*] Have you had an opportunity of seeing the designs for the new Houses of Parliament and of examining the proposal which they contain for providing new accommodation? I had not seen the plans until to-day.

725. *Mr. Black.*] Do you think we require new Houses of Parliament? No.

726. What reason have you for saying that? I think that the present accommodation is ample, except in one particular—there is not enough room for the annual function at the opening of Parliament. S. M. Mowle.
30 April, 1897.
727. You think that with some slight alterations from time to time the present buildings are equal to all requirements? I think so. I should like to see a more pretentious front given to the building, if that were possible, but beyond that, I do not know that much is necessary. We have a great number of new buildings here—those erected for the accommodation of Ministers, for example—and I should like to know what would be done with them if a new House of Parliament were erected. The present front, however, is very old. It is part of an old hospital building which was erected in Governor Macquarie's time.
728. You think it would be well to put a new front to the building? I think so, but I do not speak as an architect.
729. Do you not think that it would be better to let it stand, front and all, until such time as it became absolutely necessary to construct the new building? Perhaps it would. We all know that the old building is ant-eaten, because the ants swarm out from it at different places at various times; but my only anxiety about it is in regard to the danger of the library. In Sir John Hay's time I urged upon him to try and get part of the new hospital building for the accommodation of the Library books. I think that the Library should be isolated.
730. How would that suit the convenience of honorable Members? I think that the arrangements could be made so as not to prove inconvenient to honorable Members.
731. Where would you propose to put the books now in order to make them secure? There is no place for them now.
732. Do you think it would be advisable to construct a new Library near the present building, if available space could be found? I think so. I should like to see the Library building completely isolated, so that the books would be safe. There are some books in the Library which could never be replaced.
733. Have you any other suggestion to make with a view to the improvement of the present building? No; I think the present accommodation is ample. The offices are very comfortably furnished, and the Refreshment room is a very fine one. I do not think that you could have a better.
734. I believe that the accommodation on the Council side is more ample than that on the Assembly side? No; I think not, though of course I know nothing about the Press and *Hansard* arrangements.
735. I speak more particularly in regard to the accommodation in the Chamber? I think the Council Chamber is more commodious than the Assembly Chamber.
736. And it is better ventilated? The ventilation there is not good. The place is extremely hot in summer. The building is an iron one, and was imported from Melbourne.
737. *Mr. O'Connor.*] You think that the present buildings are in every way ample? Yes.
738. Have you read the Government Architect's opinion of them? I know that the older parts of the buildings are not safe, because there are white ants everywhere.
739. Then some alteration is necessary? An alteration is necessary in a measure, if it will dovetail in with the newer portions of the building.
740. You think that if those portions of the building which are ant-eaten were restored the place would meet all requirements for some time to come? That is my opinion.
741. Do you know anything about the accommodation afforded to the public in the Legislative Assembly Chamber? No; but I should say that about 200 members of the public could be accommodated there.
742. Do you know what accommodation is given to visitors who wish to interview Members upon any matter? Possibly there is not sufficient accommodation for the public in that way.
743. Have you any idea as to what facilities are afforded to the daily Press or to *Hansard*? No; I cannot speak for the Press or *Hansard*.
744. You did not make it your business to go through the building and inquire before coming to give evidence here? I know every part of the building well.
745. The older portions, we are told, are in a very dilapidated and dangerous condition? Yes.
746. *Mr. Hoskins.*] Do you consider that, with all their defects, the present buildings are sufficiently good and convenient, and that the expenditure of £700,000 on new Houses of Parliament is not desirable? Yes.
747. *Mr. Clarke.*] You have stated that some slight alterations are required;—what alterations would you suggest? I would like to see a new front put on the building, and that portion which originally belonged to the old hospital rebuilt, the Library being isolated from the main building.
748. Where would you suggest that the Library should be put? There is plenty of room in the Domain.
749. The books are now liable to be destroyed by fire? Yes. That has been my anxiety for the last thirty years.
750. Do your remarks apply to the Lower House accommodation as well as to the Upper House accommodation? I would not care to say much about the Lower House accommodation; but I frequently see a great many people waiting in the lobbies to interview Members, so that it is evident that the accommodation for the public is not sufficient.
751. Are the new buildings erected for the accommodation of Ministers, and to provide Committee-rooms suitable for the purpose? I think so. I should call them luxurious; but I am a humble individual, and perhaps that word would convey too much to some people.
752. *Mr. Wright.*] Is the Council Chamber big enough for ceremonial purposes? No; I have stated that it is not. I got into great disgrace on that account on the last occasion of the opening of Parliament.
753. How much larger would it have to be to accommodate all who seek for admission on such an occasion? I think it would have to be twice as large.
754. *Mr. Fegan.*] Do I understand that it is very hot in the Council Chamber in the summer time? Yes; it is unbearably hot.
755. The Members of the Council have sat there summer after summer? Yes.
756. And you have heard many complaints in regard to the great heat and bad ventilation of the Chamber? Yes.
757. That being so, do you not think some alteration should be made to give honorable Members more ease and convenience? I thought the inconvenience was to be obviated by letting Parliament meet in the winter.
758. Other Premiers beside the present one have promised to do that, but they have not been able to keep their promise? Yes; that is so.

- S. M. Mowle. 759. Therefore, we cannot be sure that Parliament will not sit during future summers? That is so.
- 30 April, 1897. 760. In which case do you not think better arrangements should be made for the comfort of honorable Members. We do not want to poison men by compelling them to sit in a bad atmosphere. I suppose you feel it yourself at times? Yes.
761. Do you not think that something should be done to make things pleasant for the Members? No doubt we all like things to be done to make life pleasant for us.
762. But if the present accommodation is badly ventilated and inconvenient, so much so that Members in the summer time often leave the Chamber to go into other rooms to get a little cool air, do you not think better accommodation should be provided? I have already stated that I think the building adequate for its purposes.
763. In that case there is no fault to be found with it, and it must be nice and cool in the summer time? That is not so.
764. Then it must be very inconvenient and uncomfortable during the summer months? Well, in our private residences we have to submit to inconvenience in summer time.
765. But we are not dealing with private residences. You say that the accommodation in the Council Chamber is inconvenient and uncomfortable during the summer months, and I ask you should not something be done to make the place convenient and comfortable? That is a very puzzling question, and I do not know that I can answer it satisfactorily. I can only say that we are inconvenienced in our own private residences in summer time, but we cannot pull them down to remedy the inconvenience.
766. But some people leave their city residences and go to the country during the summer? I should be much obliged to you, Mr. Chairman, if you will not call upon me to answer these questions. This is merely a matter of opinion.
767. *Chairman.*] I understand you to mean that the present accommodation could be improved, but at an expenditure which, in your opinion, would not be justified? Yes; that is what I would say.
768. *Mr. Fegan.*] You do not think that the time has yet arrived for spending £500,000 on the erection of buildings? Not with the accommodation that we already have.
769. What office have you? I have a small room upstairs.
770. About 9 x 5? It is not very large, but it answers my purpose; I am quite satisfied with it.
771. But you really have not the convenience that you would like there? Yes, I have. I am perfectly satisfied with my accommodation, though I am a man of very humble pretensions.
772. Have you any officers under you? No.
773. You can only speak for yourself? Yes.
774. The accommodation afforded you is quite sufficient, and all you want? Yes.
775. *Mr. Hoskins.*] Have you been to England of recent years? No.
776. Are you aware that persons wishing to see Members of the House of Commons have to interview them in the lobbies? No; I do not know what the arrangements there are.

Sidney Herbert Moody, Reporting Staff, *Australian Star*, sworn, and examined:—

- S. H. Moody. 777. *Mr. O'Connor.*] Have you seen the plans of the proposed Houses of Parliament? Yes.
- 30 April, 1897. 778. Have you looked into them well? I have examined the proposed Press accommodation.
779. You are acquainted with the accommodation afforded in the present House? I am.
780. Would you mind telling the Committee your opinion of it? Our present accommodation is not at all satisfactory. It is not sufficient for the requirements of the daily and country Press. The four daily metropolitan papers have each a small room for transcribing purposes, but the country Press have no transcription rooms. Besides these four rooms, there is a larger room, used for refreshment purposes, but it opens out of a urinal and lavatory. What, I think, should be done to improve the present accommodation is to extend the Press room back over the top of the Opposition room. That, I think, would give us sufficient accommodation.
781. *Chairman.*] I suppose you agree with the evidence given by the representatives of the *Herald* and *Telegraph* staffs, who have been before us? I heard Mr. Ward's evidence and nearly all of Mr. Murray's evidence, and I agree with what those gentlemen said, both in regard to the present accommodation and in regard to the proposed accommodation.
782. *Mr. O'Connor.*] Would the improvement you suggest involve any considerable expenditure? I should not think so.
783. Even if new Houses of Parliament are not built you must get better accommodation than you have now if you are to properly discharge your duties? Yes. On the Legislative Council side the accommodation is very bad, especially upon the occasion of a big debate. During the Session before last, when there was a big discussion there in connection with the Dean case, we were bringing out special editions, and I had a staff of eight reporters with me, who were taking three-minute "turns," and they actually had to fight their way in and out of the gallery. The only accommodation provided there for transcribing for all the men who were there on that occasion representing the Press of the colony was one small room.
784. Do you know anything in regard to the accommodation given to the *Hansard* Staff? In a general way I know that it is not sufficient. They are very much crowded.
785. *Chairman.*] I suppose any further evidence you could give would simply be a reiteration of what we were told yesterday? Yes.
786. If the new Houses of Parliament were built as designed you would not be satisfied both with the area and the location of the rooms allotted to you? No, we should not.
787. Does the *Australian Star* keep a staff for the reporting of the Parliamentary debates? Yes, we have a staff always in attendance, varying from three and four to seven and eight men.
788. *Mr. Hoskins.*] Do the proprietors profess to give a full report of the debates? Yes, if they think that the importance of the matter under discussion demands it.
789. *Mr. Lee.*] In the course of your attendance at Parliament House have you noticed a growing tendency towards the fuller representation of the country Press? Yes, there certainly is that tendency. I am secretary to the committee which controls the Press gallery, and last night I wrote for sixty-five tickets of admission.
790. *Mr. Wright.*] All for Press men? Yes.
791. *Mr. Lee.*] Was that for last night alone? No; that is the number of sessional tickets issued. These tickets entitle their holders to come into the gallery whenever their services are required by the newspapers which they represent.

S. H. Moody.
30 April, 1897.

792. Is there any fee paid by those to whom the tickets are issued? No.
793. The gallery arrangements are under the control of the Press Committee, subject to the authority of Mr. Speaker? Yes, we simply advise Mr. Speaker.
794. The arrangement appears to work well? It works very satisfactorily.
795. I suppose in the Session there may be nights when forty men would want admission to the Press gallery? That is quite possible.
796. But more than half that number would have to be shut out? Yes; the gallery accommodation is only just about sufficient for ordinary requirements. If another newspaper started it would be quite insufficient.
797. Although nominally the representatives of the country Press have a right to enter the Press gallery, actually they have no opportunity to do so? Well, they have very little opportunity now.
798. In times of great excitement, or when a speech of great importance is about to be delivered, I suppose the country Press are practically excluded? Well, that might happen to some of them.
799. You do not hold the opinion that it is right or proper that the country Press should be excluded? No; they should have proper accommodation.
800. At the present time the public require the fullest and speediest reports of the proceedings of Parliament? Yes; that is why we are there.
801. That being so, you hold that proper accommodation should be given to those who are engaged in supplying the public demand? Yes; I think we should have proper accommodation, so that we can do our work comfortably.
802. At present, though the country Press have nominally the right to enter the gallery, they are practically excluded? If a few more country papers asked to be represented, their accommodation would be crowded at all times.
803. Under normal conditions there is only a moderate number of reporters present; but upon important occasions there is a great number of Press representatives in the gallery, and the country Press representatives are practically excluded? Well, they are very inconveniently accommodated.
804. The representatives of the metropolitan newspapers take precedence? Yes; we occupy the front row of the gallery. The country representatives have only a small row at the back.
805. The present accommodation is absolutely insufficient? Yes; the *Star* room is about 10 ft. by 8 ft., and sometimes there is a staff of seven men at work there.
806. I suppose that on a summer night the atmosphere is almost unbearable? Yes; we must have every window open, and sit working in a strong draught.
807. How long have you been in the gallery? Nine years.
808. What is the atmosphere in the Chamber on hot nights? It is almost unbearable at times.
809. Have you ever perceived anything objectionable about it, apart from the temperature? You might call it heavy.
810. In saying that it is unbearable, you do not exaggerate? I do not.
811. This unpleasant state of things has continued, notwithstanding the efforts made to ventilate the Chamber? Yes, to a lesser extent.
812. At the present time the conditions under which the Press reporters work are just about as bad as they could be? I think so.
813. But they might be vastly improved by some slight alterations? Yes.
814. If the present buildings are to continue in use, do you not think that some immediate steps should be taken to alter the Press gallery? I think so. I think there is great need for improvement.
815. And to give more retiring rooms? Yes; that is absolutely necessary. I have suggested that another storey be added above the Opposition Room. That seems to me the most convenient and easy way out of the difficulty.
816. Had your Committee any opportunity to confer with the Government Architect in connection with these plans? No; I think that the Committee was not in existence when the original plans were designed.
817. But the Press have not been consulted in regard to the matter of accommodation? No. Some time ago I spoke about the matter, and I was told that the accommodation would be better than that in the House of Commons.
818. Can you hear well in the present gallery? Yes.
819. And see well? Yes, very well from the front row.
820. But you have to stand up to see Members sitting beneath the gallery? We have to stand up to see Members who are sitting on the end seats. We stand up when we are counting divisions.
821. *Mr. Egan.*] Yesterday Mr. Murray was asked if any representation had been made to Mr. Speaker or to any officer of the House in regard to the bad Press accommodation? I believe a letter was written on the subject, but I forget what reply was received.
822. You were not told then that you had more room than they have in the House of Commons? No.
823. It has been suggested that *Hansard* should be removed to the ground floor;—if the *Hansard* gallery were given to the Press, would they have sufficient room? I think so, if the *Hansard* gallery were continued so as to join the Press gallery.
824. But without making any alteration of that kind? Well, it would be an improvement.
825. You know the rooms at the disposal of the *Hansard* staff;—if they were given to the Press, would you be satisfied for a time? That would certainly be a very great improvement, but then you would probably have to build rooms for the accommodation of *Hansard*.
826. In answer to Mr. Lee, you said that the metropolitan Press occupied the front row of the gallery;—could not the country Press demand admission there? Not to the front row.
827. But they can demand admission to the gallery? Yes; but it might happen on a big night that the gallery would be so full that men coming late would not be able to get in.
828. And the men in the gallery would not be able to do their work properly? Yes.
829. Whether the new Houses of Parliament are erected or not, you think the accommodation of the Press should be improved? Yes.
830. *Mr. Black.*] Is not the Press gallery much cooler now the electric light is used in the Chamber? Necessarily the place is cooler now that the electric light is used.
831. In regard to your proposal about adding another storey to the Opposition Room—is not that room lighted by a skylight? I believe that it is partly lighted by a skylight.
832. Then, if another storey were added, how would you light it? Well, that is rather a question for the architect.

TUESDAY, 4 MAY, 1897.

Present:—

THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esq. (CHAIRMAN).

The Hon. FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHERY.

The Hon. JAMES HOSKINS.

The Hon. CHARLES JAMES ROBERTS, C.M.G.

The Hon. WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT.

HENRY CLARKE, Esq.

CHARLES ALFRED LEE, Esq.

JOHN LIONEL FOGAN, Esq.

THOMAS HENRY HASSALL, Esq.

GEORGE BLACK, Esq.

FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WRIGHT, Esq.

FRANK FARNELL, Esq.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting new Houses of Parliament for the Colony.

The Honorable Sir John Lackey, K.C.M.G., President of the Legislative Council, sworn, and examined:—

The Hon. Sir J. Lackey, K.C.M.G., 4 May, 1897. 833. *Mr. Hoskins.*] Have you given the question of building new Houses of Parliament any consideration? Yes, a little; but not so much as I should like to have given it.

834. Do you consider that new Houses of Parliament should be built? I do.

835. The Colonial Architect has prepared designs for new buildings which he estimates to cost £530,000, exclusive of furniture. Do you think that the Colony would be justified in going to that expense, especially having in view the probability of the Federation of the colonies within a few years? I do. I think that the Colony would be quite justified in building new Houses of Parliament, even at that cost. The estimate which you mention is considerably lower than the estimate put before the Government of which we both were members some years ago.

836. If Federation were established, it is probable that the local Legislatures, having merely local matters to attend to, would be numerically smaller than they are at the present time? That is a matter which will depend a great deal upon the conditions under which the Federal States and Governments are formed. I take it that the function of the Federal Government will be to deal with a few important matters of intercolonial concern, but I do not conclude that the general internal management of these colonies will be handed over to them. There are, no doubt, a few very important matters of intercolonial concern which would have to be dealt with by the Federal Parliament; but I do not think that body would have anything to do with the domestic legislation of the various colonies. That being so, it is due to this Colony, as the oldest member of the group, that it should have a Parliamentary building suitable and fitting for the purposes for which it was used. I look upon the present building as a reflection upon the Colony. No doubt a great deal of money has been expended upon it from time to time, and it has been made as suitable as possible; but I look upon it as a reflection upon the Colony that the present buildings should be continued in use so long.

837. Is the accommodation in that branch of the Legislature over which you preside well adapted for its purposes? It is as good as it can be under the circumstances. The original buildings were, in the first instance, only put up temporarily, and they have been so much altered and changed that the accommodation is in many respects inconvenient, and I do not think it is creditable to the Colony. I do not think that the circumstances of the Colony warrant the economy which is shown by the retention of inferior buildings like those.

838. Although the public debt amounts to nearly £60,000,000, and we send away more than £2,000,000 yearly in payment of interest, you think the circumstances of the Colony justify us in increasing the debt by another £600,000 or £700,000? I have always had considerable faith in the future of the Colony, and, although our public debt is pretty large, I think we have fairly good assets to show for it in our railways and other public works, such as Government buildings which will last until we have a population ten times as large as we have now.

839. Is the Legislative Council Chamber well adapted for its purpose? It answers its purpose except on certain occasions. There are occasions when it is altogether insufficient.

840. What are they? Occasions like that of the opening and prorogation of Parliament, which are considerable functions under our system of Government. At such times the Council Chamber is altogether too small for the accommodation of the people who wish to come there.

841. But, generally speaking, is there sufficient room in the Council Chamber for the Members entitled to sit there? Quite.

842. Therefore, the inconvenience you speak about only arises once or twice in the year? Rather more often than that. I look upon the place as inadequate for its requirements, especially in a wealthy Colony like this. In many respects the Chamber is unhealthy. The ventilation is very bad, and the accommodation is not as good as it should be.

843. Do you notice the ventilation to be very bad? I have heard many complaints in regard to the ventilation of the Chamber; but I cannot say that I have noticed it myself.

844. There are some whimsical people who are never satisfied with anything? It is not difficult to find such people.

845. The only objections you have to the present Council Chamber are that upon certain ceremonial occasions its accommodation is deficient and that its ventilation is not very perfect? Yes; but, further than that, I say that the structure is not creditable to the country.

846. If a fine building were erected, do you think that an intelligent stranger would take it as an indication of the prosperity of the country, especially if he knew that it was built of borrowed money? Well, a great many enterprises in this Colony are being carried out with borrowed money; but there is always the ultimate expectation of being able to pay off the debt, and I think that is the case with our public debt.

847. Personally, have you suitable accommodation? Yes.

848. Are the officers of the House—the Clerks and the Usher of the Black Rod—provided with fair accommodation? I think they have not suitable accommodation. I receive many complaints both from the official staff and from the literary staff—the reporters.

849. I suppose the Clerk of the Parliaments complains? He complains for others more than for himself.

850. What are the nature of his complaints? That the Clerks have not sufficient accommodation.

851. It has been stated to the Committee by an official of the Legislative Council that he and some three or four other clerks should be provided with an office, a robing-room, a bedroom, and a lavatory each;—do you think it is necessary to provide that accommodation? No, I do not; but it must be remembered that upon occasion the Council have sat all night, and in the Assembly it frequently happens that the officers have to remain up all night, and therefore require some accommodation of this sort. When I was in the other House, the Chairman of Committees was always provided with a bedroom, and I think that the Sergeant-at-Arms had similar accommodation. Whether such accommodation should be provided for the other officials is, perhaps, a matter for consideration.

The Hon.
Sir J. Lackey,
K.C.M.G.
4 May, 1897.

852. Have you inspected the offices yourself? I have been through them; but I do not go there very often.

853. Do you not think that the clerks there have as much accommodation as the clerks in a bank or insurance office get? Yes; but the Parliamentary staffs have night-work as well as day-work.

854. Do you not think it advisable, in order to protect valuable public property, that the Library should be secured from the risk of fire? Certainly. I have thought that for a long time. I look upon the Library as a very valuable possession, and I think no care would be too great which would protect it from the danger of fire.

855. Do you not think that the security of the books could be provided for, and further accommodation be given to the public, by putting two large fire-proof rooms in front of the present building and storing the books in them, allowing the public to use the present Library? Yes, that would be possible; but my objection to it is that it would perpetuate the present state of things. We have been adding to and patching and altering the existing building until it looks almost like a rabbit warren. We commenced badly. The original Council building was put up as a temporary structure, and has been continually added to since; but I do not think we should perpetuate this state of things. All these buildings must be swept away some time or another.

856. But the front of the present building is permanent? I should not call it permanent. It is a very old building, and has been in existence for seventy or eighty years. The Council Chamber was put up when responsible government was inaugurated, and has been altered and added to from time to time ever since.

857. But is there not this altering and patching-up in connection with all buildings, even new buildings? I think not to the same extent as in connection with our present Parliament Houses.

858. Is it not a fact that the buildings in Westminster are subject to yearly alterations and improvements? That is very likely.

859. Do you think that sufficient accommodation is provided for the public in the galleries of the Legislative Council? Yes, for ordinary purposes.

860. But you object to any alterations or improvements or additions being made to the present buildings, and you say they ought to be disused? Yes; as soon as may be convenient.

861. Have you seen Mr. Vernon's design? Yes, I have.

862. Have you been consulted by him as to the accommodation to be provided? Yes; but not so much as I should have liked.

863. Are you satisfied with the plan? As far as I understand it, I think that it contains all that is necessary. The present proposal is not so gigantic in its pretensions or in its cost as was that submitted to the Government years ago, when we were in office together. I think that, as Secretary for Works, I resumed the greater part of the land upon which it is intended to build the new structure—the whole of that block from the present building to close upon Governor Bourke's statue.

864. You are of opinion that, under any circumstances, whether the Federation becomes an accomplished fact or not, new Houses of Parliament ought to be built in Sydney? That is my opinion.

865. *Mr. Fegan.*] Did Mr. Hoskins approve of the plans submitted to the Government of which you were a member? It is so many years ago that I hardly recollect; but I fancy not. The Government, as a whole, did not approve of them.

866. Do you know what the cost of the proposed building was to have been? £1,250,000.

867. Is the present proposal anything like that which was submitted to you as Secretary for Public Works? I have only an indistinct recollection of the plans which were submitted to me at that time, but I know that they were gigantic and extensive. We were living in prosperous times then. Money was plentiful, and the revenue was very large; but one of the reasons why the plans were not adopted was that the estimate of expenditure was very large.

868. You cannot say which design—No. 1, 2, or 3—you prefer? No; though one of them I thought unostentatious and very suitable.

869. You have seen the model? Yes.

870. In the event of the Governor being detained in the Council buildings, is there any convenience for his reception? None whatever.

871. Do you think that such convenience should be provided? I do.

872. Have you heard any complaint in reference to the amount of accommodation which your officers now have? Yes; from time to time I get complaints stating that they are cramped, and have to pack two or three clerks together in one room. That was especially the case before the *Hansard* accommodation was altered.

873. And you have had complaints from Members in regard to the inadequate accommodation provided for them? Yes; complaints not so much in regard to the Chamber as in regard to the surrounding rooms.

874. You think that if the Committee do not recommend the erection of new Houses of Parliament, something should be done to make the present buildings more convenient? One of the reasons that has decided me as to the necessity for the erection of new Houses of Parliament is that it seems as if as soon as one place is repaired and patched up, another portion of the building gets out of repair and becomes unsuitable.

875. And you think it would be more economical to leave the old building altogether? Yes. At the present time they have often to take up the floors and even the ceilings, and renew them, because of the ravages of the white ant. Not long ago £7,000 or £8,000 were expended upon the building.

876. *Mr. Wright.*] If there were accommodation in your Chamber for 1,000 people, do you not think that there would still be applications for admission from persons for whom you could not provide seats? Yes; but I think it is very desirable that the people should take an interest in the opening of Parliament. It is one of the annual shows of the place.

877.

- The Hon. Sir J. Lackey, K.C.M.G.
4 May, 1897.
877. Would it not be possible to improve the present accommodation? I am entirely against such a proposal. The present building has been altered again and again, and has had a great deal of money expended upon it, until now it is beyond any permanent improvement.
878. *Mr. Clarke.*] Considering that in the event of our having Federation the number of Members will probably decrease, do you not think that a less pretentious building than that proposed to be erected would be sufficient for our purposes? At all events I think it is desirable that we should have a new building, and after the number of years which the present building has been in use I think it is time that we erected a suitable and creditable structure.
879. You think that the proposed expense would not be too great? Under the circumstances, I think that it would not be too great.
880. *Mr. Black.*] You have referred to the annual expenditure of money incurred in keeping the present buildings in repair. I believe that the amount is £1,000 per annum. Do you look upon that money as thrown away? I did not refer to the annual expenditure. I referred more to the periodical expenditure. Some time ago £7,000 or £8,000 were expended upon the building; before that £3,000 or £4,000 were spent upon it, and any further alterations would probably cost from £4,000 to £5,000. Rather than go on incurring these large expenses I think it would be better to build new Houses of Parliament.
881. Do you not think that such patchwork costs the country less than the interest which we should have to pay upon an expenditure of £600,000? I have great faith in the future of the country, and I think we should have a more expensive building than the present one. Since the new Hospital has been built Parliament House has had a very mean appearance. People are quite surprised when they see such an indifferent building alongside such a fine building as the Hospital.
882. In view of the possible reduction of Members of the Assembly and of Ministers consequent upon Federation, do you not think that one of the objections to the present building—lack of accommodation—at once vanishes? I hardly think so. I think that even with a Federal Parliament it is essential to have a creditable building for the meeting-place of the State Parliament. Moreover, the Federal Parliament would not meet in Sydney; so that no comparison could be made between the Federal Legislative Buildings and our State Legislative Buildings.
883. Do you not think that if we were federated there would be a reduction in the number of Members of the State Parliament? I think so; but it would all depend upon the Constitution of the Federal Government.
884. Would there not also be a reduction in the number of Ministers, because the functions of some of them would be handed over to the Federal Government? I take it that there would be some reduction in the number of Ministers also; but I still think that the country is deserving of a more presentable building than we have at present.
885. Your chief objection to the present building seems to be that it is not an adornment to the city? I do not know that that is so altogether. I look upon the greater part of the present building as rotten. Floors and ceilings have constantly to be renewed, and money is always being expended to make good the ravages of decay and the harm done by the white ants.
886. You do not attach any importance to the historical associations of the present building? I have a great regard for its old associations, but I do not think they are perpetuated by keeping in existence such a structure as we have now.

FRIDAY, 7 MAY, 1896.

Present:—

THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esq. (CHAIRMAN).

The Hon. FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHERY.	CHARLES ALFRED LEE, Esq.
The Hon. JAMES HOSKINS.	JOHN LYONEL FEGAN, Esq.
The Hon. CHARLES JAMES ROBERTS, C.M.G.	THOMAS HENRY HASSALL, Esq.
The Hon. WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT.	GEORGE BLACK, Esq.
The Hon. DANIEL O'CONNOR.	FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WRIGHT, Esq.
HENRY CLARKE, Esq.	FRANK FARNELL, Esq.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting New Houses of Parliament for the Colony.

Joseph Wynn Niesigh, Reporting Staff, *Evening News*, sworn, and examined:—

- J. W. Niesigh.
7 May, 1897.
887. *Chairman.*] You are on the reporting staff of the *Evening News*? Yes; I am leader of the reporting staff of the *Evening News*.
888. *Mr. Humphery.*] Have you studied the plans of the proposed new building? I have seen them.
889. And have you taken particular notice of the provision made for the reporting staff? Yes.
890. Are you of opinion that the provision there proposed will be sufficient? No; I do not like the provision as it is laid down on the plan. There should be more gallery space, I think, and the rooms for the occupation of the Press should certainly all be on the same floor as the gallery. Then, again, I think it is absolutely necessary, if new Houses of Parliament are to be built, that there should be at least an additional room in the space allotted to the Press to provide for any additional newspaper that might be started in Sydney in the future, and there should also be at least one separate room for the provincial Press. A room for the provincial Press is a great necessity.
891. Do you mean a room for the reporters of a number of additional newspapers, or a room for one general representative? No. For instance, Gordon and Gotch and Greville's agency, the *Newcastle Herald*, and others have representatives in Sydney, and send one man each to Parliament. The provision at present seems to be only for the metropolitan Press.
892. You have read the evidence given by other witnesses? I have heard it.
893. In regard to the existing accommodation for the Press? Yes.
894. Do you concur in that evidence as to the total inadequacy of the present accommodation? I most emphatically endorse it.
895. Do you wish to specify the inadequacy? I should like to give one example, taking the case of the *Evening News* room. That is the oldest room in the gallery. There are in it a table, three chairs, and a sofa. I have a staff varying from three to six men. If three are writing in the room, and a fourth wants to come in, he will have to climb over the sofa to get there. From an old custom, the *Newcastle Herald* uses

uses one of the seats in the room, and Messrs. Gordon and Gotch's representative, an old identity in the gallery, has been in the habit of hanging his hat up there. If we have a busy night, and the *Newcastle Herald* representative is working in the room, and I have a couple of extra men, I cannot find a place in which to hang my hat, and I cannot get round to my own chair.

J. W.
Niesigh.
7 May, 1897.

896. Your experience is also that of the representatives of the other newspapers? Yes; I think my case is the most glaring one.

897. Are you prepared to make any suggestion with regard to the plans now before the Committee as to accommodation, in addition to that which is provided? Not in addition to what has already been said. The suggestion was made that the rooms on the same floor as the present gallery should be all reserved for the use of the Press, instead of only a couple of rooms being set apart for the Press, and the remainder being occupied by certain officers of the House. As regards the suggested alteration of the plans in that respect, it is sufficient for me to endorse what has been said already.

898. Do you think that the requirements of the Press might be met by using the rooms for Press purposes that, according to the plan, had to be provided for officers of the House? Yes.

899. *Mr. Farnell.*] I suppose you have had an opportunity of seeing the accommodation provided in the Houses of Parliament in the other colonies? Yes; in South Australia and Victoria.

900. Are the arrangements there for the convenience of the Press superior to what they are here? Infinitely.

901. I think you omitted to state the size of the room which you occupy? I could not give you the measurement.

902. Would it be 12 ft. by 12 ft.? No; not as large as that. There are a table, a sofa, and three chairs in it, and that fills the room.

903. What accommodation do you think would be adequate or necessary for the performance of your duties in connection with the *Evening News*? We should want a room at least half as large again.

904. Would you require any separate room for transcription? No; we only ask for one room for each paper keeping a large staff there. The ventilation of the room is abominable.

905. In the event of the Committee not being disposed to recommend the erection of new Parliamentary buildings, could the necessary accommodation be provided in the old buildings? Yes; I think so. Some few years ago we asked for increased accommodation, and five or six years ago we were given a dining room; but we were told that the existing rooms would not be extended in the manner we suggested, because it would interfere with the light in the Opposition Room. We have looked at it in various ways, and we think, with all respect to the professional knowledge of the architect, that the difficulty could be got over by extending the rooms across the Opposition Room, and providing side lights for that room. If any alterations are being made to the gallery in the present House, and it were possible, it would be a great advantage if the gallery itself could be altered. There has been a suggestion that the *Hansard* gallery should be extended, if the *Hansard* reporters were put on the floor of the House. At present we have a row of desks allotted to the metropolitan papers, and a back row for leader-writers and representatives of provincial papers. The back row is useless in a crush, because there is no thoroughfare. If a man wants to go out, or to be relieved by another who is to take a turn, every one else must get up. If it would be possible to throw the gallery forward a few feet, and make a passage at the back it would be a great advantage.

906. You do not seem to have any objection to the position of the gallery? No objection to that at all. It is the condition of the gallery and the surroundings which we object to.

907. It has been stated that on certain occasions, it is with very great difficulty that the reporters can transact their business;—did you find any inconvenience the other night when the financial statement was delivered? No; that was an exception, but on the occasions of ordinary financial statements, or big Ministerial nights, we have in the past found ourselves unable to work, and that is what led to the formation of the Gallery Committee. We have had the place so packed that working with the evening papers—bringing out editions frequently, and boys running backwards and forwards—we found it absolutely impossible to get out of the gallery to deliver messages. The work is increasing every day as time goes on and facilities for publishing are increased.

908. You have heard the evidence given by Mr. Murray, Mr. Ward, and Mr. Moody? Yes.

909. I suppose that you agree generally with it? Yes.

910. *Mr. Trickett.*] Were you in the habit of attending meetings of Parliament before those Ministerial rooms were put there surrounding the Legislative Assembly? Yes.

911. Do you think their being there has any effect on the ventilation of the Chamber? I cannot say that I have noticed any difference.

912. Do you not think they have the effect of shutting out the direct air which might otherwise get into the Chamber? They may do that, certainly.

913. I believe that some professional evidence is about to be given in that direction, and I should like to know if you do not think that it must affect the Chamber? I should think it would, but I have not looked at it in that light before.

914. Do you not think that those rooms must have made it closer? I think it must, now that you have drawn my attention to the fact.

915. From your being there very often at night time, do you not think it would be advisable, if possible, for the Chamber in which Members are assembled so many hours at a time, very often on hot summer nights, to have direct access from without for ventilation, and not be surrounded by offices? I should think it would be a very distinct advantage.

Francis Austin Ward Williams, Representative in Sydney of the *Newcastle Morning Herald*, sworn, and examined:—

916. *Chairman.*] You are the representative in Sydney of the *Newcastle Herald*? Yes; and also the Press representative of Reuter's Telegram Co.

917. *Mr. Lee.*] Does your occupation necessitate your constant attendance at Parliament House during the Session? Yes; right through the sittings.

918. How long have you been attending there? About ten years.

919. What has been your experience in reference to the accommodation afforded in the Press gallery? As far as I am concerned, there is no accommodation at all.

F. A. W.
Williams.
7 May, 1897.

F. A. W.
Williams.
7 May, 1897.

920. Why do you say, "as far as I am concerned"? Because my position is different from that of the metropolitan men. Each of the metropolitan papers has a staff. I simply depend on myself, and I have to rely upon their courtesy for any accommodation at all. They have rooms set apart for them, but there is no accommodation for myself or for any other provincial newspaper representative.

921. What rule is there guiding the seat accommodation in the gallery? I understand that the front seats are allotted to the metropolitan papers, and in connection with that I may say that Greville's Telegram Co. has one of the end seats, and I have permission to use that. That is the only method by which I can get to see the House at all.

922. Do you wish us to understand that you are constant correspondent for the Telegram Co. and the Press? Yes. I may mention that my Parliamentary telegrams to Newcastle average between 2,000 and 3,000 words every night.

923. It would follow that you must be present? I must be present right through the whole sitting.

924. On what ground are the front seats allotted to the metropolitan Press? On the ground of custom, I think, more than anything else.

925. I presume that the country Press is not debarred? They have no right to the front seats at all. I may mention, with regard to the weekly and tri-weekly and bi-weekly papers in the country, that they do not require a front seat in the sense that I do. I represent the only daily provincial paper publishing extensive reports of Parliament.

926. I suppose upon ordinary occasions you find sufficient accommodation in the gallery? Under present circumstances, by courtesy, I have. There is ample accommodation in the gallery itself.

927. But on special occasions, like the occasion of the Financial Statement, or when other matters of great public interest are being debated, do you find any difficulty then? Yes, great difficulty. There is no accommodation for us.

928. How do you arrange under those circumstances? I simply have to get on as best I can. I have half a desk—about 1 foot 6 inches of space to write on. I have a crowd of people round me on my left, and no accommodation for writing at all. I have not room to move my arms.

929. Is it not a fact that on special occasions the country Press is more largely represented than on ordinary occasions? Yes.

930. Consequently, the limited accommodation is very much taxed? Yes.

931. And it becomes more inconvenient for every pressman outside the metropolitan papers? Yes; I may say in regard to this matter that I represent the whole of the provincial papers, because I am their representative on the Gallery Committee.

932. You have access to the present rooms? I have by courtesy. The rooms are set apart for the metropolitan papers.

933. Not specially set apart? Yes.

934. Then the metropolitan papers have a right to the front seats in the gallery, and an absolute right to the present rooms behind? Yes; that is the case.

935. What, in your opinion, should be done to provide ample accommodation in any new House of Parliament? I think the provincial Press are entitled to such accommodation as will enable them to see what is going on in the House.

936. First, to see—that is a necessity? It is an absolute necessity to see, because you have to see the speaker as well as to hear him.

937. And after that? And after that the setting apart of the rooms for the provincial papers.

938. Is it the practice for the reporters to write out their notes in the ordinary way, or is there a tendency to have them typewritten? As far as the metropolitan papers are concerned, the tendency is to have them typewritten, but in my case I have to write out all the notes which I take.

939. But supposing you were representing several country journals, under those circumstances would you not adopt the typewriting system? I daresay that I should.

940. At present you simply transcribe your notes with the pen? Yes.

941. What extra accommodation do you think is required in the gallery? By setting apart two seats permanently for the provincial papers in the front row, you would meet their requirements.

942. Two additional seats? Yes.

943. But do you not take a somewhat limited view of the future? I think not. I think that for a good many years to come the country Press will be very little altered.

944. Supposing additional papers were started in Sydney, and there was a demand for additional space? In that case it would be necessary to make provision for it; but as far as the country papers are concerned two additional seats would be sufficient.

945. I presume that those two additional seats cannot be provided in the present gallery? No.

946. In any gallery provided in the new House provision must be made on a more liberal scale for the accommodation of reporters representing country newspapers? Undoubtedly.

947. You do not dispute the right of the metropolitan journals to take precedence? No, not at all; but I may mention that the country papers give a good deal more space proportionately to parliamentary and political matters than the metropolitan papers.

948. Your epitome of the proceedings in the country newspapers is generally in the shape of an elaborate telegram? Yes, as far as I am concerned.

949. Not so much a detailed statement of what takes place? In my case both apply.

950. Is not that generally obtained from *Hansard*, which is almost a verbatim report of the proceedings? Yes, to a large extent.

951. Therefore, the demand of the papers is to have a pithy telegram at the earliest possible moment? Yes.

952. And that necessitates a representative being present? Yes.

953. Have you any suggestion by which the accommodation of the present gallery and the present rooms could be given? No? I do not see how it could be done at present. The space that is now available could hardly be utilised to better advantage than it is.

954. Have you had to complain of want of ventilation in the gallery? Yes.

955. Has that been particularly marked during the warm months of the year? Certainly. It is absolutely oppressive at times in the gallery.

956. And in the winter time I believe it is extremely cold? Yes.

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957. Do you wish to express any opinion as to whether the reporters' gallery should be above the heads of the speakers, or should be more on a level with the floor of the House? No. I prefer the gallery system.
958. You find that the sound comes better upwards? Yes; that has been the experience of most Parliament Houses, I think.
959. And there is less interruption? Yes.
960. How would a double tier of seats do in a reporters' gallery—that is, one above another on an inclined plane? Of course, that would be a matter for the architect.
961. Do you know of any objection to it? No; none at all.
962. So long as the accommodation is provided that will enable the reporters to both see the speakers and to hear distinctly, with sufficient room behind for transcribing notes, you would be satisfied? Yes—that is, if a passage is provided in the gallery so that we can get to the seats without disturbing other reporters.
963. *Mr. Fegan.*] I believe you occupy part of the *Evening News* room? Yes.
964. You are only there on sufferance? Certainly.
965. Outside of Sydney, I suppose your paper has the largest circulation of any of the provincial papers? We flatter ourselves that it is so.
966. Yet you have no space in the House to report the proceedings for your paper? No; except by the courtesy of others.
967. But you think that that state of things should cease to exist? Yes. I look upon the matter as the Press representative of between 60,000 and 70,000 people, who require not only general political news and parliamentary reports, but also special attention to local matters which frequently come up in the Assembly.
968. As a rule, you send verbatim reports of debates on matters closely connected with your district? Yes.
969. If another morning paper should start in Sydney, would they have a preference before you? Undoubtedly they would, under the existing system.
970. Although you have been there for years? Although I have been there for ten years.
971. Do you not think that that is absurd? I think so.
972. Do not you think the provincial Press should have certain accommodation as well as the Sydney morning or evening papers? Yes; I think they are entitled to it.
973. What greater rights have they than the other papers? They have the right of influence—the rights of pressure. I may say that I am only able to bring pressure to bear even in the most reasonable direction upon a very limited number of Members; but the Sydney papers might be able to secure the influence of the whole House.
974. Is that the real reason why you are in that position? I think so. I may say that I look upon myself as being in practically the same position here as a representative of the *Manchester Guardian* or the *Yorkshire Post* would be in the House of Commons in London, and full accommodation, is to my absolute knowledge, provided for the provincial papers in the gallery of the House of Commons.
975. *Mr O'Connor.*] The metropolitan Press get precedence? That is a regulation by the Gallery Committee to a large extent.
976. *Mr. Fegan.*] In other words, might is right so far as the convenience of reporters in the Press gallery is concerned? Yes; but I have nothing to complain of.
977. The only right they have to this room is that they have a greater voice with the representatives? Yes, no doubt about it.
978. If the members of the Press were not so courteous, you would have a difficulty in reporting the proceedings of the House? I do not know that I could do it at all.
979. You would be at a great disadvantage in reporting matters affecting the interests of the Newcastle district? Yes. A question might arise as to the administration of the Coal Mines Act, or anything of that kind, which I should report very fully; but if it were not for the courtesy which I enjoy at present, I should have nowhere to write out my notes.
980. You would have to carry a desk about with you? I should have to go down to the Telegraph Office, and write out my notes there.
981. But even with this courtesy the room is very scanty indeed for the convenience of pressmen? Yes; undoubtedly.
982. I suppose that in that room that you partly occupy the ceiling has been falling down? Yes.
983. So it is hardly safe to be there? Several times we have thought that there would be a break-down.
984. They have not been as liberal as they ought to have been? Certainly not.
985. And that applies to the painting of the room? Yes; pieces of paper which were left on the door many years ago are still there, although the outside of the door has been painted.
986. They were so economical that they painted the outside of the door and left the inside filthy? Yes.
987. Do not you think that is a poor way in which to deal with those who are reporting the proceedings of Parliament? Yes. I think that Members generally will recognise that it is desirable that full accommodation should be given to the Press. Of course, the Press cannot perform their work efficiently without proper accommodation.
988. Do you think the suggestion was a good one which was thrown out that if the Committee do not adopt the plans for a new building, another storey should be built over the Opposition Room? I think that is objectionable as regards both the convenience of Members in the Chamber and that of the Press. I think it is objectionable that there should be any further aggregation of buildings in a block like that. I think it interferes with ventilation very considerably.
989. It is necessary that some alterations should be made to give greater accommodation? Yes.
990. In the event of the Committee refusing to adopt the plans for a new building, what would you suggest as a means of getting over the difficulty? I daresay the extension over the Opposition Room, as you suggest, would meet the difficulty.
991. But that would not interfere with the ventilation of the Press gallery? No.
992. Taking the whole thing into consideration, the Press could be made much more comfortable by another storey being erected over the Opposition Room? I think so.
993. I suppose that very often reporters of the different districts go to the Press-rooms? Yes.
994. How do they get there? There is no accommodation at all by which I can interview local Members. I may want to obtain a valuable Departmental report, or something of that kind, and I have no means of interviewing

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interviewing the Members at all, except by standing in the lobby or the corridor at the top of the stairs, which prevents any one else from passing.

995. And you cannot go into the room, because it will only hold three or four? Four at the outside.

996. And you have no right to take Members into that room? I have no right to take anyone into the room at all.

997. So that, taking all things into consideration, the provincial papers labour under disadvantages that they really ought not to labour under? Yes; under greater disadvantages than the Sydney papers.

998. And if another morning paper should be started in Sydney, the representatives of that paper would have greater rights than you, although they have not been for years in the gallery as you have been? Yes.

999. Do you not think that absurd? Of course, in a matter of that kind it should be left to the decision of the Speaker absolutely. He has the allotment of the seats. The inauguration of a Gallery Committee might make matters better, because the Gallery Committee would be able to confer with the Speaker as to the allotment of seats.

1000. On a busy night, I suppose, there are a great many more in the gallery and in the rooms? Yes.

1001. So many that there is nowhere to place your overcoats or bats, or anything like that? No.

1002. You have been in the House of Commons? Yes.

1003. You have reported there, have you not? Yes.

1004. Is the convenience there for the provincial Press better than it is here? Yes, undoubtedly.

1005. How much more space have they there than here? Several of the provincial papers have separate rooms for transcribing, and they have full representation in front of the gallery.

1006. But considering the large number of papers represented in the House of Commons, do you think that accommodation there is much better than it is here? Yes, undoubtedly.

1007. Can you make any other suggestion as to the better ventilation of the gallery, and as to making it more comfortable for representatives of the Press? No; I should merely like to suggest that there should be some other room. I should not like to say in what way it should be provided.

1008. Is it not rather inconvenient to take friends to the dining-room? There is a narrow passage to go through, which, although very short, is so dark that one cannot see to the end of it. At the end of the passage there is a lavatory, which is not too well attended to, and of very primitive design, and the food has to be carried through the lavatory, past the open urinals, to the dining-room.

1009. Could not that be avoided in any way at present? Not very well, I think.

1010. But if a room were built over the Opposition Room better arrangements could be made there? Undoubtedly.

1011. *Mr. Black.*] Am I to infer from your answer to Mr. Fegan's question that you think every newspaper in the town or country is entitled to claim a seat in the Parliamentary Press-gallery, and also accommodation in a room? No, I do not say that; but I think there should be some discretion in the matter. What I mean to say is that largely circulating papers—well-established journals—should be afforded convenience.

1012. On what is grounded the claim of any newspaper to a seat there? I think that, as a matter of fact, that we have no right there.

1013. But is not the reason the publicity that you give to Parliamentary proceedings? Undoubtedly.

1014. Then, if that be so, obviously the newspaper that gives the greatest publicity has the greatest claim to be there, and to the best accommodation? No.

1015. How can it be otherwise;—you admit that the only reason you have for claiming any accommodation there is the publicity that you give to the Parliamentary proceedings? One might carry the argument to the other extreme, and say that accommodation should be simply given to the papers that give extended publicity, and exclude the other papers altogether.

1016. You admit that small papers—papers of no account in the city and country—have no right to a place there? No, I do not say that. I say that they should not have the same accommodation as those who give lengthy reports of the proceedings.

1017. Do you think it possible that where there are some 200 or 300 papers, or where, as in England, there are thousands, it would be possible to afford a place in the Parliamentary Gallery for the representative of every paper? Of course it would be impossible.

1018. Then, obviously, only those papers which are of sufficient importance, and which give a sufficient publicity to Parliamentary proceedings, have any right to be there—there must be some limit? Undoubtedly there must be some limit.

1019. Then we come back to the question that I was asking, whether the amount of publicity given to the proceedings, and the circulation given does not give the greatest claim to accommodation? Within reasonable limits, certainly.

1020. Then the inference to be drawn from your reply to Mr. Fegan as to equality of claim is that that claim is not a well-founded one? I do not say that there should be an equality of claim exactly, because such cases must rest with the discretion of the Speaker, or whoever is controlling the gallery.

1021. Then, if there is a discretionary power there can be no equality;—the paper that gives the greatest publicity should have priority? Yes.

1022. *Mr. Fegan.*] Has the *Bulletin* a space allotted to it in the gallery? No. I am not sure whether the *Bulletin* has a ticket of admission to the gallery.

1023. That paper is widely read is it not? Yes. I might say, in regard to Mr. Black's question, I should be entitled to accommodation which I do not receive at present. Comparing the *Newcastle Herald* with other papers, my report of Parliament extends over, perhaps, two-and-a-half columns every day, the whole of which is wired. The other papers on the following day will come out with perhaps an equally long report taken from the Sydney papers and not brought up to date.

TUESDAY, 11 MAY, 1897.

Present:—

THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esq. (CHAIRMAN).

The Hon. FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHERY.
 The Hon. JAMES HOSKINS.
 The Hon. CHARLES JAMES ROBERTS, C.M.G.
 The Hon. WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT.
 The Hon. DANIEL O'CONNOR.
 HENRY CLARKE, Esq.

CHARLES ALFRED LEE, Esq.
 JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, Esq.
 THOMAS HENRY HASSALL, Esq.
 GEORGE BLACK, Esq.
 FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WRIGHT, Esq.
 FRANK FARNELL, Esq.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting New Houses of Parliament for the Colony.

John Kirkpatrick, Architect, sworn, and examined:—

1024. *Chairman.*] You are an architect in practice in the City of Sydney? Yes.

1025. *Mr. Trickett.*] I understand that you have had considerable experience in your profession? Yes; ^{J.} Kirkpatrick.

during nearly twenty-two years. 11 May, 1897.

1026. Have you examined the plans and the model of the new Houses of Parliament designed by the Government Architect? Yes.

1027. Do you approve of the exterior design of the building? Well, as a rule, architects in designing a building commence by making the ground-plan, and then the plans of the other floors. When we have thoroughly studied the requirements, and arranged the accommodation to meet them as conveniently as possible, we proceed to deal with the elevation. In this instance, however, it appears to me that the elevation has been dealt with first, while the plans have been made afterwards. I notice that there are four different elevations of designs and only one plan.

1028. And you consider this rather an unusual proceeding? We generally make the plans first, and do not bother our heads about the elevation until the interior requirements of the building have been studied in detail.

1029. Well, it is immaterial to us whether you deal with the interior arrangements or the exterior design first? I would rather begin with the interior arrangements, because the vital question is not the exterior beauty of the building, but its utility. Suppose we begin with the Assembly Chamber. I find that the Assembly Chamber is placed in the centre of a block of buildings, and immediately surrounded by a corridor. Through its being placed in that position there can be no ventilation given to it, except what can be got through the roof, and there are no windows opening into the outer air. I think that the Chamber should be somewhat apart from the main building, and clear from it on all sides. Then, in place of the Members' corridor, which is shown on the ground-plan, you could surround it with a sort of covered-in verandah, 14 or 16 feet wide. If it is possible to ventilate the Chamber designed by Mr. Vernon, you will have a much better chance of ventilating a Chamber open on all sides.

1030. *Mr. Hassall.*] Instead of having the Assembly Chamber in the body of the building, you would make an annexe of it, and have it ventilated from all sides but that adjoining the main building? Yes.

1031. *Mr. Black.*] You would have both the Chambers of Legislature occupying a similar position with regard to the main buildings that the Library occupies on the plan? Yes; projecting towards the east at each end. Of course, the Chambers need not be octagonal; they might be square, with a circular end, or entirely square.

1032. *Mr. Trickett.*] I suppose you think it is desirable in a hot climate like this that there should be direct access from such a Chamber to the outer air? Yes. In the Japanese House of Parliament, and in the later Parliamentary buildings of other places, you will not find that the Chambers are immediately surrounded with offices. They may have two separate corridors—one for the private use of Members and the other for the public—but you will not find them jammed into the building in such a way as to give them no air. Then, again, in this design there is a long corridor for Members, several hundred feet in length, which I do not see any possibility of lighting. I will guarantee that it would be darker than the corridors in the Colonial Secretary's and Public Works Departments. The only means of lighting are two small areas, which are not large enough to light an ordinary warehouse. In Messrs. Batt, Rodd, and Purves' building I have three areas, and they are larger than these. The corridor will be as dark as night. The only chance of lighting it will be by fan-lights or with a borrowed light. I consider this an absolutely disgraceful bit of planning, and I am sure that every architect who comes here will bear me out in what I am saying. I am sorry to come here and give evidence of this kind while Mr. Vernon is away, though I suppose he has left officers to represent him; but I do not think any of them will be able to get away from this defect in regard to the Members' corridor.

1033. In regard to what you say about the position of the Assembly Chamber, I would point out that there are a great many offices which have to be in close proximity to the Chamber itself, so that it appears to me that some of these passages must be lighted with borrowed light? I do not think so. I think a building could be designed in which you need have no borrowed light.

1034. *Mr. Black.*] Will the areas you speak of be a sort of well, open to the upper air? Yes.

1035. *Mr. Trickett.*] They would be a great height? Yes; 40 or 50 feet; perhaps 60 feet high.

1036. You have instanced the Japanese Houses of Parliament;—can you tell us any others of modern design where the Chambers have direct access to the outer air? At Rhode Island they have designs for Chambers with direct access to the outer air. All the Parliament Houses whose Chambers are within the building have them situated in enormous areas or court-yards, the superficial space of which is nearly always double that of the Chamber itself.

1037. I understand that Mr. Vernon has surrounded his Chambers with offices, especially on the northern side, in order to give Press accommodation upstairs as close as possible to the galleries;—could such accommodation be given without surrounding the building in the way proposed? Yes; I noted that Press accommodation, having seen so much in regard to it in the newspapers. The first-floor plan shows it. The galleries are divided into a Press gallery, the Speaker's gallery, the Strangers' gallery, and the Ladies' gallery; but, for the life of me, I do not know why these divisions should be made. I cannot see why there should not be one large gallery, which could be divided up as you pleased by neat divisions, instead

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instead of by thick arched walls. If there were one big open gallery right round I think the effect would be better than the effect of these little pigeon boxes. Then, too, these galleries will be only 12 feet from the floor, while I think they should be 16. Of course they may run back in steps like the seats of a grandstand, or of a theatre; but it would not look nice, constructionally, to have the slope showing on the underside. It would be better to have the underside square; otherwise the Chamber would look unfinished. The gallery design which has impressed me is a design for the German Parliament House. There you have an open, clear, large gallery, extending right round. It looks more noble than a gallery cut up by walls with these little arched openings. All these arches will cost extra money, and they must be built of marble or something of that sort.

1038. You instance the interior of the Houses of Parliament at Berlin as having more suitable gallery arrangements than those suggested by the Government Architect? Yes; of course we could divide up such a gallery as I speak of with nice little neat divisions. The gallery designed by Mr. Vernon would do very well in England, where the weather is often very cold. This is the Queen Anne style of architecture.

1039. *Mr. Black.*] An open gallery will lend itself better to any new arrangements that might have to be made? Yes. With regard to the Assembly Chamber I would point out that if placed where designed it would be impossible to increase its size, if at any time you wanted to do so; but if the Chamber projected from the building you could take down the end wall without pulling the building about at all, and could then extend it as far as you liked.

1040. *Mr. Trickett.*] You have referred to the Berlin Chamber;—has that Chamber anything above it? It has a domed roof and a large superficial area of open space surrounding it, but it is not exposed to the open as I would propose that this should be. It is in the centre of a large area or court-yard.

1041. The tendency in modern times is to have all Assembly rooms of this kind built in the open so that the air can get to them? Yes. I think it will be better for the Ministers of the Crown to have to walk a few feet further to get from the Chamber to their rooms, and to have a nice cool Chamber to sit in, than to have the present arrangement, under which air would have to be pumped into the Chamber to keep it cool.

1042. If that were done, and the offices of the clerks, and the Ministers' rooms, were placed a little further away from the Chamber, there would still be ample room for the Press close to the Chamber? Yes. The Press want their rooms very handy to the galleries, and we could give them rooms which would be very convenient for them. Another thing that struck me was the enormous size of the rooms devoted to Mr. Speaker's quarters. Those rooms could certainly be reduced in size. What I should imagine, from looking at that plan, is that they were made such a size in order to suit the elevation.

1043. What floor-space would be occupied by Mr. Speaker's rooms? I will supply that information later on; but the same remark applies to all the rooms. The writing-room, the Members' room, and the public rooms are all very large. I think there is a wanton waste of space in connection with all these rooms. I am sure that no Minister would want a room 22 feet by 15, or 21 feet by 16. I think that all the rooms could be reduced in size.

1044. Your idea is that the plan is unnecessarily spread out? Yes, and it takes up pretty well all the Domain. There will not be much of the Domain left directly. The Opposition room is very small in comparison with the Ministerial rooms.

1045. Do the remarks which you have made in regard to the Legislative Assembly Chamber, apply also to the Legislative Council Chamber? The Legislative Council Chamber should, I think, occupy a similar position to that I proposed for the Legislative Assembly Chamber.

1046. It is surrounded by corridors and rooms, and gets no direct ventilation? Yes. I notice that some hydraulic lifts are provided in the building; but there is a passenger lift near the Council Chamber where there are no windows at all. I should not think they would have any light there. There is a window some 40 feet away about 3 ft. 6 in. in width.

1047. That would afford very poor light? Yes; or in fact no light at all.

1048. Are not the offices provided for the President, the Clerk of the Parliaments, and other officers, also very commodious? I think that a great deal of the space given to those purposes should be curtailed, and the public space increased. The public are very badly treated except for a long lobby, which also seems to be waste space. This public lobby is divided into three parts by a central avenue and two rows of columns. What use are those two rows of columns;—are they doing any business, or are they only stuck there for ornament? Looking at the first-floor plan we find that the columns support a gallery on each side about 8 feet wide. On the eastern side there is not a single door opening on to the gallery; on the western side the gallery gives access to the *Hansard* reporters' rooms.

1049. The gallery on the eastern side appears to be of no use at all? Of no use at all.

1050. Even if they were of use could not these galleries be supported by cantilevers? Yes; but there is no use for the galleries. A perspective drawing shows these lobbies to be of the character of an arcade; they are not at all suited to a Parliament House. I suppose the space is left to gain light from the roof; but the arrangement does not give the effect of a central hall.

1051. Compare it with the lobby in the Melbourne buildings? It is ridiculous.

1052. That is a fine, open space they have there? Yes.

1053. And it is the same in the Houses of Parliament in London? Yes, and it is the same in Japan and elsewhere. The lobbies there are not divided up with rows of columns and paltry 8-foot galleries. The more open a room the less costly it is, except for the big construction that may be needed above with girder work. I think this lobby would look much better without any columns. I would also like to call the attention of the Committee to the construction of the roofs of both Chambers. Looking at the section I find that between the ceilings of the Chambers and the outside roof there is a distance of 40 feet. That means that there will be over 100,000 cubic feet of waste space above the ceilings of the Chambers. Then, too, the construction of the central dome is on the old-fashioned model adopted by Sir Christopher Wren when building the dome of St. Paul's. He had not the iron-work that we have at the present day to construct with, so that he had to work out his design with a large brick cone, from which he brought out his wood bearers, and so on, until he had shaped the outer dome; but no modern architect would think of such a construction now. In designing a dome the great trouble is to make it look as well from the inside as it does from the outside, and to get over this difficulty architects make a false dome inside to suit the internal appearance, and build a larger dome outside to obtain a good external

external appearance. If I had a dome at all, I would have it after the style of the Roman Parliament Houses, and not waste the space. Coming back to the Chambers I would again point out the enormous amount of waste space which there will be between the ceilings and the roofs. In all the constructions I know of, while there may sometimes be 10 or 15 feet of space wasted in this way, they never take so much as 40 feet. But if we turn to the drawing on the front elevation we see that this arrangement is designed in order to enable the roofs of the Chambers to show above the roof of the building in front of them. If the Chambers are placed in the middle of the building of the present design, their roofs must either be below the general roof level, which would spoil the ventilation, or they must be raised to look nice in the elevation.

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1054. Would not the ventilation in the Chambers be very poor, considering the smallness of the windows that are provided for the purpose? They could increase the ventilation, but, according to the section, there will be only twenty-four holes, 3 feet in diameter, to light each Chamber. There is no way of getting light from the sides—the only way is to get it from the roof.

1055. It is the same with regard to ventilation? Yes.

1056. What style of architecture would you call design No. 3? I think the whole scheme has a touch of Queen Anne about it. It has not that solid, quiet grandeur that a public building should have. You have in the front elevation, between the Legislative Chambers and the central dome, a building of a common or ordinary style of architecture, of no character, and with nothing in it but a number of little columns, 18 inches or 1 ft. 9 in. in diameter. These columns are altogether too small for a building of such a character, while, too, the cornices and the general projections of the building are all of the little order. There are none of them greater than those of the building we are now in. If, however, you take the Melbourne Parliament Houses, or the Brussels Law Courts, you have a big building with big parts. The picture I hold in my hand is a photograph of the Brussels Law Courts. The entrance is somewhere about 40 feet wide and about 80 feet in height, and you have columns 5 and 6 feet in diameter. In all great classic buildings—and this is understood to be a classic building—there is one recognised rule for architects to follow. We work by the diameter of the base of the column. Accordingly as you make the column big you make everything big in proportion. If you look at the Melbourne Parliament Houses you will see that it has great cornices and everything solid. There are no little parts. That sort of work is known as the grand order of architecture.

1057. *Mr. Black.*] Do you mean to say that in this design there is a want of proportionate harmony in the main features? Yes. It appears to me that No. 1 would be a better design but for the little square roofs on the towers. There is a quiet simplicity about it, and more dignity. No. 2 design is modelled from the last competition in England, when Mr. Ashton Webber was the successful candidate for the Kensington Museum. That sort of architecture is a mixture of Classic and Renaissance, and is only a passing fashion, like the fashion of a lady's dress. You would be safe, in building Houses of Parliament, to go in for a purely classic building, without any Queen Anne touches about it. The Melbourne Houses of Parliament are great buildings, but the Adelaide design is not such a good one. Everyone I know admits that the Melbourne Parliament House is a very noble design.

1058. *Mr. Trickett.*] Whose design is it? Mr. Robert Kerr's, of Melbourne.

1059. *Chairman.*] Have you any idea of the cost of the Brussels Law Courts? £750,000, I believe. We need not go in for the old-fashioned Sir Christopher Wren dome. My private opinion is that the design for new Parliament Houses, which was furnished by Sir John Lynn of Dublin thirty years ago is infinitely superior to this. If this design were sent to England to be judged by some of our best architects there—of course, it should not be sent to a Gothic man—you would hear something astounding, as we did in regard to a competition that was sent home not very long ago. Then in the towers at the ends you have a bit of Sir Christopher Wren's work again. They are practically copied from the turrets in front of St. Paul's Cathedral. With regard to the facade of the Assembly and Council buildings fronting Macquarie-street, my opinion is that the columns should come right down, instead of being cut off by little balconies. In that respect No. 1 design is infinitely the best, though I do not like the little pointed roofs. I do not think they are in character with a grand building. If you put little roofs on the corners of the Brussels Law Courts every one would laugh at them. Then, too, the small windows at the northern end at the front of the building are out of character. In the Melbourne Parliament Houses the windows are treated in a big, broad, noble, massive way. You do not see any of these little topknot things poking up there. There is some dignity about the design. When we are building club-houses here you will notice that an effort is made to keep a straight line if we can, and to have a level top; not to have little pinnacles, gablets, minarets, and other things sticking up into the air. This design has too much of the bride-cake about it. The whole of the front composition may look very pretty on paper. We can all make pretty things on paper, but it is a question whether it will show well when built. With regard to the model in the other room, I contend that it is out of scale. The central dome construction is merely a model of that used by Sir Christopher Wren, and ought to be altogether different.

1060. *Mr. Trickett.*] It is an old-fashioned style of construction, such as is not used at the present time? Yes. I believe people would laugh when they saw that cone-construction going up.

1061. It is estimated that this building will cost £533,000? I do not think it should cost anything like that sum.

1062. Do you think that the necessary accommodation for 150 Members of the Assembly and sixty Members of the Council, with the officials and others connected with Parliament, could be given in a presentable building for less than £533,000? I think you could get a very handsome building, which would last for all time, and be in the highest order of architecture, though plain, for £250,000. The plainer, the broader, and the bigger, the more handsome a building will appear.

1063. What would such a building be built of? Of freestone, with brick and cement for the interior walls. You could line all the main rooms with marble, and the rest you could do in marble mosaic. Of course, the Ministers' rooms and the smaller offices could be finished in modern Kean cement. My great point in regard to the design before the Committee is that the Legislative Chambers are in the wrong position. I am sure that if the Departmental officers were told that they had to put these Chambers outside the building they would find a way to do so. The plan looks like an arcade in the centre, with two large octagons at either end.

1064. I suppose it is a great deal in favour of the architect to have a large open space for the building? Yes. Here we are not situated as they are in most places, where the building has to be erected upon a block

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block within the city. Where you have so many acres of ground it seems only natural that you should make an effort to get all the air you can. If you had the Chambers altogether apart from the building, and connected by corridors, I think it would be better than the present arrangement.

1065. I see by the newspapers that the Government Architect is about to visit England for the purpose of inspecting buildings of this kind? I think it is a waste of money to send him to inspect them.

1066. Do you not think it desirable that he should inspect buildings of a similar character elsewhere in order that he may bring back all the modern ideas in regard to matters of this kind? All the information he can get while away we have here now. The only new Houses of Parliament in Europe are those at Buda Pesth, and we have lithographs of them here now.

1067. Is that a large building? Yes; a very large building.

1068. How long has it been in course of construction? It was only finished eighteen months or two years ago. It is a Gothic building, however, and I do not think that the Gothic style of construction would be suitable out here.

THURSDAY, 13 MAY, 1897.

Present:—

THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esq. (CHAIRMAN).

The Hon. FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHERY.

The Hon. JAMES HOSKINS.

The Hon. CHARLES JAMES ROBERTS, C.M.G.

The Hon. WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT.

The Hon. DANIEL O'CONNOR.

HENRY CLARKE, Esq.

CHARLES ALFRED LEE, Esq.

JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, Esq.

THOMAS HENRY HASSALL, Esq.

GEORGE BLACK, Esq.

FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WRIGHT, Esq.

FRANK FARNELL, Esq.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting New Houses of Parliament for the Colony.

John Kirkpatrick, Architect, sworn, and further examined:—

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1069. *Mr. Clarke.*] I understand that you have some comparisons to make in regard to the area of the rooms shown on the plan? Yes. In calculating out the dimensions of the Legislative Assembly Chamber, I find that it has an area of 3,255 superficial feet, whereas the area of the present Chamber is only 1,500 superficial feet, or less than one-half. The question is whether it is necessary to have the new Chamber twice the size of the present Chamber. However, I do not find that all the other accommodation follows on the same scale. That portion of the building placed at the disposal of Mr. Speaker seems to me too large. I referred to the matter briefly the other day. This plan would give him 1,724 superficial feet without balconies or verandahs, or a space equal to half the area of the new Chamber. At the present time the Speaker has 976 superficial feet, and I should think that would be enough space to allot to him in the new House. You might give him as much as 1,000 feet, in order to make the reception-room better; but 1,724 feet seems too large an area.

1070. How is that space allotted to the Speaker? There are three or four rooms given up to Mr. Speaker. There is a reception-room, which is a large room opening on to a verandah, a bedroom, and a dining-room; then there is a service-way with a lift, a dark corridor, which I do not see any way of lighting, and a w.c. and bath-room against the entrance door to the reception-room.

1071. *Chairman.*] In addition to his present number of rooms Mr. Speaker will have another room, 15 feet by 15 feet? Yes. In regard to the position of Mr. Speaker's quarters, I think it would be better to have them at the back of the Chamber, and to place the Opposition and Ministerial rooms on each side of the Chamber.

1072. The Government Architect puts down the area of Mr. Speaker's rooms at 1,208 feet? I do not think that includes the corridors and approaches to the rooms which are allotted to Mr. Speaker. The whole area given over to him, and shut off from the rest of the building by a glass door, I estimate to be 1,724 superficial feet.

1073. *Mr. Clarke.*] Do you consider that Mr. Speaker is very fairly accommodated in the present building? I think he is. He has a private dining-room, a bedroom, and a sitting-room.

1074. The Ministers occupy 2,204 feet in the present building, and they will get about 350 feet more in the new building;—it is not very much? No; but when I saw the alterations that were made a few years ago to give accommodation to Ministers, I thought they were altogether extravagant. I do not think you will find another Parliament House in the world in which every Minister had a room to himself—in fact, I am sure you would not. Before these new rooms were put up there was only one large room and a small inner room for Ministers. I think they are over-provided for in the present building, and the area allotted to them in the new building might be reduced. The Premier might have a couple of rooms set apart for him, but I think the other Ministers should be content with a room between two.

1075. *Mr. Hoskins.*] Why not one room for the whole of them? I think one large room would do. I do not know why they want all these private rooms. It will be a great expense to furnish them all.

1076. *Mr. Clarke.*] At what expenditure could you make the old buildings presentable and give more accommodation? I could not answer that question off hand.

1077. Are you aware of the deficiency in waiting-room accommodation in the present building? Yes, I know that there is a great want of waiting-rooms. There should be more waiting-rooms, and I think that the central hall should be larger. I think you could add to the place well enough; but it is a question whether it is desirable to spend any more money there, instead of making a start with a new building.

1078. Would it not be possible to utilise the present building for a few years longer, by building a few more waiting-rooms and a library in which the books could be accommodated without danger? The new building which you propose to put up will take four or five years to complete, and I do not think that the present building will last much more than that time. I think you have done very well with the old building. We ought to have had a new Parliament House ten years ago.

1079. You would not recommend that anything should be done with the present building? No; I do not think I would.

1080. *Chairman.*] Are you speaking definitely, or would you rather think the matter over? Well, I do not quite know the condition of the present building. I am only judging from occasional visits there. I believe that the Legislative Council is the worst portion of the building.

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1081. *Mr. Clarke.*] You would like to have a look at the building before giving an opinion on the matter? Before saying that nothing could be done I should like to examine the building.

1082. The Chairman of Committees has 308 feet allotted to him in the present building, and will have 416 feet in the new building;—do you think that will be sufficient? I think that that is a fair increase.

1083. The Clerk of the Assembly will have nearly three times as much accommodation as he has now? The Clerk of the Assembly will have 292 superficial feet for his own use, and about 3,000 feet for his officials. I fancy that he might be cut down a little. In my opinion all the arrangements of the building want remodelling.

1084. Then there is a strong-room for records; it will be a very large chamber? It is in the basement, underneath the Assembly Chamber.

1085. Have you taken into consideration the proposed Press accommodation? I quite see why the Press are making a fuss in regard to their accommodation. I am of opinion that they should have nearly twice the accommodation it is proposed to give them. Then, too, the staircases and passages belonging to the Press rooms will be in absolute darkness, and no air will get into them. They will have to burn lights there all day long.

1086. One of the Press reporters suggested that he thought it would be better to accommodate them on the ground floor;—do you think that advisable? No; I think it would be better for the Press themselves to be in the gallery. I think they would hear better there. I have always noticed I have heard better from the gallery of the House than on the ground floor.

1087. The accommodation for *Hansard* at the present time is rather bad? Both the Press accommodation and *Hansard* accommodation are too small. The space allotted to the public is absolutely ridiculous. The galleries in the present House will hold 170 people, and in the new House 103 people.

1088. I think you stated before that you considered that the proposed building was too expensive? Yes.

1089. You also stated that a suitable building could be erected for £250,000? I think we ought to get a building which would be quite good enough for the purpose for £250,000. I do not think they spent as much as that on any of the American State Houses.

1090. Considering that if we get Federation it is probable that we should have fewer Members in the State Parliament, do you think it would be better to have a building only costing a moderate sum? I am sure it would be better to limit the cost to £250,000, and to have a smaller building.

1091. *Mr. Trickett.*] Do you think it is desirable to have the Chambers octagonal in shape? I think you would dislike that shape very much when you saw the Chamber erected.

1092. I mean not only for the sake of appearance, but for its acoustic properties? I should prefer an oblong building with a rounded end. The only example of an octagonal building I know is that of Stockholm in Sweden, where the seats face the Speaker, instead of being arranged in horseshoe form, as in the proposed design.

1093. In that arrangement there would be a lot of waste space at the end occupied by Mr. Speaker's chair? Yes. If you notice the plan, too, you will see that the arrangements for exit from that end of the Chamber are very peculiar. Mr. Speaker will either have to go through the division-rooms or right round the corridor.

1094. The plan also proposes to have arched places both downstairs and in the gallery;—is that desirable? I think that the arches will make the gallery accommodation stuffy; they will prevent proper ventilation. It would be handsomer and more economical to do without these arches. Then, no doubt, persons sitting close to the arches would see nothing of what was taking place in certain parts of the Chambers.

1095. And are not these arched places objectionable for acoustic reasons? I think you could hear better in a clear room. At Buda Pesth each Chamber has a circular end, and there the seats appear to be arranged in a manner similar to that proposed for the new Chamber.

1096. *Mr. Black.*] How long is it since the Buda Pesth building was erected? It has only just been completed.

1097. *Mr. Trickett.*] The other day you stated that the mode of construction for the central dome, as indicated by the section, was somewhat antique;—is it usual at the present day to have an inner cone? No. This inner cone was invented to get over the trouble of having wood construction, and was thought a good deal of by Sir Christopher Wren. He has no iron at all in his cathedral. For big spans you must have timber of great size. Nowadays construction of any magnitude is done in iron. The dome should be constructed without any cone at all.

1098. Would not that save a considerable sum of money? Yes.

1099. The cone would have to be supported from the floor up by a substantial structure? It would throw more weight on the walls, which would have to be made thicker. The walls could be lightened if the cone were omitted.

1100. *Mr. Lee.*] You are against any further patching up of the present Houses of Parliament? From what I know of the present buildings, I do not think it would be wise to expend any more money upon them.

1101. In your opinion new Houses of Parliament should be built? Yes.

1102. Will you express any opinion as to the site of the new buildings? I had an idea for a site, and when we architects waited on the Minister for Works I suggested it to him, but he said that the site was fixed and could not be altered. My idea was to resume all the block of land between Fort-street and Princes-street, and afterwards resell such portions as were not required.

1103. You say that a substantial and commodious building could be erected for £250,000;—upon what data do you base those figures? I have looked at the designs, and I think that the proposed building will be altogether too large. Making a rough calculation in my own mind, and going on what I know as to the cost of other works that I have carried out, I think I am safe in saying that a suitable Parliament House could be erected for £250,000.

1104. What would be the probable price per cubic foot for freestone going up to the roof level? I should say 4s. 6d. at the present moment, or, perhaps, 3s. 6d. if there were one large contract. In one large freestone building which I had to do with recently—the Mutual Life of New York—most of the men tendered at 6s. 6d. per cubic foot, but the successful tenderer made money at 5s. per cubic foot.

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1105. But I am speaking of the cost of the whole building, not of the walls alone;—would you consider 1s. 8d. per cubic foot and unduly low estimate? I think that 1s. 8d. per cubic foot is a low figure.
1106. What would you consider a fair estimate for that portion of the building above the walls? I should think 2s. 6d. or 2s. 9d. per cubic foot.
1107. Are you of opinion that a building giving the same accommodation as is provided by this design, but with less ornamental work, could be put up for £250,000? I am fully convinced that a Parliament House suitable for the Colony, and containing all the accommodation required, could be put up for £250,000.
1108. Could a building be erected for £250,000 that would give the accommodation provided in this design? All the necessary accommodation could certainly be provided for £250,000. I do not of course include large lobbies with double marble columns and balconies. I would give one large central hall like the Melbourne hall. There is an enormous waste of space in this plan. Take, for instance, the entrance to Mr. Speaker's apartments. There are so many corners and nooks in the building that the waste of space is very large.
1109. Would the exterior appearance of the building be as good? I think it would be equal to, if not better than the exterior appearance of this building. I would not have any little windows, little columns, and little gables. I would take the column's right from the base course, and would give the building similar treatment to that which the Melbourne Parliament House has received.
1110. But the Melbourne Parliament House has cost more than £250,000? Yes; it was built in the boom times, and of Stawell stone.
1111. You are of opinion that if the present design were carried out it would not afford the convenience that might be expected from a building of this character? I do not think it would afford any convenience at all.
1112. What steps do you think should be taken to secure a design which would give the necessary accommodation at a reduced price? I would advocate an open competition, allowing twelve months for the plans to be sent in. I would have the conditions clearly laid down, and would send the particulars Home to the Royal Institute of British Architects, and to the American Institute at New York, and let the whole world compete.
1113. Was not that recently done? The only case I know of was that of the Walker Hospital.
1114. But in connection with the proposal to erect New Houses of Parliament? Competitive designs were sent in nearly forty years ago, and one which came from Dublin was selected.
1115. *Mr. Black.*] You do not think that it would be an interference with native industry? No; I would let everybody have a show.
1116. *Mr. Lee.*] Are you of opinion that, inasmuch as the Government Architect has designed a building which you conceive to be faulty, it would not be desirable to have a further design from the same source? I would not like to speak as to that; but I fancy that I have made certain points in my examination which will throw light on the design and enable the Department to work it out in a better way.
1117. Are you of opinion that in the interests of the country an amended design should be prepared by the Government Architect, or that a better design should be brought forward? I should advise competitive designs. The Government Architect has had a fair show. He has had the best draughtsmen of the country under him, and they have been about twelve months over the work. I guarantee that these designs have cost £1,500 or £2,000; but if that money had been offered as a prize in a competition, instead of having three designs, and not one of them worked up—the section, for instance, is a disgrace—you would have had worked-out drawings like those prepared for the State House, with every detail shown. When they get these plans back to the office the Department will remodel them altogether. I certainly recommend a public competition.
1118. For such a competition would it not be necessary to offer considerable prizes? If you offered considerable prizes you would have to take possession of the designs, and let them be carried out by the Government Architect.
1119. What would you call a good prize? I would offer £1,000 for the first prize. There is always a proviso that the work need not be given to the successful man.
1120. Would you recommend the offering of first, second, and third prizes? If the successful architect were allowed to carry out the work, I would fix the first prize at £500, the second at £300, and the third at £200.
1121. If you expect the best men in the world to compete you must offer prizes which will attract them? For a competition open to all the world I should make the first prize £1,000.
1122. Do you think the aggregate prize-money should exceed £2,000? No.

FRIDAY, 14 MAY, 1897.

Present:—

THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esq. (CHAIRMAN).

The Hon. FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHERY.	CHARLES ALFRED LEE, Esq.
The Hon. JAMES HOSKINS.	JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, Esq.
The Hon. CHARLES JAMES ROBERTS, C.M.G.	THOMAS HENRY HASSALL, Esq.
The Hon. WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT.	GEORGE BLACK, Esq.
The Hon. DANIEL O'CONNOR.	FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WRIGHT, Esq.
HENRY CLARKE, Esq.	FRANK FARNELL, Esq.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting new Houses of Parliament for the Colony.

John Kirkpatrick, Architect, sworn, and further examined:—

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1123. *Mr. Wright.*] I think you said that the estimated cost of the proposed building was altogether out of proportion to the requirements of the Colony? Yes.
1124. And that a suitable building could be constructed, covering all requirements, for £250,000? Yes.
1125. With reference to your proposal to build both the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly Chambers as annexes, semi-detached from the main building, is there not an objection to that plan in a hot

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hot climate like this? No; the buildings would not be surrounded by the bulk of the offices, but they would be more or less in the immediate vicinity, and there would be a large arcade, with verandahs 12 feet wide, so that you would be sheltered from the sun and wet weather.

1126. You propose that it should be sheltered by a large arcade? Yes.

1127. Otherwise it would be very hot? I should not place the main wall, as is done in the room in which we are sitting, and with the windows, but I should have a very large arcade completely surrounding the Chamber 12 or 14 feet wide.

1128. So as to ensure not only plenty of light and ventilation, but also coolness? Yes; and a place in which the Members could rest, and where they could promenade. They could go right away into the open air from the chamber at once.

1129. You object to the proposed building on three grounds,—first, that it is too costly; second, that its exterior proportions are not such as you think are required in a building of the kind; and, third, that the interior accommodation is badly arranged? Yes; I think the interior accommodation might be very materially improved; in fact, I think the interior plan is very deficient indeed.

1130. You think that much better accommodation might be given with much less ground space? Yes.

1131. Have you any information with regard to the condition of the present Parliament buildings? Yes; I went this morning right through the buildings. I had never had an opportunity of seeing them before, and I was surprised to find them in such a dilapidated state. With some expenditure the buildings might be made to last (say) for another ten years. I do not think that the new portions—the new rooms that have been added lately, including the Ministers' rooms, will last for a very much longer period than that. I found great settlements in some of the Ministers' rooms, and cracks, already. I noticed that even the new portion of the buildings will very soon be in a state of disrepair. They have been cheaply and badly built.

1132. Bad foundations? I do not mean to say that the foundations are bad, but the rooms have been built with lath and plaster, and are of cheap construction. As to the old Legislative Council building, I think it is really dangerous. The walls are of wood, and it only wants one match to set the whole building in a blaze, and in less than an hour it would be burnt down.

1133. What are the two Legislative Chambers like;—are they pretty solid? The Legislative Chamber is built of brick, but the other Chamber is built of iron, lined with wood inside, and the wooden divisions upstairs, where the different officers of Parliament work, are absolutely dangerous. If one of these gentlemen, smoking in his office, were to carelessly throw a match down and go away, and the attendant were not smart enough to discover it, a destructive fire would be inevitable. I do not see how provision could be made by Mr. Bear and his fire brigades to extinguish the flames. I do not see how he could get there quickly enough. I think the place is in absolute danger. I think I ought to call attention to its condition. If the Committee were to get Mr. Bear to examine the building, and then ask him how he would put a fire out if it occurred at the buildings, I think he would say that he would experience great difficulty in getting his engines into play.

1134. Do you think it is necessary for the safety of the valuable Library at present located in these old buildings that it should be housed in a suitable place? If there is a valuable library there, I should certainly say that, even if you went on with the new Parliament buildings, you should find some place for housing the books.

1135. I understand that the present library is valued at about £30,000, and that it contains many books which could not be replaced? They should not be there another hour; they ought to be taken away.

1136. Judging from your recent examination of the old buildings, you think that any attempt to rebuild or cobble them would be practically a waste of money? I think so.

1137. And that even then they would be dangerous and insecure? Dangerous and insecure as regards fire. In the Legislative Council and the rooms adjoining there have been a great many alterations. I saw some new buildings there, and on the first glance, as you go through, the building looks nice and comfortable, and you have the idea that it might be possible to patch it up; but I am afraid, if you began to patch it, when the contractor came to pull down the walls to build brick walls, he would never know when to stop.

1138. I suppose no man could calculate what the ultimate cost would be? No; you would have to send a man in to do it piecemeal, and, of course, it would have to be done when Parliament was not sitting. As I was passing along one of the passages leading from the reading-room to the back of the Legislative Council Chamber, I touched the wall with my umbrella, and it went right through.

1139. Did the wall consist of lath and plaster only? It appeared to be of wood, with canvas on it.

1140. It was simply studded, with canvas over it? Yes, and it is absolutely dangerous. Then, on the first floor, a portion of the building is of the same inflammable material. The inside of the Council Chamber is lined with wood, and covered with scrim and paper, and I suppose it has been covered half a dozen times when it has been redecorated and fixed up. I do not think it would be worth while trying to do anything with that portion of the building. The dark passages at the back would want more light. I really would not recommend the expenditure of any more money on the building. It might, however, last for ten years longer if repaired.

1141. But it would be a constant source of danger? I think so.

1142. Do you think that if you had time to make an exhaustive examination of the building, your first impression would be confirmed? I am inclined to think so. The only way in which an exhaustive examination could be made would be to get the Government Architect's Department to remove some of the paper, scrim, and canvas, and a lot of other material, to show the state of the work inside; but the building is in a great state of disrepair. The little rooms where some of the officers of the House have to work are simply disgraceful. The two Chambers are large, and fine and airy, in comparison with the rest of the building.

1143. If a suggestion were made to take the middle of the building out, pulling it down, and leaving the two Chambers as they are, and rebuilding the middle portion to secure a place for the library, how long do you think that work would take? That is rather a difficult question to answer at the moment.

1144. Could it be done in an ordinary Parliamentary recess of four or five months? It could be done, but there would be a question of expense, and the work would have to be carried on at night. The electrical plant could be utilised, and the men could work day and night, as was done when the Garden Palace Exhibition was built.

1145. If you were asked your opinion as to whether it would be wise to leave the two Chambers standing

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as they are, and take out the middle portion of the building, and rebuild it, could you see your way clear to recommend such a course? I do not think I could—not to make anything of a permanent character.

1146. So that you are under the impression that a new building is required? I am sure a new building is required.

1147. Did you examine the Refreshment room? The Refreshment room is in first-rate condition. It is a good building. You have as good a refreshment room there as that provided in the proposed new building; but the lavatories are very dark and dismal.

1148. The older portions of the building are, generally speaking, very antiquated? Yes. I think it would be better to start on a new building right away. The new building could be completed in three years, during which time, with a few slight repairs, the present building would be sufficient. I do not think anybody could conscientiously recommend that the old buildings should remain in use.

1149. But you think that with some trifling repairs, it would stand until the new buildings were ready? It would last about five years. This morning one gentleman showed me a place where there were indications of the white ant, and he showed me where a board had been taken away and replaced. The white ant, however, had returned, and is now in the boards near the ceiling. I had nothing long enough to reach these boards, but I guarantee that if I could have got a step ladder I could have put my pencil right through them. This occurred in one of the *Hansard* writing rooms, close to the Assembly Chamber.

1150. The accommodation upstairs of all classes is very bad? It is very bad. How the men do their work in those places I do not know.

1151. If competitive designs were called for new buildings would you be a competitor? Yes; I think I should like to be a competitor.

1152. You think you could design a building bolder and better in its proportions than the present design? I should leave others to judge of that afterwards. I have so far found fault with the present design, and I should leave others to find fault with mine.

1153. Your fault-finding has been simply from your knowledge as an architect, and from what you think the requirements of the Colony demand? Yes, and I am doing it without any personal feeling whatever.

1154. You are simply giving an opinion as a professional man who has been asked to do so? Exactly. I have come here quite untrammelled with any idea to disparage the Government Architect or the Department, or anybody attached to it. I have been in a lot of competitions, and have been successful in some, and been disappointed in others.

1155. Your position is simply this, that being asked your opinion on certain plans, you express your opinion freely without reservation as a professional man? Exactly. I wish the Government Architect had been present to hear what I had to say; in fact, I felt inclined not to give evidence in his absence.

1156. But as a professional man and an architect, you consider that the plans submitted of the external elevation, and the internal accommodation are not such as you would recommend? No. From my professional training and experience, I know from the drawings the result that will be produced, and I am convinced that if the building is carried out according to the design of the Government Architect, it will be a disappointment. In regard to the interior there will be nothing but eternal alterations. I am convinced that if the two Legislative Chambers are constructed in the centre of the building as proposed in the present design, a change will have to be made, and they will have to be erected outside. That will be necessary in this climate.

1157. I think I understood you to say that the first thing an architect does is to draw a ground plan of his building? Yes.

1158. Having determined upon the arrangement of the ground plan, he then studies the elevations? Yes.

1159. *Mr. Fegan.*] Since your inspection of the present Parliamentary buildings, you are satisfied that it is time something was done towards the erection of new buildings? Yes.

1160. I think you told us yesterday that for a cost of £250,000, a building with sufficient accommodation for Parliament could be constructed? Yes.

1161. Would you mind telling us how that accommodation compares with the accommodation in the proposed new building? The Government Architect in his design calculates for a superficial area of 91,000 feet; the area for the Melbourne Parliament House being 98,000 feet. Going over the design, I notice that, taken up with corridors, public lobbies, and other spaces, which I look upon as loafing spaces, there is an area of 22,000 feet absolutely wasted. That is too much space for the corridors and public lobbies. The two arcaded lobbies on the ground floor are, I am sure, superfluous, and could be done away with altogether.

1162. I understand you to say that you would give as much accommodation on the same site for £250,000? I would take the Legislative Assembly Chamber, and place it where the Speaker's quarters are placed on the present design, and work from that back, and I would do the same in regard to the Legislative Council Chamber.

1163. Because you believe that the ease and comfort and health of the many is preferable to that of the one? Exactly. In designing large buildings, the great science of planning is to do with as little passage and corridor space as possible, because that is waste—except as a means of ingress and egress.

1164. And these corridors have the effect of obstructing the light from the Legislative Chamber? Yes. The superficial area of the building, as shown on the plan, is 94,000 feet. Of this space corridors and passages which are not required, make up a total area of 22,000 feet. That leaves a space for the two Chambers and office and other accommodation of 72,000 feet, which I think is excessive. I have already given evidence to the effect that more space is allotted to the separate quarters and the Ministers' rooms than is necessary.

1165. You say you do not think it is necessary for each Minister to have a room? I do not think so, though the Minister, of course, may think differently.

1166. You know that Ministers have a great deal of departmental work to do at the House? Yes; but they carried on for a great many years without having these separate rooms, and I do not know of any Parliament in the world where a separate room is provided for every Minister.

1167. Could you carry on the work of your profession if a number of people were around you causing noise and interruption? No; I suppose I could not.

1168. If all the Ministers occupied one room, would not inconvenience arise from Members and others coming to see some of the Ministers on public business, while other Ministers were, perhaps, studying papers,

papers, and dealing with matters in which men's liberty might be at stake ;—do you not think it necessary that Ministers, under those circumstances, should have a place as convenient and as private as possible ?

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The design provides for eight Ministers' rooms.

1169. Would not four do ;—could Ministers not utilise each others' rooms ? I went through the different rooms to-day, and I noticed in them furniture and all kinds of things that are of no use. There are book-cases, for instance, with no books in them, and the rooms are large and contain long tables. The present accommodation seems to me, for a little place like New South Wales, to be extravagant. I think, at any rate, four Ministerial rooms ought to be sufficient, with a special room for the Premier. Speaking roughly, there is a frontage of 120 feet occupied by Ministers' rooms only, and this appears to me to be extravagant. Some of the present rooms, I found, were 18 feet across, and I think the area could be reduced and yet leave a nice neat room for a Minister.

1170. The space would be reduced if a deputation of half a dozen waited upon the Minister ? One room could be made large for such a purpose, and the others small. Some economy ought to be shown. At present they are all big rooms, and one large room could be used for deputations. If you had one large room I daresay you would save two rooms out of the eight. That would mean also saving two rooms on the basement, and would represent a large reduction in cubical area.

1171. You say that you would put the Assembly Chamber where the Speaker's quarters are proposed in the design ;—where would you put the Library ? I should leave the Library where it is.

1172. And you would place the Legislative Council Chamber where it is proposed to put the President's quarters ? Yes.

1173. Are there any other rooms besides Ministers' rooms which you think unnecessary ? I have not gone into every detail of the plan. That would require a long time. There is another objection I have to the design before the Committee. The block plan shows that it is proposed to widen Macquarie-street, and to set the building back some 120 feet, thus encroaching upon the Domain. I think that is superfluous. I think widening the street is a mistake. To begin with, it will destroy the front of the Sydney Hospital. The hospital will be spoilt if it is brought so close to the street. I fought this question out once with the Government Architect when I was building the Sydney Hospital. Sir George Dibbs, Mr. Lyne being Minister for Works, wanted the front line of the building to be kept back so as to widen the street, and the Government Architect was brought in, and we argued the matter before Sir George Dibbs, who ultimately agreed with me that it would be better not to widen the street. This proposal would ruin the hospital, on which £200,000 of public money has been spent. The effect would be to bring the patients in the hospital within a few feet of the roadway. Then, again, if the street is widened the buildings on the opposite side will look very shabby. Is it fair to destroy the whole of the street for the sake of giving a frontage to the new Parliament Buildings ? It would not be desirable to go back further than 50 or 60 feet. When the Garden Palace Exhibition Building was built there was great talk of widening Hunter-street. The Government were negotiating for the purchase of property to widen Hunter-street and Bent-street, in order to make a great show in front of the great Garden Palace ; but the cost was so great that the idea was abandoned. Then, again, it would be a mistake to widen Macquarie-street when you have such narrow streets as Hunter-street, Bent-street, and King-street running into it. The widening of Macquarie-street would ruin these three other streets.

1174. How will the widening of the street spoil the appearance of the Sydney Hospital ? In the first place, it will take away the two lodges in front of the building, which are at present used for very necessary purposes in connection with the institution. It is necessary that the porter should have a lodge at the gate to take the names of people coming in, and the lodge is also used by the medical men.

1175. Could not space be found for the porters in the huge secretary's office at the basement ? No ; there is little or no room there. They are practically short of room there for the outdoor patients, and so on, who at present have to crowd on the staircases and in the lobbies.

1176. Do I understand you to say that no place could be found for the porters' lodge except where it now stands ? Exactly.

1177. No place so convenient for the public ? Exactly. Then, again, the widening of the street would have the effect of bringing the Hospital too close to the thoroughfare. It is just as well that a little distance should separate the building from the street. In fact, when the building was first designed, the architects in the competition were instructed to keep it back another 20 feet to the line of the Royal Mint, and the same as the old building occupied ; but for some reason or other the building was brought closer to the street than was originally intended, and now, if you are going to bring it as close as proposed in the design, the effect will be to ruin the Sydney Hospital without, so far as I can see, any necessity.

1178. How would it ruin the Hospital—you mean it would ruin its appearance ? It would ruin its appearance, and in the next place it would bring the patients too close to the general traffic along the road. The further you get away from the street the less perceptible is the noise of the traffic. It is astonishing how the sound diminishes when you get 15 or 20 feet away. I do not see any necessity for putting the building back as proposed.

1179. You are, then, entirely against the proposal to widen the street and to put the building back ? Yes ; I think that it will be found when the levels are taken that it will be a mistake to put the building back. I would point out that there is not a single drawing before the Committee showing the levels. The drawings are put before you in an unfinished and improper manner. There is not a single section to guide you. The first thing we do after we have completed our plans is to furnish the sectional drawings. We all know that in the Domain, towards the cricket grounds, there is an enormous fall in the ground, and if the building is taken back as proposed the level will have to be raised. I have visited the site, and I do not think you have all the drawings before you which you should have. There should be a large sectional drawing taken right through the centre of the building—through the library and the great hall from the front of the street, showing the actual level of the ground, and showing what levels are intended to be built up.

1180. Have you noticed on the plan the proposed alteration of the Domain roads ? Yes ; and it appears to me that there will not be any of the Domain left presently. There is the thin end of the wedge in the case of the Art Gallery, and if further portions of the Domain are taken in the way proposed, there will soon be none left. Sir Arthur Renwick, and the hospital authorities are anxious to obtain sufficient for a nice hospital garden, which no doubt would be very nice.

1181. Do you not think that there ought to be something of that kind provided for convalescents in the hospital ? I think it would be a splendid idea to have a hospital garden.

1182. Even by taking some of the Domain ? Yes. For after all, who should be cared for more than the sick and unfortunate. We should care for those more than for the Domain loafers.

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1183. Then you have not so much objection to the alteration there as you have to the alteration in front? No. The road at the back might be considered all right. I believe the garden entrance would be better on the angle than at present proposed in the Domain. I think Governor Bourke's statue might be left where it is. I do not think it is a good thing to disturb statuary when it has once been erected in any one's honor. The effect of widening Macquarie-street would be to disfigure all the other houses and dwellings in the street. They were designed for a narrow street, and if you suddenly widen the street you make these buildings look paltry, and disfigure the whole thoroughfare.

1184. Do you think the site proposed is a good site for a Parliament House? I must say I do not think so—not looking far ahead in a broad way. In all parts of the world, where Parliament Houses, Law Courts, or other gigantic public buildings are built, it is usual to pick out for a site what you might call a decayed part of the city where the situation is good, and to resume the land.

1185. Have you in your mind any position that would be more suitable for a Parliament House? Yes; I think the best part would be Fort-street and Princes-street. Some time or other that land will all have to be resumed. At present it is occupied with rubbish, and teeming with vice. A fine building could be erected there cheaply, and it would make a noble site. It is only a question of time, in my opinion, when the whole of that property will be resumed and devoted to some good purpose—in the same way that in Brussels a similar portion of the city was resumed for a site for the Law Courts.

1186. Would not the adoption of such a site add materially to the cost of the new Houses of Parliament? On the contrary; I think that by selling the land something might be obtained towards the cost of the building, because it is the finest part of Sydney. It was originally chosen by the Governors, and in the early days was the fashionable neighbourhood.

1187. *Mr. Roberts.*] Could you tell the Committee under what conditions the designs for the State House that was proposed to be erected in the Centennial Park were competed for by the members of your profession—was the competition open to the world or confined to New South Wales or Australia, and what length of time was given for the sending in of the plans? I have forgotten whether it was open to the world, but I think we had from four to six months to send the plans in.

1188. Did you send in a design for that proposed building? Yes.

1189. Was your design awarded first prize? Yes.

1190. Can you recollect the amount of money that was paid for the different prizes? There were four prizes, ranging from £250 down to £50.

1191. Can you tell the Committee what was the superficial area those buildings were to cover? No; not from memory.

1192. What was the estimated cost? The estimated cost of the State House was, I think, £250,000; but there very great restrictions in regard to the design. We were to build the State House without any iron. It was to be domed, and it was to be a symmetrical building, to be seen from all sides. We had to build it of materials that were to last for centuries. It was to be built of granite, and we were not to use wood or iron of any description. The dome had to be done in one solid block of masonry. It was a very different style of building from the one under discussion, and much more costly.

1193. Do you recollect what accommodation was afforded in the interior of the building—were there many rooms in it? There was a large central hall about 100 feet square, but I have forgotten the other dimensions.

1194. Do you think that building would have occupied half the space that the new Parliament House is estimated to cover? It would occupy more than half the space.

1195. About three-quarters? Something like that.

1196. I suppose the fact that a large portion of the building was to be in granite would make it so much more expensive? Yes; it was a much more extravagant building than anything we have in Sydney at present.

1197. Would it be twice as costly? It would be fully 50 per cent. more costly.

1198. Would you say fully 50 per cent. more than a building of brick and cement, or a building of freestone? The whole building was to be faced with granite, and all the walls inside were to be lined with marble. I intended to do the filling in with brick and cement in the centre. In the case of the new Parliament House, that would be faced with Sydney sandstone, and I should line the inside of the ordinary corridors with less expensive material than marble.

1199. Are we to understand that the granite would have cost 50 per cent. more than if the building had been constructed of freestone? I do not mean to say that the granite itself would be more, but that owing to the character of the walls, and other features of the building, the cost would be 50 per cent. more.

1200. I understood you to say that you regarded £538,000 as an extravagant price to pay for a Parliament House;—do you mean for this particular building, or for any building? I think for any building. I think this particular building could be constructed for a sum considerably under £538,000. At the rate of 1s. 8d. per cubic foot, I think that the building if brought together with less space for corridors and passages could be built for £250,000.

1201. Where would that saving be effected? As I have already said the rooms could be reduced in size. There is a space of 22,000 feet wasted in corridors and lobbies which would mean a total of 66,000 square feet for the three floors. This space could certainly be curtailed. It would bring the cost of the building down considerably if we could reduce this enormous "loafing" space. I call it an absolute waste of space.

1202. Then the building you would put up for £250,000 would be much smaller;—it would not cover the same superficial area? No; we should get all we would want, and I should give as large Assembly Chambers, and as large a library, and the lavatories would be a great deal larger. On the other hand, I would cut down the space proposed to be allotted to the Ministers' rooms.

1203. Do you think that by cutting down the size of some of the rooms in the way you describe, you could save over £250,000, unless you put in cheaper material. I want you to explain, if you can, where this large saving of £250,000 would take place? I should begin with the construction of the dome. I dare say the dome could be constructed in a far better manner than is at present shown. I should say it could be done for half the cost put down, and it would be a more lasting construction. Then take the roof of the Legislative Council. The section shows that it is 40 feet high above the ceiling of the Chamber. There are 100,000 cubic feet, which at 1s. 8d., would amount roughly speaking to £10,000. There would be a similar saving in the roof of the Legislative Assembly. The 40 feet between the ceiling of the Chamber and the roof is wasted, as there is no accommodation there.

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1204. Are you in a position, without having had an opportunity of seeing the specifications, to say that the estimate of the Government Architect to put up this building for £533,000 is excessive? I should say that the estimated cost of £533,000 is excessive.

1205. I want you to show how you are going to make a saving? I would put as good work into the building as is possible, and give all the necessary accommodation, and yet I would construct the building for £250,000, and I would give thicker walls than some of those shown in the design. I would make a saving in regard to that enormous construction to the dome, and the great roof space over the Legislative Chambers. These roofs are carried to an unnecessary height. There is no utility in them, and it is done for architectural effect in the front.

1206. *Mr. Hoskins.*] Would the design of the buildings which you propose to erect for £250,000 be different from the present design? Yes.

1207. *Mr. Roberts.*] The building you would propose to put up would not have so many rooms in it? No; if the Chambers were put outside, as I propose, there would be more light in the centre of the building. I think the whole of the space marked on the plan for "records" and "machinery" is wasted, also the space for "additional offices," "additional public rooms," "quarters for caretaker," for "librarian's quarters," "Sergeant-at-arms' quarters," and so on. These quarters may be wanted, but the same thing applies to them as to the other quarters—they are all too extravagant. According to the design, the record rooms, and the other offices in the centre of the basement will be as dark as night, and you would never see daylight. Neither would you be able to see in the lavatory. I should put the Parliamentary offices on the basement, where they would be easier of access to the public.

1208. Allowing for the moment that rooms to which you refer are absolutely necessary for the accommodation of the records of Parliament, would you think that it would be an advantage to put them under the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council, where the light would be better? Yes; if all those rooms were necessary, but I should think one would be sufficient. If the Legislative Council Chamber and the Legislative Assembly Chamber were built as annexes, one room would be sufficient for the records, which could be stored in proper iron shelves. In this way a great quantity could be kept in a small space. A library, for instance, can be made to hold thousands more volumes if the space is judiciously arranged.

1209. I think you told us previously that, in your opinion, the Assembly and Council Chambers should be made to face the Domain in order to get better ventilation? Yes.

1210. As you have a strong objection to what I might term artificial ventilation? Yes.

1211. Suppose you put those two Chambers in the position just mentioned, do you not think it would be an improvement if the refreshment-room were put on the ground floor, so as to prevent Members having to go such a distance when the division bell is rung;—would it not be an advantage, in your opinion, to have the dining-room on the same floor as the library and the two Chambers? I do not know that I should recommend that the refreshment-room should be on the ground floor. I think it would be better to have the library on the ground floor.

1212. I mean the large refreshment-room used by Members of both Houses? I think the large refreshment-room is very well placed where it is. It is nice and airy and fresh, and there is easy access to the open air.

1213. Would you not be able to obtain these advantages on the ground floor? Then what would you do with the library. You want the library on the ground floor.

1214. And you think the refreshment-room is just as well where it is shown on the plan? It ought to be in the centre of the building, so that the Members of both the Upper House and the Lower House would have an equal distance to go to it. I think the library and the refreshment-room are well placed where they are shown in the design.

1215. If Macquarie-street were not widened as proposed in the design, would it be necessary for Parliamentary buildings to be as far back from the street as proposed? No. I am convinced that the building should be brought forward, and not placed back. It could then be seen from the water and from the Domain, as well as from various portions of the city. If it were put back as proposed the Sydney Hospital would hide a big corner of it, and I think it ought to be brought forward, if only for the purpose of showing the building. In fact, I am surprised that the Government Architect should put it so far back.

1216. Would you regard the present line of the Sydney Hospital—I mean the main building—as a good line for the front of the new Parliament building? No. I think I should go a little further back. I would have it like the Melbourne Parliament House, without any green patch of ground in front. I should have a good flight of steps. The building ought to be so majestic, so solid and heavy, as not to require any garden in front.

1217. Any spare ground might be utilised as a garden at the Domain front? Yes; there might be a nice terrace at the back, but the building should be brought right forward with a handsome flight of stairs from the street.

1218. Have you inspected the site of the proposed new road in the Domain, and would you like to give an opinion as to whether it is encroaching too far on the Domain? I should say the Domain ought not to be encroached upon at all.

1219. The advantage of the proposed plan is that it would give a garden for the use of the hospital patients? If there were no hospital there I should say there should not be a road, but for the sake of providing a little garden for the hospital, some space might be allotted in this way. But if the Parliamentary buildings were brought forward it would not be necessary to take so much from the Domain.

1220. Have you visited the site, and are you familiar with the exact position of the proposed road in the Domain? No, I do not know the exact position.

1221. The Committee would attach some value to your opinion as to the proposed site of the new road as shown on the plan—as to whether it goes unnecessarily far back from Macquarie-street, or as to whether it takes up too much of the Domain? I am sure it takes up too much of the Domain, and unnecessarily so. There is an area of 120 feet shown on the plan, and if the building were brought forward as I propose, about 70 feet would be ample.

1222. Would it not be more satisfactory, if you could visit the site, and give us your opinion after personal observation, and after making measurements? I would suggest that the Government Architect should, as I always do in the case of large buildings, put in some pegs in the Domain to show the Committee the boundaries, and also to show the levels.

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1223. *Mr. Hoskins.*] Considering the probable cost of the new Houses of Parliament, are you of the decided opinion that the Government should call for competitive designs specifying the materials to be used, and the probable cost, and also that a bonus should be paid to the architect offering the successful design? I am sure the Government of the country and the public generally would be gainers by having a competition. I am confident that we should get designs from Victoria. We should not only have the design of our own Government Architect's Department, but we should get designs from everywhere. If you had an open competition, and gave a good first prize, I am sure you would get new ideas altogether, such as are not contained in the present design. It would be a great improvement in every way to have competition.

1224. And in calling for designs, the Government should specify the material of which the building was to be constructed, and its probable cost? Yes; and it should be all worked out in detail. These plans are only sketches in some respects, and are not worked out. The designs I propose having would be different from these. I would have them all worked out to scale, and drawn and finished with every section complete.

1225. *Mr. Roberts.*] Reverting to the question of the space taken from the Domain, the Government Architect contemplates widening Macquarie-street to the extent of 22 feet, so that if his recommendation in that respect were not carried out there would be a corresponding space to the east of the Parliament buildings? Yes.

1226. Do you think there would be ample space for the new buildings without encroaching further in an easterly direction on the Domain? I am sure that even the building as shown in the present design could be brought forward another 60 feet, and then there would be plenty of space.

1227. And there would be no encroachment upon the Domain at all? There would be a slight encroachment, but nothing like that shown on the plan. I am of opinion that it is proposed to take too much off the Domain.

1228. Then you would suggest, I presume, that as you would encroach on the Domain to some extent, you would be prepared to continue that encroachment on, so as to give the Hospital a little more ground, so as to make a straight line? I would make a nice straight line. I think it is a capital idea to carry the line right through as proposed, so as to arrange a nice new back to for these places, which at present are very unsightly. I think that would be an improvement, but I do not think it is at all necessary to go back to the extent of 120 feet. I think 60 feet, at the very outside, would be ample. The design is extravagant in space altogether.

1229. If Macquarie-street were widened, as suggested by the Government Architect, would it not be almost necessary, in order to make the street look uniform, to widen it right away down to Fort Macquarie? Yes; you would have to go right through with it.

1230. Would you recommend that if it were decided to make Macquarie-street 82 feet wide in front of the new Parliament buildings it should be continued to a width of 82 feet right through to Fort Macquarie? Yes; but it would be a great pity to do it, I think.

1231. It would entail the loss of a large extent of ground now used in the Garden Palace grounds for public recreation? Yes, and that ground has cost a great deal of money.

1232. You regard the widening of the street as altogether unnecessary? Yes.

1233. And your principal reason is that the hospital building would be too close to Macquarie-street, and consequently the patients would be disturbed by the passing vehicles? Yes.

1234. If designs for a building were thrown open for public competition by the Government, would it not be fairer to every member of your profession if you were directed to draw plans not to exceed a certain price—say, for the sake of argument, £250,000? Yes.

1235. You say that you could put up a suitable building for that amount;—would that be a fair amount for the Government to say it was prepared to expend? Yes.

1236. Would it not be better to have an amount stipulated, because a man could give a very much better building for £500,000 than if he were limited to £250,000? Yes, an amount should be stipulated.

1237. Would £250,000 be sufficient, or would you go up to £300,000? I am sure that a suitable building could be erected for £250,000. It is not like building a Capitol at Washington, nor Parliament Houses in London. It is only the question of building the Parliament of a State, and in a State of the size of New South Wales, if the legislators could not accommodate themselves in a building costing £250,000, they could not accommodate themselves in one costing £500,000 or £1,000,000.

1238. Is it not usual when you are called upon as an architect to draw plans that the amount of money to be expended is stipulated? Yes.

1239. More especially in cases of competition? Yes; and most architects generally overdraw it then—that is to say, plans are sent in, and they do not heed the amount of money, and when the estimates are made out they find that the building will cost a great deal more than the limit. The last competition held here I think was in the case of the Kenmore Hospital. We all had to send in distinctly the cubical contents of the building, accurately prepared on the face of the drawings. The Government Architect and the Board judged these plans, and they had their clerks to check our quantities, and put their own price per cubic foot to them. One or two architects were thrown out of the competition, because they overstepped the limits prescribed for the expenditure. It was a very good thing we had that lesson with regard to those who were thrown out of the competition, and who designed buildings of too expensive a character.

1240. Do you approve of the suggestion of the Government Architect that the basement of the building should consist of Bowral stone? I do not see any need, except for expense—it will cost more money.

1241. How much more would a Bowral stone foundation cost than a freestone foundation? Three times as much; and I do not see any great benefit in using the Bowral trachyte. It is a very hard and expensive material to work. I have used it, and I do not think I would recommend its use. We have only just begun to learn the qualities of the Bowral trachyte. It is a very treacherous stone. In the New Market buildings one of the columns was built of Bowral trachyte and polished, the cost being something like £500, and I believe it has cracked. The other day the Equitable Society erected a large brick building adjoining their principal building, and they put two large trachyte polished columns in it. These columns had to carry a good heavy weight, and they cracked, and it became necessary to surround the trachyte with steel bands to stiffen and hold it, otherwise the columns might have cracked sufficiently to have fallen, and brought the building down. I do not know altogether that I should recommend the trachyte. Then again, in case of fire, it goes off with a bang and flies. It does not stand fire. The very best Sydney sandstone

sandstone would be more economical, and would be just as good as trachyte. The trachyte is a matter of fancy and expense.

1242. You say it is three times the cost of the best sandstone? Yes.

1243. Have nearly all the public buildings in Sydney got sandstone foundations? Yes; I do not know any Government buildings that have trachyte foundations.

1244. Would the reason why sandstone basements have been used be because the Bowral stone was not obtainable at the time when the buildings were erected? Probably the Bowral stone was not discovered when these buildings were erected, or they might have had a base of trachyte. But I see no reason for having a base of trachyte in these buildings.

1245. Was trachyte used in the foundations of the new markets now being erected in George-street by the City Corporation? I do not know that it has been used in the foundations. The foundations are of brick and cement, but the ground floor piers are of trachyte—those reaching from the ground floor to the first floor.

1246. Is it regarded as of greater strength than sandstone? Yes; but if it has this fashion of cracking that I have just explained it would be rather dangerous to trust to it for any great strength.

1247. If you were the architect for large public buildings at the present moment, you would not use trachyte? I have built in trachyte. I built one building—the Mutual Life of New York—the one storey from the ground floor up; and if I were doing that building again I would not use one particle of trachyte.

1248. I think I understood you to say that you regarded some of the Ministers' rooms in the proposed building as unnecessarily large? Yes.

1249. What is the floor-space in most of them? Twenty-one x 18 feet.

1250. You would not regard that as a very large room, would you? Yes. I think a room 16 x 14 feet is quite ample for one man. He only wants his table and room for a few people to come in. Then, if necessary, there could be a larger room for deputations. Here is one Minister's room 17 feet x 15 feet, and I think that is quite large enough.

1251. You do not regard that as a large room? Well, it is large enough for Parliamentary purposes.

1252. Having regard to the climate of New South Wales in summer-time? Yes; I think so. I think these Ministers' rooms are too large. For instance, the Clerk of the Assembly and these people who have got to work have one room 15 x 12, and another 15 x 7½ feet. The latter is, perhaps, too small, but the Clerk of the Assembly has a room 15 x 12 feet, and he has to be in the room all day, while the Minister is only in his room for a few hours in the evenings. The Minister has his office in another building. I think these Ministers' rooms are only little call-rooms after all. If the Assembly Chamber were placed outside, these rooms would then fit round it conveniently.

1253. What you mean is that the floor-space is unnecessarily large, and might be curtailed? Yes. A reference to the respective plans will show that the ground-space in this design is enormously larger than the ground-space of the present building, which is sufficiently large for the accommodation of Members, and it is not likely that the number of Members will increase.

1254. Are you of opinion that the present buildings would last for another ten years without much expenditure? You would have to spend more money upon them. I should not like to guarantee a ten-years' further life for the present buildings without more expenditure. When once you get the white ant into a building, you do not get it out very quickly.

1255. Could you give us any idea of the expenditure that would be necessary to preserve the present building for another ten years? I could not give an estimate of the cost without an exhaustive inquiry.

1256. Did you examine any of the timbers in the building? No; I only had time to make a rough inspection.

1257. Did you go round the ground, with the view of being able to suggest to the Committee where you think the Library might be temporarily put? No; I did not go round the ground, but I saw the grounds from the back balcony, and I think there is a sufficient space there for a building to accommodate the Library.

1258. What would be the probable cost of a building to be erected on the site that caught your eye this morning, with the view of preserving the books in the Library—a building of a temporary character? I think such a building could be built for from £2,500 to £3,000.

1259. Does the position allotted to the library in the design for the new buildings meet with your approval? Yes; I think the Library is very well placed.

1260. There is nothing you can suggest as an improvement? No; I do not see anything to find fault with in respect to the Library.

1261. Would the building you have in your mind's eye be as lofty as the one shown on the plan? Practically it would have a greater height, because there would not be so many horizontal lines. For instance, I should not break the elevation by that horizontal line you see here on the front verandah, connecting the central block with either wing. The more horizontal lines you have the more you reduce the apparent height of the building. With long columns like those in the Melbourne building a greater appearance of height is given.

1262. What style of architecture would you favour in preference to the one now under consideration by the Committee? What is known as the Corinthian is the main detail of this design. I should adopt the Doric style. It is bolder, stronger, and heavier. The Melbourne Parliament Houses are Doric, and I think we should adopt that style. All the bigger buildings in the world are worked out in the Doric style.

1263. What Parliament House of Doric architecture has been erected? The Melbourne Parliament House.

1264. Is that the style of architecture which you favour? Yes; I think so. It is big and solid and square as regards the character of the work. The Corinthian is pretty, but it is weaker in character for a public building.

1265. What are the special features of Doric architecture;—are the openings large, and is it suited particularly for a warm climate? The columns are thicker in proportion to their width, and the cornices are heavier and deeper, and there is less ornament. The Corinthian is the richest of the classic orders. It has more carving and more detail in it. There is a richer order, called the Composite, but it is very rarely used. There are the Tuscan, the Doric, the Ionic, the Corinthian, and the Composite; but we generally regard the Corinthian as the richest of the whole of the orders strictly classic, but this building is not strictly classic—it is a sort of Queen Anne style.

1266.

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- J. Kirkpatrick.
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1266. Comparing the Gothic with the Doric, would not the windows be larger in the Doric, and more suited to a warm climate? The Doric, of course, is a classic style, and it would be infinitely superior to the Gothic. I do not think you could get a Gothic design so suitable to this climate as a classic design.
1267. You would not look upon the Gothic architecture as suitable? No, I would not.
1268. *Mr. Black.*] If, as you suggest, the two Chambers were thrown back in the form of annexes, the front to Macquarie-street would be proportionately lessened by the width of the two Chambers and the corridors surrounding them? Yes.
1269. Would that mean a saving of expense, or would it be compensated for by the fact that the exterior of these two buildings being thrown back and exposed, would require external decoration? There would, of course, be an expense on the exterior of the Assembly Chamber and the Council Chamber, but I do not think that would add anything extra to the cost.
1270. You think that the reduction of the frontage to Macquarie-street would more than compensate for the exterior decorations? Yes.
1271. Would not the proposal also be an advantage, inasmuch as there would be more space between Parliament House and the Hospital buildings;—it would be less crowded? Yes.
1272. It would give the building more of a detached appearance? Yes.
1273. And, therefore, it would be a great advantage? It would be a great comfort to the Members to have the rooms facing the Domain.
1274. If those Chambers were thrown back as wings or annexes, and the buildings were brought forward as you propose, there would be sufficient depth of land in the proposed site to permit of their erection after that fashion? I think so. The site is parallel at the back with the Sydney hospital, and if the building were brought forward, I think there would be sufficient space without encroaching. I understand, of course, that the plan is drawn to scale, and properly drawn, and I am judging from that.
1275. You do not think that the lessening of the frontage by throwing those two Chambers back from the main building would, with a library, bring the three wings too close together? No.
1276. Looking at the plan of the proposed new building, you will see that under the gallery there are screens? Yes.
1277. Are you aware that the Government Architect proposes, if it should be necessary by the increase of the Members of the House, to remove those screens, and provide such accommodation to Members? No. I see there is a space left there that could be utilised, and I noted on the plan that an extra number of seats was shown.
1278. Do you think that that would be of any benefit? I do not. I think that a certain sized house could be made to contain the number of Members, and you would not want to increase its size until you wanted to make it the Federal Parliament, and even then a similar arrangement could be made if you extended it the other way. If you never extend it, then that is a dead loss of space. You will see that it forms a double corridor.
1279. Do you think the Members sitting under that gallery could hear, or be heard? No; I think that would be a great detriment. I think that gallery is too low. There is only a height of 12 feet from the floor to the bottom of the gallery.
1280. With the gallery of such a height it would be impossible for Members to hear what was going on? I do not think they could hear. Looking at the plan, the space underneath the gallery is about 8 feet, and then the large pillars would be in the way, and would interrupt the view of the Speaker. It would be like a row of columns in a church, which prevent you from seeing the clergyman.
1281. The floor would be sloping as well? That would make it still worse for those underneath the gallery.
1282. You do not approve of the idea of the Government Architect of erecting the building behind a sunken fence? I should like to see the sectional drawings of that. You certainly ought to have had those. If I were asked to supply a set of plans for a Parliament House, I should send the sections as well all complete. I have not carefully examined the ground, nor absolutely taken the levels.
1283. The idea of the Government Architect, I suppose, is to level the ground, and to utilise the fall at the back? I would again suggest that you should have sectional drawings showing the treatment of the ground. I cannot say at present whether I should recommend it or not. It might be the very best idea, but I cannot tell you without having seen the sections.

TUESDAY, 18 MAY, 1897.

Present:—

THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esq., (CHAIRMAN).

The Hon. FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHERY.	CHARLES ALFRED LEE, Esq.
The Hon. JAMES HOSKINS.	JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, Esq.
The Hon. CHARLES JAMES ROBERTS, C.M.G.	THOMAS HENRY HASSALL, Esq.
The Hon. WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT,	GEORGE BLACK, Esq.
The Hon. DANIEL O'CONNOR.	FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WRIGHT, Esq.
HENRY CLARKE, Esq.	FRANK FARNELL, Esq.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting New Houses of Parliament for the Colony.

Frederick Moorhouse, Architect, sworn, and examined:—

- F. Moorhouse.
18 May, 1897.
1284. *Chairman.*] You are an architect? Yes.
1285. *Mr. Fegan.*] You practice in the city of Sydney? Yes.
1286. Have you seen the plans of the proposed new Houses of Parliament? Yes.
1287. You have had time to examine them to your satisfaction? Yes.
1288. Is there any statement you wish to make to the Committee in reference to them? Yes; but before giving any evidence, I desire to say that my criticism is tendered in a friendly spirit, and must be regarded as in no way antagonistic to the Government Architect or to his staff. At the same time I feel that the remarks made by the Secretary for Public Works some time ago are not altogether well founded.

He

He said, for instance, that the Government Architect's Department embraced the cream of the architectural profession of the city of Sydney. When I see what the cream of the profession has produced in these plans, I cannot but think that the remark of the Secretary for Public Works is a little exaggerated. I will now proceed to point out what I consider some of the defects in the plan. Commencing at the entrance to the building, I am of opinion that accommodation should be provided very close to the entrance for strangers, or any persons desiring to interview Members of Parliament or any one else in the building. I think that persons who are there for that purpose should not have to go through the great hall and along the public lobbies before they reach the sitting-room in which they can interview those they desire to see.

F. Moorhouse.
18 May, 1897.

1289. You think the great hall should be for the convenience of Members only? Yes; excepting of course those of the public who have admission to the House. I also think it is a mistake that the general public should, according to the plan, have to traverse the great hall and go along the public lobbies in order to reach the staircases to the public galleries. It will be observed that entrances to the public galleries are placed on each side of the public lobbies. There is no means of reaching the public galleries from outside, beyond that which I have pointed out. In a democratic country like this, where everyone has a right to a seat in the House, if the accommodation will admit, I do not think it should be open to anyone who chooses to do so to walk through the building in the way I have described before reaching the staircases, to the galleries. Of course the same thing applies to those who are leaving the galleries. That, I think is a great objection to the plans. When persons visiting the galleries have reached the first floor, they have to go into little caves, I call them. That I consider is a great defect, but it is capable of modification of course.

1290. How would you modify the plan in order to give the public entrance to the galleries without their coming in contact with Members, and with the officials of the House? It is an easy matter, but I do not think I am here to explain any scheme I may have. I am looking forward to plans for the Houses of Parliament coming before the public in another way.

1291. You do not seem to think that the Committee will decide upon the adoption of the plans before them? I do not think they will, if they are wise. In connection with the question of the staircase to the public galleries, I might mention the accommodation for strangers. I have gone into that matter very carefully. I find in the present House there is accommodation for the general public to the extent of 170, whereas the accommodation shown in these drawings is only 103, allowing 18 inches for each sitting. That is exclusive of the Speaker's and the Ladies' galleries, which are practically private galleries. Provision is made for 34 in the Ladies' gallery, and 34 in the Speaker's gallery. Considering that you are going to provide for futurity, I do not think you should have less accommodation for the general public than you have in the existing Houses. Everyone knows how difficult it is to obtain a seat in one of the galleries to hear the debates at the present time. I think the Committee will agree with me that that portion of the plan is capable of very serious alteration.

1292. *Mr. Roberts.* You think that the accommodation provided for the public in the plans under consideration is insufficient? Yes; I think 103 is altogether too small a number to provide for in the Strangers' gallery. It would not give to Members even one ticket each to give away.

1293. You are speaking now of the Legislative Assembly? Yes; I am speaking of the popular Chamber. So far as the Legislative Council is concerned, there is, if anything, superfluous accommodation in the galleries.

1294. The accommodation, then, is not the same in both Chambers? No; it is larger in the Council than in the Assembly. In the Council the accommodation is ample, and it would only be used, I presume, on such occasions as the opening or closing of Parliament.

1295. You think it is quite ample, having regard to such functions as those? Yes; especially when it is remembered that you have galleries down below as well as above, which is not the case in the popular House. I do not propose in my evidence to deal with the Legislative Council Chamber at all, because I consider that with the exception of a little alteration in the President's quarters it would meet all requirements.

1296. Do you approve of the positions which have been assigned to the Chambers? I do not approve of their being so shut in by buildings. It must affect both ventilation and light. You could not possibly light either Chamber directly, situated as they are, and I see no reason why now-a-days both Chambers should not have direct light from the open air. The lighting should be direct and the ventilation should be natural and not wholly artificial. There are times when the House may be sitting in the daytime. Besides, in the present House there is direct lighting. I do not think the Chamber ought to be sunk. There is a drop of 5 or 6 feet from the floor of the public lobby to the floor of the Assembly. There is a glass ceiling over the top of the Chamber, and from that to the dome is 42 feet. You have to rely upon the light being thrown down that 42 feet on to the glass ceiling, and from thence to the floor of the Chamber, another 30 feet or so. That is the only means of lighting the Chamber.

1297. You would approve of the Chamber being along the exterior wall of the building? Yes; I would put them in a position quite independent of offices and ante-rooms.

1298. You would make both air and light more accessible? Yes. I also take exception to the planning of the Speaker's Chair and the approaches to it. I consider that Members ought to be able to get in or out of the Chamber at either side of the Speaker's Chair, as well as at the points shown on the plan. I also think that the Speaker's room should be immediately behind his Chair, so that in the event of his being called to the House at any time, the messenger should not have to run 30 yards or more before he reached his room. Then I also think the positions of the Ministers' rooms should be at the back and each side of the Chamber. Suppose, for instance, the Prime Minister had to go direct from the House to his room, he would, according to this plan, have to travel 60 or 70 feet. You would find, I think, that the division lobbies shown on the plan would be used practically as corridors for the entrance of Members.

1299. The objection you point out to the Prime Minister's rooms would apply, I presume, to the rooms of the other Ministers? Yes, to the rooms of all the other Ministers. I cannot speak very definitely upon the point, but it seems to me somewhat superfluous to have so many Ministers' rooms. I do not know of such a thing in connection with any other Houses of Parliament. It is a matter which I have not very fully decided in my own mind. It may be that the rooms are absolutely necessary; but I do not know.

- F. Moorhouse.** 1300. You are not aware that it has been found necessary to have similar rooms added to the present buildings? I am aware that such rooms have been added to the present buildings.
- 18 May, 1897. 1301. Do you regard the Ministers' rooms as being unnecessarily large? They are large, and they are in the wrong position. They should be on each side of the Chamber, so that Ministers might be able to go to and from them from their seats in the House as quickly as possible.
1302. Does the Legislative Assembly Chamber in itself meet with your approval? I am not in favour of an octagonal Chamber; it forms so many nooks and corners. I prefer an elongated Chamber, with a circular end, somewhat on the same lines as the Chambers in the State House at Rhode Island. I think, also, that the verandah at the northern end of the building should be accessible to Members generally. Members require some place of that kind to which they can go in search of fresh air after a debate in a heated Chamber.
1303. The verandah to which you refer is accessible only from the Ministers' rooms? Yes; I think it should be rendered accessible to any Member who wishes to go there.
1304. Are there not other verandahs accessible to Members to which they can go in search of fresh air? They cannot reach them directly. They have to go through rooms in order to reach them, and the rooms may be occupied. Of course, there is the front verandah, but that would not be generally used.
1305. Are there not verandahs to which Members would have access? Yes; but, as I have pointed out, they would have to pass through rooms in order to reach them, and would interrupt interviews which might be taking place in the rooms.
1306. You object, then, to Ministers having all to themselves the verandahs at the northern end of the building? Yes; I think it ought to be accessible to Members generally. Returning to the question of the Legislative Assembly Chamber, the height given is 35 feet. To that I take no objection, except that I think it is barely sufficient; but I object to it being sunk 4 or 5 feet below the floor of the lobby.
1307. There are stairs leading from the corridor into the Chamber—that is, in entering the Chamber, you have to go down six steps? Yes. What I was going to point out was, that the height of the Chamber is 35 feet to the ceiling-line, and from that point to the top of the dome the height is 42 feet. It is actually a dust-hole, and it is put there for no other object than architectural effect, so far as the outside of the building is concerned. The provision of that space can serve no use.
1308. Do you think the height of 35 feet from the floor-line to the ceiling is enough? No; I think it is scarcely enough. I think there should be a minimum height of 42 feet.
1309. Supposing the dome were required for the external beauty of the building, can you suggest any use to which it could be put? Yes; I would utilise it as a means of throwing direct light into the Chamber. I would remove the Chamber to the first floor. The dome would then be useful in giving natural ventilation and direct light.
1310. You would have no dome if you had your way? No; except it were utilised.
1311. And you think the Chamber should be 42 feet in height? I think that should be about the minimum height. If these or similar plans be adopted, I should also be in favour of contracting the public lobbies. I may mention that the plans are similar to the plans of the State House at Rhode Island. In the case of your plans, however, the architect has elongated the lobbies.
1312. Do you regard the space covered by the proposed plans as being altogether too large? Yes; far too large. I think it might be considerably reduced. One advantage of contracting the lobbies would be that the libraries and refreshment rooms would be closer to Members who desired to reach them from the Chamber. According to these plans, if a Member wished to go from the Legislative Assembly Chamber to either the Library or Refreshment Room, he would have to traverse 60 or 70 feet. The same thing, of course, applies to the Legislative Council Chamber.
1313. You think you could submit a plan which would give all the requisite accommodation for Members of Parliament, for officers of the House, and for strangers, and at the same time place the Library in a more convenient position—in a position in which it would be more accessible to both Houses? Yes; I think I could, having the data which the Government Architect has had to go upon. No private architect in the city has had the facilities which the Government Architect has had in this case. I suppose he has had the plans of all the different Houses of Parliament in the world before him.
1314. Have you made yourself acquainted with the requirements of all the different officials who have to be accommodated in Houses of Parliament? Yes; I consider I have a fair knowledge of it, with my twenty-three years' experience.
1315. Will you kindly tell the Committee where you have gained your twenty-three years' experience? My first experience was in Huddersfield, and I was afterwards in Sir Gilbert Scott's office in London. I subsequently practised in Huddersfield, and for the last ten years in the cities of Sydney and Melbourne, having offices in both places.
1316. Are you practising on your own account in Sydney at the present time? Yes; and have been successful in some of the largest public competitions in Sydney. For instance, my partner and self were successful in the case of the "Palace Hotel," the erection of which was abandoned on account of the death of Mr. Bakewell. It would have occupied the site upon which the "Metropole" now stands.
1317. Was the competition in that case open to all the architects of the Australian Colonies? Yes; and there were about forty-two competitors. We also won a Bank in Queensland. We took the first and second prizes for the York-street Centenary Hall, and had the offer to erect it for 2½ per cent. commission, but would not accept it. We told the trustees we had not come to this Colony to undersell our brother architects.
1318. Are you of opinion that, in the public interest, the architects of the world should have an opportunity to send in plans for the proposed new Houses of Parliament? I am sure of it. I think it would be to the interests of the Colony to have a double competition. In the first place, you might have pencil sketches sent in to the sixteenth scale. There would then be a Board to adjudicate. They would select five of the designs, and would allow the five competitors to send in a set of drawings to the eighth scale, remunerating them in each case. Mr. Waterhouse, one of the leading architects of the day in England, has invariably advocated this course in large competitions.
1319. Can you mention cases in other countries where large public buildings have been erected, and where it has been the rule to throw the plans open to public competition? Well, I could mention the mother country, where all large public works are open to public competition. Every large public building in London is put up to competition. Take the case of the new Admiralty offices. That competition was won by two young fellows from Yorkshire—Leeming and Leeming, of Halifax. 1320.

1320. You think that if a similar course were adopted in this Colony a great incentive would be thrown out to young architects? Yes; I think the Government is dealing unfairly with the profession in Sydney by enrolling such a large staff. The Government practically carries out all public works. I think the plan of having a supervising architect, which Mr. Bruce Smith adopted when he was in office, is a good one. In America there is no Colonial Architect or staff, and if the plan is good enough for a country like America, surely it ought to act in a small Colony like this. You would obtain a diversity of buildings; you would also obtain some change from the monotonous work emanating from one brain. It is also probable that the work would be done at a lower rate than by the Government. I would make the architect, of course, subservient to the supervising architect, who would stand in the position of nominal client on behalf of the Government.

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1321. Do you know what course was pursued when the erection of new Houses of Parliament was in contemplation in Victoria? No; I am not conversant with it. The buildings were erected before I came to the Colony. I know that Mr. Kerr, the architect, was in the employ of the Government.

1322. Do you regard the sum proposed to be expended upon the new Houses of Parliament, as per the plans before the Committee—namely, £538,000—as an extravagant sum? As a citizen, I should say yes.

1323. What would be a fair sum, affording all the accommodation required, but at the same time erecting buildings worthy of this great Colony? Considering that the Melbourne Houses of Parliament have cost about £500,000, that they were built at an expensive time, and that the stone in them is far more expensive than is the Sydney stone—it being much harder to work—I should say that about £300,000 to £350,000 would be ample. I have not gone into the question of the cost of the buildings. I did not think I was called upon to do so. Of course, a great deal depends upon the plan and specifications. You could erect Houses of Parliament, for instance, of marble and gold. I should want to see the specifications before committing myself to a definite price.

1324. I understand you to say that suitable buildings, affording all the requisite accommodation, could be put up for £300,000? For something about that figure, I think.

1325. Assuming that the Committee agreed with you that £300,000 would be a fair amount to recommend the Government to expend, and supposing the Committee also recommended that every architect, not only in Australia, but in the world, should have an opportunity to compete, would it be a good plan to say that none of the plans submitted for consideration should cost more than £300,000? That would not be fair. You must allow a margin. I would allow from 10 to 15 per cent. margin.

1326. Unless there were some stipulation of that kind, the architects would not be on the same footing? No.

1327. If one were permitted to send in a design costing £300,000, and another to send in a design costing £750,000, it would not be a fair competition? No; but the adjudicators, if they were professional men, would see at a glance which plan was in excess. I presume the drawings would be accompanied by a *bonâ fide* tender. The adjudicators would at once see which drawing was in excess of the stipulated amount.

1328. Is it usual for an architect in submitting a plan to say that he is prepared to state that the building can be erected for a certain sum? That estimate is only based on cubing. It is not a *bonâ fide* tender, as a rule, especially in the case of large works.

1329. No specifications are sent in with the design? No; only the specification notes and a report.

1330. What material would you recommend should be used in the construction of this building—take, for example, the basement—would you favour the use of the Bowral stone, the trachyte? Yes; but I should require a further test of it before I committed myself to it for a large building of this description. I am led to believe that that stone is not turning out as well as was expected.

1331. Is it not a fact that most of the public buildings in Sydney are constructed of Pymont sandstone? Yes.

1332. And is it not true that the Pymont sandstone is three times less costly than is the Bowral trachyte? It is very much less expensive to work.

1333. *Mr. Hoskins.*] But does it not harden with exposure? Yes.

1334. *Mr. Roberts.*] If it were stated in evidence on Friday afternoon last that the Bowral stone was three times as expensive as is the Pymont sandstone, would you make use of the Pymont sandstone? I do not think I should be prepared to use as soft a material as the Pymont sandstone, for the basement particularly where it would be apt to get knocked about. I would prefer to use harder stone. For instance, the Stawell stone from Victoria is very much harder.

1335. *Mr. Hoskins.*] Have you seen the stone used in the new market building in George-street? Yes, it is Waverley stone.

1336. Is it better than the Pymont stone? I do not know if it is better, but it has to stand the test yet. No one can tell what stone will be like until it has been tested.

1337. *Mr. Roberts.*] Is it a fact that the Sydney sandstone froths away from long exposure to the north-east wind? I am of opinion that a great deal of the Sydney sandstone has been placed on its unnatural bed, and that is one reason for the fretting. It has not been placed on its natural quarry-bed. I do not think the north-easterly wind would have much effect upon it if it were placed on its natural quarry-bed.

1338. *Mr. Black.*] What you mean is that if the stone be properly placed in position the grain will run exactly as it ran in the quarry? Yes.

1339. And you think that if the grain ran in a different way the stone might fret? Yes; there would be more liability to decay.

1340. In building, the stone should be placed exactly as it is quarried? Yes.

1341. The pores will then run in the same direction as in the quarry? Yes; the system of building the sandstone in Sydney is false. The cutting out of grooves in buildings with a view of putting in pilasters of sandstone is not true building; it is altogether false construction.

1342. *Mr. Roberts.*] What material would you recommend for the outer walls of the building? They might be of Pymont stone.

1343. You prefer that to brick and cement? Yes; I would rather patch up the old Houses than build with brick and cement. That would be a libel upon art.

1344. You like the Sydney sandstone then, taking it all round? Of course I much prefer the Stawell stone, but probably the expense of that would be too great.

1345.

- F. Moorhouse.** 1345. Do you prefer the Stawell stone on account of its greater durability? On account of its appearance chiefly, and I should think it would be more durable than the sandstone on account of its being so much harder.
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1346. Are you able to speak as to the durability of the stone from your experience? I have used the Stawell stone in Melbourne, and I know a little about it.
1347. Is not one of the Tasmanian stones very much in favour for building purposes? I do not know of it. I know of the New Zealand stone, but I would never recommend it.
1348. If you went outside the Colony for stone you would recommend the Stawell stone? As far as my experience of stone has gone up to the present time. If I had anything to do with a building of this magnitude I would call for samples from every quarry in the Colonies.
1349. Would you regard the use of granite or marble in the building as necessary? It might be very desirable in parts of the building.
1350. Would you revel in a building of that kind, or would you be more economical? I think you might use it in certain parts.
1351. What portions of the buildings, in your opinion, ought to be of marble or granite? The columns in most cases. I think they are shown to be so.
1352. Would you have marble for the steps? No; I would have hard stone of some description.
1353. What material would you regard as best for use in the walls? I should like to see the building lined with stone, but I am afraid the cost would be prohibitory.
1354. According to the plans before the Committee, the Government Architect contemplates the widening of Macquarie-street to a width of 82 feet? Yes.
1355. Do you regard that as necessary? No; I do not think so. The widening of the street would be detrimental to the Sydney Hospital.
1356. You think it would bring the patients nearer to the vehicular traffic, and that they would on that account be disturbed? Yes; and I also think that the Parliament Houses take up too much of the Domain. I think the building might with advantage be put nearer to Macquarie-street, and yet have a dignified approach.
1357. The Committee understand that you object to the widening of Macquarie-street, then? Yes; I object to it on account of the Sydney Hospital being already built. Had the hospital not been built, I should not have taken any exception to the proposal. You may recollect that at the time of the great fire which led to the construction of Moore-street. I had inserted in the newspapers a letter to the effect that before any thoroughfare was decided upon, the street which is now called Moore-street, should be continued to Macquarie-street, and the dome of Parliament House facing this street, so that you would have an appearance similar to that of the Victorian Parliament Houses at the top of Bourke-street. The Sydney Hospital having been built, however, that scheme must be put aside.
1358. You think the buildings, as shown upon the plan, are too far back from Macquarie-street? Yes; I do not see any necessity for it. You can get a very dignified entrance without going so far back. The space in front would be wasted. It would only be a place for loafers and loungers. It would be of use only on rare occasions.
1359. Would you place the front of the building in a line with the Sydney Hospital? No; I would have it a little further back than that.
1360. Do you think it would be absolutely necessary to encroach on the Domain in an easterly direction towards Woolloomooloo Bay? There must be some encroachment on the Domain.
1361. Could it not be done without? It would bring you very near to the street. No doubt the plans as at present drawn are made to occupy a very large area.
1362. Suppose the front of the new buildings were put back as far as the front of the present buildings, do you think that would be sufficient, with a view to avoid encroachment upon the Domain in an easterly direction? I could not definitely answer that question. It depends a great deal upon what the plan was, but I certainly think that without any loss of dignity the building might be put nearer to Macquarie-street.
1363. According to the plans, the building is made to encroach 120 feet upon the Domain? Yes.
1364. You think that about one-half that space might be done without? I should not care to bind myself to a definite answer to that question.
1365. Am I right in understanding that according to these plans you would find it necessary to have ventilating shafts? I would endeavour to do without anything of the kind in an open space, such as you have in Macquarie-street. You would require such a method of ventilation if you were building in the heart of the city.
1366. You think that both Chambers should be so erected as to dispense with artificial ventilation? Yes; I think that natural ventilation is at all times preferable, although it may be desirable to augment.
1367. Have you any opinion to offer as regards the site? I never advocated that site.
1368. What site have you in your mind's eye? The site which Mr. Kirkpatrick favoured when he was before the Committee—I mean the locality of the Fort-street School. That portion of the city requires bringing into prominence again. It is about the finest part of the city for a building of this kind.
1369. Why do you think it necessary to go there when you have such ample space on the site of the present Houses? I think the site I have indicated is equally convenient, and the terminal station of the railways will, I presume, be brought down to the Circular Quay eventually. The taking of the railway station and the Houses of Parliament to that part of the city would improve it very much. It would have the effect of doing away with places which are now being turned into slums.
1370. You think the site of the Fort-street School would be good one? I would put the building somewhere on that prominence.
1371. What area of land do you think it would be necessary to resume to give effect to the views you hold? I suppose from 4 to 5 acres.
1372. Would you go right down to George-street? No; I do not think I should.
1373. Have you studied the question enough to say what area you would have to take? No; I have made no study of the question for the purpose of this examination.
1374. How much of the 4 or 5 acres would you set apart for the building? It is difficult to say what area the building should take up, but I think the Government might resume that area of land or more. They might want some offices near the Houses of Parliament. I do not say that 5 acres is absolutely required

required for Houses of Parliament. I would resume an area sufficient to enable the Government to F. Moorhouse. improve the surroundings of the Houses of Parliament in the event of their being built there.

1375. You would re-form that part of the city? I would remodel that end of it entirely.

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1376. But, failing that, do you not regard the site which has been selected as admirably adapted for Houses of Parliament, seeing that it is in a quiet portion of the city, where there is not much traffic? I think the site is a very good one.

1377. With the exception of the increase in the width of Macquarie-street, you regard with favour the making of the new roads round the northern and eastern boundaries of the new Houses? They would be actually necessary. I would also be in favour of making a recess in front and putting a bold entrance to the Houses.

1378. Something similar to that shown upon the plans? Yes; but I would not have the portico exposed to the public, as it is now. It is only a matter of detail. There should be a yard into which carriages could drive, similar to that in connection with the British Houses of Parliament.

1379. Would not entrances such as those to the present Houses be sufficient? Yes; but as the plans are now drawn people could walk straight off the footpath into the portico. Loafers would be likely to make use of the recess. I think it would be better to have some description of yard in front.

1380. You think the building could be put back far enough? You would not require to put back the building, but it would be necessary to re-arrange the plan of the boundary wall so as to provide a drive.

1381. With a dwarf wall and iron railing, such as that in front of the present Houses? Yes.

1382. *Mr. Black.*] With regard to what you have said as to the white Stawell stone being preferable to our sandstone, do you not think that under our warm sky a rich brown stone is more effective—more fitting—so to speak? No, I do not. I think that in a warm climate such as this you can do with cold colours. I know that when I first came to this country it quite tried my eyes to see the yellow stone. Everything seemed to me to be painted yellow.

1383. But do you not think that in our blaze of sunshine white would be rather trying and dazzling? The Stawell stone is not a perfect white. It is not as white as is the Oamaru stone. The Stawell stone compares more with the stone obtained from the Yorkshire quarries, in England; and that is the finest stone one could wish.

1384. You spoke of having granite or marble columns;—do you like that composite style of architecture? I should prefer to see the building of uniform stone.

1385. Do you not think the other style is very meretricious? Yes; somewhat, for pure classic work.

1386. You have spoken of the light areas provided;—do you know the light area at the entrance of this room? Yes.

1387. What are the light areas on the plan? Some of them are about 10 feet wide; some of them are not as wide.

1388. What is the size of the light area outside of this room? 24 feet x 12 feet.

1389. The area outside the door of this room is larger than any light area which is shown on these plans, inasmuch as it is 5 feet longer and 2 feet wider? Yes.

1390. And notwithstanding that increase in size the area sheds a very dim, religious light inside the passage, does it not? It is a very poor light. I should not consider the light area provided capable of lighting the long corridors shown upon the plan.

1391. If the light area outside of this room is inadequate for the giving of a good light to the lower floors of this establishment, you think the light areas shown upon the plans would be even more inadequate? They are totally inadequate. It would be absolutely necessary to alter them.

1392. *Mr. Humphery.*] You said you would not select trachyte for the foundations? I said I should be dubious about selecting trachyte until I had had further tests.

1393. What is your reason for being dubious? I have seen it in certain buildings which have been constructed of it, and when it has been exposed to the weather it has flown. Pieces have come right out of it. They appear to have been forced from the interior.

1394. Are you able to explain why that is? No.

1395. Have you formed any theory which would explain it? I have not yet had an opportunity to do so. My attention was only drawn to it within the last week or ten days.

1396. With regard to the Stawell stone, what tests have been made which would induce you to select it in preference to all other stones? We have evidence of it in the Victorian Houses of Parliament.

1397. Has it been perfectly satisfactory there? I never heard any complaint about it.

1398. Does the New Zealand stone flake at all? It discolours very much.

1399. The Stawell stone does not? No; and it is a much finer-grained stone than is the Sydney stone, or any other stone I know of in the Colonies.

1400. Is it expensive to work? It is.

1401. Is it more expensive than is the Pymont sandstone? It is more expensive than the sandstone, but less expensive than the trachyte.

1402. In the designs you have placed upon the table, I notice that nearly the whole of the buildings are provided with inner Chambers similar to those appearing in design No. 3 before this Committee;—can you explain why that is? You will find that although in some cases the Chambers are placed in the centre of the group, they are raised up on to the first floor, thereby making the dome the ceiling of the Chamber. In that way you get direct lighting and natural ventilation.

1403. Instead of there being 40 feet of space above the ceiling with a borrowed light, a direct light is given to the Chamber? Yes.

1404. Is that the full explanation you desire to make, or do you wish to elaborate it? I could elaborate it if necessary.

1405. Assuming the Chambers, according to the plans before us, to be built in a similar way, do you see any objection to the position of them? Of course I object to the shape of the Chambers. I consider that the alcoves or caves in summer-time would be unbearable.

1406. What are the reasons for putting the Chambers on the ground floor instead of on the first floor? The only reason for putting them on the ground floor would be to give readier access.

1407. I suppose that in most designs of Houses of Parliament with which you are familiar the Chambers are on the ground floor? In Melbourne, Brisbane, and Adelaide the Chambers are on the ground floor. The Chambers in the British Houses of Parliament are not exactly on the ground floor. There is a number

F. Moorhouse. number of steps leading up to them. I suppose they would bring you up nearly to the level of the first floor on these plans.

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1408. You are of opinion that in a climate like ours it would be better that the Chambers should be constructed on the ground floor and not within the walls, as here proposed? In a climate like this, and with the amount of air space you have around the proposed building, I think it would be a mistake to sink the Chambers, as shown on the drawings, and to give them borrowed light. I think you should give both Chambers direct fresh air and direct light.

1409. In the designs which you have laid before us with the exception of the Australian designs all the Chambers are well inside the buildings;—I want you to give your reasons for having the Chambers similar to those of the other Colonies instead of similar to the Chambers in the very beautiful designs placed before us of the Buda Pesth and Berlin and other Continental Houses? I am not in favour of the Chambers being put in that position. I am in favour of their being isolated to as great an extent as possible, subject to your getting the necessary ante-rooms adjacent to them. If you look at the design of the Berlin Houses you will see that there is no borrowed light. I do not object to the Chambers being in the position shown on the design, provided they are surrounded by light and ventilation areas. You ought not to depend upon ventilation from artificial sources only in a climate like this. There are no windows opening into the Chambers shown upon the plans before the Committee, and there is no chance of getting direct light or air into the Chambers.

1410. As to the probable cost, you said that £300,000 would provide all the accommodation necessary, not only for Members of Parliament, but for the Press, the public, and the officers of the House, the building being finished in the style in which it is intended that it should be finished? I do not know how it is intended to finish the building.

1411. But in a general way, supposing we limited the architects competing to £300,000, we should wish to know something of the manner in which the building would be finished;—have you made an approximate estimate? I think the building as per plan before you is considered too large, and that it might be reduced. There is accommodation provided, and even the designing architect cannot say what it is for. It is labelled "additional offices." No use has been set apart for them. I consider that the architect ought to know now what he is going to utilise the rooms for.

1412. Could these rooms or apartments be dispensed with without spoiling the design of the building? I presume they could.

1413. Have you considered the details fully? Of the interior, no. I have never gone into that. I had no specifications or anything of the kind before me.

1414. Your evidence is more of a general nature? Yes.

1415. From what you have been able to gather from the plans submitted, you think that a building sufficiently handsome, and in every way suitable, containing all the necessary accommodation, could be erected for nearly one-half of the estimated cost? I think £300,000 to £350,000 is as much as the Colony is entitled to spend, assuming Federation to be near. That is my feeling as a citizen. I should like to see a handsome building erected, but I do not think the Government would be warranted in spending the large amount which has been mentioned.

Albert Edward Shervey, Architect, sworn, and examined:—

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1416. *Chairman.*] You are an architect? Yes.

1417. Where have you gained your experience? From the time of the commencement of my articles, about fifteen years ago. I have had about fifteen years of experience in Sydney. I served my articles with Mr. Kirkpatrick. I have been in business myself for eight years.

1418. Upon what works were you engaged during the time you were serving your articles? The chief buildings were the State House, the Thomas Walker Convalescent Hospital, and the Australian Club. Those were the principal buildings upon which I was engaged in Mr. Kirkpatrick's office.

1419. *Mr. Black.*] Having seen the plans, is there any statement you desire to make to the Committee? I would point out in the first place that anything I may say as to the plans before you is entirely without antagonism to the Government Architect or his staff. I understand that Mr. Vernon calls such evidence as mine criticism, but I can assure him that I am here in a purely friendly spirit. I would rather be questioned about various points, because I have only had about three hours' study of the plans. As to the site, I consider that it is almost perfect. There may be others equally good, but I think the site chosen is about as good as any that could be found. I believe that Mr. Kirkpatrick, my late principal, advocated a site at the top of Church Hill, Miller's Point. If you were to erect the buildings there the whole Point, from Circular Quay to Darling Harbour, would have to be resumed.

1420. You think that would involve too great a resumption? To give any dignity to the buildings the Point would have to be resumed. I think the site in Macquarie-street is perfect for the purpose.

1421. You would object to the resumption on the point of expense? Yes, as far as Miller's Point is concerned.

1422. Are you aware that in great cities, notably Paris, Edinburgh, and Berlin, great areas have been resumed, buildings have been levelled to the ground, and new streets and buildings have been erected by corporations and Governments with such results that so far from there being any loss there has been a considerable gain to the community, not only in the matter of sanitation and beauty, but also monetary gain? I do not know there has always been a monetary gain in the places you have named, but there certainly has been a gain as regards beauty. In our case it would principally be a matter of beauty, I think. The site which has been chosen is a fine open space, and there is no excuse for any defects in the design. The architect should provide natural light and ventilation to every nook and corner of the building from the cellar to the roof.

1423. You think the sloping of the ground then is no defect? No, certainly not. It would be an easy matter to level it.

1424. Would you level the ground? In the front it would have to be levelled; the back need not be. Of course it would be better if it were a perfectly level site. In looking at the plans it struck me at first sight that the architect or designer had striven to gain outside effect to the detriment of the internal arrangement of the plan. If you look at the elevation you will see that at each end of the building over the

the Chambers there is a dome of between 40 and 50 feet over the ceiling, for no other purpose than to get outward effect. Looking at the section I should say that in the provisions of the cubic space for those domes alone £20,000 had been wasted. The domes are there for no other conceivable purpose than outside effect. Their existence only adds to the difficulty of lighting and ventilating the Chambers. Surrounded as the Chambers are by rooms, the architect has depended for his light upon a number of round holes, 76 feet from the floor to the Chambers. The Chambers are badly lighted and badly ventilated. It is impossible to light and ventilate the Chambers properly unless with the natural open air.

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1425. There is a glass ceiling between the floor of the Chamber and the dome? But it is about 46 feet from the outside light to the glass of the ceiling.

1426. There is no opening then for the admission of fresh air, or for the outlet of heated air? Apparently there is no provision for that.

1427. It means, practically, that the glass ceiling will be a barrier to ventilation? It will confine the heated air to the Chamber, and there will be no means of getting it out.

1428. And there will be no inlet for fresh air? No; you see the Chambers are jammed in the centre of the building, with rooms and passages round them. It is impossible to ventilate a Chamber of this kind efficiently without direct communication with the open air. You may have shafts and artificial ventilation, but it will not be as good as natural ventilation.

1429. Besides, if you ventilate by means of shafts, you will require driving power and fans, and that will mean additional expense? Yes; there should be no need of artificial ventilation where you have a fine open site like this. I consider that the galleries provided for the Chambers are very bad. From the floor of the Chamber to the soffit of the gallery it is only 10 feet, and that means that the passages under the gallery will be absolutely dark, owing to the distance of the light from them. Then the galleries upon the next floor are like caves.

1430-1. You object to the galleries being partitioned off in the manner shown upon the plan—you would rather have bold, open galleries? Yes; both for light and ventilation. Then the provision made for the Press is very small. Behind the box which is provided for each pressman there is scarcely room for one person to pass another. The accommodation for *Hansard* is also limited. Adverting again to the matter of waste space, there is on the ground floor, I suppose, about 90,000 superficial feet. Out of this 90,000 superficial feet no less than 22,000 is devoted to Members' corridors, the two public lobbies, and the entrance. That space is, in round numbers, sufficient to seat 4,400 persons, or almost as much space as we have in the Town Hall; and I have not included a number of small passages. Out of the whole of this space there is only provision in the galleries of 513 feet, or enough to seat 105 persons comfortably. It seems to me to be a defect that there should be such a lot of waste space, and that you should at the same time provide gallery space for only 105 persons. The old building provides for the seating of about 170 persons in the different galleries. Then the waste space in the buttresses of the galleries is also deserving of attention.

1432. Are the buttresses used for division or support? They are a matter of construction in the dome. If the galleries were open it would avoid that unnecessary expense. Four buttresses take up about 400 superficial feet, while the galleries themselves contain only 513 feet. Then there are 166 feet for the accommodation of the Press in the Assembly Chamber, while in the Council Chamber 342 feet are provided. This does not seem to me to be a proper thing. Then coming to the question of lighting and ventilation again, in this particular plan it looks as though the two public lobbies ought to be open to the air and daylight.

1433. You think there should be an internal quadrangle? Yes; the two spaces occupied by the public lobbies should be quadrangles. You are dependent for the lighting of the lavatories upon two small areas, one of which is 20 feet by 10 feet, and another 19 feet by 14 feet. In the long corridor on that side of the building there is no light except a borrowed light through doors. The corridor is nearly 500 feet long. The same thing applies to the staircases.

WEDNESDAY, 19 MAY, 1897.

Present:—

THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esq. (CHAIRMAN).

The Hon. FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHERY.
The Hon. JAMES HOSKINS.
The Hon. CHARLES JAMES ROBERTS, C.M.G.
The Hon. WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT.
The Hon. DANIEL O'CONNOR.
HENRY CLARKE, Esq.

CHARLES ALFRED LEE, Esq.
JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, Esq.
THOMAS HENRY HASSALL, Esq.
GEORGE BLACK, Esq.
FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WRIGHT, Esq.
FRANK FARNELL, Esq.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting New Houses of Parliament for the Colony.

Albert Edward Shervey, Architect, sworn, and further examined:—

1434. *Mr. Black.*] When the Committee adjourned yesterday you were pointing out various defects in the design before the Committee;—will you now continue what you have to say upon that point? With reference to the apparent inadequacy of light and ventilation, I find that there are about 90,000 superficial feet in the building, and that in the whole of that large area there is a light area of only 1,400 feet. I maintain that it is impossible to light the superficial area which I have given in a building constructed such as this would be with that small light area.

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1435. There are only nine or ten light areas altogether? Ten; and the largest of them is 19 ft. by 14 ft. 6 in. The light area I have given is, of course, exclusive of skylights. I consider that the two Legislative Chambers are altogether misplaced. It would appear to be the custom to place the Chambers in the centre of the building, and to surround them with offices; but in a climate like ours I consider that the Chambers should be on the outer part of the building. I would also point out that if the public lobbies, as shown upon the plans, were reduced by one-half there would be better access from each Chamber to the Library and Refreshment Room. According to the design, Members would have to traverse about 200 feet to reach either the Library or Refreshment Rooms from either Chamber.

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1436. If you placed the two Chambers on the outside of the building, you would have to do away with two large sections of the plan before us. It would mean that the Ministers' and other rooms would be grouped together behind the Chambers? I do not mean to say that the Chambers should be lighted on all sides from outside, but I think we should have some outside lighting. I think, also, that the Speaker's quarters are very badly arranged. His office should be immediately behind his chair. He ought not to have to travel round two sides of the Chamber in order to reach it. Both the Speaker and Ministers should have as direct access as possible to their rooms from the Chamber. I notice that the Ministers are very well provided with accommodation. I presume that, occasionally, deputations would wait upon them at the Houses of Parliament, and in that case I should think it would be more economical to have one room common to Ministers, which might be called the deputation room. In that way you could reduce the accommodation afforded to Ministers in the plan before you. I notice that one Minister has a room 21 ft. 6 in. by 10 ft. 6 in., and that another has a room 17 ft. by 15 ft. If each Minister had a room 17 ft. by 15 ft., and if there were one large room common to Ministers for the reception of deputations, I think that would meet requirements. It would be more economical than that of practically a deputation room for each Minister. As regards the construction, it appears to me to be rather antiquated. Over the central dome there is an old-fashioned style of construction. There is a sort of inner cone for the sake of outside construction. That is quite unnecessary now that we have iron which we can twist into any shape and form.

1437. You do not object to the appearance of the dome? I do not object to its outside appearance, but, as I pointed out yesterday, there are certain forced effects. They are not natural effects. I refer especially to the side domes, which are each 46 feet above the ceilings of the Chambers. Of course, if the Chambers were raised to the first floor the domes would be useful.

1438. If you altered the shape of the building by constructing the two Chambers in the form of annexes behind, you would reduce the total length of the building, and I suppose that in that case the two domes would be unnecessary for either light or ornament? They would not be necessary for light.

1439. But with a contracted front they would not be necessary for ornament? Exactly. With such a long front you appear to want something to break the length, but, if the length were reduced, the domes, of course, would not be at all necessary for effect.

1440. Would not the reduction of the frontage necessitate an altogether new style of architecture? No; you could still adhere to the style of architecture.

1441. But you would not want what may be called balancing features outside, as shown on the plan? Of course, the more the building was contracted, the less you would require the two end features.

1442. I do not think you have said anything about the quality of the stone which, in your opinion, should be used in the building? It is rather difficult to say what stone should be used, but it would be a mistake to use any stone without properly testing it.

1443. Have you any predilection in favour of any particular stone? I do not know of any stone here which has been properly tested. Persons when building say, "There is such-and-such a stone to be got here; we will use it," and it is used without being tested at all. For instance, the Bowral trachyte has been used very largely, and I do not believe it has been properly tested.

1444. Do you not think there are any public buildings in Sydney which have stood long enough to enable you to say that they furnish a test of the quality of the stone employed in their construction? No; look, for instance, at the Custom House, which is built of Pymont stone. If you look at the building you will see that the stone is fretting away, and I think it is only about ten years old.

1445. But the portion of the Post Office fronting George-street must be twenty-five years old;—how has the stone in that portion of the building stood? It appears to have stood well; but in the case of the Pymont stone I think the defective setting of the stone is really the cause of its fretting away.

1446. You mean that the stone is not set in some cases in its natural position? Yes; in certain parts of the building the stone should be set in its natural bed, while in other parts it should not be. With cornices or projections with under-cut mouldings the stone should not be set in its natural bed, but should be set vertically and at right angles to the face of the building. If under those conditions it is set in its natural bed it comes away in scales or flakes. If you are building stone in the walls it ought to be set in its natural bed—that is to say, it ought to be placed in the building as it comes out of the quarry.

1447. *Chairman.*] Do you think a test of the various stones by analysis would be sufficient? I should think so. There are various strata in different quarries. Suppose there are three strata—the top one may be bad, while the second and third layers in the same quarry may be very good.

1448. *Mr. Black.*] Have you given any evidence as to the proposal to set the building back from the street, or, in other words, to widen Macquarie-street;—do you think that is necessary? I would set the building back, certainly. According to the plans there is a space of 160 feet from the old pavement to the proposed new pavement. I should think that if the building were set back one-half of that distance it would be ample. That would leave plenty of room for any statuary which might be required in front of the edifice.

1449. What do you think of the proposal to widen Macquarie-street? I should not widen the street. Of course, if you make any recess immediately in front of the entrance, the street at that particular point would be widened; but I should bring the kerb round to the old line. The widening of the street would be to the detriment of the Sydney Hospital. You would get a little more effect, perhaps; but it would be at the expense of the Hospital. I do not think it would be wise to take the street any closer to the Hospital than it now is.

1450. Are there any other points as to the building which you would like to bring before the Committee? There is one other point I might mention. I notice that a number of the rooms are called "additional offices." Surely the architect must know what accommodation is required, and he ought to know what the rooms are for; but he appears to have put in a number of rooms without knowing what they are intended for. Taking the design as a whole, it appears to me not to have been properly thought out.

1451. May not the provision of these additional offices have been caused by the desire to construct an imposing building? Apparently the elevation has been thought of before the plan. I presume that two different stones would be used, the basement being constructed of one and the superstructure of another. The Australian Joint Stock Bank building affords an example. There the stones are only from 6 to 9 inches thick. It is quite unnecessary to construct a basement with solid, expensive stone.

1452. *Mr. Hoskins.*] Do you think the Government should call for designs from different architects, leaving it to the architects themselves to design the most appropriate buildings, and also to specify the description of material which should be used? No doubt public competition would give you a greater variety of designs from which to make a choice. I am sure you would get a more suitable plan if the matter were submitted to public competition.

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1453. Do you think the building should cost as much as the Government Architect estimates the proposed buildings would cost? It would depend upon the conditions issued. If conditions were issued to public architects stipulating the exact accommodation required, I think you would find that the cost would amount to less than the probable cost of the proposed buildings, because there appears to be a great deal of space in these buildings which the architect does not quite know what to do with.

1454. Is the course you indicate that which is usually followed in the designing of large public buildings? There is generally a competition which is open to the world. Of course it may be confined to any particular part. The competition for designs for the New South Wales State House were confined to the Colony, if I am not mistaken.

1455. If that course were followed, do you think the design should be accompanied by specifications and details showing the material of which the building would be composed, also the number of rooms and corridors? The design should be accompanied by information in the form of a report, not exactly a specification. The report should embody the accommodation and the material proposed to be used.

1456. But should not the designs be accompanied by an estimate of the probable cost of the building? Certainly.

1457. Is it not a fact that the Pymont sandstone after being worked up and exposed to the atmosphere in buildings has a tendency to harden? Most stone hardens as it is exposed. There is a lot of sap or moisture in it, and that gradually evaporates when the stone is exposed to the open air.

1458. There is a number of public buildings constructed of sandstone, which, I presume, was obtained from Pymont, and many of these buildings are in a good state of preservation? Yes.

1459. The stone work does not exhibit any sign of decay? In some cases it does not, while in others it does. Where there are signs of decay I think they are caused more by defective work than by defective material.

Charles William Donald Goodchap, Architect, sworn, and examined:—

1460. *Chairman.*] You are an architect and quantity surveyor? Yes.

1461. You are engaged in the practice of your profession in Sydney? I have been for many years in Sydney, but at the present time I am practising at Strathfield.

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1462. *Mr. Roberts.*] Have you considered the plans of the proposed new Houses of Parliament which are before the Committee? Yes; I have noticed that a great deal has been said as to the general design of the proposed buildings, and I am of opinion that it has been discredited in many cases to an extent which is not warranted. I admit at the same time that the plans are imperfect to a certain extent. For instance, the Government Architect has stated that a room is required for machinery for pumping in connection with ventilation. Now, I am of opinion that, in all cases where it is possible, natural ventilation should be provided. There is forced ventilation in the case of the British Houses of Parliament. It is not only a very expensive item, but independently of that it is not so good and effective as is natural ventilation. I notice that although every care has been taken to get in fresh air and light from the skylights, nothing has been proposed—at least as far as I can see—for the carrying off of the vitiated air. In this connection I should like to direct the attention of the Committee to portions of a paper which I recently prepared and read dealing with the subject of ventilation. I think it is proved without doubt that the old idea that vitiated air—that is, air charged with carbonic acid gas, ascends instead of descends, is erroneous. You will observe from the paper which I hand in that after dealing with pure and vitiated air, I say, "In opposition to those who state that carbonic acid gas ascends when in a heated state in accordance with the law of the expansion of bodies by heat, and that it should therefore be allowed to find its way out by the ceiling, I maintain that owing to its specific gravity, which is 1.524, it, when present in abnormal quantities, finds the lowest levels." The Legislative Chambers in the designs before the Committee are surrounded by a number of small rooms, and these rooms will I think prevent the vitiated air from coming out of the Chambers at its proper and natural level, while at the same time a certain quantity of vitiated air may find its way into the Chamber from the adjacent rooms.

1463. Do you regard that as a very serious defect in the design? I do; but of course it is not for me to say to what extent the plans should be altered to meet the defect.

1464. Speaking generally of the design, and without going into details, do you approve of it? Yes; with the exception of the position of the Legislative Chambers.

1465. You do not approve of the position of the Legislative Assembly Chamber, for instance? My opinion is that in making this design the Government Architect has endeavoured to please too many persons. He has provided a certain amount of accommodation for persons whom we will call subordinates, and he has done so at the expense of Members of Parliament who will be using the Chambers. The Chamber is contracted in size from the existence of so many ante-rooms.

1466. You think the Legislative Chambers should be nearer the exterior of the building, so that they may be better ventilated and may have better light? Yes. I consider that the Legislative Assembly Chamber, for instance should be so enlarged as to include the space occupied on the plans by the division lobbies, and also the rooms devoted to Ministers, and the Clerk of the Assembly and other officers.

1467. But would you leave the Chamber otherwise in the position which it now occupies upon the plans? I would enlarge it in the way I have indicated. I would extend it in a northerly direction.

1468. But where would you place the rooms which would disappear from the plans if your suggestion were adopted? I think the public lobbies might very well be contracted, and that some of the rooms which were dispensed with might be placed on that side of the Chamber. With that exception, I think the design is a very good one. We cannot all be architects for the new Houses of Parliament, and I think a good deal of jealousy has been exhibited in the matter.

1469. I understood you to express the opinion that the plans have been discredited in an unwarrantable manner;—in what way do you think that has been done, and to what extent do you disagree with those witnesses who, you suggest, have discredited the plans? I will give you an illustration. My attention

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was drawn to a statement that the central dome was a copy of the dome of St. Paul's. Even if that were the case that would not be detrimental to the design. Then again, I think one witness said something about the building having the appearance of or a resemblance to the South Kensington Museum in England. All I can say is if that is the case it does not suffer in any way from the resemblance, because the building referred to is an admirable construction. There is a general practice in these matters, and as soon as any architect comes forward with a design which infringes that practice he is criticised a great deal. I think in this case, however, the plans are really very good, with the exception of the position of the Legislative Chambers.

1470. I suppose you would move the Legislative Council Chamber in a southerly direction to the extent which you suggest the Legislative Assembly Chamber should be moved in a northerly direction? Yes.

1471. Do you think there are too many lobbies and corridors provided; some witnesses have said that there is what they have termed a waste of space in the number of corridors and lobbies which have been provided;—are you in agreement with that opinion? It depends upon what accommodation is absolutely necessary. I presume the Government Architect must have been told that a certain amount of accommodation must be provided. Each room takes up a certain amount of space. It is not for the Government Architect, I take it, to say whether the number of rooms shown is really required. That would be a matter for the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council to determine.

1472. But witnesses have referred specially to the large amount of space occupied by the corridors and lobbies? Naturally, if the rooms were smaller or fewer the space occupied by the corridors and lobbies could be reduced.

1473. In view of the large amount of accommodation provided, you think there is no waste of space in corridors and lobbies? No; not if the number of rooms shown is really required. Each room must be of a certain size, and must be provided with an approach. The taking off of the vitiated air should also be provided for by removing the Chambers to the position I have indicated.

1474. Do you think the public interest in a matter of this kind would be better served by a public competition among the architects of the Colony for a design, or that it would be better served by leaving the design entirely in the hands of the Government Architect? I should feel inclined to submit the design to public competition. At the same time, if the Government pays an architect for designing large public buildings of this description, I suppose he is the proper person to do it. Mr. Kirkpatrick, I think, stated that if the Government Architect's design for the new Houses of Parliament were sent to England it would be pooh-poohed. I am of a different opinion. I think the design would create a very different impression from that which Mr. Kirkpatrick anticipates.

1475. While you think the plans are very creditable to the Government Architect, you, at the same time, favour a public competition? Yes, naturally.

1476. You are aware that the estimated cost of the proposed buildings is £533,000? Yes.

1477. Have you studied the plans enough to say whether that estimate is excessive or not? Before answering that question I should like to read you an extract from a statement I have prepared as to the qualifications and employment of quantity surveyors:—"The importance attached in Great Britain to quantity surveying in connection with expenditure on public buildings is shown by the large and highly-paid staff of surveyors maintained in the Office of Works. The present establishment is as follows:—Four first-class surveyors, £800 to £1,000, and one in receipt of salary of £1,200; three second-class surveyors, £500 to £700; eight assistant surveyors, first-class, £310 to £400; fifteen assistant surveyors, second-class, £150 to £300. The mean annual expenditure in salaries for this branch of the Office of Works is, therefore, about £12,000. The total estimated expenditure on public works and buildings, for the control of which the large staff of surveyors is principally maintained, was for the year 1896-7, £1,972,573; but this amount includes such items as rates on Government property, £374,853; railways, £37,503; Peterhead harbour, £23,570; royal parks, £108,000, and other services of a similar nature. The requirements for works and buildings, exclusive of such items as those mentioned, are estimated about £1,250,000. An expenditure on a proper survey department of about 1 per cent. on the gross outlay on buildings is, therefore, considered requisite for safe administration of public funds." In England before an estimate is formed of the cost of a building of this description, you will see that there is an expenditure of 1 per cent. Now, the Government Architect in this Colony has no staff to enable him to make an estimate of the description which is made in England. Quite independent of that, in England you are not only obliged to have a staff such as I have referred to, but the men must be qualified, and they must have served their articles in England. I myself served my articles there, and the system there adopted is, in my opinion, the only system practicable if you are to arrive at a correct estimate. It is of no use to cube up a building, and say that, in your opinion, it would cost such-and-such a sum. Such an estimate is quite valueless.

1478. Could you not give us an approximate estimate in this case? No.

1479. Could you not give us an approximate estimate by taking the superficial area? I could not attempt to give you an estimate for the proposed building unless the quantities were taken out. For instance, the Government Architect says it will cost £533,000, whereas Mr. Kirkpatrick said, I believe, that it would cost £250,000.

1480. Mr. Kirkpatrick said that he could put up a suitable building, but not this particular building, for £250,000? Then, I am misinformed. But you often find a very great discrepancy in estimates, unless the quantities are taken out by qualified men who have actually served their articles.

1481. Would it be necessary for them to have a specification before them? Not only that, but all the details. It would be impossible for anyone to say what a building of this kind would cost approximately.

1482. You think an approximate estimate might leave a margin of (say) £60,000 or £70,000? That would be a small margin in a large building of this kind. An approximate estimate would be merely guesswork.

1483. You would not like to give an opinion, then, as to the cost of the building unless you had the specification and the details before you? Quite so. When I was in England I assisted the firm of Nixon and Mumby upon jobs of £10,000 and £20,000, which they undertook for the Metropolitan Board of Works. There would be ten or twelve men employed from 9 in the morning until 11 at night, and it used to take us six weeks or so to complete an estimate. I am glad of this opportunity to state that, in my opinion, the tendering system of public works throughout the Colony is entirely wrong, because quantities are not supplied. It is impossible for the Government Architect to supply them, because he has not the staff with which to do

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the work. There would have to be an expenditure of 1 per cent. upon the general outlay of the Department to enable him to do it. The question of cost is of vital importance in all undertakings of this kind. You will always find men ready and willing to give an opinion, but they are frequently not justified in doing so. 1484. Having examined the plans, and formed a good idea of the accommodation requisite not only for Members of Parliament, but for the officers and other persons whose avocations take them to the building, will you tell us what, in your opinion, would be a fair sum for the Government to expend upon a suitable erection affording that accommodation—a building which, from the point of view of architectural beauty, would be worthy of this great Colony? It is impossible to answer that question in the absence of more detailed information.

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Goodchap.
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1485. Have you studied the cost of buildings of similar size in different parts of the world? I would not attempt to say what such a building would cost until I had taken out the quantities for it. My answer would only be misleading. It is impossible to give even an approximate estimate of cost in a case of this kind.

THURSDAY, 20 MAY, 1897.

Present:—

THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esq. (CHAIRMAN).

The Hon. FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHERY.
The Hon. JAMES HOSKINS.
The Hon. CHARLES JAMES ROBERTS, C.M.G.
The Hon. WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT.
The Hon. DANIEL O'CONNOR.
HENRY CLARKE, Esq.

CHARLES ALFRED LEE, Esq.
JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, Esq.
THOMAS HENRY HASSALL, Esq.
GEORGE BLACK, Esq.
FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WRIGHT, Esq.
FRANK FARNELL, Esq.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting New Houses of Parliament for the Colony.

John Kirkpatrick, Architect, sworn, and further examined:—

1486. *Mr. Black.*] You made a suggestion the other day that both Chambers might be placed at the back of the proposed buildings, so as to enjoy the full advantage of light and air on every side; would a modification of that idea meet with your approval;—suppose, for instance, it were proposed to have the two Chambers at the extreme ends of the buildings? If you move them bodily to each end, as you suggest, you merely extend the superficial area of the building, and increase the expense. If you took the Legislative Assembly Chamber, for instance, to the extreme of the northern end, what would you do with the displaced offices? The whole design would require alteration. There is no way of altering the design so as to get the Chambers outside without entirely remodelling it.

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1487. Would it not be advisable to adopt the expedient I suggest, in order to obtain a building with a fine front? I do not see that it would be necessary to adopt that expedient in order to secure a fine front or good appearance. You would get your good appearance from the front by having the Assembly Chamber and the Council Chamber facing the Domain, but you would have to remodel the entire design. If I were to show you what I would do, I should practically be making a design of my own, and I would rather not go into details to that extent.

1488. Do you not think that if the two Chambers were run out from the back of the building in the form of annexes, each being reached from the main building only at the point of contact, that they would be less accessible, and more removed from the committee rooms, the lavatory, and other conveniences for the use of Members? Not if the buildings were properly designed. There would be no difficulty such as you suggest if the building were planned compactly. At the same time you would have perfect ventilation, and there would not be a dark nook or corner in the place. You would also secure economy of space, which means economy of cost. The offices to which you refer would be more convenient in the design I would adopt than they are in the plans before the Committee.

1489. If the Chambers were placed at the extreme ends of the proposed buildings, and if light and air were directly accessible on three sides, they would, of course, be better ventilated than they could be in the design presented to us? Of course, because you would have the natural air surrounding the buildings. As the Chambers are situated in the plans before you, they could not be ventilated. I do not think you could find an architect in Australia who would be prepared to say that the building as designed could be ventilated, unless of course he were biassed. If any architect were placed under cross-examination by an expert, you would find that he would have to acknowledge that the proposed situation of the Chambers is absolutely wrong from the point of view of ventilation.

1490. By placing the Chambers in the position shown upon the plan, you erect difficulties in the way of perfect ventilation and perfect lighting which it would require expensive scientific appliances to overcome? I do not think that all the scientific appliances you might employ would ventilate the Chambers adequately in the position they occupy upon the plans.

1491. But some attempt would have to be made in that direction, and the attempt, I suppose, would involve considerable expense? It would be very expensive, and after all the expenditure I doubt whether it would succeed. Since I was last here I have at various times thought a good deal of the design which has been submitted to you, and I am now absolutely convinced that it is worthless. The plan of the basement is simply terrible. That is the only expression I can use. Imagine for one moment the basement as planned lifted a certain height off the ground and devoted almost exclusively to a few caretakers' offices—offices which ought to be put away in the roof somewhere, according to modern ideas. I should very much like someone in the Government Architect's office to be asked the cost of the basement. You would then see what you were paying for the caretakers' offices. You have only to consider the tenants of the offices in the basement to be convinced at once that the expense is quite out of proportion to the use to which it is proposed to devote that portion of the building.

1492. If you look at the basement plan, you will notice a number of rooms there which are noted "additional offices"; nearly the whole front of the building is noted in that way;—I presume the rooms are so noted because there is at present no ascertained use for them? They have to be noted with some name. The officers and clerks of Parliament appear to be accommodated upon the first floor, and why there

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there should be this enormous area devoted to additional offices in the basement I do not know. If you go to the cost of a basement such as that proposed, it ought to be used for the accommodation of the officers of Parliament. They would be far more conveniently accommodated there than upon the first floor, and you would then have your basement put to some real use.

1493. Would not that leave more vacant space on the first floor? The arrangement I suggested would permit of the contraction of the building. My contention is that it is practicable to erect a suitable building for £250,000. You can really do nothing with the design before you, and I am satisfied that further inquiries will prove what I say to be absolutely true.

1494. The fact that some 60,000 or 70,000 superficial feet are devoted to corridors and passages on the three floors appears to lend colour to your statement that the buildings were designed to present a certain outward appearance, without any regard whatever to internal arrangement? The more I think over the matter, the more I am at a loss to conceive how the building has been designed. The design has apparently been thrown together without any thought whatever. No discretion or thought appears to have been devoted to the planning.

1495. We may take it as a general rule in architecture that simplicity in design and arrangement leads to economy in management and maintenance? Yes; and it is the perfection of planning. The more simple a plan is, the more perfect it generally proves itself to be.

1496. One of your objections to these plans lies in their complexity? Yes; and the enormous waste of rooms.

1497. Is there any other point which you have discovered since you were last before the Committee to which you would like to direct our attention? When I was last here I mentioned certain sections with which I thought the Committee ought to have been supplied. For instance, I thought there should be a section showing the treatment of the level of the ground. If you have a plan showing the level of the ground, and the manner in which it is proposed to treat it, I should like to have a glance at it.

1498. You think that such a plan would be more easily understood than a section of the pegs in the ground? I see that you have been furnished with a section showing the treatment of the level of the ground. Having glanced for a second at the section, I am of opinion that the basement plan should be altered. It should either be omitted altogether, or should be raised considerably. The basement shown upon the plan is a very low one. I should prefer to see a good sensible basement, instead of what might be termed a cellar such as you have before you. It is far too low. If the basement were increased in height, the rooms occupied by the officers of the two Chambers might be very conveniently placed there. I should say, from a glance at the plans, that the basement plan had been sacrificed for the purpose of giving an appearance to the elevation. You would have to expend an enormous sum of money upon that basement, especially if it were constructed of trachyte, and it would be the poorest of all the storeys in the building, because according to the plans it would be the one which would be least used. I have not studied the levels sufficiently to say exactly at this moment what I would do myself. It would probably take me several months to arrive at a conclusion, but I can say at once that I would certainly have a higher basement. It would be very much more useful, because you could curtail a great deal of the area in that case by taking some of the rooms from the first floor and placing them on the heightened basement. The arrangement would be very much more convenient for the public having occasion to visit or interview the officers of Parliament—making application for documents and on other public business. It is rather difficult to arrive at the precise height of the basement according to these plans, because there is no section showing the floor line. It is stated, I believe by the Government Architect, that the height of the basement is 13 feet; but the entire height, as far as I can measure it, from underneath the floor to the earth is only 12 feet. Perhaps only 11 ft. 6 in. would be available, because in measuring the height of a room you measure it from the ceiling to the floor. By heightening the basement and transferring certain of the offices on the first floor to the basement, you would save in the superficial area of the entire building, and also in the cubical area, and that would carry with it a considerable reduction in cost.

1499. *Chairman.*] You think that if the rooms on the basement were made higher, there is reason to suppose that the accommodation noted as "additional offices" could be available for some of the purposes which give rise to the extreme length of the building? Yes. I may also mention that, as regards lighting, as the building is now designed no light could possibly find its way to the basement. In the centre of the building there would be practically no light whatever in the basement; in fact, the areas given are not even sufficient to light the first floor. What chance, therefore, would they have of lighting the basement? There is a lighting area outside of this room we are sitting in at present, and that is open at one end. From the light you see in the passage outside of this room you can form some idea of the light which would be derived from the lighting areas shown upon these plans. It is a great thing in planning to keep strictly within the limits of a given area; but all architects have the feeling that if they had (say) another 10 feet they could make a better design.

1500. *Mr. Humphery.*] The height of the basement immediately below both Chambers would not be the same as the height of the remainder of the basement, because the floor of each Chamber is sunk several feet below the floor of the corridors; for instance, the height under the Chambers would be 7 feet instead of 13 feet? I have not gone into small details of that kind. I examined the general principles of the plan, and when I discovered what they were I merely touched upon them. I have not wasted my time in going into details. Of course, if the floors of the Chambers are sunk some feet there would be only room to crawl, as it were, underneath them. Suppose, for instance, the Chambers are sunk 5 feet, you would have to allow another 18 inches, because the building is supposed to be fireproof. Taking the height of the basement, other than under the Chambers, at 12 feet, you would not, therefore, have sufficient head-room. We should call 7 feet barely enough head-room in a cellar.

1501. *Chairman.*] Why could not the whole of the basement area be used for offices? That is precisely my suggestion. The entire portion would have perfect light if the building were properly designed. It is quite possible to so design the basement as to make provision for good useful offices over the entire area. The caretakers' offices ought not to be in that portion of the building. In all commercial buildings we have found it convenient to put the caretakers in the roof instead of the basement. It has been found advantageous in all parts of the world to do that.

1502. *Mr. Humphery.*] Do these plans show that what has been described as the basement starts below the street level? It starts 4 ft. 6 in. below the street level.

1503. Would the floor of the basement be 4 ft. 6 in. below the street level? Yes.

1504.

1504. So that that portion of the building is properly described as a basement? Yes.

1505. Is there any reason why the floor of the lowest storey in the building should not start from the street level, in order to utilise the whole of the floor to the greatest advantage, instead of having what is described as a basement, 4 ft. 6 in. below the street level? At the present moment, I see no reason why the floor of the building should not start (say) from the street level. Looking at the section, the total fall from the front to the back is 8 feet. According to this particular design, if you started level, you could only lose in the foundations 8 feet at the back. You would lose nothing in the front. You would have a certain amount of cutting down for the foundations under all circumstances. You would have to go down several feet until you reached solid rock upon which to start the building. But that would only be in the trenches. I am not prepared to say whether I would recommend an excavation down to 4 ft. 6 in. or not. I should require to go to the site and think over the matter several days in order to make up my mind as to the proper course to be pursued. For instance, I should have to calculate the cost of excavation and other expenses attaching to the work, in order to ascertain what it would pay to do. Looking at the plan superficially, I think it would be better to start the building level without any cutting. A basement 13 feet in height is too low for a building such as this. It is too low for the exterior appearance, and as regards the interior it is absolutely useless. You would have a row of tiny little windows in front of the building which would look altogether out of proportion to the rest of the design. I have no doubt in my own mind but that the basement plan is an absolute and entire failure. When I was before you the other day, I had only looked over the general design. I had then studied the ground floor and first floor to some extent, but I found that they were so wanting in ordinary common-sense planning, that I did not go any further. I did not go into details. I did not measure the doorways and openings, for instance. If I were to do that, I should probably make statements which would astonish you, judging from what I have heard from other architects who have been before you. I refer now to matters of detail planning.

1506. *Mr. Hassall.*] Have you examined the plans to ascertain whether the lift accommodation provided is adequate for a large building of this character? I think the lifts are badly placed, and that they do not provide sufficient accommodation.

1507. *Mr. O'Connor.*] You are bearing in mind that the two Houses are on the ground floor? Yes; the lift would be used for the Refreshment Room, and for the different Parliamentary offices.

1508. Having examined the samples of stone upon the table, would you recommend any of them for the construction of a building of this character? I see that they are samples of granite, trachyte, and Pymont stone. Of course you would select granite, as affording the greatest permanence. I think that the best granite we have in this country comes from Gabo.

1509. *Mr. Hoskins.*] But you would not propose to erect the building of granite? No; I would not use any granite. We ought to be content with first-class sandstone from Pymont or Waverley—stone which is not procured from below the sea level. In the case of many buildings in the city, the stone, for the sake of colour, has been obtained from Pymont below the sea level. When that stone has been faced, and has been placed in position, the surface of it has decayed. If you get sandstone above the sea level it is a lasting stone. Look, for instance, at the old Treasury building. You will find that the sandstone employed in it is very good. It is some of the Edgecliffe Road or Waverley stone, obtained from above sea level.

1510. *Mr. Wright.*] You do not think that the decay of the stone is largely due to the fact that it has not been placed in its natural bed? No. The placing of the stone in its natural bed has to do only with the strength of the stone. The reason for specifying that the stone should be placed in its natural bed is that if you set it on edge when the weight comes on it, you are likely to split it.

1511. You do not think the weather has any effect on the stone which is not set in its natural bed? No, I never heard from stone-masons that that is the case.

1512. *Mr. Hoskins.*] Is not the Waverley stone better and harder than is the Pymont stone? Yes. If I were asked to give an opinion, I should have to give it in favour of stone from the Waverley district.

1513. *Mr. Humphery.*] Stone similar to that used in the Market buildings in George-street? Yes.

1514. *Mr. Hoskins.*] It is possible to obtain larger blocks of the Waverley than of the Pymont stone? I do not know that, but the stone is of better quality.

1515. *Chairman.*] We have been informed that there is a tendency in some of the trachyte to blow out when it is subjected to weight; no reason has been given for the occurrence;—are you aware of it? Yes; I think I called attention to it in my second day's evidence. I think I mentioned a building in George-street where two columns had split, and where it was necessary to put steel-bands round them in order to hold them together.

1516. Would that be on account of the weight? Trachyte is a very peculiar stone. It contains some very finely traced lines. You would almost want a microscope to see the lines; they are more like stains. As a matter of fact, I believe they are absolute cracks in the stone, but they are so fine that they are not discovered until after the stone has been worked. When the weight comes on to the stone, the cracks open out. We had to condemn several of the stones in the case of the Mutual Life of New York building. When the stones were worked, and were ready to be put into position, the black lines appeared, and a few days afterwards they were shown clearly to be cracks. Afterwards, when we saw any of these black lines on the stone we took them to be cracks.

1517. *Mr. Wright.*] Is it not a fact that sandstone hardens with exposure? Yes.

1518. *Mr. Fegan.*] Is there not a very large area of sandstone in and around Sydney? Yes; you could continue to draw upon it for a very long period.

1519. *Mr. Humphery.*] For base-courses and foundations, you consider the Melbourne bluestone superior to trachyte, but you think sandstone would be preferable to either? Yes.

1520. *Mr. Hoskins.*] But, I presume, you would rather have foundations of concrete? Yes; concrete for the absolute foundations—the course above the ground being sandstone.

J.
Kirkpatrick.
20 May, 1897.

FRIDAY, 21 MAY, 1897.

Present:—

THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esq. (CHAIRMAN).

The Hon. FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHERY.
 The Hon. JAMES HOSKINS.
 The Hon. CHARLES JAMES ROBERTS, C.M.G.
 The Hon. WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT.
 The Hon. DANIEL O'CONNOR.
 HENRY CLARKE, Esq.

CHARLES ALFRED LEE, Esq.
 JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, Esq.
 THOMAS HENRY HASSALL, Esq.
 GEORGE BLACK, Esq.
 FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WRIGHT, Esq.
 FRANK FARNELL, Esq.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting New Houses of Parliament for the Colony.

R. Clarence Backhouse, Architect, sworn, and examined:—

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1521. *Chairman.*] You are an architect, practising your profession in Sydney? Yes.

1522. I understand that any statement you make would be limited to general principles, since you have not had sufficient time to examine the plans to an extent which would warrant you in expressing an opinion as to details? Yes. I may say at the outset that my opinion is favourable to the whole design as it stands, with the exception of a few matters in the elevation. I refer especially to the small towers in the ends of the building. After all it is merely a question of taste. The towers do not appear to me to be in agreement with the remainder of the building. In my opinion that is about the only fault in the whole of the external design. Otherwise the design appears to me to be one of which any city in the world might be proud. I think the elevation to the Domain might be made more after the style of Macquarie-street front. As it stands, it is perhaps a little weak in design—that is all. However, that is a very small matter, and could be easily remedied. I do not think you can well improve upon the general plan of the building. If you examine the designs of Houses of Parliament in other parts of the world you will see that this design proceeds upon the same lines as do the majority of them, that is to say, the Legislative Chambers are far apart, and are surrounded by corridors and offices. So far as the ventilation and light are concerned, I think the light which you would have from the top of the Chambers would be quite sufficient. Ventilation could be easily provided for. I might state, parenthetically, that I built the Lyceum Theatre. That will accommodate 2,000 persons. I have been in the building at night when the thermometer stood at 80°. There is only one vent in the roof, and the people were quite comfortable. The same observation applies to the Palace Theatre and to the Criterion. In neither of these Legislative Chambers will you have the number of persons who are accommodated in those theatres, and a special means of ventilation can always be introduced. That I suppose the architect has considered in this case. We have an apparatus in the Lyceum Theatre which will drive some millions of feet of air into the auditorium in the course of an hour, and I daresay something of the kind is done in connection with the present Legislative Chambers. I cannot see anything wrong with the design in the matter of light or ventilation. The Chambers are never crowded to any great extent, and the means of access to them appear to me to be perfect. It is not as if you had 1,500 or 2,000 persons seated in them.

1523. *Mr. Trickett.*] You are aware that between the ceiling of each Chamber and the top of the dome above it there is a waste space of over 40 feet? Yes, I am aware that the light will have to travel down through that space. Of course, the building is kept up above the Chambers in order to get a certain amount of effect from the outside. I would not do away with the dome; I would not interfere with the design at all in that respect.

1524. Would you build the main dome upon the principles suggested by these plans,—there appears to be an inner conical structure on the outside of which the dome is built;—do you approve of that? No; I would not advocate anything of that description in this case. Of course, so far as the saving of money is concerned, I would undertake to save £150,000 upon that design; and I would at the same time give you the same accommodation which you have according to these plans; but I could not give you a design like that if I were to save that amount of money. It would be a plain building, stripped of all ornament.

1525. It has been pointed out to the Committee that many of the corridors in the building will be very dark; that there is no means of lighting them; they are entirely cut off from the outside light, with the exception of one or two small areas? From what I know of the plans I should not say that the building was badly lighted. Of course, the plans would require careful study on the part of anyone before an opinion could be offered upon that point. I am not in a position to-day to deal with the plans more than in a general way. I may be prepared to go into details at some later time. Like many other architects, I was disappointed when the design was not thrown open to competition in the city; but, notwithstanding that, I unhesitatingly express the opinion that the design is a good one, worthy of any city in the world. I doubt whether the architects of Sydney—I will not say the architects of the world—could submit a better one.

1526. *Mr. Black.*] Are you speaking of the external appearance of the building? I am speaking of the general design, both as regards the accommodation and external appearance. I daresay that after an examination of the drawings it would be found that they could be improved upon. The Government Architect himself, I daresay, would find that he could improve upon them. You can only judge of a work as it is turned out. You have probably seen the plans of the proposed State House; that was the last large competition we had. As an architectural study the designs for the State House are not to be compared with these designs.

1527. But was not the proposed State House building of much less dimensions? It was smaller, but not very much smaller.

1528. *Chairman.*] The buildings were for totally different purposes? I was only speaking of the question of design, because I have read the various reports of what different architects have stated before the Committee.

1529. *Mr. Lee.*] The design has been critically commented upon by experts, who have arrived at the conclusion that it is so utterly defective that it would be a mistake to adopt it;—can you point out any one particular in the design in which you consider there is a pronounced defect? I could not attempt to do so now. If I could find any defects I would not hesitate to point them out.

1530.

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1530. Have you looked into the question of the lighting of the corridors and the Chambers? No, I have only made a general survey of the plans.

1531. Are you prepared to say whether they are defective in respect of the provision of sufficient lighting and ventilation? No, I am not; but looking at the drawings generally, I should think that there was sufficient light and ventilation.

1532. You will see that there are corridors in the interior of the building which appear to be excluded from all outside lighting? Yes.

1533. Do you know the present Lands Office? Yes.

1534. Is it not necessary, on a day such as to-day, to burn gas in those corridors in order to give ordinary lighting? It might be necessary on a day like this.

1535. Is not the design before us on much the same lines? I do not know. I was going to mention the Sydney Town Hall, which is practically on the same lines. There are corridors in that case all round the vestibule, and offices on the other side of the corridors, and yet the passages are not dark.

1536. *Mr. Black.*] Is not the vestibule of the Town Hall lit from the roof? Yes; upon the same principle as are these Chambers.

1537. But are there not glass doors opening into the passages from the vestibule which admit light? There are doors, I think.

1538. Is the vestibule of the Town Hall surrounded by offices such as are these Chambers? Yes; of course, a certain amount of light would come from the vestibule into the corridors.

1539. *Mr. Lee.*] The Committee would like to know whether you agree with the defects which have been pointed out in this design by other professional gentlemen? I can only speak to-day of the design as a whole. In a building of that character it would be practically impossible to have every part of it a blaze of light. You cannot have that, and at the same time give architectural effect.

1540. You mean that in any design for a building of that magnitude, there must be some imperfectly-lighted portions? Yes; and we try to get those into the least important places. Look, for instance, at the Law Courts in London, which are admitted to be one of the finest piles of modern buildings. There are some passages and corridors in those buildings which are absolutely dark.

1541. *Mr. Hoskins.*] The acoustic properties are also defective, are they not? Yes, in some of the Courts; but they are a splendid pile of buildings, designed by one of the leading architects of the world.

1542. Are you of opinion that it is necessary to have a complete specification before a correct estimate of cost can be arrived at? I think so. The drawings I see before me are not what we call contract or working drawings—they are merely sketches, I should say.

1543. How would an estimate of cost be arrived at upon the basis of plans such as we have before us? I do not know how anyone could estimate the cost of the buildings upon those plans, except the man who designed them. He, of course, would know what material he intended to put into them. I could not venture to give an estimate.

1544. Could the designer take out the quantities from a skeleton sketch of that kind? Pretty closely.

1545. Do you think that if the designer were well acquainted with the cost of material and labour in the Colony, he would be able to make an estimate within 15 per cent. of the actual cost? Yes; I think he would.

1546. Would that be too wide a margin to take? No; it would be about fair.

1547. I suppose it is the usual practice in a matter of this kind to have the drawings in detail and the specifications before you, before you can make an estimate? Yes; you could only give an approximate estimate without the detail drawings and specification.

1548. You think the Committee would be safe in assuming that there would not be a margin wider than 15 per cent. in an estimate prepared upon these plans? I think so.

1549. There is an architects' association in Sydney? Yes; I am a member of it.

1550. Have the association at any time considered the site which should be selected for new Houses of Parliament? No; I do not think so. The last time designs were called for the building was to be practically in the position of the new Houses now proposed.

1551. The question has never been considered by the association? Not as an association. Individual members have spoken of it. In my opinion you could not get a better site than that which has been selected.

1552. You know that the buildings will encroach to a certain extent upon the Domain? But what is 100 or 200 feet, seeing that the building will be an ornament to the Domain. A building of this kind should be set in a place of that description. As the Domain will help the Houses of Parliament, so will the Houses of Parliament help the Domain. I do not think the encroachment upon the Domain is any detriment to the site.

1553. You do not think the encroachment will interfere with the public convenience in any way? No.

1554. Do you think it would be in the architect's power to erect new buildings, and at the same time to conserve the old buildings up to a certain point for the conduct of public business? Yes, I think so.

1555. Up to what stage could the new buildings be erected while the old buildings were retained? I could not say.

1556. I suppose that as a matter of fact you could take up only some of the outer walls, and some of the dividing walls? I think you could take up the main walls, and roof in the new building entirely, leaving space for light and ventilation. You could absolutely finish all the upper part of the building, such as the dome.

1557. But not the portion most required—the Chambers and offices? No.

1558. So that there would necessarily have to be a disturbance of Parliamentary business if the new Houses were erected upon the site of the present buildings? Yes; for a longer or shorter space. It depends largely upon constructional detail. No man could form an idea from looking at the plans what the time would be.

1559. From the fact that the commencing limit is on the same southern boundary as that of the present Houses, and running north and east to a considerable extent, it would appear that the old building would have to be rased to the ground? That would be the difficulty. But you could finish the main walls. This is a more extensive building than is the present building. In fact it could be built right over it.

1560. You think the difficulty could be so far overcome as to reduce the inconvenience to public business to a minimum? I think the inconvenience would be very little.

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1561. *Mr. Trickett.*] Have you considered the question of calling for competitive designs in dealing with a national building of this character? Yes. My view is that competitive designs should be called for, as they are called for in connection with all other public buildings in other parts of the world.
1562. In all buildings of a national character that is the usual practice? Yes.
1563. And you think it would be a desirable practice in this case? You might not have obtained a better design, but I think the result would have been far more satisfactory. It is recognised that the Government Architect has good talent in his office, but he has not the best talent in New South Wales. There is no doubt about that.
1564. I suppose there is also the advantage of diversity of design;—the architecture of the city would not be so likely to be of one character, as if the whole of the work were done in one office? Undoubtedly. I think it would be far better to have a competition amongst the architects. If there were a competition, and if, when the present design had been selected, the Government did not care to entrust the building to the successful competitor, on account, say, of his inexperience, they could easily get the Government Architect to carry it out, and pay the designer for his work.
1565. *Mr. Wright.*] You have spoken about the driving of air into buildings for ventilation;—is it not best to exhaust the foul air, instead of driving in fresh air? Both things are desirable. You drive the fresh air in at a low level, and have a shaft in the roof to take out all the foul air. In the three theatres I have built there is one large central shaft, 8 or 9 feet in diameter, which carries away all the foul air. The foul air becomes lighter and naturally rises, and the fresh air is driven in at a lower level.
1566. If you exhaust the bad air, does not the fresh air rush in to take its place by a natural process? Quite so.
1567. The exhaustion of the foul air creates a current at once? Yes.
1568. You think the Chamber should be surrounded by offices? Yes; I see no objection to that, because the difficulties of lighting and ventilation can be so easily overcome.
1569. If the Chamber is surrounded by offices, it must be lit entirely by a borrowed light? I should hardly call the lighting provided in the roof a borrowed light.
1570. What chance is there of much light descending through the 40 odd feet of space between the ceiling and the top of the dome? The Chambers would not be brilliantly lit, but without disturbing the design that difficulty could easily be overcome. If you deal with these designs, of course, light must come from the roof.
1571. Does it strike you that there is a waste of space in the corridors? No; I could not say that. They ought to be made roomy.
1572. You think they are not too roomy? Not for a building of that character.
1573. *Mr. Fegan.*] You have not had time to look into the details of these skeleton plans? No.
1574. Do you think, then, that you are fair to yourself in being so emphatic in your evidence without having had an opportunity to look at the details? I do not think I am too emphatic. I am quite confident as regards what I have said as to the character of the general design. It is a splendid design, and will bear any amount of criticism. It is a very easy matter for any architect to pull a building to pieces—the finest building ever erected could be subjected to that process.
1575. Did you notice how dark the corridor approaching this room is? I cannot say that I did.
1576. Having regard to the manner in which the corridor is lighted, how can you expect the corridors shown in these plans to have better light? As far as I can see, the corridors are lighted enough.
1577. Have you considered the construction of the basement? I have just looked at the plans.
1578. Will not the basement be very dark? Parts of the building must be very dark.
1579. Could not that objection be remedied by an alteration of the plan without spoiling it? I think it could.
1580. *Mr. Clarke.*] You are aware that the estimated cost of the proposed buildings is about £533,000? I have heard it so stated.
1581. Do you think that a suitable building could be erected for a much less sum? Undoubtedly it could, but not upon plans such as those before you.
1582. I mean a good solid building of a less pretentious kind of (say) Pyrmont stone? Yes; it could be constructed for less money.
1583. For how much less? You could build good Houses of Parliament for £300,000. But the buildings could not be compared with those before you, although they would give all the necessary accommodation.
1584. *Mr. Roberts.*] Do you think the Legislative Chambers could be more favourably situated with a view to obtaining the best light and ventilation? Yes; I think they could. I see various things which could be done to improve the lighting without altering the design to any great extent.
1585. Without appreciably altering the character of the architecture? Undoubtedly. I think the Government Architect himself, if he were asked to make a drawing, as he would have to do for tendering and building purposes, would make a number of improvements of that kind in detail.
1586. Do you know that it is intended to ventilate the Chambers artificially? I think the Government Architect would be bound to introduce some special means of ventilation.
1587. But would it not be better to obtain ventilation direct from the fresh air? Yes; but in a building of this kind it is difficult to give architectural features and form without adopting some special scheme of ventilation such as I suggest. The only way you could get natural ventilation would be by exposing the walls to the outside air, and, instantly you do that, you cut off all the ornamentation of the building—the whole of the work which lends any style to it.
1588. Would that be the case if the Chambers were moved in an easterly direction? Then you would lose some of the features of which I have spoken.
1589. But that would be the means of obtaining pure air for ventilation and of providing the Chambers with a better light, both of which things are really much required? Of course you would get more light and more fresh air.
1590. Would not the Chambers be more comfortable for their occupants, and more healthy in every respect, if such a suggestion were adopted? No; I do not think they would. I do not see why the Chambers, as they stand upon those plans, could not be well ventilated and well lighted, judging from the elevation.
1591. Do you approve of the widening of Macquarie-street? It would be all the better for the Houses of Parliament if that were done.

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1592. But would it not interfere with the comfort of the inmates of the Sydney Hospital to bring the vehicular traffic so much closer to the different wards? I do not think the extra 22 feet would make much difference to the noise.

1593. *Mr. Hoskins.*] Would it not detract from the appearance of the Hospital building? No; I do not think so.

1594. *Mr. Roberts.*] If the street were widened, would it not be advisable to continue it at the extra width right down to Fort Macquarie? I think it would be well to do so, because you would only be taking a small portion of the Domain. You would not interfere with any buildings, and it would certainly improve the street.

1595. *Mr. Black.*] Am I to infer from your remarks that modern architectural science is disposed to sacrifice comfort to display? No; I do not think so. The tendency of the science of architecture is rather to combine the two.

1596. You were asked whether, if the two Chambers were removed to a position at the extreme ends, or were thrown back in the form of annexes, you would not obtain better light and ventilation, and, while admitting that that would be the case, I understand you to say that the alteration would destroy the design? Undoubtedly.

1597. Then, apparently, you prefer the ornamental to the comfortable? No; because I think the lighting and ventilation of the building as it stands could be much improved without materially altering the design or the position of the Chambers.

1598. You said you thought the corridors could be better lit;—how could they be better lit if this design were retained? I could not say without studying the plans in detail.

1599. You said just now that in certain theatres the sole method of ventilation was through a small space in the roof; that these buildings sometimes contained 2,000 persons, and that they were never unendurable in warm weather;—do you think there is any analogy between those who frequent theatres, and those who frequent Houses of Parliament; heat, for instance, which will be endurable for a space of two hours might be unendurable during a space of twelve, twenty, or twenty-four hours; some of the officers of Parliament for example are compelled to remain in the Chamber as long as the House sits, and the sittings sometimes run into a day or a day and a half? I only instanced the theatres to show how a building could be ventilated by a special means of ventilation.

1600. You said you thought good Parliament Houses could be erected for £300,000? Yes.

1601. You meant by sacrificing some of the ornamentation? Yes. Not that it is a thing which I would advocate.

1602. Do you not think that that result could be gained by economising the unnecessary space in this design? I do not see where the space is unnecessary in a building of that character.

1603. Is it necessary to have from 20,000 to 30,000 superficial feet used in corridors and passages on one floor alone? If it be rightly used, as shown upon the plans, I think so. The corridors and lobbies could be reduced easily enough, and in their reduced size would perhaps be large enough for the purpose, but the building would not have the same appearance; the design would look cramped. The whole design could be contracted, and all the features could be reduced, but the building would not have the noble appearance of the building before you.

1604. If the building were made twice as large it would still have a noble appearance; your remark being one of relativity, do you think that to provide a relative magnificence, such as that presented on those plans, it is necessary to go to an undue expenditure? Perhaps not.

1605. Does not that bring us to this position: that you, as an architect, do not look to the building of Houses of Parliament as a means of carrying on the legislation of the country, but as a means of ornamenting the city? I think they should do both.

1606. Is there not a tendency in your mind to make the major aim subservient to the minor one? No, I think not. The Houses of Parliament of a city like Sydney should certainly be a noble building. I do not mean that the utmost extravagance should be employed in construction.

1607. But there must be limits to nobility? Yes.

1608. And should not those limits be the provision of sufficient accommodation for Members, the public, and the Press? As far as accommodation is concerned, yes.

1609. If the entire accommodation is equal to those three demands, is it not all that the public benefit requires that the interior should be clothed in architecture which is picturesque without being over-gaudy? Quite so. There should be artistic worth in the building. The building before you is not elaborate as a design.

1610. If that be so, obviously any interior space which is not absolutely required is an evidence of faulty construction? I do not think so in a building of that kind. In a building of that magnitude it is not possible to utilise every bit of space. There are some portions of it which must be used to obtain effects. You cannot expect every part to be well lighted, although there is no reason why the two Chambers should not be well lighted.

1611. If it is shown that there are from 50,000 to 150,000 feet of unnecessary space in different parts of the building, would not that be a defect in design? If they were important and large spaces badly lighted they would be. If the spaces were not important, I do not see that it would be a defect.

1612. In considering the plans, as you have informed us you intend to do, there are one or two points to which you might devote your attention. For instance, the space in the Legislative Chamber intended for the convenience of the public, when compared with the space in the present Chamber, seems inadequate. You might also look at the manner in which the Press gallery is divided into cubicals instead of being thrown open into one gallery. Then there is the suggestion that the Chamber, at some future period, might be enlarged by the removal of the screen under the public gallery, the height from the floor to the roof of the gallery being about 12 feet. In the front of the basement you will also see a number of rooms noted "additional offices," there being presumably no purpose to which they can be put? I will consider those matters.

1613. As to the stone of which the building should be constructed, what stone would you recommend, speaking independently of this inquiry? I am a believer in Sydney sandstone and trachyte. Another fine stone is the Stawell stone.

1614. The Stawell stone is harder than is the Sydney sandstone, but it would be more expensive? Yes. The trouble with the Sydney sandstone consists in some of it fretting.

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1615. Would you recommend the use of trachyte for the basement? That is where the expense comes in. The building could be cheapened by omitting such a stone as trachyte, which is very hard to work.
1616. Is it a durable stone? I can only judge from our experience in Sydney, which does not amount to very much.
1617. Has it a tendency to blow out? To fly, yes. The Melbourne bluestone would ruin the appearance of a building of this description.
1618. Is it true that a good deal of the fretting of the Sydney sandstone is due to its not being laid as stone in its natural bed? That is a question I should not like to answer. There has been a great deal of argument about it. I do not think that any man has yet told us why it is that the sandstone frets. You may take some stone out of a quarry which may remain hard for years, and which will harden; and you may take some stone from almost alongside of it in the same quarry, and it will fret away.

WEDNESDAY, 26 MAY, 1897.

Present:—

THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esq. (CHAIRMAN).

The Hon. FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHREY.	HENRY CLARKE, Esq.
The Hon. JAMES HOSKINS.	CHARLES ALFRED LEE, Esq.
The Hon. CHARLES JAMES ROBERTS, C.M.G.	JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, Esq.
The Hon. WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT.	THOMAS HENRY HASSALL, Esq.
The Hon. DANIEL O'CONNOR.	FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WRIGHT, Esq.

FRANK FARNELL, Esq.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting New Houses of Parliament for the Colony.

William Douglas Bear, Superintendent, Metropolitan Fire Brigades, sworn, and examined:—

W. D. Bear.
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1619. *Mr. Hoskins.*] You are Superintendent of Fire Brigades? Yes.
1620. You have inspected the existing Houses of Parliament? Many times.
1621. You have been through the offices and outbuildings? I know every nook and corner of the place. I visited it again last Saturday, and also on Monday.
1622. Have you formed any opinion as to whether, if a fire should occur, there would be a great danger of the total destruction of the buildings, from the inflammable nature of the material of which they are composed, and also from the want of proper facilities for fire extinction? I am certain that if a fire occurred anywhere near the Library it would be somewhat difficult to stop it. Part of the walls of the Library and of the Legislative Council are hollow walls—what are known as strutted walls—and the water supply at the present moment during the summer months is very inadequate in Macquarie-street. Therefore, steam fire-engines would have to be used. If I were in town, and superintending the operations, I should first endeavour to cut off the fire. I should then remove the contents of the Library, and extinguish the fire afterwards. Of course, a good deal of damage would be done even then, because most of the roofs communicate one with the other.
1623. Have you reported to the Water and Sewerage Board that the water supply in Macquarie-street is inadequate? Ever since I have been in the Colony I have been very anxious about the water supply on these high levels. Last Saturday I was testing the water supply inside the Parliament House buildings, and I found it very defective. On Monday I wrote a letter to the Chief Inspector of the Water and Sewerage Board about it stating that I could get only 35 lb. pressure in Macquarie-street in three different places, whereas, according to the data at Parliament House buildings, I should get 47 lb. I also told him that the flow was very bad on Tuesday. Yesterday he sent a plan with an accompanying statement, which I now produce, in which he said that in three months' time from now there would be a 15-inch main run from Park-street and connected with the two mains in Macquarie-street. We could then have the normal pressure of 47 lb. It is intended eventually to do away with the Paddington reservoir, and the Chief Inspector informs me that we shall then have sufficient pressure, because they will be taking the water from the Centennial Park reservoir, which would be quite sufficient for the purposes of fire extinction by hydrant.
1624. Would the pressure of 47 lb. give the fire brigades sufficient head of water to command all the buildings in Macquarie-street? No; but it would be sufficient to enable the officials in the Parliament House buildings with hydrants to control the fire until such time as the fire brigade arrived with their steam fire-engines.
1625. Then, in reality, you have never had sufficient pressure of water in Macquarie-street to enable you to thoroughly master a fire, supposing one were to break out in a building of any great height? Before the supply came under the Water Supply and Sewerage Board there was practically no water at all in Macquarie-street. They could hardly get enough water in Parliament House buildings for domestic purposes. Until the Paddington water was given to the street it had only the Crown-street water, which would only give from 10 to 15 lb. pressure, there being sometimes in the middle of the day practically no water at all.
1626. Are there many buildings above Parliament House buildings in Macquarie-street in which a sufficient pressure could be obtained? The normal pressure is supposed to be 47 lb. I may mention that I had a system of hydrants put into the Parliament House buildings some time ago, directly the Water Supply and Sewerage Board arranged to give us high-level water. But the worst of the building is this—that if a fire got in between the hollow walls it would be in the roof before anyone knew anything at all about it. Honorable Members might be sitting in the House in division, and the first notice they would have of the existence of a fire would be from seeing it in the roof. The hollow walls would act as chimneys to the fire.
1627. You say that the supply of water is so inadequate in Macquarie-street that there is a certain amount of danger as far as the new Hospital is concerned;—I suppose it would amount to that? There is nothing much to burn there. The building has very good walls, and there is very little to burn in them. There is nothing in the new Hospital buildings but could be extinguished with buckets of water. In fact, buckets of water are the best fire-extinguishing appliances in any building like the Hospital, which is solidly built.

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1628. I gather from what you have told the Committee that there would be great danger of loss from fire in the Parliament House buildings, especially in the vicinity of the Library? Yes; especially round about the Library and the Legislative Council Chambers. The walls of the Legislative Council are almost all hollow, some being constructed of wood, and others of wood and iron.

1629. *Mr. Humphery.*] Where do you get the supply of water for Macquarie-street now? From the Paddington reservoir?

1630. Not from Waverley? No; they would not be able to give it to us from Waverley or Woollahra, because the reservoirs are not large enough.

1631. There is a new reservoir in course of construction in Centennial Park? Yes. That would give us a head of 245 feet instead of 215 feet, or an extra 30 feet of head.

1632. What is the difference in elevation between Macquarie-street and Paddington? There is 115 feet of head.

1633. What would be the extreme height of the buildings? About 60 feet would be the extreme height.

1634. To what do you attribute the insufficient supply of water? I attribute it to the great drawing off down on the lower levels. It is 109 feet against 40 or 50 feet. Our head fire station in Castlereagh-street is only 60 feet above high-water mark, whereas the Parliament House buildings are 109 feet above high-water mark. In a few years you will have added another 30 feet of head, because the Centennial Park reservoir will then be completed, and that is 30 feet over and above the Paddington reservoir. You should then have 136 feet of head.

1635. Apart from that it is now a question of insufficient mains? That is it. If the mains were large enough we should get the normal pressure.

1636. From Paddington? Yes; to the present buildings. The Board propose to carry a 15-inch main from Park-street to the corner of Macquarie-street in about three months' time.

1637. Could you make any suggestion with regard to the safety of the Library in the present Parliament House buildings? The only thing to do would be, I think, to take down the wall of the back portion of the Library and to substitute a brick wall, and to cut off the draught if possible between the hollow walls.

1638. Are the hollow walls very extensive? At the back they are.

1639. Approximately, how many feet are there of hollow wall? I could not say.

1640. Could you not give us a general idea? Looking at the plans, I find that the wooden walls to which I refer are at the right-hand side of the entrance lobby, between that and the Library, round the Library, covering in the passage, round one side of the Council reading-room, extending on behind the Legislative Council Chamber, and in the front and at the sides of the Council Chamber. The front and side walls are of wood and iron. The walls of the rooms marked "President's Dining-room, President's Reception-room, Smoking-room, and Lavatory" appear also to be of wood and iron, running right up into the roof which adjoins the walls.

1641. If a brick wall were substituted for the portion of the building which you have described, would that, as a temporary measure, render the Parliament House buildings fairly safe as regards fire? Yes; as long as the roofs were cut off by gables.

1642. Do you know that the roofs are not cut off now? Yes. The brick walls, if substituted for the hollow walls of wood, could run up to above 3 feet above the roofs, thereby ensuring them one against the other. At present, the whole of the roofs being joined together, the fire would spread from one roof to the other, and until the fire broke through in any particular place we could never know where the body of it actually was.

1643. You think that if effect were given to your suggestions there would be no greater danger in the case of the Parliament House buildings than exists in any ordinary terrace of houses? No. I might say that some two years ago when I was at the building, I observed that the white ants were in full play. No doubt some of the flooring would require seeing to. The building is partly wood and iron, and partly brick, and if a fire got in under the floor you would not know where it might break out. It might travel under the floor a considerable distance. Therefore, you would have to pay great attention to the flooring. It would require cutting off with brickwork at different places. There is also some lath and plaster in the building, but that is not shown on the plan. You can cut off the lath and plaster by putting in one row of bricks. If you save the draught, you will do a great deal to limit a fire. In the present Building Act there is nothing upon that subject at all. Once a fire gets into a lath and plaster building, the first you know of it that it has gone up the lath and plaster into the roof.

1644. Do you think it will be necessary to remove the southern wall of the present Parliament House buildings constructed of wood and iron? I think it should be removed if only for the benefit of the Hospital, having regard to the likelihood of a panic in the case of fire.

1645. *Mr. Lee.*] Have you had an opportunity to examine any large public buildings in any other parts of the world recently? Yes; all over London.

1646. Could you say definitely what provision should be made in a large public building, such as that before us, to facilitate fire extinction—that is to say, should there be an application of a local water pressure, or should there be a storage of water in tanks on or within the building? I think we should depend on our gravitation supply in every case. We should get the benefit of our higher reservoirs if they were made large enough. My opinion, as a fireman is, that our reservoirs are made too small. Take for instance the reservoirs at Petersham, Waverley, and Woollahra. They are far too small for the requirements of the population in a few years' time. They cannot take large mains away from the reservoirs, because the reservoirs do not hold the requisite quantity of water. The best way to protect public buildings, public places of amusement, and large warehouses is to persuade people to fix up their own appliances. If there were then a good gravitation supply, they would then in many cases be able to stop a fire before the brigade arrived on the spot at all.

1647. When you say gravitation scheme, do you mean water supplied from storage on the premises? No. In a case such as that of London where there is a bad supply, that might be a good measure of precaution, but where there is a constant supply such as there is in Sydney and its suburbs, I do not think the storage of water is required except in certain places. If you have a pressure gauge on the premises such as there is at Parliament House buildings, you always know when water is available.

1648. You would recommend, then, that all large buildings should have a sufficiency of hose attachment to the main water service, in order to enable the occupants to deal quickly with any outbreak of fire? Yes.

1649.

- W. D. Bear. 1649. But you do not recommend the construction of tanks on buildings for the storage of a quantity of water? No.
- 26 May, 1897. 1650. You would not recommend that in the case of a great building such as is proposed for Parliament Houses? No.
1651. Knowing, as you do, the sources of water supply of this city and the pressure, are you of opinion that the supply and pressure can be relied upon under all circumstances? They cannot at present.
1652. What are the conditions that sometimes prevail when you cannot obtain the fullest supply and pressure? The mains from the different reservoirs are not large enough.
1653. In asking you these wide questions I am putting the matter before you from the point of view of the maximum of danger and inconvenience? Let me give you an illustration of what I mean. Take the Lands Department building, concerning which I have written some strong reports from time to time. The back portion of the Department—the new portion at the present moment—has a high-level service, or what is known as the Paddington supply, whereas the old portion of the building is supplied from Crown-street. The Paddington water supply is enough to put out any fire in the new portion of the building, because there is practically nothing to burn; but in the old portion of the building there is the dome, and under the dome in which a number of valuable documents are stored, and there is only the Crown-street water, which is of no good whatever for the purposes of fire extinction.
1654. Do you wish to convey the idea that there are two water services laid on to the Lands Department—one to the old portion of the building and one to the new—and that the service in the old portion of the building would be insufficient to contend with a fire if one should break out? That is so. The Crown-street water would not rise higher than the second floor. If the dome were to catch on fire you would have to wait until the fire brigade got into it with their hose and extinguished the conflagration. The dome, I understand, is a store-room for all sorts of plans and inflammable stuff at the present moment.
1655. You refer to the dome over the old portion of the building? Yes.
1656. What about the tower over the new portion;—that is much higher than the dome over the old portion? But there is nothing to burn there. They have the Paddington water supply for that, where, as I have pointed out, there is nothing to burn.
1657. Would the Paddington supply reach to the top of the tower? No, it would not.
1658. Do you think that that condition of affairs is likely to last? I wrote a report on the subject to the Government Architect's Department only last week.
1659. The enlargement of the service-pipes would not improve the condition of affairs? No, not altogether. You can get plenty of water—you want pressure. In the case of the Lands Department we want the Paddington pressure in the old portion of the building—you would have some chance of reaching the dome then.
1660. How do matters stand with a building like the Hotel Australia? That has the Paddington water supply, and it will just rise to the roof. There is a tank on the top of the building, but it is of no use for the purposes of fire extinction. I may add that there is plenty of lath and plaster in the building.
1661. If your mains are not large enough to give you the requisite pressure, what would be the condition of affairs if such buildings as the proposed new Parliament Houses and a building like the Hotel Australia were to take fire simultaneously? I could not do anything in such a case. I have not the requisite number of men at my disposal.
1662. But supposing the men were there, what about the water? We could generate the pressure.
1663. I am assuming the maximum of trouble. I want to know what would happen if two such large buildings as those which I have described took fire simultaneously;—would the water supply be enough to enable you to cope with the fire if you had the necessary engine and man power? No; we should have to generate pressure by steam fire-engines. In such a building as the Hotel Australia, where all is lath and plaster above the second floor, the fire would very soon get into the roof, and you would then have to clear out, because in a building like that if the roof went it would carry everything.
1664. You would not have sufficient water-power to deal with two large fires of that kind? No; not at present.
1665. Would it not be wise to make some provision in the roof of the new Parliament House buildings for a temporary supply of water? If you did that you would want a tower. It would have to be in a high portion of the building. You would have to pump the water up at tremendous expense, whereas if you incurred a little expenditure in making the building practically fire-resisting you would not require a tank.
1666. But you know that a fire will break out in the best built building? I am aware of that. You may erect a warehouse and call it a fireproof building, but if you fill it with furniture and other kinds of inflammable material you have to deal with quite another state of affairs.
1667. Supposing you had not sufficient water at your command, would not a great deal of damage be done internally to the existing Parliament House building before you could extinguish the fire? I maintain that you should have the water at your command. If, for instance, anything happened to the Paddington supply, they should be in a position to put you on to the Woollahra water or the Centennial Park water. It would not cost more than £200 to do the necessary work.
1668. *Mr. Wright.*] What appliances to prevent fire are now provided at Parliament House in the shape of standpipe and hose? You can reach any portion of the building.
1669. Were the hose and standpipes arranged under your direction? Yes.
1670. Are the attendants fairly familiar with the use of the appliances? Yes.
1671. Have they been trained? They have been taught how to use them to a certain extent. There is a pressure gauge at the back portion of the premises, and they can tell at once whether the water is on or off.
1672. Do you think that if a fire were to take place in the building the night and day attendants are conversant enough with the use of the appliances to be able to effectually use them? They might be able to use them in the case of an outside fire, but not if the fire got into the hollow walls. They could deal with a fire which might break out in a room, for instance.
1673. So that all reasonable precautions have been taken to secure the safety of the building? Yes. You not only have the fire appliances inside, but there is a fire alarm outside, and before three minutes were over you could have three steam fire-engines there.
1674. In the event of a fire getting a hold in the interior of the building, it would mean the absolute destruction of the whole place? I should not like to say that. I should like to have a try to extinguish it.

1675. The buildings are generally reported to be a sort of rabbit-warren, which, if a fire took place, would be certainly destroyed? It might be a hard job, but you would have to take the bull by the horns. You would probably have to cut a hole in the ceiling, and cut off the fire. Immediately the fire had been cut off, if it were in the neighbourhood of the library, I should remove the books and extinguish the fire afterwards.

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1676. There is a number of small offices and narrow passages at the top of the building;—I suppose you regard those as very dangerous? Not exceptionally. I think that a fire could be put out with very little damage.

1677. But would not these small offices and narrow passages and the wooden partitions be very dangerous in case of fire? I do not think so if the draught were blocked. I think there should be a better system of tell-tales all over the place. The watchman should be kept at the tell-tale. I myself do not trust anyone to watch a building unless I have someone to watch over him. Tell-tales ought to be in every nook and corner. I myself never trust a watchman, as I have said; I persist in having a tell-tale. In my own office the men on duty have to register every quarter of an hour throughout the night—that is, from 10 o'clock until 6 in the morning. In most of our large warehouse buildings I am getting the same precautions taken.

1678. I take it from what you have said that you think there ought to be a greater number of tell-tales in Parliament House buildings, and that every portion of the buildings should be visited at frequent intervals during the night? That is my opinion.

1679. At the present time these tell-tales do not exist? Quite so. I would also suggest that the buckets which have been supplied for fire extinction should not be used for purposes other than that for which they were intended. They should be kept for fire extinction, and should not be used in the stables and about the buildings for various domestic purposes. The buckets should also be kept filled, and not as I found them on Saturday morning. I found some of the buckets then in use for domestic purposes, but I did not recommend them for any purpose of that kind.

1680. So that the appliances you recommended at Parliament House for fire extinction you found perverted from their proper use? Yes. Some of the buckets were not filled at all. Some of the buckets which on Saturday were not full were filled on Monday.

1681. There would seem to be neglect somewhere in obeying your instructions? What is everyone's business is no one's business.

1682. Would it not be an advantage if a member of your brigade paid a daily or weekly visit to the place? That is what I recommended to the Public Service Board. I suggested that they should pay the Fire Brigades Board a certain sum of money to provide men, and that each of the officers should be responsible for the Government buildings in his district. Take my own head station. I should take the centre of the city, with all the public buildings, such as the Parliament House buildings, the Museum, and so forth. The northern office, at the Circular Quay, would take in the Lands Office, the Chief Secretary's Office, and the Customs House. The officer in charge of our station at George-street West would take in the Redfern Railway Station, the University buildings, the Benevolent Asylum, and so forth. I would have them send in a monthly report to me, and it would be sent on to the Public Service Board. That would make the officers responsible, and the men in the different buildings would be answerable to the officers. If they did not carry out their duties properly the circumstance would be reported by me to the head of whatever Department the man might be employed in. That is better than allowing persons to go as they please and do as they like.

1683. Do you think the places should be inspected daily or weekly? I think weekly would be enough. I would have the public buildings inspected by one of my own men, who would be responsible to his officer. It is not only a question of the safety of the building itself, but my experience is that in some of the buildings a lot of rubbish is stored, and if a fire were to take place you would not be able to get near the place for smoke. Take the Custom House, which is wholly without protection at the present moment, although there are valuable documents stored there. If a fire took place those in the building would not be able to deal with it, but would have to wait until the fire brigade arrived. By the time the brigade arrived they would not be able to get at the seat of the fire for the smoke.

1684. I suppose the expense of carrying out your suggestion would not be very large? About £155 a year, I think. I would let the Public Service Board pay for one man, and they would then have the three stations at their disposal.

1685. A sum under £200 would cover the whole of the necessary expenditure? Yes, for supervision.

1686. You would have a larger measure of security, and the buildings would be under some system which would also be under your control? Yes.

1687. In speaking of the Hotel Australia, you said that it was connected with the Paddington service;—are you aware that it is also connected with the Hydraulic Power Company's supply? That supply is of no use for the purposes of fire extinction.

1688. You know that there is a good Worthington Pump in the building? Yes; it is placed in the basement, and pumps water to the tank in the roof, but you cannot make use of the water. It is not connected with any of the hydrants. You could not connect with the hydrants unless you carried out some alterations.

1689. But cannot water be thrown over the roof with the pump at the present time? You might be able to throw it another 100 feet, but it would be of no use as regards the putting out of a fire in the hotel.

1690. And you say that the Hydraulic Power Company's supply is of no use? No; the main is not large enough. The system was tested years ago in London, and found to be a mistake.

1691. What pressure does the Hydraulic Power Company propose to give? From 700 to 900 lb. If you take a half-inch jet off one of their mains, the pressure soon comes down to less than 100 lb.

1692. Then it is useful only for elevators and things of that kind? Yes.

1693. When a drain comes upon the pressure, it comes down at once? Yes; there is no volume.

1694. As to the warehouses, are any of them fitted with fire appliances? Many of them are fitted with Grenel's sprinklers. Holdsworth, Macpherson's warehouse is fitted with them.

1695. Apart from that, the only protection they have is the close watching by their own employees and assistance from yourself? Yes; the best thing is to have good watchmen and good tell-tales. Be strict with your watchmen, and have plenty of buckets of water in all directions. I recently complained in regard to the Lunatic Asylum, and the Benevolent Asylum, and other institutions that the buckets were

W. D. Bear. too large. Some—in warehouses—in some cases being oil-drums holding about 13 gallons instead of about 2. They were so heavy that they could be scarcely lifted. It is quite a common thing in some of the buildings to see buckets holding 5 gallons of water, and it would take a powerful man to use buckets of that size effectively in case of a fire.

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1696. As a fireman of long experience, you think that having plenty of buckets of water available is one of the best means of extinction? Yes; it is one of the readiest means of extinguishing a fire. Another thing we require in Sydney is a good Building Act. Some day there will be a large fire through no proper supervision in building operations.

1697. There has been a good deal of jerry building carried on? Yes.

1698. You believe that in every case partitions should be carried right through to the roofs as parapets? Yes; 3 feet above the roof.

1699. *Mr. Fegan.* Have you made any representations to Mr. Speaker as to buckets being found empty in the Parliament House buildings? No, I have not. Knowing that I was going to give evidence, I went over the place on Saturday. I went to see the Librarian, and I went through different portions of the building. I again visited the place on Monday. When I was there on Saturday I spoke to one of the men I saw about the place, and speaking of the buckets, he said, "They use them for anything." I said to him, "Some of them are not filled, and here is one with cement in it." On Tuesday I found that the buckets were filled, but some of them were used for domestic purposes. Some appeared to have been used for horses. I have not made any official report on the subject up to the present time.

1700. Do you not think that you ought to mention the matter officially, seeing that so much responsibility rests with you? I may do so.

1701. You said that if a fire were to break out in Parliament House buildings the best way would be to cut off the fire, remove the books from the Library, and afterwards extinguish the fire;—is there not a possibility of the Library being the place in which the fire would break out? Yes; there is.

1702. Do you think that under present circumstances it would be possible for you to get under any fire which broke out in the Library? Yes; I think so. I take it that if a fire broke out in the Library it would run up the partitions and get into the roof. My first aim would be to get into the roof and stop the fire. In the meantime I should put on as many men as possible to remove the books, either to the Legislative Council Chamber or Legislative Assembly Chamber, or an ante-room. After all the books had been removed, and been covered up with sheets, I should then extinguish the fire.

1703. But the fire would not be waiting while you got all that done? No; but it often happens that you do stop a fire at once. It is sometimes necessary to avoid putting in any great quantity of water until the premises are covered up.

1704. You thoroughly understand the construction of the walls of the existing Parliament Houses? Yes.

1705. More especially the portion in which so many thousands of pounds worth of books are stored? Yes.

1706. Do you not think the time has come when a place should be provided for the storing of such valuable literature? There is no doubt about that.

1707. Do you not think that if a fire were to break out in the Library there would be considerable loss, even although you might be there to superintend operations? There would sure to be a certain amount of damage, because the men's hands would be bound to be dirty, and handling the books would damage them. My men cannot afford to be particular sometimes.

1708. But they are as careful as they can be? With all their care there would sure to be some hundreds of pounds worth of damage in the case of a fire such as you describe.

1709. Prevention is better than cure, you think? Yes; and if the Library and Legislative Council Chambers were to take fire it would probably cause a panic in the Hospital. That is what I am afraid of.

1710. You think that a fire in Parliament House buildings might result not only in a loss of books, but perhaps in the death of persons in the Hospital from fright and excitement? Yes; I might mention that the windows of the accident ward face the Parliament House buildings.

1711. I think you said that there was one tell-tale in the building? Yes, in the back portion, I think; but I am not certain.

1712. Could it not be placed in a more conspicuous place? I think there should be about a dozen of them.

1713. Are you prepared to make that recommendation to the Speaker and the President? I never interfere more than I can help in such matters, because the Government Architect's Department considers that it is in charge of the building, and I never tread upon their toes if I can help it.

1714. If you see that a risk is being run every day in the case of such premises as the Parliament House buildings, surely the Government Architect's Department would not object to your pointing out the risk to them? I have done so.

1715. Have you written to the Government Architect on the subject? Yes; a report was made on the buildings by myself to the Chief Secretary some years ago.

1716. You reported that the appliances were inadequate to prevent fire? Yes; they have had the hydrants fitted since then. Only on Tuesday last I wrote to the Water and Sewerage Board's Chief Inspector about the water supply.

1717. As a result of your report several hydrants were put in? Yes.

1718. Since then have you made any representation as to the necessity for more tell-tales? No.

1719. Would it not be well for you to do so? Not unless I were specially called upon.

1720. Is it not enough that you, as Superintendent of Fire Brigades, have a duty to perform, that it is your duty, when you see a danger of this kind, to report it? I have done so in hundreds of cases, and in many instances I have been politely told to mind my own business.

1721. But do you not think that you should continue to report the danger? Quite so. It is my own business, and that is why I feel so much the objections to my action.

1722. *Mr. Roberts.* Having in view the value placed upon the books in the Library of Parliament House, do you regard the risk as so great that immediate steps ought to be taken for the removal of the books pending the improvements of the present buildings, or the erection of new buildings? It is difficult to say what should be done. There are many books which are not very frequently used which might be removed from the present building, and the risk might be minimised in that way. There are, I suppose, many books which could not be replaced for love or money, and I certainly think that those books should be removed. You might retain the books which could be replaced.

1723. Do you regard the danger of fire as being so great as to warrant the Committee in recommending a new building in which to store these valuable books? I have often thought myself that a small building might be run up at a comparatively low cost, connected with the present Library by a corridor. You would then have the books in a safe place, and the existing Library could be used as a reading-room, to which the attendants could bring the books as they were required.

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THURSDAY, 27 MAY, 1897.

Present:—

THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esq. (CHAIRMAN).

The Hon. FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHERY.

The Hon. JAMES HOSKINS.

The Hon. CHARLES JAMES ROBERTS, C.M.G.

The Hon. WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT.

The Hon. DANIEL O'CONNOR.

HENRY CLARKE, Esq.

CHARLES ALFRED LEE, Esq.

JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, Esq.

THOMAS HENRY HASSALL, Esq.

FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WRIGHT, Esq.

FRANK FARNELL, Esq.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting new Houses of Parliament for the Colony.

George David Payne, Architect, sworn, and examined:—

1724. *Chairman.*] You are practising your profession in the city of Sydney? Yes.

1725. *Mr. Humphery.*] For how many years have you been practising your profession? I have been here for about ten years.

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1726. Prior to that, what experience had you? I have, altogether, an experience of about thirty years. I have practised also in London and Dublin.

1727. Have you seen the designs of many buildings similar to that under consideration by the Committee? Yes; I have had abundant opportunity of seeing them.

1728. And you have examined the plans now before us? Yes.

1729. You desire now to point out in what way you consider them defective, and where you consider that improvements can be made? I should be glad to express my views in regard to the plans. I will deal, in the first instance, with the plan arrangement, because that is the order in which I made my investigation. What I feel about the plan is that it represents the key-note of the composition. Your elevation may be anything—the plan is the essential feature of the building. If your plan is right you can make an elevation to fit in any style. The elevation is more a matter of taste than of skill, although it necessarily follows that considerable skill is required.

1730. Will you take the plan of the ground floor as your starting-point? Yes; but I might, in the first instance, generalise in regard to the buildings as a whole. I have spent a considerable time in a careful examination of the elevation, the plans, the section, and also of the model outside. Having done so, I can say that I myself would feel very proud of the exhibit before the Committee. I think that it redounds to the credit of any man who puts it forward. I think the plans are those of a building in every respect worthy of the Colony. I have compared it with designs of other buildings of corresponding situation and purpose, and I have up to the present time seen no design which recommends itself so much to my judgment. I think the way in which the drawings have been presented to the Committee is very creditable, indeed. They are very clear, and they have been carried out evidently with strict integrity. The model appears to be a true and correct representation of the drawings, as far as I can see. Perhaps no one but the Government could have put before the public such an admirable model as you have before you. Having said so much with regard to the buildings generally, I will now express my views in detail. It would take me a considerable time to exhaustively explain all that I have gone into. As to the site, I feel that having regard to the relative situation of other public buildings in Macquarie-street, the choice of the Government is commendable. One cannot conceive of a finer site in Sydney. Macquarie-street, throughout the history of the Colony, has been the recognised site for large public buildings, and it is quite natural that that precedent should be followed in this instance. To my comprehension there is no better site in Sydney for public buildings. You already have grouped there the Mint, the Sydney Hospital, and the Parliament House buildings, and I suppose that it was intended some time ago that the new buildings should occupy the same site, or the foundation-stone would not have been laid there. I think the way in which the building is disposed on the ground relatively to the other buildings is very judicious. It makes a magnificent corner, and opens up the building to a very fine view from Hunter-street, because you look up Hunter-street directly on to the central facade. It is open all round to the public view. There is Macquarie-street, and the road adjoining the Garden Palace ground with a proposed new road on the Domain side, and the building is also in an elevated position in which it can be seen from many parts of the harbour, and from almost any part of the city. It is proposed to set back the buildings from the line of frontage to Macquarie-street, and I think very properly so. It is a matter for regret that other public buildings have not been set further back. There are millions of acres in the Colony, and it seems a pity to crowd big buildings of this character. The advantage of placing the building in the proposed situation is this—that the existing buildings could be allowed to remain until an opportunity occurred for the erection of the new buildings. What I mean is that the placing of the buildings back from the line of frontage will enable the present Chambers to remain in use until a great portion of the new building has been completed. There need, therefore, be no disturbance to the course of public business. I do not know whether that is the intention of the Government Architect, but it seems to me to be practicable. As to the general composition of the design, a great many designs have been prepared for a building of this sort; in fact, I believe designs were prepared thirty years ago for Houses of Parliament in Sydney. The arrangement of this design is totally dissimilar to those which have preceded it. The prominent idea is to place the two Chambers end on, and not to locate them parallel one with the other, as is the case in the Victorian Houses of Parliament, and also in other Houses of Legislature. I think the arrangement here proposed possesses a distinct advantage. In Washington, in the new buildings—which I suppose are the finest Parliamentary buildings at present in existence—there is an extended frontage, with an entrance at the two ends. That is, a distinct entrance to each Chamber.

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G. D. Payne. There is in the plans before you a more economical arrangement. They provide a central entrance common to both Chambers, with distinct and separate entrances to the right and left when you have passed what may be described as the grand hall. Another peculiar and striking feature about these plans, which I think is very creditable, and which commends itself to my judgment, is this—that the Chambers are octagonal, which in planning is, to my mind, a perfect geometrical arrangement. That is to say, every Member in the Chamber will be equidistant from the Speaker. If you have a Chamber in the form of a parallelogram, it necessarily follows that some Members must be at a greater distance from the Speaker than are others. In the proposed arrangement every Member has an equal chance of catching the Speaker's eye. They may be said all to radiate from the focus, the focus being the Speaker. I think that is a good arrangement in a Chamber of this character. I do not know that the plan has been carried out before. In the Victorian Houses of Parliament you have a rectangular Chamber, and I do not think that arrangement is satisfactory. I should like to refer you at this point to the plan known as No. 4 plan. It is an old drawing, but the design is a magnificent one. It was prepared, I see by Mr. Lynn, of Belfast. In that design the traditional method is adopted—that is to say, the Chambers are oblong. The Speaker is necessarily at one end, and the Members do not face the Speaker, but sit on each side of him and face one another. That is the drawback to an oblong Chamber. In an octagonal Chamber everyone faces the Speaker or the President, as the case may be.

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1731. *Mr. O'Connor.*] You approve of Mr. Lynn's design? Yes; I think it is the finest design of the kind I have ever seen. You will observe that in the plans before you the Council Chamber is a perfect octagon, whereas the Assembly Chamber only approximates to an octagon. The obvious reason for the departure in the case of the Assembly Chamber is to be found in the necessity for arrangements for the division lobbies, which are special to the Chamber. They have involved a little difficulty in the octagonal planning, which of itself is much more difficult of treatment than is rectangular planning. I think the idea, however, is satisfactorily worked out, and it is certainly much more effective. There is a little more trouble in planning, but the success is so much the greater when the planning is satisfactorily accomplished. The division lobbies are in accordance with the accepted arrangement, and cannot be improved upon. The only disadvantage I see about the Chamber is that it is somewhat congested. I would make it the same size as the Council Chamber, which is a perfect octagon. The Chamber appears to me to be cramped just where Members file out to the division lobbies. That observation, of course, applies to both sides of the Chamber. If you extend the Chamber a few feet, and make it correspond with the Council Chamber, you will get all the freedom which is required.

1732. Do you think the rooms on each side of the Speaker's chair can be dispensed with? No; I think it is desirable and proper to have them.

1733. Will you point out how it would be possible to work out an octagonal Chamber without dispensing with the division lobbies? The Assembly Chamber is not a perfect octagon as regards its floor, but I should propose to make it so by an extension a few feet in the direction of the division lobbies, permitting of more room for Members filing out. I think that could be done without interfering materially with the proposed scheme. Neither of the division lobbies would be interfered with.

1734. You would, by a slight alteration, make the Assembly Chamber in all respects similar to the Council Chamber? Yes; and the alteration would give additional gallery space on the floor above, which might be required for the *Hansard* or Press accommodation. You will see that there are two light areas at the back of the Speaker's chair, which he crosses on the way to his own quarters. That space could be made use of, I think, in another way, and a better area of light could be provided. Not very much light is required, seeing that Members of Parliament are usually doing their work at night-time. There seems to me to be ample light provided by the staircases and other openings. The northern verandah on the ground floor is recessed for about 12 feet. What I propose to do would be to do away with the areas at the back of the Speaker's chair, and substitute for those areas a larger light area more to the north of the plan, so that you would have light on the west in one staircase, and light on the east by a corresponding staircase, the light on the north to come from a large area in place of the two areas to which I have referred. The space occupied by the two light areas behind the chair I would occupy in another way. The lavatory accommodation is very complete on each floor, but it is confined to one position, and I should like to see the lavatories more distributed.

1735. You would place lavatories, then, in the space occupied by the two light areas behind the Speaker's chair? Yes. It is rather a long journey for Members from the Chamber to the situation of the lavatories as shown upon the plan. The lavatories situated in the position I have described would have a very important value as far as the convenience of Members generally is concerned. Another point which occurred to me in connection with the arrangement of the Chamber is this: There are two staircases shown on the plan—one on the eastern and the other on the western side of the public lobbies, adjacent to the Assembly Chamber. It seems to me that those two staircases constitute rather an extravagant provision for the wants of occupants of the gallery, and I think that one staircase could be made to answer. In the great hall there is provision made for a grand staircase which is common to both Houses, and a very fine arrangement it is, taking you up to the first floor of the building. The section shows it to be one of the most effective architectural features in the building. One advantage about the arrangement is that the public entrance is not wasted, but is profitably employed in that respect. Now it occurred to me that the same idea might be carried out in the lobbies pertaining to either Chamber, although the lobby in each instance may perhaps be rather narrow for that purpose, and might require widening between the main columns. You could have a staircase in the centre of the lobby turning right and left to the floor above; or the arrangement could be reversed, going up on each side and having then one staircase. I think that would effectually supply an approach to either Chamber. If it has any drawback it is this—that it would block a certain amount of light from distribution in the corridors of the Chambers; but there are plenty of ways of meeting the difficulty. The staircase, if enlarged, would be sufficient for all the gallery accommodation, because you have staircases on either side at the back of the Chamber, and there is also the grand staircase in the middle of the lobbies. I take it that when a visitor requires access to the gallery of the House he would not think it too much trouble to mount a staircase of that kind. The staircase in the north-western corner of the public lobby should be devoted to access to the ladies' gallery, and instead of placing the ladies' cloak-room on the ground floor, where space is very valuable, I should feel disposed to place it on the first floor, and give access to it from this staircase. That would make it more private, and bring the ladies into closer proximity with their gallery. I feel satisfied that

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one staircase would be sufficient for all purposes of approach. Another point in my modification is that I would do away with the staircase on the eastern side of the Chamber, and instead of having a small light area, I would make it a very large one, and, if necessary, the light on the eastern side next the Assembly Chamber could be extended as far as the lavatory. That would magnify the area of light about tenfold. If that were considered insufficient, another staircase could be provided where the present light area is shown upon the plan next to the lavatory. The weak point in this plan, as far as the Assembly Chamber is concerned, is the eastern area next the corridor. I think direct light and ventilation might be introduced at that particular point to the corridor. It is the only place where it can be wanted, because on the western side you have direct light and ventilation. By throwing the whole of that portion of the western side, now occupied by the staircase, open, and doing away with the small partition occupied by the ladies' lavatory, you would get direct light from the west right through in to the corridor on that side. You could get thorough light and ventilation very simply.

1736. Your evidence so far is to this effect—that generally you approve of the design of the ground floor, with a few minor alterations involving some alterations on the first floor? Yes.

1737. Do you think the size of the building should be curtailed? I have carefully examined the accommodation you have in your present Houses, and I know its congested condition. I have compared the allowance for extension in these plans with the existing accommodation, and, as far as my experience can guide me in the matter, I think the proposed accommodation has been very carefully thought out—that is to say, careful provision has been made for both immediate and future requirements.

1738. Could similar accommodation be provided in a building which would occupy a less area of ground? I do not think you could put up a building which would meet the requirements of the Colony upon a lesser scale than is proposed.

1739. You are of opinion that no space in the building is wasted? I think the space is economically disposed of.

1740. In your opinion the building can be properly lighted and well ventilated, and can be rendered eminently suitable for the purpose to which it is to be devoted? Yes; I am quite prepared to prove that in detail, if it be necessary.

1741. You can attend to-morrow afternoon, and continue your comments upon the plans? Yes.

FRIDAY, 28 MAY, 1897.

Present:—

THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esq. (CHAIRMAN).

The Hon. FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHERY.

The Hon. JAMES HOSKINS.

The Hon. CHARLES JAMES ROBERTS, C.M.G.

The Hon. WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT.

The Hon. DANIEL O'CONNOR.

HENRY CLARKE, Esq.

CHARLES ALFRED LEE, Esq.

JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, Esq.

THOMAS HENRY HASSALL, Esq.

FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WRIGHT, Esq.

FRANK FARNELL, Esq.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting New Houses of Parliament for the Colony.

George David Payne, Architect, sworn, and further examined:—

1742. *Mr. Humphery.*] When the Committee adjourned yesterday, I believe you were referring to some alterations which you suggested should be made upon the ground-floor plan of the proposed buildings? Yes. I was suggesting among other things that it might perhaps be well to take the two areas immediately behind the Speaker's chair for the purpose of lavatories for Ministers. I would not do away with the areas altogether. I would maintain them, not as originally shown, but with top lights for the lavatories. There is another point upon the plan which appeals to me rather strongly. There may be a difficulty, but I do not think it would be an insuperable one, in the way of carrying out the suggestion, but I would like to see the eastern corridor direct and unbroken if possible. Owing to the present planning of the building there is a turn, but if the corridor were unbroken you would have provided an additional space for the light areas on either side of the dome. It would be a great advantage in that respect. As to the light areas, I have yet another remark to make. You will see that the Speaker on the ground floor retires behind his chair into the main corridor. I would have a similar arrangement in the building on the first floor level, connecting the Press gallery with the corridor on that level. I do not think there is anything to interfere with such an arrangement. I would also suggest that the offices in that part of the building which it is proposed to devote to Parliamentary officers should be reserved for the *Hansard* reporting staff. I would make the central portion of the gallery the *Hansard* reporting gallery. By the suggestion I made yesterday, making the Assembly Chamber a perfect octagon, I obtain additional space for the Press on either side. That has an advantage, because the reporters could then look directly on to the Speaker if required, and could at the same time see all over the House. With regard to the Library, I take it that one of the great objects in a building of this kind, would be to provide a fire-proof store-room for the very valuable collection of books you have there. It is of vital necessity I take it that that security should be obtained as quickly as possible. No doubt ample provision is made for all future time as regards the planning of the Library. The arrangement is excellent. When you are dealing with such an extensive building you cannot expect to have everything concentrated into a nutshell as it were, and of necessity the Library must be at some distance from either Chamber. According to the arrangement upon these plans it is practically next to either Chamber, because you will see that it runs right and left to within 40 or 50 feet of them. If any economy however should be required in connection with the building, I think it can be obtained in connection with the Library. It does not seem consistent at first sight to say so, but I might explain that a library, according to the latest authorities, is a book-store chiefly. The old conventional system of piling book upon book is quite obsolete. No book ought to be so far out of reach that it cannot be reached by hand. A modern library is a store, and the sitting-room or reading-room, or whatever room may be attached to that portion called the library, should not be primarily a book-store. The books should be put out of danger, and there should be only as many books in the Library as are

G. D. Payne. required for immediate use. The more they can be stored away in safe fireproof keeping the better. I would like to point out where, in my opinion, an economy might be effected. The upper loggia on the first floor next the dining-room is a piece of luxury—a very pleasant one no doubt, but it could be dispensed with, and the area underneath, now devoted to the Library, could also be dispensed with. You would then, with that omission, have a magnificent area for Library purposes. The smoking-room which is allocated to a position near the Council Chamber, I would rather see done away with altogether in that position, because I think it is altogether unwise to have a smoking-room near the Library. I would provide for a smoking-room elsewhere. I would make the smoking-room an additional correspondence-room for Members of the Council, and practically extend the Library in the southern direction. The corresponding side, near the Legislative Assembly Chamber, is devoted to the Leader of the Opposition. That strikes me as being an admirable arrangement, and at present I do not see how it could be advantageously altered. But since you are giving so much space to one side there might be jealousy, if there were not corresponding space on the other side, and the more the Library was extended towards the Chambers the more convenient it would be for Members. In connection with the Library, I may mention that the basement forms an important feature, and very properly so. There is extensive provision made in the basement for books and documents in connection with the Library. That space cannot be too extensive, because it is intended to provide for all time, and you know how crushed out already the Library is from want of space. Looking 100 years hence, it is difficult to say what space you would require. Even the space provided might be quite inadequate. I feel, therefore, that the space under the dome might also be embraced in the provision for Library accommodation, and in the rearrangement of the Library such documents as are not likely to be required could be stored in that portion, leaving the other portions for the accumulation of generations. Some question has arisen, I believe, in regard to the height of the basement. I believe that the storage of the Library should be regulated by the series of book-shelves required. There would be, I presume, a combination of shelves, and I think the bookshelves should not exceed 8 ft. in height, so that if you want a duplication, there would be a multiplication of that number. To get two storeys in height in the basement would represent 16 or 17 ft. Perhaps it might be regarded as undesirable on account of cost, but there are other points of view from which the matter must be regarded. I would make the basement sufficiently high to allow for a perforated intermediate iron floor—the accepted arrangement in such cases—so that you would have thorough ventilation without any interference with light, and you would have at the same time security in case of fire. This would enable you to double the particular area of your Library without any cost excepting that of a perforated iron floor, and so on. I think there is an advantage in making the basement sufficiently high to allow for that. I do not think the basement is any too large for the various purposes for which it is required. Immediately behind the grand stair-case, under and in the eastern corridor, the lifts are shown; but it would be quite easy, if it were found that more lift accommodation were desirable, to have the space devoted to the service lift devoted to another passenger lift. You would then have a lift for one side of the building, and a lift for the other—one for the Council Chamber and the other for the Legislative Assembly Chamber. The provision of the service lift does not present any great difficulty. It could easily be provided for, together with the service stairs to the kitchen. The desideratum in regard to public libraries is to have as ready an access as possible to the store-room for books, so that the more communication in the way of lifts and staircases which are distributed over the area of the library the better for the attendants. There is a staircase shown in the eastern corridor next the Library in communication with the basement. I think a similar staircase, not a spiral one, could be provided at the north end and at the south end of the central main building, and perhaps in other convenient places there might be small lifts and straight staircases for the attendants. On the ground-floor the Librarian is placed between the writing-room and immediately behind the lavatory in the eastern corridor. It is usual to place the librarian in the centre of the library, and I think that practice should be observed here. There might be a well right into the basement for access if necessary from the Library itself. I would suggest that there should be no books against the walls at all. The windows should be utilised to their fullest capacity in the ordinary way for light. Tables might be placed in the recesses arranged for the convenience of Members, the plan dividing the Library into so many compartments or divisional bookshelves, say 8 ft. high, facilitating such an operation. The space for the public in the lobbies north and south is not too extensive for such a large building as it is proposed to provide. I know, from my own experience, that the space in the existing building is very inconvenient. You will see that there are four rooms 15 ft. by 10 ft. each. I do not think that is at all excessive accommodation having regard to present or future wants. I do not think there has been any extravagance in that direction. I notice that on the first floor provision has been made for a refreshment bar. That is central in the building, but the Members of the Legislative Council get the greater benefit, seeing that Members of the Assembly have to go such a long way round to get to it. I would suggest that the corridor of communication should be continued through from the north to the south, making the space already devoted to the billiard-room and bar, a refreshment bar common to both Chambers, opening up the arch, if desirable, on to the balcony, so that Members could look down into the grand hall if required. The lavatories shown next the billiard-room and the bar are properly situated. If there be one space more than another which is naturally associated with a bar, it is that devoted to a smoking-room, and I think it should occupy that position instead of being downstairs near the Library. There should be, at the same time, such an excellent system of lavatories, such as is already provided on the first floor. The rooms devoted to the *Hansard* staff are shown on the western frontage. Now the northern end of the Assembly Chamber is the reporters' side of the building. I have already suggested that the *Hansard* staff should be given some accommodation at the back of their portion of the gallery, and I think it would be an advantage if the other rooms devoted to the staff were not separated from that accommodation, and were not so near the public lobbies. That is only a detail of rearrangement of rooms. As to the basement, provision has been made, as you will see, for an air-duct. You will see that according to the plans it runs under the Library and lavatory into an air-chamber, where, I presume, it is the intention to provide purified cold or heated air, as the occasion may require, for distribution. I would amplify that arrangement by bringing a corresponding air-duct to a similar position on the north side of the dome. You would there have a corresponding air-chamber, at the same time devoting a larger space to machinery. The space already provided for it in the basement, I think, is not sufficient. I believe that more space will ultimately be required for machinery. I would duplicate the space in the central portion under the public dome for that purpose, because it is part of the space of the building which can

be spared. The Chambers have direct light by the areas shown. As to the ventilation the air-chamber on the Council side could be utilised for distribution of the fresh air where required on that side of the House, and the air-chamber on the Assembly side could be utilised for the distribution of cold or heated air to the Assembly. That brings me to a point in the plan to which I should like to refer again. I think the octagonal corners, which are more clearly shown in the Council Chamber galleries, could be made shafts for ventilation, and very effectively. Fresh air could be brought under the basement, and could be discharged as required in the Assembly or Council Chamber hot or cold, according to circumstances. It is intended, I presume, to provide artificial ventilation by propulsion and exhaustion. That could be provided under the arrangement I suggest if the corners were used for air-shafts. That would do away with the steps down to the different galleries, but that circumstance would not present an obstacle, because entrance could be obtained to all the galleries off the main corridor direct, going straight down as in the ladies' gallery which has been provided in the existing Chamber. Another feature about the matter is this: the steps going down in these respective corners are not quite satisfactory because you have your back to the light, and you have to come up again after going down. In the great hall, under the dome, a well is shown for light to the basement. Under the proposal I make, where that portion of the basement would be only a store for documents, which nobody would often require access to, that provision would not be necessary. Even if it were necessary in that portion of the basement it could be readily obtained behind the grand staircase, right and left of the passage to the Library. There are spaces which are not of much value, and they could be left open for light down into the basement, if necessary. With regard to the scheme as indicated on the ground-floor generally, it shows an extension of frontage in contradistinction to the arrangement as provided in scheme No. 4—Mr. Lynn's plan, which is a huge rectangular block. This building is a block requiring internal arrangements for lighting. The scheme before you has an advantage over that suggested thirty years ago, because it does away with the necessity of central areas of light to a large extent, and by an extension of the frontage you get more direct light and ventilation. On the proposed plan, four main towers are shown, and I think they are happily arranged as staircases. I presume it is intended that they should serve a particular purpose—that is to say, that over the roof of the adjoining buildings large tanks are intended in case of fire, in order that water might be obtained immediately, if necessary. I do not know whether that is the intention, but it seems to me to be a perfectly natural arrangement. I presume you will agree with me that any plan of Library construction which does not provide for future enlargement would be defective, and that is why I have taken so much pains to explain the matter to the Committee. I have gone into a few calculations regarding the accommodation, and I have the results before me in a tabulated form. I have here a tabulated statement of the accommodation of the proposed building, of the existing building, and of the Victorian Parliamentary buildings, for purposes of comparison. The arrangement of Mr. Lynn's plan, a parallelogram, represents on broad principles the arrangement of the Victorian Houses. The building as proposed shows a frontage of 528 feet; the existing building in Macquarie-street has a frontage of 296 feet. The breadth of the proposed building is 233 feet, whilst the breadth of the existing building is 344 feet. The area represented by those two dimensions in the case of the existing building is more or less covered. The Victorian Houses of Parliament are about 300 feet long by 255 feet wide. The average height of the Victorian structure is about 8 feet in excess of that proposed, that is when completed. The total superficial area covered by the proposed buildings here is 80,864 feet. The superficial area of existing buildings in Macquarie-street is 37,910 feet; and the superficial area of the Houses of Parliament in Victoria is 76,500 feet. The superficial area under Mr. Lynn's scheme is much more extensive, representing 138,860 feet.

1743. *Chairman.*] That would embrace a large number of Government offices, would it not? Yes. The cubical area of the proposed buildings is about 5,555,200 feet, as against a cubical area in the case of the Victorian buildings of 5,482,000 feet. You will see that they are practically the same. I have made an estimate of the cost of that cubical area, and I have allowed a very liberal price per cubic foot, based on public buildings which have been already erected. I consider upon that calculation that the Government estimate which has been placed before you is a fair and liberal one. My estimate is somewhat in excess of it, but that may perhaps be owing to my method of cubing being different. The cost, according to my estimate, would stand at about £555,000, as against a cost in the case of the Houses of Parliament in Victoria of £548,200. That of course may be proved to be untrue by facts. But I should explain that when the earlier portion of the structure in Melbourne was being put up workmen were earning very much higher wages than they are earning at the present time. The last tender for the completion of the north-east wing of the Victorian Houses of Parliament was £116,404, and that represented about one-fifth of the total cubical area. If we allow a similar amount for the south-west wing, that would leave us about £349,206 for the remainder, and it cost a great deal more. The grand entrance of the proposed building shows a superficial area of 2,704 feet. In the case of the existing buildings the space shown is 856 feet. In the cases of the Houses of Parliament in Victoria the area is 1,936 feet. So that we have an entrance area under the dome somewhat in excess of that allowed in Victoria. The Library shows a superficial area on the ground-floor—I am not dealing with the archives—of 6,229 feet, and there is upon the basement over 10,000 superficial feet of area provided. The Library in Victoria is distributed over two storeys, and shows an area of 14,800 feet, exclusive of archives in basement. The public lobbies in the proposed scheme show an area of 2,584 feet to each House, while the public lobbies in Victoria show an area of 3,375 feet. As to the Assembly Chamber, the proposed building shows a total area of 4,416 feet; while the Council Chamber shows a somewhat larger area of 5,312 feet. If the suggestions I made were carried out the two Chambers would have similar areas, or perhaps the area of the Assembly Chamber would slightly exceed that of the Council Chamber. The existing Assembly Chamber has an area of only 1,938 feet. It will be at once evident that the provision made for extension is very satisfactory. The extension underneath the galleries is well lighted, the light being from the top and well distributed. In fact, every portion of the building will have abundant light, and every one will be able to hear either on the floor, in the galleries, or underneath them. There will be no defect in that respect. The acoustic properties of the proposed Chamber will be very satisfactory. There is not very much space provided for the billiard-room under the present arrangement. The billiard and smoking rooms together are represented only by 1,197 feet. The smoking-room in the existing Chamber has an area of about 486 feet; there is no billiard-room. In Victoria the billiard and smoking rooms cover an area of 1,848 superficial feet. As I have already explained, the light areas on the

principle

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G. D. Payne. principle adopted in this building are not so fundamentally necessary as they are where a huge square
 28 May, 1897. block has to be considered, such as that in Victoria. Therefore the comparison is not a fair one. The
 light areas represented on the proposed plan show a superficial area of 1,620 feet. You have not the
 same need for light areas in the case of the proposed buildings, because primarily there is mostly external
 lighting and ventilation. In the case of the Victorian buildings the internal light areas represent a total
 of 6,680 superficial feet, or about one-eleventh of the whole superficial area. In the case of Mr. Lynn's
 plan there is a proportion of about $12\frac{1}{2}$ to the occupied area. That would go to show that the plan is a
 very fine one. Speaking of the Assembly Chamber only, in the public galleries there is an area in the
 proposed building of 1,100 superficial feet. All that you have at present is 664 superficial feet, while
 there is in the Victorian public galleries an area of only 320 superficial feet. That has been proved by
 experience to be entirely inadequate. The building is undoubtedly defective in that respect, although it
 must in other respects be admitted to be a grand building. The accommodation provided for the
Hansard staff covers an area of 1,411 superficial feet, the existing area in Macquarie-street in the present
 buildings being only 750 feet. The Press have an area set apart for them of 1,092 feet, the area allotted
 to them in the present Assembly building being only 726 feet. The accommodation there for *Hansard*
 and the Press in the proposed building covers an area of 2,503 feet; while under existing arrangements
 they have only 1,476 feet; the area allotted to the Press in Victoria being 1,434 feet. I have not, so far,
 referred to the architectural treatment of the design, because, as I premised yesterday, the scheme is
 really comprised in the plan, and not in the elevation. I think the elevation shows very fine groupings.
 There is stateliness and dignity, and an absence of redundancy of ornament, which is much to the credit
 of the designer. The only thing I feel about it is this: I should like to preserve the unity of scale in
 the columnar order. I should like to see unity of scale, for instance, in the columnar treatment of the
 various facades. You will observe that on the verandah there are two different scales of treatment.
 On the other side of the building there is a covered balcony, and you will see there a change in treatment.
 The covered balcony is to be recommended, no doubt; but I would like to see the unity of scale shown in
 the front carried out there. This alteration would not affect the cost in any way. Otherwise, the
 structure is a very fine one, and one of which the people of the Colony should be very proud. There is
 nothing to equal it in any of the Australian Colonies. What I like about it are its simple effects. There
 is, I may mention, a feature in the towers which is not strictly in the style of the rest of the building. It
 is a Romanesque treatment, and follows the arched and not the trabeated construction. It is a nice
 feature in itself, and it is a nice relief as far as the towers are concerned. Personally, I like the conical
 domes very much. The construction is truthful. I should like to see the same treatment carried out in
 the central dome.
 1744. Mr. Wright.] You do not think the building generally is squat? No. You must remember that
 it is over 500 feet in length.

WEDNESDAY, 2 JUNE, 1897.

Present:—

THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esq. (CHAIRMAN).

The Hon. FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHERY.

The Hon. JAMES HOSKINS.

The Hon. CHARLES JAMES ROBERTS, C.M.G.

The Hon. WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT.

The Hon. DANIEL O'CONNOR.

HENRY CLARKE, Esq.

JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, Esq.

THOMAS HENRY HASSALL, Esq.

GEORGE BLACK, Esq.

FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WRIGHT, Esq.

FRANK FARNELL, Esq.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting New Houses of Parliament for the Colony.

R. Clarence Backhouse, Architect, sworn, and further examined:—

R. C.
Backhouse.

2 June, 1897.

1745. Mr. Fegan.] When you were last before the Committee, you informed us that you had not gone
 fully into the plans, but I understand that you have since then had an opportunity to do so? Yes.

1746. Will you state the result of your examination? Yes. I have considered them, more especially
 with reference to certain questions which were put to me when I was last under examination. For instance,
 I was asked some questions bearing upon the site. The site, in my opinion, is a splendid one. It is in
 the best part of the city. You might almost call Macquarie-street the State-street, having regard to the
 character of the buildings already erected there, and the buildings which it is intended to erect. For
 instance, you will have there the new Law Courts, and the new Mint. In another portion of the street
 you have already Government House, and there is also the Sydney Hospital building. I doubt whether a
 better site for public buildings could be found in the world. It is practically in the heart of the city. The
 whole of the approaches are excellent, and the views famous. I quite approve of the suggestion to widen
 the thoroughfare. In my opinion, we should never lose an opportunity to widen our streets. In this
 particular instance the widening is necessary, in order to properly display the noble appearance of the
 building. The comparatively small area of the Domain which it is proposed to take is hardly worth con-
 sideration. Some of the best portions of our public parks are already set apart for cricket, tennis, and
 other sports of the kind, and seeing that no objection has been taken in those cases, I do not see why any
 objection should be urged here, seeing that the building which it is proposed to erect, will not only greatly
 add to the beauties of the Domain, but seeing also that the part which it is proposed to take is admittedly
 the worst portion of the area. The Domain covers 19 acres. Five and a-half acres are already gone, and
 the new Houses of Parliament will require a further 4 acres; the total taken will therefore be $11\frac{1}{2}$ acres.
 In order to compensate for the 4 acres required for the Parliament House buildings, I would suggest that
 the eastern slopes which are now occupied by baths and boat-houses might be reduced. If the resumption
 were carried out these buildings might still be allowed to remain, seeing that they are to some extent a
 necessity; but I think they might exist under different circumstances, to which it is not necessary that
 I should advert now. It is possible that the proposed encroachment upon the Domain might interfere to
 some extent with the present cricket ground. If so, the ground would have to go. It should, in fact,
 have gone long ago. The paths traversing the ground is, perhaps, that most used for ordinary pedestrian
 traffic, and it is absolutely dangerous to use it during certain periods of the day in the cricket season.
 Several serious accidents have already occurred, pedestrians having been struck by the cricket balls. But,
 notwithstanding,

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notwithstanding, this important part of the Domain, some acres in extent, continues to be monopolised by a few men to the great danger of the general public, objection being at the same time raised to the resumption of a few acres for a national building. I have particularly noted the proposed new Domain-road. I consider that it will be a great improvement upon the existing thoroughfare. I cannot see that the patients in the Sydney Hospital would suffer from the proposed widening of Macquarie-street. If the building had originally been set back 100 feet from the street, and if it were proposed to take 70 feet of that space for the widening of the thoroughfare, it would be another matter, because such an alteration would undoubtedly interfere, not only with the appearance of the building, but also with the comfort of the patients. The building I should say is at present 35 feet from the road, and it is proposed to reduce that distance by about 20 feet. I should say that that reduction would make no appreciable difference, either to the comfort of the patients, or to the appearance of the building. If the patients do not suffer from noise 30 feet away, they will not be materially affected if the noise be brought 15 or 20 feet closer. I do not think the reduced space will affect the appearance of the building. As a matter of fact the building should have been set back as far as it is proposed to set back the new Houses of Parliament when the opportunity occurred. There would be no difficulty, I think, in finding good positions for the porters' lodges under the present Hospital buildings. I was also asked a question when I was last here as to the feasibility of erecting the proposed new Parliament House buildings without interference with the present Houses. I see from the block plan, the position of the proposed new buildings; also that of the existing Houses of Parliament and other adjacent buildings. It does not seem to me that there would be any difficulty in erecting the new Houses of Parliament without interfering with the present buildings. The proposed new Houses would encroach only on the back portions of the existing buildings, and the accommodation interfered with could be moved to the Lending Branch of the Public Library, which for a small outlay could be fitted up and connected temporarily with the present buildings.

1747. I believe you were asked some questions relative to the estimated cost of the proposed buildings? Yes; as I remarked when I was here the other day it is impossible for any one, but the Government Architect himself to place before you a fairly accurate estimate. His ideas in regard to construction and material are known only to himself. Any other person forming an estimate would naturally do so upon his own ideas as to material, and it may turn out that his ideas will be entirely different from those of the Government Architect. From what I have seen of the plans, and from what I have heard as to the materials to be employed, I should say that £530,000 or £550,000 would be a fair estimate. Those figures would be at the rate of about 2s. per foot of the great bulk of the buildings, and of 3s. 6d. per foot for the balance. The rate per foot may appear to you to be somewhat low; but it must be remembered that there are vast spaces in the proposed building with very little work in them. For instance, it would not be fair to rate the proposed building as you would rate such a building as the Lands Office, which is a solid mass of work. If the proposed new Houses of Parliament were to be erected in that manner, that is, if there were no large empty spaces, the rate would perhaps then run at from 5s. to 7s. per foot. In my opinion you may take 2s. and 3s. per foot as a fair basis for an approximate estimate, and I need hardly tell you that in the absence of plans and specifications, only an approximate estimate can be formed. It has occurred to me that in this matter of cost, a comparison might be instituted with the estimated cost of the proposed State House. That building was to cost £250,000, the design accepted being guaranteed not to cost more than that sum. It will be remembered that that building was to be about one-half the size of the proposed Houses of Parliament, and it was also to contain much the same style of work. Perhaps, on the whole, the work would not have been quite as good. Certain conditions were laid down as to the materials to be employed—iron, for instance, was not to be used. These provisions would, perhaps, have had the effect of making the building a little more costly. If the State House had been built in the way in which it is now proposed to erect new Houses of Parliament, it would have cost, say, £200,000. There is nearly three times the work in the proposed buildings that there would have been in the State House, and upon that calculation you would have come very near to the Government Architect's estimate of £530,000. I feel confident that he is within 15 per cent. of the actual cost. I am basing my calculations on the estimated cost of the State House, because those estimates were closely examined by practical builders, and are therefore likely to be fairly accurate. I myself have also had some experience on that work. When I was last here I said that new Houses of Parliament could be erected for £250,000. When I made that statement I wish it to be distinctly understood that the building I had in my mind for that sum would not in appearance be anything like the design under consideration. It would, in fact, be nothing more nor less than a huge barn (architecturally speaking) always supposing that the same accommodation were afforded. I take it that that would be necessary, as I note that where in the design the accommodation is considered insufficient in one place, it is considered too great in another, and the process of alteration would be very much like cutting a piece off one end of a blanket in order to sew it on to the other end. In my opinion it would be ridiculous for anyone to state that he could build Houses of Parliament suitable for a Colony like New South Wales for the sum of £250,000. I could erect a building in every way suitable, as far as affording accommodation for the transaction of the business of the country is concerned, for £100,000; but it would be a brick and cement barn, with no pretensions whatever to architectural beauty, or artistic appearance, although it would keep out the wet, and would be fairly comfortable. I do not think there should be any cheeseparing in the cost of our national buildings; while on the other hand there should, of course, be no absurd extravagance. The Government do not hesitate to spend large sums of money in the purchase of pictures for our Art Gallery, and a building such as that proposed would be quite as educational as are many pictures. Besides, in all the great cities of the world the Houses of Parliament will be found to be the most important buildings. It may be suggested that the proposal before you is on too grand a scale having regard to our present requirements. I myself doubt it, and in this connection it must be remembered that Sydney will soon be twice its present size, and that the building which it is proposed to erect is not merely for the use of the present, but of many generations.

1748. I do not know whether, when you were last before us, you expressed any opinion as to the elevation and planning? Viewed as an architectural study, I think the proposed building is one of which any city in the world might be justly proud. I think I said so the other day. After a careful examination of the drawings, together with sketches of Parliamentary buildings in other parts of the world, I see no reason to alter the opinion I then expressed. On the other hand, on comparing the design with other buildings for the same purpose, I am confirmed in the opinion I have already expressed. I can see no waste

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Backhouse.
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waste of room in the planning, nor can I see any striving for architectural effect at the cost of comfort or convenience. No lavish expenditure is involved, nor is there any defective planning which cannot be easily rectified. I use the term "defective planning" with very much hesitation, because I have only studied the drawings for a few hours every day for the last week. I am not a genius, and I do not profess to be able to grasp every detail of such a vast undertaking in so short a space of time. You must remember that the united ability of half a dozen clever men has probably been bestowed upon these plans for months. It would, therefore, be simply stupid for any person, after a rough or cursory glance at the plans to venture a decisive opinion.

1749. What have you to say as to the elevation? I can find no fault there with the exception, perhaps, of the structure of the towers. I think the upper part of them might be entirely omitted, or that they might be so designed as to harmonise with the central dome. I think that their miserably small size has a tendency to ruin the appearance of an otherwise noble building. The Domain front is, I think, weak. It should be made equal in appearance to the frontage to Macquarie-street. With these alterations, the elevations would, in my judgment, be very near perfection. The style may be described as Renaissance, and is certainly not Queen Anne. I think the style selected is admirably adapted to a building of a national character.

1750. What do you think of the position of the Chambers in the planning? I notice that considerable objection has been taken to the positions of the Chambers. It has been urged, for instance, that they are surrounded by rooms, and that they have no communication with the outer air. The Japanese Houses of Parliament have been cited as an example of successful planning and lighting. Upon that assumption very much may be said for the design under discussion, because the Chambers in the Japanese Houses of Parliament are surrounded by corridors, and are lighted and ventilated from the roof—with this exception, that the light has to travel a distance of about 50 feet, while in the design before you it has to travel only 40 feet. You have also been referred to the Rhode Island Houses of Parliament. They have been mentioned to you as another good example. But the drawings before you practically follow the same lines as are observed in the Rhode Island Houses. It has been mentioned that in the Rhode Island buildings the sides of the Chambers communicate directly with the outer air. That is not a correct statement of the case. The Houses of Parliament at Rome, at Berlin, and at other places, are all lighted and ventilated from the roof. In order that the business of legislation may be properly carried on, it is absolutely necessary to surround the Chambers with offices. It is essential that many of these offices should be in close proximity to the Chambers, and that it should be possible for persons leaving the Chambers to reach them in a few moments. The Chambers, in my opinion, should be centrally situated, with access from all sides. It would be absurd to poke them out at the ends of the building, and to have them approached by covered ways, as you would approach the wards of a hospital.

1751. Do you see any difficulty in the way of the ventilation of the Chambers in the positions assigned to them? The ventilation of the Chambers in their assigned positions would be a comparatively simple matter. Openings in the wall connecting directly with the external air, do not necessarily mean perfect ventilation. Far from it. I flatter myself that I have had as much experience in the matter of ventilation as has any architect in the city. In my judgment, the Chambers as designed can be ventilated with the greatest simplicity. I am not in a position to express an opinion as to the scheme of ventilation which the Government Architect proposes to adopt, because it is not shown upon the plan.

1752. What have you to say as to the lighting of the Chambers? I think it is admirable, and I cannot conceive any architect, after a study of the plans, expressing an opinion to the contrary. The Chambers are better lighted than are the Chambers in the Japanese Houses of Parliament, which have been mentioned to you as a good example. The Chambers are lighted upon the same principle as are the Houses of Parliament at Rhode Island. This can easily be ascertained by reference to the drawings of the Houses of Parliament referred to. With a very slight alteration, the Chambers could be brilliantly lighted. This could be done by forming the dome of the Chambers in glass in an iron frame. But it is doubtful whether such a brilliant light as you would obtain from that form of construction would be advisable. In my opinion it would not be.

1753. What is your opinion of the internal arrangement of the Chamber? I do not like the arrangement of the galleries, as far as the public is concerned. Architecturally, they are well designed, but there can be no doubt that open galleries, without the arches shown on the plans, would not only accommodate a greater number of persons, but would also be better lighted and ventilated. The necessary alteration could be made without materially affecting the design, and the accommodation would then be ample for all ordinary purposes. The accommodation provided for the Press does not appear to me to be sufficient. I think the portions of the building which have been reserved for the *Hansard* staff and various other Parliamentary officials might be devoted to the Press. The *Hansard* staff should unquestionably be accommodated on the floor of the House, with transcription-rooms close by. This could be done, I should imagine, with only a very slight interference with the arrangements shown.

1754. What do you think of the lighting of the corridors? I have noted the Members' corridor on the ground-plan. I think it is lighted sufficiently. I observe from the plan that the principal light is obtained from seven areas, and not from one, as has been stated. These appear to be properly placed. There are also large windows at each end of the corridor, and light is obtained also from the central dome and entrance. If the light-areas were lined with white-glazed brick the light afforded would be ample for all purposes. When I gave my last evidence it was stated that a space of 150,000 superficial feet had been mentioned as being badly lighted. I have looked for that space, but have not been able to find it. I find that 2,400 superficial feet of corridor is lighted by 1,238 superficial feet of area, exclusive of other light.

1755. Have you anything further to say in reference to the interior arrangement of the Chambers? Adverting for a moment to the Assembly Chamber, I think the screen shown might be omitted. The Chamber would then, perhaps, be rather large for present purposes; but I think the screen spoils the general appearance.

1756. Do you think that there is any waste of space in the public lobbies? They do not appear to me to be too large. There are only 16 feet between the columns, the total width of the lobbies being 34 feet. The lobbies in the Victorian Houses of Parliament are wider than that. I think it would be a great mistake to omit the columns and to support the gallery on cantilevers. The reduction in cost would be slight, and the appearance of the Chamber would be ruined. I should like to mention that when giving evidence before you last week I misunderstood one of the questions which was put to me. I have since

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since had an opportunity to carefully examine the drawings. I was asked a question relative to the central dome; but I can find no fault with the proposed method of construction. The brick cone inside is necessary to carry the turret on the top, the latter being in stone. It would be absurd to construct the cone in iron. The construction is an old method, but it is, nevertheless, good.

1757. As far as the widening of Macquarie-street is concerned you think that the widening of the street by a further 20 feet will make no appreciable difference to the comfort of inmates of the Hospital so far as noise is concerned? That is my opinion.

1758. You think the widening of the thoroughfare will improve the appearance of the building and of Macquarie-street itself, and that it will not at the same time inconvenience the Hospital patients? Quite so.

1759. With reference to the removal of the cricket-ground, you seem to think that the taking of a portion of the Domain will interfere with it, and you have also expressed the opinion that the cricket-ground should have been removed long since? Yes; I think it is dangerous, having regard to the proximity of the pedestrian traffic. There have been several accidents there already. I myself once saw a man knocked senseless with a cricket ball.

1760. You think the Domain-road will be greatly improved if the suggestion of the Government Architect is carried out, and if the road is made straight from the Statue as shown on the plan? Yes.

1761. Do you not think that the Hospital authorities and the patients will be amply compensated for their loss of space in front of the building by the additional space which it is proposed to give them in the rear;—for instance, it is proposed to take away 20 feet from the front of the building, and to give an additional 70 or 80 feet in the rear? I think the space given in the rear will compensate for any loss of space in front.

1762. There is a small space behind the Hospital at the present time? Yes; it is comparatively small.

1763. You are of opinion that the plans do not afford sufficient accommodation for the *Hansard* staff? I mentioned the Press more particularly. I would give the whole of the northern end of the building at the back of the gallery to the Press for transcription-rooms, or for any Press purposes for which it may be required.

1764. The Government Architect does not propose to accommodate *Hansard* upon the floor of the House? No; but I would do so unquestionably.

1765. You think that the planning is defective as regards the accommodation of *Hansard* staff, inasmuch as the staff is not accommodated upon the floor of the House? I think so. I think the *Hansard* staff should be upon the floor, and that the accommodation required by them for transcription and for other purposes should be given in the rooms immediately adjacent to the Chamber.

1766. The space which is allotted to the *Hansard* staff on the first floor you would give to the metropolitan Press? Yes.

1767. Have you considered the detailed planning of the Library? No, not as to detail. I have looked at its general position.

1768. Do you approve of the position which the Library occupies? Yes; I went into the question of area also, but I have not my notes with me, and I forget at this moment what the figures are.

1769. Have you taken into consideration the lighting and ventilation of the rooms on the basement? Some of the rooms in the basement necessarily cannot be well lighted. I do not see how you could give good lighting to the whole of the rooms in the basement in any building of that size.

1770. Would it not be possible to raise the basement and give better light in that way;—it would not materially alter the appearance of the building, would it? If you raise the basement very much it would cease to be a basement, and would become a ground-floor. Having regard to the elevation generally, I should not care to see the basement raised.

1771. But in a building of this description, are not light and ventilation great requisites;—are they not of even more importance than architectural beauty? As far as ventilation is concerned it will be obtained right through the basement. All the light areas run right through to the basement also. The front portion of the basement, the frontage to the Domain, and both ends are well lighted. It is a small portion in the centre in which the lighting is necessarily defective, but even that portion is lit by seven areas.

1772. You think that on the whole it is not badly lighted? No. There are open areas running right down into the central portion of the basement.

1773. Do you not think that having regard to the proposed height of the basement it will be impossible to afford proper lighting to it? I cannot see that. It is well lighted all round, and the central portion can be lighted with areas.

1774. You noticed the deficient light in the corridor approaching this room? Yes.

1775. In that case, one wing as it were is entirely open;—it is an open area? Yes.

1776. Seeing that the central portion of the proposed building will have no open area, how would you propose to light it? I can only make a guess at the height of the area in the corridor outside of this Chamber, but I should say that it would be nearly double the height of any of the areas shown on the plan, and the difference in height would make a vast difference to the lighting. Besides, in the area outside of this room, a lot of space is occupied by staircases, landings, and covered ways, which all have a tendency to interfere with the light. If the areas in the proposed building were lined with white-glazed bricks, as I suppose they will be, it would make a vast difference to the lighting.

1777. The corridors, as a whole, you think are fairly well lighted;—you would not call them dark corridors? Judging from the ground-plan I should say that they were well lighted.

1778. The whole of them, with the exception of those in the basement, are well lighted? Yes.

1779. You do not think that any extravagance has been shown in the rooms given to the various officers of the House? I do not think so. I express that opinion after a comparison of the rooms with the rooms shown on the plans of existing Parliamentary buildings in other parts of the world.

1780. You think that upon that comparison the design is a good one as far as accommodation and economy of space are concerned? I do.

1781. As to the matter of cost, you said that although you gave an estimate for a building of £250,000, you could not for that amount erect a building such as that shown upon the plans before us? I could not.

1782. While you would be able to afford the necessary rooms for the sum you mentioned, you could not secure any architectural beauty? Of course the accommodation would be the main thing considered in that case. I base my estimate on the cost of other buildings.

1783. Do you not think you could erect Houses of Parliament for a less sum than £530,000, and at the same time afford accommodation combined with a certain degree of architectural beauty? I do not think so, judging from the cost of other Houses of Parliament.

1784.

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1784. Have you considered the material in estimating the cost? I have supposed that the building would be constructed of Sydney freestone.
1785. But it is not proposed to use freestone in the foundations? No; Bowral trachyte.
1786. Do you not think money could be saved in that respect? There would be a saving, of course, if the foundations were constructed of freestone.
1787. Would foundations of freestone be almost equal to foundations of trachyte? For my own part I should prefer the freestone. There are objections to trachyte; it is a stone of which we yet know comparatively little.
1788. Has it not come up to your expectations? It is not a weight-bearing stone; it is brittle; it has a tendency to split and crack, and the cause is not yet definitely known. It is at the same time much dearer than is freestone.
1789. What is the difference in the cost of the two stones? Trachyte would be about three times as dear as freestone.
1790. Do you know the estimated cost of the basement? I have not gone into the proportionate cost of different portions of the building. Of course the freestone would effect a saving, but in a building of such magnitude there would not be an immense saving; for instance, it would not bring the amount down to anything like £250,000.
1791. For the mere building itself, independently of the alteration to Macquarie-street or in the Domain, and also of the furniture, the cost will be about £530,000? Yes; that, I understand, is the estimated cost for the completed building.
1792. Do you not think that that is too large an amount? Not for Houses of Parliament for a Colony like this. I am only judging from the cost of other Houses of Parliament.
1793. Can you give us the cost of other Houses of Parliament? I had in my mind the Houses of Parliament in Victoria, and also the estimated cost of the State House.
1794. You did not give us the cost of the Japanese Houses of Parliament? No; I merely referred to them because they have been mentioned to you as better lighted and ventilated buildings than would be the buildings according to the design before you. I find from the drawings that the design is practically the same as that in the Japanese Houses.
1795. Could you obtain for the Committee the cost of the Japanese Houses of Parliament, also the cost of Houses of Parliament in other parts of the world? Yes; I will forward the particulars to the Committee.
1796. Do you know the extent of ground covered by the Japanese Houses of Parliament, and the number of Members which is accommodated? No; I have seen the plans, but I have not gone into them in detail. I merely regarded the buildings from the point of view of lighting.
1797. You think that the public galleries in the Legislative Chambers should be open instead of arched? Yes; you would accommodate more people.
1798. With the exception you have mentioned, you approve generally of the plan submitted to the Committee? Yes.
1799. You think the plans are equal to those of any Parliamentary buildings with which you are acquainted? The plans will compare favourably with those of any Parliament Houses in the world.
1800. *Mr. Roberts.*] Have you looked at the front elevation of the other designs which have been submitted by the Government Architect to this Committee—I mean designs Nos. 1, 2, and 4? Yes.
1801. Have you formed any opinion as to which elevation will be best adapted to the proposed site? It is to a great extent a matter of taste. For my own part, I like design No. 2. I prefer it to the others, but I do not think it is as suitable for the purpose of these buildings as is design No. 3.
1802. What is the style of architecture adopted in design No. 2? It would be approaching the Queen Anne. The design in No. 3 is the Renaissance.
1803. How would you describe No. 1? That is modern French Renaissance.
1804. As a design you prefer No. 2? It is a style I like, but I would not advocate its adoption for buildings of this character.
1805. Will you give the Committee the reasons for your preference for design No. 3? The style is more classical. It is more severe than Queen Anne, and therefore more adapted to a public building, the design for which should be of a purely classical character. If anything I would rather see a more severe form of classical architecture than that shown.
1806. You think it would be more adapted to the climate of this Colony? The style would be quite adapted to the climate.
1807. I mean in preference to design No. 2? It would be equally adapted.
1808. You have a decided preference, then, for design No. 3? Yes, having regard to the purpose of the building.
1809. In arriving at that conclusion I presume you have taken into consideration the site upon which it is proposed to erect the building? Yes; I do not think you could have a better site for a building of that description.
1810. You look upon the site as almost perfect? Yes, as far as approaches and general appearance are concerned.
1811. Have you quite made up your mind that it would be a desirable thing to widen Macquarie-street by another 22 feet, having in view the proximity of the Sydney Hospital? Of course, the Hospital should never have been put there. There is no doubt about that, but under the circumstances I would certainly widen the street.
1812. Does it not appear to you that to take the vehicular traffic 22 feet nearer to the inmates would be very detrimental to their comfort? I do not think there would be an appreciable difference, seeing that they are only about 30 feet away. If the noise disturbs them at that distance I do not think there would be an appreciable difference in bringing the street 20 feet nearer.
1813. Is not Macquarie-street a fair width at the present time? Yes, it is a fairly wide street.
1814. You are at one with the Government Architect in setting back the proposed Parliament buildings to the position assigned them on the plan? Yes.
1815. I understand that you would be inclined to encroach further in an easterly direction, going right down to the cricket-ground, for instance? I approve of the plans in that respect. I have no desire to encroach further upon the Domain than has been suggested by the Government Architect.

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1816. If it should be decided to erect new Houses of Parliament would you recommend the erection of a temporary building, in which to transact the public business pending the erection of a new structure? The new building would not interfere with the present Chamber. You might take the Lending Branch of the Public Library and fit it up for the accommodation which would be taken away during the erection of the buildings from the back portion of the present premises. You might connect the Lending Branch of the Library with the present Houses by a covered way.

1817. Would that necessitate the expenditure of any large expenditure of money? I should think there would be only a very small expenditure.

1818. Is it usual when plans of this kind are submitted to furnish a specification in order that a correct estimate may be formed as to the probable cost;—supposing, for instance, the design had been thrown open for public competition, would specifications have had to be furnished with the designs? No.

1819. Were specifications furnished with the designs for the proposed State House? No, there was merely an outline, and a statement of the approximate cost.

1820. You regard the estimate of £533,000 for the proposed building as fairly approximate? Yes.

1821. When designs were called for the proposed State House, were not the competing architects bound to provide for the erection of a portion of the building in granite? Yes; and I think no iron was to be used. There were one or two restrictions of that kind.

1822. Would that not cause the State House to be much more expensive than it otherwise would have been, and would not that show that it would be hardly fair to assume that inasmuch as the State House was to be only one half the size of the proposed buildings the latter would cost double the money? I do not think the conditions laid down as to the material to be used in the State House would make such a great difference as that. It was only a question of the non-admission of iron, and the use of a certain quantity of granite instead of freestone or trachyte. The construction was to have been very much on the lines of the building before you.

1823. Have you looked carefully at the general plan of the building? I have looked at it in a general way.

1824. Having looked through the plans with some care, have you any suggestions to make with a view to adding to the comfort and utility of the buildings? I have no suggestions, except those which I have already made with regard to the Press accommodation, and the construction of the galleries.

1825. You are satisfied that better accommodation should be afforded to the Press and to the *Hansard* staff? Yes. No doubt, architecturally considered, the division of the galleries into sections, as shown upon the plans, would give them a more handsome appearance. They would look better than would an open gallery; but an open gallery on the other hand would give more accommodation.

1826. You think the rooms noted "Parliamentary offices" on the first floor at the back of the gallery should be given to the Press? I certainly think the Press ought to have those rooms.

1827. Then where would you put the officials who would be displaced by the arrangement you suggest? I do not see why they should not be taken to another floor. I do not see where else in the building, as planned, you could give them accommodation.

1828. You think that any detail of that kind could be arranged without seriously interfering with the general plan, or in any way destroying the style of architecture? Quite so.

1829. Looking at the front elevation, you would suggest some alteration of the small towers;—would you substitute domes for the conical-shaped towers? I am not sure about that, but, as I have pointed out, I would omit the tops of them altogether.

1830. Would it not be better to keep them in character with the central dome? I think I would make them more in keeping with the central dome, or omit them altogether.

1831. If they were omitted altogether, would not the building have a dwarfed appearance? I do not think so. I certainly do not think that the towers, and especially the tops of them, improve the general appearance of the building.

1832. If you retain the tops, you would have them in the same style of architecture as the central dome? Yes.

1833. The alteration you have suggested in the gallery would be an advantage in warm weather—that is to say, the galleries would be more comfortable for the occupants? Yes; the galleries would be better ventilated.

1834. As to the position of the two Legislative Chambers, would you be content to leave them in the position shown on the plan? Yes. I find that the Chambers in all the best Houses of Parliament occupy practically the same position. They are surrounded by offices, and are lighted or ventilated from the roof.

1835. Are you familiar with the design of the Buda-Pesth Houses of Parliament? No.

1836. The Chambers in that case are on the exterior of the building, in order to obtain better lighting and ventilation? I believe they are.

1837. Would you not favour a similar position for the Chambers in the proposed buildings? If you are going to put the Chambers in that position in order to obtain better ventilation and lighting there would be a difficulty in obtaining communication with the adjacent rooms. It is necessary, I take it, that some of those rooms should be close to the Chambers.

1838. Would such an alteration destroy the character of the architecture? Yes; I think it would. It would entirely alter both the frontage to Macquarie-street and the frontage to the Domain.

1839. It would not add to the appearance of the building? No; nor would it alter the convenience of the internal accommodation.

1840. *Mr. Humphery.*] Upon the subject of cost you consider the estimate of £533,000 sufficient? I think it is a fair estimate allowing 15 per cent. for contingencies.

1841. So that, in round figures, the estimated cost would be about £600,000? Not exactly that. When I allow 15 per cent. for contingencies, I mean that the amount might be a little more or a little less than £530,000. The 15 per cent. would be either one way or the other.

1842. In allowing a margin of 15 per cent. what you desired to convey to the Committee was that the cost might be 15 per cent. above or below the estimate? Yes; you could not get nearer to the cost than that in the absence of specifications.

1843. But in arriving at the probable cost you think the Committee may regard £533,000 as a reasonable estimate? Yes.

1844. For a building of suitable material on the design placed before us? Yes.

1845. *Mr. O'Connor.*] You would use freestone? Yes; either the Pyrmont or Waverley stone.

TUESDAY, 8 JUNE, 1897.

Present:—

THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esq. (CHAIRMAN).

The Hon. FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHREY.	CHARLES ALFRED LEE, Esq.
The Hon. JAMES HOSKINS.	JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, Esq.
The Hon. CHARLES JAMES ROBERTS, C.M.G.	THOMAS HENRY HASSALL, Esq.
The Hon. WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT.	GEORGE BLACK, Esq.
The Hon. DANIEL O'CONNOR.	FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WRIGHT, Esq.
HENRY CLARKE, Esq.	FRANK FARNELL, Esq.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting New Houses of Parliament for the Colony.

William Martin, Architect, sworn, and examined:—

W. Martin. 1846. *Chairman.*] You are practising your profession in the city of Sydney? Yes; my experience has extended over thirty-two years.

8 June, 1897. 1847. Have you had an opportunity of seeing the plans of the proposed new Houses of Parliament and of fully considering them? I cannot say that I have fully considered them. It would be at least a week's work to fully consider them, but I have gained general knowledge of them.

1848. And you are prepared to express an opinion in regard to them? Yes.

1849. *Mr. Hassall.*] Having examined the plans, will you give the Committee your impression of them? I consider that the buildings, considered in relation to federal purposes, would be too small.

1850. You are looking to the possible sitting of a Federal Parliament in Sydney? Yes. On the other hand, I think that for merely a provincial Parliament the buildings would be too large. Perhaps you will allow me to say that I feel that anyone coming here to give evidence upon this matter ought to be totally unbiassed. For my part, I am opposed to the office of Government Architect, and I am opposed to a building of this kind being turned out of the Government Architect's Office. I think it ought to be the result of public competition. I make that statement because I wish it to be understood distinctly that, apart from the questions I have just mentioned, I am totally unbiassed. I merely come here to express an opinion as regards the plans as they have been submitted to me. I have been thirty-two years engaged in the practice of my profession in this city, with the exception of a comparatively short period, when I was absent making a trip round the world.

1851. I presume that in the course of your travels you noticed various public buildings designed for the same purpose as that of the building before the Committee? I have travelled throughout the east and other parts of the world, and I regard the design before you as that of a building which would compare favourably with anything of the kind in any part of the world. From my knowledge of architecture—and I am acquainted with all the principal buildings in existence, and have a thorough knowledge of their chief points of interest—I am prepared to say, upon examination of the plans before you, that they have been very well thought out indeed. I have taken into consideration—first, the question of arrangement; in the next place I have considered the mode of construction; and, lastly, the question of embellishment.

1852. Dealing first with the plan of the basement, what do you think of that? I think that the basement, considering the fall of the site, is absolutely necessary. If the building were constructed without a basement, and on ordinary foundations, it would look very much too squat, and would present anything but a satisfactory appearance. A building of this kind requires to be kept up well. The basement in this case would serve very useful purposes, and would at the same time improve the appearance of the building. Having regard to the destruction of the Garden Palace, and the loss sustained in documents in that case, through not having a proper place in which to store them, I think the provision made in this instance for a place of that kind will prove very acceptable indeed to the country. I think the foundations would be waste unless they were utilised to the extent provided for. The basement is not at all high; it is 13 feet feet in some places, and 10 feet in others.

1853. Do you approve of the ground-floor plans of the building? I do. I think the arrangement is very good. I quite approve of the corridors round about the Chambers. As regards the internal arrangements of the Chamber, I am just a little in doubt as to the acoustic properties as a consequence of the vaulted galleries. My idea is that the vaults over the galleries would interfere somewhat with the acoustic properties of the Chamber.

1854. You are dealing now with both the Council Chamber and the Assembly Chamber? Yes. I think it will have a tendency to make the Chamber somewhat hot. To my mind it would be better if the galleries were more open than they are. As to the arrangements for light, I think they could be improved a little; but still the lighting of the corridors, if the areas are dealt with, as I presume they would be, by using glazed material on the face of them, thereby increasing the light, is very fair. It must be remembered that in many cases where buildings have been erected, the light has been what would be called sufficient, yet directly the buildings are occupied, we find persons putting up all sorts of blinds to shut the light out. While the light will not be excessive, I think it will be sufficient, as far as I can judge from the information I have of the purposes for which the various portions of the building are required. The corridors, in my opinion, will not be as dark as some persons would make them out to be, having regard to the arrangements for light from end to end, and the cross-lights from the fan-lights and the doors would materially increase that. I think the light will be found to be sufficient.

1855. Do you approve of the positions which have been assigned to the Council Chamber and the Assembly Chamber in the plans, or do you think a more suitable position could be chosen for the two Chambers;—do you think they could be erected in a better position with a view to light and ventilation? I think not. Some fourteen years ago there was an idea of calling for competitive designs for Parliamentary buildings, and, as I was not very busy just then, I set to work and got out some plans. In the plans I prepared there was precisely the same arrangement regarding the Chambers. I think, therefore, that the Chambers must be considered to be in the most suitable place. With regard to the accommodation for the Press, I think the Upper House accommodation should be arranged somewhat similarly to that of the Lower House. As the arrangement now stands, the quarters set apart for the Press are more convenient in one case than the other. With regard to the *Hansard* staff, I think they would

would be better accommodated on the floor of the House instead of being in a gallery. The rooms required for the staff should of course be adjacent to the Chamber, but I think provision could be made for that in the plans before the Committee.

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1856. You think that an improvement could be effected in the accommodation provided both for the *Hansard* staff and for the Press? Yes.

1857. You think that the *Hansard* staff could do their work upon the floor of the House, and that they should be accommodated in rooms adjacent to the Chamber in both cases? Yes.

1858. In looking at the plans you must have observed that there is a dome over each Chamber, and that there is a great deal of vacant space between the roof and the ceiling of the Chamber? I do not think it is waste at all. In the first place, I think it tends to make the Chambers cooler than they otherwise would be. In all structures of this kind there is a certain amount of construction which cannot be held to be satisfactory unless it be kept well up. Take, for instance, the dome of St. Paul's, or the dome of St. Peter's, in Rome, or the Capitol, at Washington. The same thing would apply in the whole of those cases. Tremendous space is apparently lost, but in reality it is not lost. It is useful for ventilation, and it is necessary that the buildings should be made absolutely safe.

1859. Would the existence of these domes affect the acoustic properties of the Chambers? Ceilings would be put in, and you would find that the acoustic properties would be found to be very good with a vaulted roof of that kind. As to the light itself, that would be good. If you look at the best examples in the world you will find dome light. It is considered the best, and in every way the most satisfactory.

1860. As to the provision which is made for committee-rooms, for the officers of the House, and so on, what do you think of that? It seems to me to be very complete and very well thought out.

1861. You do not think it could be very well improved on? Of course, any architect, on seeing plans, could make all sorts of suggestions, but it is questionable whether they would be any improvement on what we see. Considerable thought appears to have been devoted to the planning in this case, and the arrangement, on the whole, seems to me to be very good.

1862. Have you studied the arrangement of the first floor? Yes.

1863. What is your opinion of that? I see no reason to change my opinion as regards the arrangement of the first floor. The arrangement seems to me to be fairly well complete. Everything seems to have had mature consideration, and I think the planning will prove very satisfactory indeed.

1864. You think the building is too small for the accommodation of a Federal Parliament? I do.

1865. In what way would you suggest that the Chamber should be altered to meet that contingency? I think that the building might be extended from the position where the Library is now provided. I would give half as much area again as is provided there, and I think you would then have room for a suitable Chamber for federal purposes. It would be necessary to make some alteration of the kind if the building were to be used for the sessions of the Federal Parliament.

1866. In the event of the building being ultimately required for the accommodation of the Federal Parliament, do you think it would be advisable, instead of having the two Chambers in the body of the building, to run them out as a sort of annexe, as you propose to run out the library? Provision could be made for that, of course.

1867. So as to give increased accommodation in the main building for the possible requirements of a Federal Parliament? Yes.

1868. Do you think that if the alterations you suggest were made the building would be suitable for the accommodation of the Federal Parliament? I do.

1869. What alterations do you think should be made for the accommodation of a Provincial Parliament? I think that in the rearrangement the size of the building could be much curtailed.

1870. And that the expense of construction might also be curtailed? That, of course, would follow.

1871. Have you any idea as to what a building of the character of that before us would cost? I know that the estimate is over £500,000.

1872. Do you think the building could be erected for that money? I think that it would cost that money, and that it would be well worth it.

1873. For what amount do you consider that a building could be erected which would be suitable for the requirements of a Provincial Parliament? I think that from £100,000 to £150,000 might be saved upon the estimate put before you—not more than that. I do not think the embellishments in the elevation are at all excessive. I think they are in very good taste, with the exception of the end towers. I do not like the conical roofs of the end towers, because they are foreign to the rest of the design. Otherwise I think the design is an excellent one, and it is only fair that I should say that the drafting and planning is creditable to the Department and to the country.

1874. Do you think that it would be an improvement to the towers to surmount them with a dome instead of a conical roof? I would have small cupolas instead of conical roofs. I do not like the conical roofs.

1875. You think the alteration you suggest would make the towers more in harmony with the rest of the building? Yes.

1876. You approve of the design generally? Yes; I think it is a very fine one.

1877. Have you seen the other designs which have been submitted to the Committee? Yes; No. 2 is a fine design. It contains very original treatment, and I think it would prove very acceptable indeed, but for my part I prefer design No. 3. I think it would be a pity to erect a Parliament House on design No. 1 when you have designs such as No. 2 and No. 3. Your Houses of Parliament should be a credit to the country, viewed architecturally, and either of the designs—that is, No. 2 or No. 3—would be that.

1878. You think that if the proposed buildings were not required for a Federal Parliament they would be too large for a Provincial Parliament? Yes; the tendency of the Government is to economise in the direction of public buildings. But apart from that, I should say that the building, even if erected in accordance with the plan submitted to you, could be made very useful later on.

1879. Do you approve of the proposed site? I think it is an excellent site. The design which I have prepared, and in which I have a perspective in my office, was got out almost for the same site. That would be fourteen years ago.

1880. You think it would be advisable to erect the buildings back from Macquarie-street, as proposed by the sketch? Yes; I think the suggestion that the building should front the other way was a mistake altogether.

1881. Practically, you approve of the plans submitted, your only objection being that for a Provincial Parliament the buildings would be too extensive, and that for a Federal Parliament they would not be quite extensive enough? Quite so.

- W. Martin. 1882. *Mr. Roberts.*] When you say that in your opinion the buildings are too large, might I ask you in what way would you make them smaller, and how you would curtail the accommodation afforded? Yes.
- 8 June, 1897. I think the accommodation for Members is very liberal upon these plans. Every room you take out would bring the Chambers much more together, and by reducing the length of the building you necessarily reduce the cost. Very full and liberal provision is made in those plans for a Provincial Parliament, and I do not think so much accommodation would be necessary.
1883. To what accommodation shown upon the plans do you object as unnecessary? Well, take the Committee rooms, and the rooms allotted to Members, and so on. There seems to be a very liberal allowance in this regard according to the plans. There might not be too much accommodation for a Federal Parliament, but if you are going to have merely a small Provincial Parliament sitting there I do not think the accommodation shown upon the plans would be required.
1884. In offering that opinion, are you personally aware of the accommodation which it is necessary to afford for the convenience of Members and the various officers? I have formed as good an opinion as could be formed by any man not actually engaged in the preparation of plans for the purpose.
1885. Have you visited the existing Houses of Parliament and made inquiries to find out the accommodation necessary? No; I have not. The opinion I have expressed is the result of casual rather than of minute inquiry.
1886. So that you are not in the same position as are other architects who were before us, and who have inquired into the accommodation required not only for Members and officers, but for other persons whose avocations take them to the Parliament House buildings? No, certainly not. That is why I made the remark I did just now that it is only an architect whose mind had been concentrated upon the buildings, having regard to the purposes to which they would be put, who could form an opinion at this stage upon that particular point. The Government Architect must have had the matter under his minute consideration.
1887. Have you inspected the existing buildings at all? I have been over most of them several times.
1888. Would you give us your opinion as to the desirableness of pulling down the existing buildings at once, or do you think they are sufficiently good under ordinary conditions to last for another ten years? I have considered them for some time a constant source of useless expenditure. They are altogether unsatisfactory, and in my opinion anything expended upon them would be a waste of money. It would be only patching up an old place, and you would have the results which are generally obtained from such a patching up. The same argument applies to the Town Hall in Sydney. We do not look ahead enough in buildings of that character. There is patchwork in the Town Hall, and it would be much better if the whole scheme were properly considered in the first instance.
1889. You do not mean that the Town Hall buildings are patchwork in the sense that the Parliament House buildings are patchwork? I mean that they are patchwork in the sense that they are not a complete design—one part of the building being totally foreign to the other. Buildings erected as Houses of Parliament, for instance, should be as complete as possible in order to avoid subsequent additions. You may afterwards have an officer with ideas totally different from those of the present Government Architect, and you might, in that case, have patchwork made in an important public building.
1890. Do you know the portion of the present buildings which is used as a Library? Yes.
1891. The Committee have been informed that the necessity for having a safe place for the keeping of the many valuable books contained in the Library affords one of the chief reasons for the erection of new Houses of Parliament;—would it not be possible to put up a suitable building for a Library, or for the storage of the books at the rear of the present buildings—I mean a building which would answer for some years to come? I should say that it could be done, but I could not be clear upon the point at this moment, because I have not looked at the question from the point of view of the erection of a new Library in addition to the present buildings.
1892. You are not sufficiently familiar with the present buildings, and the ground which would be available for the requisite additions? I have seen most of the buildings, and I do not think that too much care can be taken in making safe provision for a Parliamentary Library and so on. I think that in the past we have been a little too indifferent upon that subject, and the Colony has suffered in consequence.
1893. In what way would you propose to lessen the expenditure of money in the erection of new buildings;—do you regard the total superficial area proposed to be utilised as excessive? Yes; for a Provincial Parliament.
1894. You would contract the whole design? Yes.
1895. And you would thereby do away with numerous offices now shown on the plan? I think a great many of them might be done away with. I think that very liberal accommodation is provided both for Members and officers, and that it might be very much reduced in view of the building being used for the purposes of a Provincial Parliament only.
1896. Speaking generally, do you not think that a sum of £250,000 would be ample to spend upon a group of buildings which would afford all the necessary accommodation? No; I do not think it would result in the same thing. We have had experience of that in the past. If you endeavour to erect so-called suitable Houses of Parliament for £250,000, it would mean that they would cost £500,000 before you had done with them, and the result would not be as satisfactory then as if the whole scheme had been properly thought out in the first instance. You would have to make additions here and there, and you would find eventually that the structure would cost pretty well the £500,000. I think it would be false economy.
1897. Assuming that you contracted the plans as you suggest, what would you give as the estimated cost of a building such as you have in your mind? I think I could save, say, from £100,000 to £150,000 at the outside upon these plans, but not more. Of course, that is only a general estimate, because one would require to measure up the plans in order to be accurate in a matter of this kind.
1898. Surely the doing away with a few of the offices would not make the difference you describe? If you take away 20 feet from the building right through, from top to bottom, you make a material difference in the cost.
1899. You think you could do away with 20 feet right through? With more than that, I think. I merely mention 20 feet to convey to you an idea of the difference there would be in the cost.
1900. You say you are without real knowledge of the accommodation which would be required? I suppose I have as good a knowledge as any architect would have who had not worked out the plans, and taken out the quantities.
- 1901.

1901. Assuming that for the proper conduct of Parliamentary business, and for the convenience and comfort of Members and officers, the whole of the accommodation shown upon the plans were really necessary, would your estimate be a fair one? It appears to me to be a very fair one. I do not think the building could be constructed for less money. It would be well worth the £500,000.

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1902. Are you aware of the material of which the building is to be constructed? I understand that there is to be a trachyte foundation, and a superstructure of sandstone, and of brick.

1903. You approve of a portion of the building being of brick encased in stone? The internal portions of the building would, I presume, be of brick; but the exterior, I should say, would be of stone, such as can be found in the country. Our sandstone is found to be most suitable for building purposes. I doubt whether it can be excelled anywhere. It would be very difficult to excel trachyte. A great deal has been said in opposition to trachyte by persons who do not altogether approve of it. For instance, it is said that it will chip in case of fire. But many other stones will do that. As to granite, we have granite in the Colony equal to that found in any part of the world. If you did not care to use trachyte you could use granite. There is plenty of it available.

1904. For how many of the thirty-two years you have mentioned have you been practising in the city as an architect? For the whole of the time, with the exception of three and a half years.

1905. You say that the main architectural features of the building meet with your approval? I certainly like them. I think the arrangement under which the dome is well kept up is very thoughtful indeed. In keeping the dome of such buildings low many architects of buildings in the older parts of the world have fallen into an error. If anyone were to study the domes of even St. Peter's in Rome, it will be found that the dome has been kept too low, even by such an eminent architect as Michael Angelo. When you get near enough to the building to appreciate the details of construction the dome is out of sight.

1906. While approving of the plan before the Committee, you think it would have been preferable to submit the design to public competition? I am decidedly of that opinion, and I think it is only right that that should be done, because then the country and the public would be satisfied that the matter had been thought out not only by one man but by many members of the profession. You would have the benefit of the views of different architects, instead of being tied to the opinion of one. You never know what you can produce in matters of this kind until you try.

1907. What is your opinion as to the conditions upon which public competition should be invited—what, for instance, about the time which should be given to the architects in which to submit their designs;—will you mention that and other conditions which, in your opinion, would produce the best results? Yes; I think the best mode of obtaining a design for a building of this class would be to call for sketch plans first.

1908. Would you suggest that the competition should be limited to Australia, or that it should be open to the whole world? I think we can produce a design in Australia quite equal to any which you could obtain from other parts of the world. I do not think you have any need to go outside the Colonies. I think gentlemen who take an interest in architecture, or in matters of this kind, should be appointed a committee to judge the sketch-plans sent in by the architects, who should be allowed at least six months in which to prepare them. You must remember that they have their ordinary professional duties to attend to, and an opportunity should be afforded them to give a question of this kind due consideration without interference with their own business. You would be far more likely to get a better design in that way than by rushing the matter and forcing the men to interfere with the course of their business. I also think a sum should be given each competitor by way of remuneration.

1909. How many prizes would you suggest there should be? I would not deal with the matter altogether in that way; but some small award should be given—which might be fixed by a committee or by some persons understanding the subject—to each of the architects for their sketch-plan, supposing it reached a certain standard. From these sketch-plans the committee would select, say, from seven to ten. The architects who had made these plans might then be asked to prepare complete plans for competition. Two or three premiums might be arranged. I think that would be the most satisfactory way of obtaining competitive designs; because, when you consider the bad times architects have had for some period past, many of them would not be in a position to compete unless they were assured of some remuneration for their work. I do not think anyone should be prohibited from competing by a refusal to attach some remuneration to the sketch-plan which would be forwarded in the first instance.

1910. Did you send in a design for the proposed State House? No.

1911. Do you recollect what prizes were offered on that occasion—I suppose that would afford a fair precedent in the matter of remuneration? You are referring now, I suppose, to the complete plans which would be called for after the selection of the leading sketch-plans. I do not think the question of remuneration for sketch-plans was considered. Complete plans were sent in, I think, and the result of the competition was anything but satisfactory.

1912. I think you informed Mr. Hassall that you approved of the positions assigned to the Legislative Chambers in the design before us? Yes.

1913. The Committee have had more than two gentlemen before them, I think, who have expressed the opinion that it would be better, in order to obtain good light and ventilation, that the Chambers should be on the exterior of the building? I think that as far as ventilation is concerned there are so many means of ventilating buildings now that you would have no difficulty in obtaining good ventilation with the Chambers in their present position.

1914. But after all it would be artificial? Some of it would be, but not necessarily all of it. We want artificial ventilation, and I will explain why: Sometimes persons go into a chamber from the outside air, and expect to find it cooler inside than outside, when there is no chance of effecting any change in the temperature. If there were artificial means of effecting a change in the temperature, it follows that on many occasions the interior of a chamber can be made more pleasant and comfortable than is the atmosphere outside.

1915. With a view to obtaining a thoroughly well-ventilated Chamber, would you not prefer to see it on the exterior of the building, and could not the plan be altered to that extent without interfering with architectural effect? The alteration would be a very simple matter in the plans before you if it were considered more desirable to have the Chambers in that position.

1916. As an architect of many years' experience, would you favour the Committee with your opinion as to the better course to adopt—that is, as to whether the Chambers should be left in their present positions, or whether they should be placed on the exterior of the building? I would make the Chambers in their present

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- present position as comfortable as any person could wish, without putting them on the exterior of the building. One objection to the position on the exterior of the building would be the noise arising from vehicular traffic, which might sometimes interfere materially with the deliberations of Members. With corridors surrounding the Chamber, I think you would hear better than you might otherwise do.
1917. In making that statement, have you borne in mind that if the Chambers were put upon the exterior of the building they would be closer to the Domain than to Macquarie-street? If they are to be on the exterior of the building, I certainly would not take them towards Macquarie-street. I myself should prefer to take them in a northerly and southerly direction. They would then be external on three sides.
1918. Do you think that that would be a considerable improvement upon the plan? No; I do not think it would be a great improvement.
1919. You would prefer to leave the Chambers in the position shown on the plans? Yes; I think it would be a good arrangement, which would serve all purposes. The difficulties of ventilation with a basement such as you would have, and with a roof such as shown, would be inconsiderable.
1920. You know that it is proposed to widen Macquarie-street by another 22 feet? Yes.
1921. Do you think that would be an advisable course to pursue, having in view the proximity of the Sydney Hospital and the danger of interfering with the comfort of the inmates? I have no doubt that, so far as the comfort of the inmates of the Hospital is concerned, it would be better to leave Macquarie-street as it is; but it must be admitted, on the other hand, that the proposed widening would be a great improvement to the street, and would materially improve the appearance of the proposed building.
1922. Do you not think that the taking of 22 feet from King-street to Bent-street would bring the vehicular traffic so near to the hospital as to be seriously detrimental to the comfort of the inmates? If you adopted the present system of street-blocking it might be; but if the blocking were properly top-dressed I do not think that would be the case. You could get over the inconvenience or discomfort by a proper system of top-dressing.
1923. What system would you recommend? It is difficult to say. There are so many ways of top-dressing which have been tested in the city. Some have proved very satisfactory, and others have turned out very badly. It is a mistake to put on only one coat. That is what has been done in many instances, and there has been no attempt at maintaining it; but if there were three or four coats, with proper maintenance, it would prove a great saving, as far as the blocks are concerned. I think good top-dressing would get over the difficulty, as far as the Hospital is concerned.
1924. Can you point to an instance of top-dressing in the city which, in your opinion, has proved successful? The top-dressing in front of Vickery's Chambers, in Pitt-street, lasted twelve months without any attempt at maintenance. I do not know who were the persons who put it down. I have taken a great interest in the question of top-dressing, and I think a great deal more of it ought to be done in the city than has been done.
1925. Notwithstanding the fact of the Sydney Hospital being in its present position, would you, as an architect, recommend that Macquarie-street be widened as proposed? Yes; I would recommend the widening of almost any street in the city.
1926. But would you recommend the widening of Macquarie-street at that particular point? Yes, because I think that if you top-dress the thoroughfare properly you would not interfere with the comfort of the patients in the hospital.
1927. *Mr. Black.*] When you said that that the proposed buildings would be too large for the purposes of a Provincial Parliament, did you allude to the size of the Chambers? I was alluding to the whole building. I think it might be contracted generally.
1928. Did you refer more especially to the space devoted to the officers of the House? I think the building might be curtailed generally for the purposes of a Provincial Parliament.
1929. You do not think the Chambers should be curtailed? I do think so. From what I have heard of the opinion of those who have discussed the question of a Provincial and a Federal Parliament, I do not think the accommodation which is required at the present time would be required for a Provincial Parliament.
1930. But you spoke just now, I thought, of erecting a building which would be adequate for all future purposes? I said that provision might be made for a building suitable for a Federal Parliament by enlarging the building in the direction occupied by the Members' Dining-room and the Library.
1931. When I speak of future purposes I do not refer to the possibility of Sydney being the Federal City—I refer to a time when the State Parliament may contain the representatives of 20,000,000 or 30,000,000 people? It would then be time, I think, to sweep away the whole building, and to erect a new structure. I think a very long time would elapse before the number of people you mention will require representation in our State Parliament.
1932. But could we not put up buildings here, as in the old world, which would stand for centuries? We do not usually do so, and I should like to ask how far you go back in the case of buildings in the older parts of the world when you say centuries. Take the Law Courts of England, and of various Continental cities,—they have not been so durable.
1933. I was not referring to buildings of that kind so much as to cathedrals and various public halls;—on the Continent of Europe there are buildings of that description many hundreds of years old? Certainly not—only parts of them. If you follow up the history of those buildings, as you probably have done, you will find that they have practically been rebuilt on the old foundations; they are not in any sense the same buildings. They are totally different in design, in arrangement, and everything else.
1934. You think, then, that in designing a building of this kind it would be ample to meet requirements for, say, 100 years hence? I think it will be found that matters will have altered so materially 100 years hence that our successors will want to pull down the Parliamentary buildings now proposed, and erect new buildings in their place. Judging from the progress which science is making at the present day, the circumstances of 100 years hence will be found to be totally different from those of to-day.
1935. You spoke of the dome of St. Peter's in Rome, and I understood you to say that it was somewhat squat? The dome is a beautiful piece of work in itself, but the base of it is so low that when you get near enough to understand the details of the building you lose sight of the dome altogether.
1936. Do you think it a necessity then that the dome should be always prominent? I certainly think so. Domes are put on to buildings as features, which you are supposed to see at a distance at which you can also understand the details of the structure.

1937. To what extent would you carry out that rule? It would depend upon the site upon which the building was to be erected. W. Martin:
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1938. But there must be some disappearing point? I quite recognise that. But take the façade of St. Peter's in Rome. When you get near enough to enjoy the details of it you cannot see the dome at all. The same holds good with regard to many other buildings.
1939. The question is whether it is necessary to the enjoyment of architectural effect that you should be able to see all the main points of a building at once? You could not do that under any circumstances; but I am talking just now of domes.
1940. But you can only speak of a dome, or any other part of a building in relation to its other parts? The dome is the most prominent part in a building. It is erected for effect.
1941. Do you not think that just as effective a building could be designed without a dome of the expensive character shown upon the plans? I do not think so. A good dome is the crowning feature of a building, and I think it would be a pity to erect a building on this particular site without a dome. You have only to bear in mind the effect of the dome of the Garden Palace. You can then conceive the effect of the dome which it is proposed to erect upon this particular pile of buildings. The dome of the Garden Palace could be seen from many points of the harbour, and at once created a certain impression with regard to the entire city.
1942. Is there not somewhat of a tendency in the architectural mind to undervalue interior requirements in order to give prominence to external adornment? I do not think so in the majority of cases. I think the tendency of many of our clients is to make as much outside show as possible to the detriment, sometimes, of the interior.
1943. I am not speaking of private individuals, I am speaking of the expenditure of public money on public buildings? As far as public buildings in Sydney are concerned, I do not think it can justly be said that too much money has been expended upon the external appearance of the buildings at the cost of the interiors.
1944. But if too much regard is paid to the exterior, buildings may become faulty in the matter of passages and light, and all kinds of internal arrangements? There have been mistakes of that kind. I admit that in some cases light has been sacrificed.
1945. We appear to have epidemics among the architects in New South Wales—at one period they are all for domes, and at another period they are all for towers? I confess I do not remember the dome period.
1946. Are there not in some cases granite pillars on sandstone fronts? That is correct. If I used granite I should use it for the ground storey instead of for the superstructure, because it is used as a feature of strength. However, it is a matter of opinion. I take it that the trained architectural mind would receive the same consideration as would a man who had studied the medical profession. It would be generally admitted that he would be likely to know more of the subject than would a layman.
1947. Do you not think that the two domes over the Chambers in the plans before us could be dispensed with? No; I think they are the best form of roof for a Chamber of that kind, having regard to acoustic properties.
1948. Do you think you get better light, ventilation, and sound? Yes. You get a good light; there is no question about that. There is no better light than roof light.
1949. You are in favour of the widening of Macquarie-street, in front of the Parliamentary buildings? Yes.
1950. Would you have the increased width of the street carried down towards the Circular Quay? No; I do not think it is necessary lower down.
1951. Is there any necessity for widening the street in front of the Hospital as well as in front of the Parliamentary buildings? There is no absolute necessity for it. You could secure a very pretty effect by widening the street in front of the Parliamentary buildings without widening it in front of the Hospital or lower down.
1952. That would remove one great objection to the widening of the street? It would, judging from the expressions of opinion I have heard.
1953. Would a building which could be erected for £300,000 be a creditable building for Houses of Parliament? Possibly, but it would not be as creditable a building as that provided for on the plans before you.
1954. The question is how little can be spent without erecting a building which would not be worthy of the country? I do not see how you could expect to get a building worthy of the country for Parliamentary purposes for a less sum than £500,000. I think the estimate is a reasonable one, and if the design before you could be carried out for that price, you would have a building well worth the money.
1955. The Committee would like to know whether the Architects' Association have at any time considered what site would be most suitable for the erection of a building of this character? Not that I am aware of.
1956. But they may have done so? I think I should have known it, because I have been Vice President of the Institute. I believe that most architects are agreed that the site chosen, or a site very near it, is an eminently suitable one for the erection of these buildings.
1957. Have you ever thought of any other site in this connection? I have had a chat with others about it, and the site I have had in view myself has been in the Centennial Park, near the main road, where it was suggested that the State House should be erected.
1958. Have you heard that some architects have thought that it would be advisable to resume a large portion of land in West Sydney known as The Rocks, in the neighbourhood of Flagstaff Hill? There was a suggestion of that kind some time ago; but nothing much was said about it.
1959. What do you think of that proposal? It is not a bad site at all; but I think the site chosen is much superior to it.
1960. The chief objection to the other site, I presume, would be the cost of resumption? That would be one objection, but the approaches to the site would constitute another objection.
1961. *Mr. Clarke.*] I understand that generally you approve of the plans submitted by the Government Architect? Yes.
1962. But you think that a much less expensive building might be erected to answer all the purposes of a Provincial Parliament? I do.
1963. At what cost? At a cost of from £350,000 to £400,000.
1964. You would use Pyrmont stone? Yes; it is very good stone. We have had every evidence of that, I think.
- 1965.

- W. Martin. 1965. Is the accommodation provided for the officers of Parliament in the proposed buildings suitable? Yes; I think that with the exceptions I have named with regard to *Hansard* and the Press it has been well thought out.
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1966. *Mr. Wright.*] What do you think of the treatment of the front elevation;—is it grand enough for a building of this kind? I think it is very good.
1967. Do you not think that the columns in the wings should be treated exactly like the columns in the central portion of the building? It is a matter of taste. I like the design as it is. The design you suggest would look well; but, on the other hand, it would be more monotonous. I like the change myself; I think it has a pretty effect.
1968. What particular style of architecture would you call the front elevation? Most persons would call it classic; some would possibly say that it was Renaissance. If the towers were slightly altered, as I suggested, the whole contour of the building would be more harmonious.
1969. Do you think the treatment of the extreme ends is in keeping with that of the rest of the building? Yes. It is somewhat plain treatment, but it is a rest for the eye. It would not do to have the same treatment all the way along. You will get a better idea of the effect from looking at the model than from looking at the plans.
1970. You think that the elevation, taken as a whole, is on good architectural lines? Yes; with the exception of the towers. I do not like the finish of the towers at the ends; otherwise, I think the elevation is very good.

WEDNESDAY, 9 JUNE, 1897.

Present:—

THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esq. (CHAIRMAN).

The Hon. FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHREY.	CHARLES ALFRED LEE, Esq.
The Hon. JAMES HOSKINS.	JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, Esq.
The Hon. CHARLES JAMES ROBERTS, C.M.G.	THOMAS HENRY HASSALL, Esq.
The Hon. WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT.	GEORGE BLACK, Esq.
The Hon. DANIEL O'CONNOR.	FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WRIGHT, Esq.
HENRY CLARKE, Esq.	FRANK FARNELL, Esq.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting New Houses of Parliament for the Colony.

The Honorable Sir Arthur Renwick, M.D., M.L.C., President of the Sydney Hospital Board, sworn, and examined:—

- The Hon. Sir A. Renwick, M.D., M.L.C.
- 9 June, 1897.
1971. *Chairman.*] You are President of the Sydney Hospital Board? Yes.
1972. *Mr. Roberts.*] May I ask how long you have occupied that position? I could not tell you the exact number of years, but for a considerable period.
1973. You have been identified with the institution for a long time? I was one of the honorary physicians of the institution for a considerable time; subsequently I became a member of the Board, and I was afterwards elected President.
1974. The Committee may assume that you have an intimate acquaintance with the interior of the hospital buildings? Yes.
1975. Have you had an opportunity to inspect the plans of the proposed new Houses of Parliament which are now under the consideration of the Committee? I have merely seen them since I have been here this afternoon.
1976. You are aware that it is proposed, according to those plans, to widen Macquarie-street from King-street to Bent-street by a further 22 feet, thereby encroaching on the present grounds of the Sydney Hospital? The Government Architect gave me that information in conversation.
1977. The Committee would value very much your opinion whether, if the suggestion of the Government Architect were adopted, the comfort of the patients in the Hospital would be seriously interfered with? I would like to point out in the first place that the width of the footpath opposite the Hospital is 12 feet, then the width to the steps leading to the front part of the building is about 16 feet, and from the front of the steps to the front of the wards where the patients are domiciled there is a width of about 22 feet, making a total of about 50 feet from the alignment of the footpath to the point at which the patients are situated. Macquarie-street is wood-blocked, and the blocks are so laid that there is a kind of corduroy road. When heavy traffic is passing there is considerable noise and a certain amount of vibration. Both the noise and the vibration are felt by the patients and medical officers of the institution. If that be the case at the present time when there is a distance of 50 feet between the alignment and the wards, the discomfort and inconvenience will be materially increased if that space be reduced by 22 feet. In view of my examination to-day before the Committee, I made inquiry at the Hospital from some of the medical officers, and they complain that even under present circumstances the examination of patients in the fine degrees is attended by considerable difficulty. Take, for instance, auscultation. It is sometimes difficult to distinguish between the different classes of sound heard through the instrument. The noise and vibration also affect the surgical patients who are located in the lower part of the building.
1978. Are you of opinion that that state of things would be very much aggravated if the Government Architect's plan were carried out? There can be no doubt whatever but that the discomfort and inconvenience would be increased, because the distance between the patient and the source of noise would be lessened. The inconvenience would be proportionately increased. The Government Architect explained to me that we should have a *quid pro quo* in the shape of some ground which it was proposed to give us at the back of the institution. We should be very glad of course to get the additional ground at the back. I am honestly of opinion, however, that it would be exceedingly inadvisable to diminish the present too short distance between the street and the situation of the wards.
1979. What the Committee are to understand from you is that if the noise be vexatious to the patients at the present time it would be much more so if the kerb line were brought 22 feet nearer to them than it now is? Yes. Not only would the noise be proportionately increased, but it would be intensified.

1980. Would it be possible to locate any patients in the front portion of the building to whom the noise would not be so objectionable? I would like to point out that our Hospital is an institution for acute diseases, accidents, and so on. Right through the building that purpose is kept before us when we are admitting patients. It is not a Hospital for chronic complaints. We could not therefore remove chronic patients from the back and put them in the front of the building so as to ease off the nuisance in that way. The whole of the patients are acute patients, so that no argument of the kind you suggest could have any weight.

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1981. You have no patients who would not be subjected to discomfort then if the noise from the street were intensified? No.

1982. Would you favour the Committee with your opinion as to the advisableness of widening Macquarie-street just opposite the Parliamentary buildings, assuming for the moment that the Committee agreed with the view you hold as to the undesirableness of widening the thoroughfare opposite the Hospital buildings? I do not think the widening of the street at the point you mentioned would affect the Hospital prejudicially. Apart from that I should be very glad to see the street widened if it could be done. I should be very pleased to see a structure ornamental to the city and useful for the purpose intended erected there. There can be no doubt but that it is a great necessity.

1983. You are of opinion from your long acquaintance with the present Parliamentary buildings that the time has arrived when the old buildings should be pulled down, and when new ones should be erected? I have had considerable experience in Parliament, and my opinion is that the buildings should have been removed long ago. It is merely from a sentimental notion that they have been retained as long as they have. The danger from fire, the inconvenience to Members, the want of adequate accommodation which is provided in similar buildings everywhere, all tend to render the present buildings utterly unsuitable for the purpose for which they were originally set apart.

1984. As a citizen who has had a wide experience in the erection of buildings in different parts of the city, would you regard the sum of £533,000 as an extravagant price to pay for a building such as that before the Committee? Most decidedly not—certainly not.

1985. Have you looked into the plans of the interior at all? No; I have not. I could pronounce no opinion upon that point.

1986. Do you think the noise in Macquarie-street could be lessened by a top-dressing over the wooden blocks? There can be no doubt about that. The noise could be considerably lessened by placing the wooden blocks face to face in close apposition, and subsequently spreading an asphalt or similar coating over the surface.

1987. Has your Board ever approached the Sydney Municipal Council with any suggestion of that kind? I think letters have been written, but I cannot remember any specific letter. I am certain, however, that something was done in reference to the matter some time ago.

1988. You are aware that the plans show an encroachment upon the grounds of the Domain to the extent of about 130 feet? Yes.

1989. You know that it is proposed to continue the encroachment in a southerly direction, thus giving the Sydney Hospital extra room for a garden? Yes.

1990. Do you think that that would interfere with the Domain? It would unquestionably interfere with the extent of the Domain, but not, in my humble judgment, prejudicially; and it would at the same time be a great boon to the Hospital.

1991. So that whether Macquarie-street be widened or not, you would strongly advocate that if extra ground be required for Parliamentary buildings the encroachment upon the Domain should be continued in a southerly direction, towards what I might term the southern entrance? Yes, I know the locality well. I have known it all my lifetime more or less. The proposal would do no harm to the public interest. I am quite persuaded of that. To some extent it would be an advantage, because the approaches to other parts of the Domain might be so constructed as to be more satisfactory in many ways. At the present time a number of persons resort under the walls of the Mint and Hospital buildings. That would not be the case, I fancy, if the Hospital grounds were extended as suggested. I think it would be a good thing in the public interest, and it would at the same time be a great boon to the Hospital itself.

1992. It would be an undoubted advantage to the inmates? Yes.

1993. *Mr. Humphery.*] The southern wall of the Parliament House building is said, by the Superintendent of Fire Brigades, to be a menace to the Hospital buildings owing to the material of which it is constructed;—has that matter been brought under your notice at any time? I have heard no complaints of any kind. I am sure that it has not come officially before the Board at any time. Of course the Nightingale wing comes in close proximity to the wall you describe. But I have not heard any complaint of it. The Nightingale wing is a separate wing of the Hospital.

1994. Presumably, the Superintendent of Fire Brigades referred to that wing, when he mentioned that, in the event of a fire taking place in the Legislative Council part of the building, there would be a danger to a certain portion of the Hospital buildings? He never brought it under the notice of the Board.

1995. He thought, I presume, that injury might be caused to the patients in the Hospital buildings? There could not be any danger to the patients, because there are none there except in the front main building, and that is built of stone, and is comparatively isolated. The only danger would be to the Nightingale wing itself. The Superintendent of Fire Brigades may view the matter in that light from his own standpoint, but I have never heard any complaints made.

1996. Assuming that the Superintendent of Fire Brigades is right in saying that there might be a danger in the event of a fire in the Parliament House buildings, are you prepared to offer any opinion as to the necessity at the present time of substituting a more substantial wall for the existing wall? I think it would be very desirable if a danger such as you have indicated exists to do so. I should like to be satisfied, however, before expressing an opinion on the point that a danger really does exist. If there is a danger of the kind, the sooner the matter is remedied the better. I may mention that the Superintendent of Fire Brigades has made an investigation of the Hospital buildings lately, at the request of the Board, so that there might be as little risk as possible of danger from fire to the inmates. That is a matter which has been dealt with; but I have no remembrance of the Superintendent of Fire Brigades having mentioned anything of the matter you mention in any of his letters to us.

1997. Has your attention been directed to the insufficient pressure of water in Macquarie-street? Yes. We have called the attention of the Water and Sewerage Board to the matter on several occasions, and

The Hon. Sir we lately received a communication from the Board, in which it was stated that they intended shortly to lay a new main from, I think, the corner of Oxford-street and along College-street, so that greater pressure might be obtained at the Hospital and other buildings in the street.

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1998. Therefore, you are not so apprehensive of any danger from that source? We are not so apprehensive, because we have taken every step which the Superintendent of Fire Brigades has recommended. In the first place, we have so trained the nurses and attendants that in the case of fire attention could at once be directed to the particular spot in which it might occur.

1999. *Mr. Trickett.*] You will see that at the back of the Hospital it is proposed to take in a long strip of the Domain, with a view to its conversion into hospital gardens for the use of the patients;—do you think that that would be a very desirable thing? Very desirable.

2000. Do you not think it would be a very acceptable *quid pro quo* for the land of which you would be deprived facing Macquarie-street? I am quite satisfied that, as far as the land itself is concerned, it would be a very fair bargain indeed for us; but it is not a question of the fairness of bargaining I am considering. I am having regard to the comfort of the patients as affected by the noise in the street. I am looking at the question entirely from the medical standpoint—from the point of view of the patients in the institution. Of course, the Hospital Board would be only too glad to obtain the additional land, but it is my duty, as President of the Board, having had a long experience in connection with the administration of the Hospital, to inform the Committee that the proposed widening of the street in front of the Hospital would be a very dangerous step unless some alteration were made in the character of the street, so that the noise of the traffic would be kept at a sufficient distance from the wards.

2001. The blank high wall on the Domain side of the Hospital building is very undesirable, is it not;—does it not contract the breathing-space there? No; the whole of the parts of the Hospital which are used for the patients are above its level. There is a fall graded downward from Macquarie-street to the Domain.

2002. The ground at the rear of the building is not much used by patients for walking or recreation? There is not much ground for recreation, because, as I have already explained, the Hospital is an institution for acute patients. The patients, as soon as they are well enough to be discharged, are sent away from our institution to convalescent hospitals.

2003. Then a recreation ground is not an absolute necessity in connection with your institution? Still it is desirable where, for example, a patient is recovering from a fractured leg or from typhoid fever. He may not be quite fit to send to a convalescent hospital, and he may have to remain with us for a time, and it would be very desirable in such a case as that that he should have some grounds to which he could go during the day. They would be an invaluable adjunct.

2004. We have had a considerable quantity of evidence as to the cost of the proposed buildings;—could you tell us what the Hospital buildings, with their very presentable appearance, have cost up to the present time? I could not give you the exact figures at this moment, but if you will allow me I will send them to you.

2005. You might state the cost approximately? I think it somewhere about £80,000, but I will send you the exact figures. (*Vide Appendix.*)

2006. *Mr. Fegan.*] If the proposed 22 feet of roadway were taken from Macquarie-street, and the whole thoroughfare were top-dressed, your objection would not be so great as it otherwise would be to the increase in width? My objection would not be so great, because the top-dressing of the street would make some difference. Still it would be objectionable. The only way out of the difficulty, as far as I can see, would be to widen the footpath in front of the Hospital to double or treble its present width. You would then have a wide footpath, with the roadway pretty much its present width. By that means you would get what I think is proposed in connection with the change—that is, you would have a good, wide, open space leading down to the front of the new Parliamentary buildings. To bring the roadway any closer to the Hospital building than it now is, whether it were asphalted or not, would increase the noise and vibration.

2007. If the roadway were asphalted would the vibration be increased? I do not think it would make much difference. There is vibration even with asphalt.

2008. Do you know the area of land on which the Hospital is placed? It is a little over 3 acres.

2009. How much of it is used for garden or similar purposes? I suppose one-half of the space is built upon while the other half is open.

2010. You do not think it would be wise to bring even the public nearer the Hospital than they are at the present time? No; that is as far as the interests of the Hospital are concerned.

2011. What is the frontage of the Hospital building? I could not say at this moment, but I can send you the information. (*Vide Appendix.*)

2012. *Chairman.*] You must be acquainted with cases in other parts of the world where Hospital buildings stand contiguous to the street traffic;—what is done in those cases? In the city of London they have not the advantages which we have at the present time, or even those which we should enjoy if the proposal before you were carried out. Take the Westminster Hospital and other hospitals of a similar character, the wards come almost to the margin of the footpath, and to within 12 or 14 feet of the road. The sound is deadened—that is, they have wooden blocks in the neighbourhood of the hospitals, and the sound is deadened by means of layers of flint-stone which are beaten thoroughly into the wooden blocks. I myself have been in a hospital standing within 14 or 15 feet of the traffic, and the vibration has not been nearly as great as it is in Macquarie-street when a heavy wool dray is passing over the wooden blocks in that thoroughfare. I hope that in the interests of the patients the evidence I have given upon that point will have weight with the Committee.

THURSDAY, 10 JUNE, 1897.

Present:—

THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esq. (CHAIRMAN).

The Hon. FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHERY.
 The Hon. JAMES HOSKINS.
 The Hon. CHARLES JAMES ROBERTS, C.M.G.
 The Hon. WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT.
 The Hon. DANIEL O'CONNOR.
 HENRY CLARKE, Esq.

CHARLES ALFRED JEE, Esq.
 JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, Esq.
 THOMAS HENRY HASSALL, Esq.,
 GEORGE BLACK, Esq.
 FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WRIGHT, Esq.
 FRANK FARNELL, Esq.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting New Houses of Parliament for the Colony.

Edward Harold Binney, M.D., Medical Superintendent, Sydney Hospital, sworn, and examined:—

2013. *Chairman.*] You are Medical Superintendent of the Sydney Hospital? Yes.

E. H. Binney,
M.D.

2014. *Mr. Black.*] You are aware that, in connection with the erection of the proposed new Houses of Parliament, it is in contemplation to carry the roadway in Macquarie-street a distance of 22 feet nearer to the Hospital;—do you think that would be likely to have a prejudicial effect upon the patients? Yes.

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2015. In the first place, do you think it will interfere with the appearance of the Hospital buildings? I should say so; but I feel scarcely able to speak authoritatively upon that question.

2016. You are aware that the lodges will be removed, and that the new footpath will come up to the foot of the main staircase in front of the building? I should think that the alteration would interfere with the architectural appearance of the whole building. The removal of the lodges would also interfere to a considerable extent with the management of the institution.

2017. You think it would be very difficult, from the way in which the Hospital is constructed, to exclude persons who desire admission? It would be possible to exclude them without lodges, of course, but it would be attended with a certain degree of difficulty and inconvenience. If the plan before you were given effect to, there would be no place in which we could put the lodges. We could not put them further back.

2018. There are so many doors, passages, and entrances that if you took away the existing palisade or fence, the building would be practically unprotected? Certainly, if the fence were taken away.

2019. I hardly see how you could shut in the place at all, unless you put up an iron railing on the main staircase? Unless there were some provision of the kind we could not interfere with the public coming up to the main door.

2020. And they would naturally be very persistent in their efforts to obtain admission if they had any friend in the hospital? Yes; in the ordinary way there are a great many persons going in and out of the building.

2021. It is, of course, necessary that some control should be exercised in connection with these visits? Yes; we look to those at the lodge-gates to block a great many inquiries.

2022. If the roadway were brought nearer to the wards, the noise which is now heard in them would be very much increased? It would.

2023. The vibration caused by passing vehicles would also be proportionately increased? I should say that it would.

2024. I suppose that in certain nervous diseases the vibration would have a prejudicial effect? It would have a prejudicial effect in the case of anyone who was acutely ill.

2025. I suppose that any acute form of illness would tell upon the nerves, and would render them more susceptible to the effects of vibration and noise? Yes; the sound, of course, would not have so far to travel if the traffic were nearer.

2026. You do not experience much discomfort from the noise at present caused by the passing of foot passengers? No.

2027. But if the footpath were brought right under the windows, as proposed in the plans, the noise caused by foot passengers would become audible in the ward, would it not? I should not say that any ordinary walking or conversation would be heard; but any disturbance in the street, or anything approaching a riot, in which persons might be talking above their natural voices, would be perceptible.

2028. It is to be assumed that if the street is widened by 22 feet, a portion of the increased width would be given to the roadway, and a portion to the footpath—say, 11 feet in each case? I presume something of that kind would be done.

2029. But even in that case you would feel a strong objection to any widening of the roadway for various reasons—the first of which is, that it would not improve the appearance of the building; the second, that it would render it more difficult to exclude visitors or trespassers, there being less control over those coming and going; and the third, that the increased noise and vibration would be prejudicial to the health and comfort of the inmates? Yes; in addition to that, I might say that the nearer the roadway would be to the building the nearer would be the dust caused by the traffic, or the dust caused by the sweeping of the street, which is a very important thing in relation to the surgical ward and to the cleanliness of the hospital generally.

2030. That would be a fourth reason against the widening of the streets? Yes. I can appreciate the difference between the Hospital being near the street and being further back, because at the time the old building was in existence, I, with the resident medical officers, lived in a cottage which stood right against the street, and we found the sound of the traffic very disturbing to us, even in our health; but apart from the noise, a point worth considering is the dust resulting from the traffic, or from the sweeping of the street. As matters stand, it is very difficult indeed to keep the hospital clean. A good deal of labour is required in window-dusting and so forth.

2031. There is a proposal to give the Hospital authorities, by way of compensation for the ground taken in front, some ground at the back of the building; that ground is to be taken from the Domain, and is to be styled a Hospital garden;—do you think that in your Hospital there is any need for a garden of that character? It would be beneficial, but I do not say that it would be absolutely necessary. We have a great many cases which require continuous attention daily, and which we cannot therefore transfer.

These

- E. H. Binney, M.D.
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- These patients might be allowed to occupy a garden such as you describe during a certain period of the day, whereas they now occupy a verandah, where they are to some extent breathing the indoor space of the hospital. The extension of the ground at the back of the hospital would also prevent the place from being so shut in. The increased space would be of decided benefit, although I do not regard it as essential.
2032. But do you think it would be sufficient compensation for the widening of the street? Certainly not.
2033. You would rather have things remain as they are? Yes, certainly.
2034. Where is the operating-room? On the second floor of the easternmost building.
2035. Then any alteration in the street frontage would not affect it very much? No; it would not affect that portion of the buildings.
2036. What are the purposes to which the three blocks of buildings fronting Macquarie-street are devoted? The northernmost building contains three flats of twenty-two beds each. The lowermost of these is occupied entirely by accident cases—broken legs, fractured skulls, and so forth. The flat above is a general surgical ward for operation cases, such as the removal of tumours and various growths. The flat above is a medical ward for persons suffering from general acute illnesses. The centre block is an entirely administrative block, except that the basement is used as a dispensary. Upon the second floor there is the Board-room on one side, and on the other general offices and quarters of the clerical staff, and the office of the Medical Superintendent. Above that are the Resident Medical Officer's quarters—dining-room, drawing-room, and bedroom. In the southernmost block, the portion corresponding with the accident ward on the other side is devoted to the out-patients. Above that there is another general surgical ward similar to that on the other side, and above that there is a medical ward, each of the latter containing twenty-two beds.
2037. Are these buildings in front devoted to the use of men and women alike? No; those buildings are for male patients. The female patients are in what is called the old south wing—that is, the newest part of the old building. In the central block also there is one ward occupied by women.
2038. *Mr. Wright.*] To what use is the Nightingale wing devoted? It is a living house for the nursing staff and the female employees generally.
2039. Do the whole of the nurses reside in the building now? Yes.
2040. They do not board out? No. We have no female employees boarding out.
2041. No doubt you consider that it would be preferable to have the hospital out of the city altogether? Yes; for the health of patients and for the success of wounds.
2042. Do you consider the pavilion system preferable to the ward system? I think the pavilion system is the better system.
2043. I suppose that in any case it would be almost necessary to have a central infirmary in a city like Sydney for the treatment of accidents? Yes. I think a hospital of the present size is necessary in the city. I form that opinion from the number of acute cases which we have daily to receive, and from the way in which our wards are kept full of acute cases.
2044. You think that a distance of a mile or two in one of the suburbs would present an obstacle to the sending to the institution of some of the acute cases? I think the majority of the acute cases would suffer by travelling a distance. I do not say that that would be so if the patients were travelled by employees of the institution; but if they were travelled by laymen—and that would happen in many cases—there might be some danger.
2045. *Mr. Hoskins.*] You pointed out just now where accident cases were treated;—would not the widening of the road be a serious disadvantage, having regard to the part of the building in which those cases are treated? It would be detrimental to the patients. If the roadway were brought up alongside the staircase, it would also make a great difference in the noise caused by approaching and departing cabs and vehicles. They would be somewhat cramped for space.
2046. I understand you to mean that there would be an obstacle in the way of vehicles approaching the building with patients? There would be no great obstacle, but the vehicles approaching the building as proposed would cause a noise prejudicial to the patients. There would be less space for the play of the vehicles.
2047. You think the increased noise caused by the roadway being nearer the building would tend to retard the progress and recovery of the patients? It would be distressing in the earlier periods of their illnesses, and that would often have a very serious effect upon the patient.
2048. *Mr. Fagan.*] The street is now wood-blocked? Yes.
2049. Supposing the plan before us were carried out, and that the wood-blocks were asphalted, would not the road be in a better condition, so far as the creation of noise is concerned, than it now is? The asphalted would remove one great objection—it would reduce the noise.
2050. Do you think that if the street were widened, and at the same time asphalted, greater noise would be heard in the hospital as the result of traffic than is heard there now? I should say that it would be less than the noise at the present time, owing to the nature of the wood-blocking opposite the hospital, which is very bad.
2051. The noise at present caused is detrimental to the convalescence of patients at times? I would not say that it was detrimental to convalescence—it would not have so much effect at that stage; but it has a serious effect upon patients who are very acutely ill—who are in (say) a high stage of fever, or in the nervous, irritable, condition following shortly after an accident.
2052. And, therefore, the time of their illness would be prolonged? Yes; I may mention one great objection to the noise which has been noted. The fact has been brought under my notice that auscultation has at times been attended by very great difficulty on account of the noise caused by the traffic.
2053. It is impossible to distinguish between the different sounds? It frequently happens that when a doctor is examining a patient he has to wait until the passing vehicle has passed out of hearing, in order to distinguish clearly certain sounds in connection with the heart and lungs.
2054. How would the noise affect patients who have just been operated upon. I understand that a portion of one of the front buildings is devoted to those patients? They would be better without it, because under those conditions one of the essentials next to perfect rest is perfect quietude.
2055. Taking everything into consideration, you, as Medical Superintendent of the Hospital, do not favour the proposal to widen the streets? No.
2056. You think that some steps should be taken to minimise the noise at present caused—that the street should be asphalted for instance? Yes.

2057. *Mr. O'Connor.*] You are satisfied that the widening of the street would result in a considerable degree of discomfort in the hospital? That is my opinion. E. H. Binney,
M.D.

2058. *Mr. Fegan.*] Have you at any time made representations to the Municipal Council of Sydney with regard to the noise resulting from the street traffic? I have spoken to several members of the Board about it. 10 June, 1897.

2059. Do you know whether they have made any representations to the City Council? It has not been reported formally to the City Council, I believe, but the matter has been spoken of. We have several aldermen of the City Council on the Board, and they are quite aware of the inconvenience resulting from the noise.

2060. The noise does not interfere in any way with operation cases? No; it would not matter in those cases, the patients being under chloroform.

Charles Robinson, Principal Shorthand-writer, Debates Staff, Legislative Assembly, sworn, and further examined:—

2061. *Chairman.*] When you were last before the Committee, you gave evidence in a general sense that you believed it to be the practice in the Legislatures of Europe to report their debates from the floor of their respective Chambers;—you were to look into the matter further, with a view to placing additional information before us upon that branch of the question? Since I was last before the Committee I have had an opportunity to look into a number of House of Lords and House of Commons papers on the subject. These papers extend over the past fifteen and twenty years, and bear chiefly upon the contemplated establishment of an official *Hansard* report. Through the British Foreign Office, information was obtained from Ambassadors and Consuls as to the practice of reporting in the Legislatures of various countries of the world. From these reports I have extracted some facts. For instance, the Legislatures in which the reports are taken from the floor of the House are those of the United States, Canada, Japan, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, France, Italy, and Austria. There are also official reports in the Argentine Republic, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Roumania, Servia, Spain, Sweden, and Venezuela. With regard to the latter list, the point from which the reports are taken is not mentioned, but the strong presumption is that in the whole of these cases, they are also taken from the floor of the Chamber. I may mention that there have been four Select Committees of the House of Commons and the House of Lords which have dealt with the question of an official report. I have extracted portions of the evidence which seem to me to bear upon the point. A Committee of the House of Commons considered the question in 1878. One of the witnesses examined was Mr. T. C. Hansard, proprietor of *Hansard's* Parliamentary Debates, and he gave this evidence:— C. Robinson.
10 June, 1897.

Q. If Parliament was to decide upon having a report of its debates on its authority, and you were asked to undertake the duty, could you suggest what part of the House you would wish your reporters to be in? *A.* It would require some alteration. My desire is to look upon the speaker as the centre of sound, and that the reporter should be so placed as to come within the base of the cone; that is to say, that the sound should be directed to the speaker, and be of necessity not quite intercepted, but very nearly intercepted by the reporter; that the reporter, in fact, should hear as well as the speaker.

Mr. W. Saunders, proprietor of the Central News Agency, was also examined:—

Q. Now what would be the result of what you have recommended—namely, an official report;—you say that it requires twenty reporters, and if you bring in twenty official reporters to make an official report, twenty must push out twenty, would they not? *A.* I think it would be essential that those reporters should be on the floor of the House.

Q. If there is to be an official report you consider that the reporters should be officers of the House, and not belong to any newspaper? *A.* Yes.

Q. And that they should be accommodated with seats in the body of the House? *A.* I think that would be essential.

The Right Hon. H. B. W. Brand, Speaker of the House of Commons at the time the Committee had the matter under consideration, gave this evidence:—

Q. Supposing that an official report were determined upon, have you considered the possibility of accommodating the official reporters on the floor of the House? *A.* That is the place where they are usually accommodated in foreign Assemblies, but in our Assembly I do not think there is space for it.

Mr. W. H. Gurney Salter, Shorthand-writer to the House of Commons, and acting member of the firm of Messrs. Gurney, was another witness:—

Q. Then your notion would be that if the House determined to have an official report, it would probably put the reporters in the body of the House? *A.* I think the House, if it had an official report, would be likely, sooner or later, to place them there, because I am confident that if the shorthand writer were placed in any other position there would be occasions when he would not be able to do complete justice to the speakers.

Q. Your evidence amounts to this—that as Members ought to address themselves to the Chair, the nearer the reporter is put to the Chair the better he could hear? *A.* Yes; on the general principle that the shorthand writer ought always to be between the person speaking and the person spoken to as far as possible. I merely ventured to express the opinion that if the House had an official report it would be sure to want as good a one as could be produced, and that anything that could be produced without the very best opportunities for hearing would not be as good a report as the House would desire for an official report.

2062. What was the finding of the Committee from whose minutes of evidence you have just quoted? Speaking from memory, I do not think it then recommended the establishment of an official report; but it did recommend that, in the event of such a report being established, provision should be made for the official reporters upon the floor of the House.

2063. In other words, that if the procedure were similar to the procedure here in that regard, the reports should be taken from the floor of the House? Yes; that is my recollection of the report. I will now read some extracts from evidence taken by a Select Committee of the House of Lords on the subject of official reporting in 1880. The Marquis of Salisbury, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and also Secretary of State for India, was one of the witnesses examined, and gave the following evidence:—

Q. Since your Lordship has been in the House of Lords you have been Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and also Secretary of State for India? *A.* Yes.

Q. Have you any observations to make to the Committee with regard to the effect of the imperfect reporting of the House upon observations made by you in your official capacity? *A.* I think the reporting of the House is defective, and that its defects frequently have injurious effects upon the public interests. The observations made by Ministers in either House

C. Robinson. House of Parliament are taken as official statements of the most precise and formal character, and they are consequently, if they affect any questions of importance, telegraphed at once to any parts of the world which may be interested in the subject matter to which they relate. Those Ministers, therefore, whose departments concern external affairs, Ministers for Foreign Affairs, for India, or for the Colonies, frequently find that the statements which they make in Parliament are telegraphed at once as reported either to Foreign Courts, to the Colonies, or to India. With respect to the Colonies I know nothing, but it has sometimes happened to me that statements of mine misreported, either to India or to Foreign Courts, have produced considerable misconception, and it has more than once happened, though not frequently, that that misconception, before it could be corrected, has produced results which I regretted.

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Q. Have you any suggestions to make to meet the difficulty of which you complain? **A.** It would obviously be impossible to transplant all the reporters into the body of the House. The difficulty could only be met by appointing an official reporter, and that official reporter might sit at the table with the clerks. It would seem a radical remedy, but I believe that it is the course which is followed in all continental legislatures to put the reporter as near as possible to the person whose words he has to report. I believe that at least it would cure two evils—the evil of inaccurate telegraphing, and the evil of inaccurate record. It might undoubtedly not cure the evil of an inaccurate report of the debate for the next morning's papers, but the report that Messrs. Reuter would use, and the report that Messrs. *Hansard* would use, would in each case be accurate.

Q. Then you do not see your way to any other remedy for the evil except an official report? **A.** I see no other way of remedying the inconvenience, except putting the reporter at the table close to the speaker. And as that could not clearly be done for the reporters of all the newspapers, there is no way of carrying out that object except by an official report.

Q. Might not the official reporter sit in the part of the House where the Clerks of the House frequently stand, on a level with the steps to the Throne? **A.** That might be done, but I should have thought that he should sit either at one end or the other of the table. There would be no reason why a small table should not be set up for him just behind the Clerks in the place where the boxes for petitions now stand.

Q. Would not the presence of an official reporter destroy what is very remarkable—what I may almost call the domesticity of the House of Lords? **A.** If the effect of that was to induce the Peers who speak at the table to speak a little louder I should not think that result entirely an evil.

Mr. T. C. Hansard, proprietor of *Hansard's Parliamentary Debates*, was also examined by this Committee.

Q. You think an official reporter would be unable to do justice to his duties, and so discharge his duties properly, unless he was placed either at the table or near it? **A.** I am certain of it.

Mr. Neilson, of the reporting staff of the *Times* was another witness from whose evidence I quote:—

Q. Do you conceive that any system of official reporting could be adopted with advantage? **A.** If my opinion were asked as to the necessity for an official report, I do not know that I could give one. That is a matter upon which your Lordships are alone the judges. But if you ask me as to the proper facilities that should be given to an official reporter, I should say that above all things, your Lordships might, with advantage, employ your own shorthand writer in his own seat for the production of verbatim official reports.

Mr. W. Saunders, proprietor of the Central News Agency was also examined by this Committee:—

Q. Have you any suggestion as to some means to improve the acoustic properties of the House? **A.** I have no suggestions for that, and I think the difficulties in the way of hearing make it essential that there should be reporters on the floor of the House. Without that I do not think it is possible to get a reasonably good report of the proceedings of the House of Lords. No report that we now get is anything like a complete one of the proceedings either of the House of Lords or of the House of Commons.

Mr. James Mould, of the reporting staff of the *Standard*, was also examined:—

Q. Then the only suggestion, in fact, that you have to make is that accommodation should be found for reporters on the floor of the House? **A.** That is the idea which passed through my mind.

Mr. Taylor, surveyor of the Office of Works for the London District, gave some evidence as to provision of the necessary accommodation:—

Q. Would you explain to us your other plans? **A.** This (producing another plan), shows two boxes at the Throne end. It is proposed to place an official reporter in each of those boxes, or any number of reporters according to the length of the plan. This (producing it), is a drawing of the proposed box in which the reporter would sit, showing the height at which he would be placed. It is proposed to take the reporter up three steps so that he might sit so as to see comfortably over here at the back (explaining it on the plan). This box was intended to be made quite moveable, so that it could stand upon the carpet.

Q. Will you proceed to explain the other plans? **A.** The next is a plan for a seat in the centre of the House. It is proposed to place three reporters in that position (describing it). That, I believe myself, to be the best position which has been proposed for hearing.

Q. But at that point in the centre, coloured blue, there would only be accommodation for three reporters? **A.** Only three.

Q. And that could only be utilised in the event of a system of official reporting or semi-official reporting being adopted? **A.** That, I take it, will be the case. Of course, three more might be placed by the removal of a bench here (pointing to the plan).

Q. Can you put seats for reporters in that space, coloured blue, without interfering with the number of seats for Peers seated in the House? **A.** I think so.

Q. Between the Clerks and the first bench? **A.** Yes.

Mr. W. H. Gurney Salter, Shorthand-writer to the House of Lords, was also examined:—

Q. Have you experience also of the reporters' gallery? **A.** I have written in the reporters' gallery in former years, not lately, but I have written there quite sufficiently often to be able to express an opinion as to its adaptation for the purposes of hearing.

Q. When you attend as shorthand-writer of the House, do you write at the table inside the bar? **A.** Yes; in taking down peerage cases. Judgments I write at the bar.

Q. Will you tell us which position you prefer for purposes of hearing? **A.** The position at the bar is the best of the three for hearing. The gallery is not at all to be compared as a place for hearing with the position either at the bar or at the table just inside the bar.

2064. What was the finding in the case of the Committee of the House of Lords? No determination was arrived at to establish an official report at that time.

2065. Therefore the question of the place from which the report should be taken was not dealt with? No; that would be quite subsidiary, seeing that no distinct recommendation was made in favour of an official report. I have also some extracts from evidence taken by a Joint Select Committee of the House of Lords and the House of Commons upon the "Cost and Method of the Publication of the Debates and Proceedings in Parliament." The Committee sat in 1888, and the Right Hon. Lord Halsbury, Lord High Chancellor, was among the witnesses examined. He gave this evidence:—

Q. Do you think it would be advantageous if there were an official report that the official reporter should be allowed to sit at the table? **A.** Certainly; I think that would be one great advantage of it; that there would be an official reporter who would be able practically to hear everything. I am quite satisfied that the reporters cannot hear at present. I have, during my short experience of the House or Lords, had occasion to notice that the reverse has been attributed to me to that which I have said.

Q. In fact, the acoustic properties of the House of Lords militate very much against accurate reporting? **A.** Very much so. I hardly know how they make their reports. I should add that the defects are also partly due to the mode in which the speakers in the House of Lords speak. I need not tell the Committee that the theory which the House of Commons practically observes is that everybody addresses Mr. Speaker. Now, I am the Speaker of the House of Lords, but nobody addresses me. I do not think it would be regular that they should. In theory the Lords address each other. They say "My Lords." They do not say "My Lord Chancellor"; whereas in the House of Commons they say "Mr. Speaker."

Q.

Q. Where would you propose for the reporter to be in the House of Lords;—should he go into the body of the House? A. I think he might sit where one of the Clerks at the table sits now; but when you put that question to me at the moment, I am bound to say that it is a question which I have not considered. It does not occur to me how to answer your Lordship at the moment. I suppose that anybody who had to perform the functions of an official reporter would like to try some experiments as to where he could best hear, and that wherever he could best hear with the least inconvenience to the Members of the House, and with the least disfigurement to the aesthetic properties of the House with respect to whatever box or bench or table was to be placed for him, that would be the place selected; but, if you ask me, I should suppose the centre of the table would be the best place.

Q. Those who relieved him having to come to the bar? A. Yes.

Q. Have you taken this into consideration, that in the case of Lord Salisbury's speech, or any other very important speech, it would be taken down *verbatim* for the newspapers, so that it would be *verbatim* against *verbatim*? A. Yes; you would have two men exercising their functions against each other, and you must suppose that the one who is in the best position for hearing, always supposing they are men of equal *bond fides*, would give a more absolutely accurate report than the reporter in the box where he is now placed, where it is always a matter of surprise to me that he can hear anything at all.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, K.G., was another witness examined:—

Q. Your Grace is aware that in 1878 a Committee reported that if the report were to be official it must be made by a reporter in the body of the House, as its accuracy could not be depended upon in the gallery? A. The reporters say that they cannot hear in the gallery, and no doubt it is necessary for any good report that the reporter should be in the best place for hearing. I believe the Clerks' side of the table is about the best place for hearing in the House.

Q. A suggestion has been made that the reporter should have a small desk, and sit behind the Clerks' boxes, into which they put petitions;—would that be satisfactory? A. I think that that would be about the best hearing place in the House. In that case they would require a small table, or an extension of the table. That would be, in fact, just behind the Clerk of the Parliament and the Reading Clerk.

Mr. W. H. Gurney Salter, Shorthand-writer to the Houses, gave this evidence:—

Q. You spoke of making an official report on one occasion of the proceedings from the gallery of the House of Commons; do you think that that position would enable you, if an official report were required, to perform the work satisfactorily? A. It is always found in writing in the gallery that there are some speakers of whose speeches only parts are well heard, some sentences being heard and some not altogether heard—a state of things which in an official report would be inadmissible.

Q. Then, in the case of both Houses, if it were found necessary to have an official report, do you consider it would be necessary for the reporter to sit in the body of the House? A. Yes; in the House of Commons some speakers are at times not fully heard in the galleries. I take it that for an official report it would practically be necessary that everything should be heard. The reporter must not have to guess what the speaker meant. But of course the hearing is vastly better in the House of Commons than in the House of Lords.

The Right Honorable Arthur Peel was another witness:—

Q. Then on the whole, though not negating it as an impracticable plan, you are against any such change as would bring the reporters in the House of Commons on to the floor of the House? A. I am against such a change, because I do not see the necessity of having that accurate, stenographic report of all that passes, which the arrangement implies. If, however, the Committee were to desire it, I should say that arrangements could be made to carry out the wishes of the Committee without undue interference with the convenience of Members.

Q. I should like to ask you whether you would have any objection to shorthand writers in the body of the House, upon the ground that it is undesirable that you should introduce another and distinct element or class of man into such very close proximity with Members of the House? A. No; I should look upon the reporter if he were introduced, as an official.

Mr. Saunders, M.P., proprietor of the Central News Agency, gave this evidence:—

Q. I would presume that your experience is like mine. I find that if I change over from one side of the House to the other, it makes a very remarkable difference in the way in which I hear the speech? A. Undoubtedly. The reporter ought to be facing the speaker, and for that reason I would make the seats reversible, so that the reporter could change to the side opposite the speaker on either side of the House wherever he was speaking from.

2066. What was the finding of that particular Committee? The matter was still left open.

2067. The main principle was not decided? No; the House of Commons appointed another Committee to consider the same question in 1893. Mr. William Leycester, leader of the *Times* Reporting Staff in the House of Commons, was examined before the Committee, and in reply to a question whether he had thought at all about the suggestions which had been made for placing the official reporter on the floor of the House, he said:—

I have seen the suggestion made. He would hear better on the floor of the House than he would upstairs undoubtedly.

The same witness also gave this evidence:—

Q. Has your attention been given to the reporting of the House of Lords? A. Yes; I am responsible for the House of Lords in exactly the same degree as for the House of Commons.

Q. That is now in a much more satisfactory position than formerly, is it not, as regards hearing? A. So far as the official reporter is concerned no doubt it is so.

Q. Where does he sit? A. He has a small table just behind the Clerk on the floor of the House.

Q. How long has that system been in operation? A. I forget exactly; but for two or three Sessions certainly.

Q. Was it introduced after the Committee of 1888? A. Yes.

Mr. Frank Hoole, a member of the staff of the Press Association, also a member of Mr. Hansard's staff, and subsequently of the staff of the *Hansard* Union, was examined by the same Committee on the 17th April, 1893, and in replying to a question as to what should be done in the event of a speaker not attending to the revision of his speech, he said:—

There is a very important point in connection with such a report as I propose which I should like to mention. I think under those circumstances the reporter ought to be on the floor of the House.

I think that fairly represents the body of the evidence taken by these four Committees upon that particular point.

2068. Has an official report been yet established? There is a semi-official report, which is produced by contract. I believe that the report of the *Times* is, after revision, adopted as the official report.

2069. But the report is not produced by officials of the House? No.

2070. Do the reporters in the British House of Commons and House of Lords still take their reports outside of the Chamber? In the House of Lords the reporter is in the Chamber, but in the House of Commons the reports are taken from the Press Gallery.

2071. There are certain Legislatures in other parts of the world in which, as you have pointed out, the reports are taken at a table on the floor of the Chamber. It is to be presumed that the system worked satisfactorily in those cases, or it would have been discontinued? I believe that to be the case. The

evidence

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2072. There is a sufficient number of instances, at all events, to prove that the practice is not an unusual one? It is certainly not unusual. I am inclined to think that it is the rule.

2073. Turning to another phase of the question, your last evidence had reference to accommodation in the proposed new Houses of Parliament; but should the Committee deem it advisable to report on the enlargement of the existing buildings, could you suggest any alteration that would give better accommodation to the shorthand-writing department? If the reporting were done from the gallery as at present I should certainly hope that the Committee would recommend that we have better accommodation than we now possess. In the room which is used by the general body of the reporters there are no less than five doors, three of them leading into corridors, and at times three or four reporters have been taken severely ill with cold in one night. I conclude, therefore, that the illness arose from the extremely draughty nature of the room.

2074. Suppose the Committee determined to advise the retention of the present Chambers, or their modification, would you require more room for reporting than you now possess; I am not now talking of transcription? No.

2075. What do you say then in the matter of transcription? More room is required.

2076. How much more room would you require than you at present possess? We do not require so very much more room, but accommodation is badly needed which would be capable of ventilation, and in connection with which it would also be possible to exclude draught.

2077. What you suggest is more in the nature of a readjustment than an extension of the area? Yes.

2078. At the same time you think an extension of area, if any alterations were made, would be advisable? I think there should be some extension as regards the typewriting boxes. The superficial area occupied by the two gentlemen who occupy one of the typewriting boxes—that is, the typewriter and the reporter—is about equal to that which a humane man would use to tie up a good-sized dog in. It is just 16 feet. Members of my staff have to work in these boxes with their hats and coats on in certain states of the weather. I refer more particularly to periods when the wind is very high and cold. The boxes are situated in a long corridor, in which there are shafts of air coming up from below at each end, as well as from windows above. Mr. Speaker Abbott was good enough to give me this accommodation at my request, and I recognise that it is the best that could be given under the circumstances.

2079. In any readjustment which may be made, if you obtain a third more space than that which you now have, would that be sufficient? Amply sufficient. I was also about to suggest that if the reporting were done from the floor of the House the present space occupied by the staff for the purposes of transcription and revision would not be convenient.

2080. Before we go into that aspect of the case the Committee would be glad to hear your own opinion as to the advisableness of taking the report from the floor of the Chamber. Have you had any experience which would enable you to express an opinion upon that point? Yes. I myself have reported from the Press gallery and from our own gallery. I have also reported speeches and questions from the Ministerial chair, together with evidence at the bar of the House. I may also mention that during the sittings of the Federal Convention of 1891, the staff reported the whole of its proceedings from the floor. I am able to state, therefore, from experience that the floor of the House is incomparably the best place for hearing.

2081. Your opinion is, then, that, in order to obtain efficient work, the floor of the House is unquestionably the best location for the reporters? It is decidedly the best place for hearing.

2082. Supposing the floor of the House to be the best place, from your standpoint, for the production of an official report, where would you suggest that the staff should be provided with the space required for transcription;—I presume it would be necessary that the space occupied for that purpose should be convenient to the Chamber? Yes. It has occurred to me to suggest to the Committee that a building might perhaps be erected on the vacant space at the north-west corner between the open Parliamentary yard and the Lending Branch of the Free Public Library.

2083. You mean between the additions made to the building several years ago and the Lending Branch of the Free Public Library? Yes. The building might extend from those additions towards the street.

2084. How would you propose to reach a building in that position? There is a corridor leading to the room occupied by Ministerial supporters, in which there is a coloured window on the left. I think the verandah from that point would lead to such a building as I suggest. It does not strike me as being the best possible place, but it appears to me to be the only place available. I may mention that in looking round the other day I noticed a room allotted to Labour Members of the House. It is a room, 10 or 12 feet wide, for the accommodation of from thirty to forty gentlemen, and it occurred to me that your attention might, perhaps, have been called to the inadequacy of the accommodation in that respect. Presuming that to be the case, and that better accommodation were provided elsewhere for the Labour Members, that room would become available, and the reporting arrangements might then be brought still nearer the Chamber.

2085. If you had two rooms in that situation would it be sufficient for the requirements of your staff? Two rooms would not be sufficient, but it seemed to me that the room allotted to Labour Members must be too small for the accommodation of such a large number of gentlemen, and in the event of the Committee recommending the provision of better accommodation for them, it struck me that the room they now occupy might be utilised in connection with the provision of accommodation for our staff upon the ground floor.

2086. The room to which you refer and the room now occupied by the Secretary for Lands would not be sufficient for the requirements of your staff? Not of themselves.

2087. There is another room further on in the corridor, which is now occupied by the Secretary for Public Works;—do you think those three rooms would be sufficient. We should really want four rooms.

2088. There is no doubt, I suppose, but that that particular spot would be the best in which to provide you with the necessary accommodation? You indicate the best position, undoubtedly.

2089. Supposing your staff were accommodated there, your rooms upstairs would be liberated? We should not, in that event, require any of the three rooms which we at present occupy.

090. There would be some space there, then, which could be devoted to another purpose—to the accom-

modation

modation of the general Press, for instance? If the official reporting were done from the floor of the House there would be four more seats available in the gallery for the accommodation of the Press. The three rooms which we now use could also be utilised for the same purpose.

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2091. Therefore, although you might be provided with accommodation on the ground floor, there would be some compensation in the liberation of the space you now occupy on the first floor? Yes.

2092. You would prefer the location I have indicated if it could be made available? Yes.

2093. Would the members of your staff enter the Chamber to take their "turns" through the same door with Members of the House? That would be the only possible arrangement, I think.

2094. Would it not be much better to have your own door? That would not be necessary, and there is only one entrance on that side of the Chamber.

2095. The members of your staff would not require to proceed with such promptitude from their transcription-rooms to the place assigned them on the floor of the House as to cause them to regard any delay in entering the Chamber as a matter of importance? Your objection would be fully met by the necessity which arises for the reporter being in his place shortly in advance of the time at which he is actually due.

2096. Then we need not discuss the question of providing a second entrance for your staff? I do not think there would be any necessity for that.

2097. *Mr. Lee.*] If the rooms to which the Chairman has referred could be appropriated for the requirements of your staff, in what part of the Chamber would you suggest that the report should be taken? The best position for hearing in the House, as at present constructed, is at the foot of the Table.

2098. *Chairman.*] Is that the position which was occupied by your staff during the sittings of the Federal Convention? Very nearly. We then sat rather nearer to the cross-benches, but I think the foot of the Table would be the better place, because when we sat close to the benches we could hear the conversation proceeding between Members immediately behind us. I think it would be much better to place the reporters at the Table itself.

2099. Had you three reporters at the table at which you reported the proceedings of the Convention? Yes; one reporter would be taking a check note, a second would be taking his turn, and when there were three there the third reporter would be on the point of relieving.

2100. Were the reports taken from that point satisfactory? I have never heard anything to the contrary. The Queensland and South Australian Representatives in the Convention spoke to me in terms of high commendation of the reports, and the Premier of Victoria sent a member of the Victorian *Hansard* Staff to our gallery for a fortnight in order that he might see how we did our work. I had also representations of a very complimentary nature from the West Australian and Tasmanian representatives, from which I judge that the reporting on the occasion to which you refer was at least as good as that which obtains elsewhere.

2101. *Mr. Lee.*] In the event of your suggestion being adopted, that the reporters should sit at the end of the Table, they would be facing Mr. Speaker? Yes.

2102. Would not that at once stand in the way of the suggestion that the reporter should both see and hear the speaker;—you must bear in mind that a number of Members address the House from the cross-benches? To meet that contingency I would suggest that a kind of reversible chair should be used, so that, if necessary, the reporter could actually see the speaker. That would only become a necessity when the speaker's voice was very indistinct. If there were reversible chairs the reporter would be able to swing round and take his notes in front of the speaker. It would rarely be necessary, I think, to do so, because the voices of Members speaking from the cross-benches would necessarily come towards the centre of the Chamber. I do not think there would be the least difficulty in hearing in the position I have indicated.

2103. Would not the reporters' chairs be seriously in the way of Members addressing the House from the cross-benches? That is a matter for Members themselves to decide. I may mention that Mr. Deakin, during the sittings of the Convention, invariably spoke from our table, his seat being close to the seats assigned to us.

2104. He spoke, I presume, from the side of your table? Yes; but I cannot, of course, express an opinion in reference to any matter affecting the convenience of Members.

2105. Do you not think that you would both see and hear equally well if your reporting gallery or box were placed in the position at present occupied by the Sergeant-at-Arms? Certainly not, because the voices of Members speaking from the cross-benches would be travelling away from us. In that event the only speakers we should be able to distinctly hear would be those who addressed that end of the Chamber.

2106. Would you be in any better position than that which you now occupy if you had boxes immediately fronting the bars to the right and left of Mr. Speaker's chair? I should not myself recommend that position, because there is generally a large amount of noise there. There is also a great deal of traffic in and out of the Chamber. Then, speaking from my observation, there is a tendency on the part of some Members to address themselves more particularly to the cross-benches. That may arise from the shape of the Chamber, or it may be that Ministers think it is of no use for them to address the Opposition, and *vice versa*, and they therefore address their arguments in the direction in which they think they will have most effect.

2107. Your views are expressed in respect of the Chamber as it now stands? Entirely so.

2108. If the Chamber were enlarged, you might have occasion to change your views as to the position which should be occupied by the official reporters? Yes. My view that the end of the Table would be the best position is largely governed by the length of the Chamber. A Chamber such as that shown upon the plans before you would have greater proportionate breadth than the present, and the position I indicate in the present Chamber might not, in a Chamber of that shape, prove to be the best spot for the reporter.

2109. *Chairman.*] Can you inform the Committee whether, during the sittings of the Federal Convention in 1891, the presence of the reporters in the Chamber was in any way regarded as inconvenient or objectionable? I never heard any representations in that direction. The reporters were placed there by Sir Henry Parkes, the President of the Convention, without any suggestions from me. I never heard that it was an arrangement unacceptable to Members of the Convention.

2110. The Federal Convention of 1891 consisted of forty-five Members. The present Legislative Assembly consists of 125 Members, with an ordinary attendance of possibly eighty or ninety. That being so, you would have ordinarily in the Chamber twice the number of Representatives that you had during the sittings of the

C. Robinson. the Convention of 1891 ;—would that circumstance in any way affect the view you have expressed ? I do not think so. I think the unoccupied floor space now is as large as, if it is not larger than at the time of the sittings of the Convention.

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2111. Were not some of the benches removed ? I believe they were to give accommodation to the public.

2112. A smaller number of representatives had to be accommodated, and it was necessary to afford some accommodation for the public ? Yes.

2113. *Mr. Lee.*] That circumstance would not lead you to alter the opinion you have expressed as to the position which should be occupied by your staff on the floor ? No.

2114. Then it must follow that the transcription rooms must be convenient to the Chamber ? It would be very desirable.

2115. If the reporting were done from the floor of the Chamber, the rooms already indicated by the Chairman would be the most suitable for the accommodation of the staff ? Yes, if available.

2116. *Chairman.*] You have hitherto confined your remarks to reporting in the Assembly Chamber ;—do your remarks in reference to the location of *Hansard* staff upon the floor of the Chamber apply also to the Legislative Council ? The Council Chamber is a much more suitable Chamber for hearing, and I do not think that the position now occupied in that Chamber by the Usher of the Black Rod would be the most suitable position for reporters. We are able to hear much better in the gallery in the Council Chamber than in our gallery in the Assembly Chamber. I think, indeed, that at the present time there are only two Members of the Legislative Council who are not perfectly heard. One of them, however, occupies an exceptionally important position—I refer to Dr. Garran. We hear him with extreme difficulty. I presume that if the Council want the best procurable report it will be for them to determine whether they will give the means of securing it.

2117. Would there be sufficient room upon the floor of the Legislative Council for the accommodation of reporters ? My impression is that there would be sufficient floor space for the purpose on either side of the President's Chair.

2118. There appears to be no difficulty in regard to reporting in connection with the Council Chamber ? As I have said, there are at the present time only two Members whom we have any difficulty in hearing.

2119. Would you, as Principal Shorthand-writer suggest, then, that things should be allowed to remain as they are as regards the reporting arrangements in that Chamber ? It does not appear to me to be a matter upon which I ought to express an opinion. We naturally wish to do the best work possible. That is the only interest we have in the matter. It may be that the personnel of the Council will change. When Sir William Manning was a Member of the Council, and took an active part in the debates, we were at our wits end to know how to produce a report ; in fact, the matter became so serious that I had to make representations to the President to protect ourselves from the imputation of partiality or carelessness. Members who are not fully heard are apt to attribute faults in the report to the reporter rather than to any other circumstance.

2120. *Mr. Lee.*] As a matter of fact, you could continue to report the proceedings of the Legislative Council satisfactorily from your present position in the gallery ? Yes.

2121. There is no urgent reason why the arrangement should be altered ? I think an alteration might be made with advantage ; but, as I have pointed out, the difficulty attending reporting in that Chamber is not nearly so serious as in the Legislative Assembly.

2122. I suppose the reason of the difficulty not being so great arises from the comparative smallness of the Chamber ? I think that is very likely to be the case.

2123. The Chamber is much shorter, for instance, than is the Legislative Assembly Chamber ? I believe it is.

2124. Therefore, the sound of the voice would not have such a great distance to travel ? Quite so.

2125. The construction of the Chamber is on more modern principles than is that of the Legislative Assembly Chamber ? Yes.

2126. Supposing it were advisable to place your staff upon the floor of the Chamber, there would be ample room for it away from the table if the present size of the Chamber were retained ? Ample room, in my judgment.

2127. So that really the alteration could be carried out without any change in the size of the Chamber ? Yes.

2128. *Chairman.*] If alterations were made in the Council Chamber, is it, in your opinion, desirable that your staff should be located on the floor of the Chamber, in the interests of accurate and competent work ? Yes.

2129. *Mr. Lee.*] Do you consider the question of such importance that in the event of a new Council Chamber being erected, or in the event of an addition being made to the present Chamber, provision should be made for your staff on the floor ? I think provision should be made for the staff on the floor in either case.

2130. Do you press the point ? Yes ; and if you will bear with me for a moment I will point out why. Dr. Garran, for instance, fills the office of Vice-President of the Executive Council ; and I take it that anything which he may say ought to be known equally well by Members of the Lower House as by Members of the Upper House. One of the "make-believes" of Parliament is that neither House can know what takes place in the other until after it has appointed a Committee to search the records. As a matter of fact, however, the Members of each House find it helpful to know the reasons which lead to the determination of questions. Considering that the Press cannot always spare space for full reports of the Council, I should suppose that the members of that body would be interested in having their arguments recorded—that is, supposing they wished to exercise any influence on public opinion. With regard to the Assembly, also, the official report is often the only vehicle of communication between a Member of that House and his constituents, and it affords sometimes the only means by which he can vindicate his political consistency against calumnious aspersions. If either House wants the best report procurable, it is expedient that it should place the reporter in a position where he can hear best.

2131. There can be no question as to the general accuracy of the reports of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly Chamber ; it is notorious that they have killed more than one man politically ? The record, of course, cuts both ways. It is a weapon of offence and of defence.

2132. Your contention is that the reporting to be of value must be strictly accurate, and you find, from the

the position which your staff occupy at the present time, particularly in the Legislative Assembly Chamber, that it is impossible to furnish reports with that accuracy which the circumstances demand? With the accuracy we desire. Only the other day, Mr. Nicholson, in the Legislative Assembly Chamber, made a speech in reference to the administration of the Coal Mines Regulation Act. It is a subject upon which he is specially qualified to speak, but much of what he said we could not hear, because he spoke immediately below our gallery. He may not know that we have produced an incomplete report. At the same time it is a report with which I am by no means satisfied.

2133. Still it is the best report you were able to give under the conditions? Under the conditions in which we were placed.

2134. If your staff were situated upon the floor of the House, you think you could invariably give a verbatim report? Yes. I know from my experience in taking notes at the bar that we could hear almost every Member in the position I have indicated. I think we could hear even better than do Members themselves, because it is our special responsibility to hear, and we are also trained to listen.

2135. Are you so trained as to follow the utterances of the speaker, and at the same time to ignore the fire of interjections which sometimes goes on? We ignore interjections which are inconsequential.

2136. Do you think that the constant interjections would be likely to interfere with your reporting if you were taking notes upon the floor of the Chamber? I do not think the interferences in that case would be any greater from the source to which you refer than it is at the present time in our gallery.

2137. You must bear in mind that closer proximity to the speaker would involve closer proximity to those surrounding him? Yes.

2138. Can you give us a notable instance which could be placed on record in which your report has been incomplete by reason of your having to take notes in your present gallery? I remember two occasions on which Mr. Speaker rose in his place and threatened an Honorable Member with instant removal unless he apologised for words of heat and disorder. There were on each occasion three reporters in our gallery, not one of whom had any idea of what the Member guilty of disorder had actually said, or indeed that he had spoken at all, until the Member himself admitted that he had used certain words and had tendered an apology to the Chair. I mention the circumstance to show how completely one half of the House is shut out from us in our present position. On another occasion, a Member, who spoke immediately below the gallery, complained to me that his speech had been very largely curtailed, and he attributed the curtailment to partiality. It was a speech which he delivered at about 5 o'clock in the morning, when the reporters were no doubt tired. But, in point of fact, the speech was delivered from a point immediately under our gallery, and we reported all that we could hear of it. On another occasion a gentleman delivered a speech from the same position, which we could not hear. I do not know whether we attributed anything ridiculous to him or not, but on the following afternoon he came to the House in a state of fervid indignation and denounced us very roundly. We could not even hear intelligently his explanation, which was made from the same position in the House. My recollection is that the same Member once spoke twice on the same afternoon, and that a member of the staff had to go downstairs and ask him what he had said. I do not think we should be called upon to make up our report in that way. It ought to be a strictly independent report. I am aware that public men everywhere are often indignant at being misrepresented, because it does not occur to them that the injury done is not wilful or inadvertent. When leader of the *Herald* staff I once had to call upon the late Sir Henry Parkes, who pointed to several letters he had been compelled to write to remove a wrong impression caused by an erroneous report of his speech in the Assembly the night before. He was the more annoyed because he had sat up all night, and was harassed by the pressure of more important matters. The late Sir Robert Wisdom, when Attorney-General under Sir Henry Parkes, once bitterly complained that one of the leading journals had completely misrepresented what he said, and then made that the text of an unscrupulous leading article attacking him; and he proceeded to read from *Hansard* the words he had uttered in the speech referred to. The real explanation of the trouble probably was not newspaper venom as he supposed, but that the *Hansard* reporter was seated in that case where he could hear, and the other was not. I mention these, not as exceptional cases, but as illustrations of what has frequently happened, and because it must be within your knowledge that each of the gentlemen aggrieved was singularly gifted with the faculty of clear thinking and uninvolved speech. To show more fully what I mean, if you will suppose that the *Daily Telegraph* and *Hansard* were each fully reporting a speech by Sir George Dibbs or Mr. Lyne from their place at the head of the Opposition benches it would not surprise me if the Leader of the Opposition were to get up and denounce the stupidity of the *Hansard*, and extol the skill and intelligence of the *Daily Telegraph* reporter. I am careful not to publish anything of which I have a reasonable doubt, and that may be one reason, coupled with the good-will and forbearance of Members, why there are so few complaints. I must have sent dozens of letters and requests to Opposition Members to speak from the front of the table; but they must speak from the place where they catch Mr. Speaker's eye, and for some long time past I have ceased to make such requests lest I should come to be regarded in the light of a nuisance. You may have been present in the Chamber at times when Mr. Speaker himself has said that he could not hear the debate. *Hansard* gallery is badly placed for hearing from the left cross-benches. Fortunately most of the Labour Members are experienced and forcible speakers, so that we get on much better than if they were men of less inferior physique. I may, perhaps, mention this difficulty—that we are unable to identify, and sometimes to hear their interjections; and an interjection often owes its significance to the man who utters it, quite as much as to the fact that it shunts the Member speaking on to a new line of thought. A Session or two ago, Mr. Hughes, stung by some remarks of Mr. Crick, delivered a speech in vindication of the Labour Party, which roused the enthusiasm of the cross-benches and adherents of the Government. Mr. Hughes himself did not complain, but I did not think we did full justice to all the points of that speech. There are some speeches so concise and closely reasoned that, if you lose a word you must drop one or more sentences; others, loosely put together, may be rather improved by condensation. It may naturally be thought that the remedy for this is to allow Members to revise their speeches, as is done in most other places. The drawback to that would be that you would have less assurance that the report was perfectly independent, and that all Members were treated alike. It would, necessarily, give rise to delay in publication. The majority of Members would not care for the trouble which it would involve; and I can hardly conceive that Mr. Carruthers or Mr. Reid, for example (whose speeches, as containing an exposition of the Government policy, would necessarily be the most important), would ever find time to revise what they said; and if they did it would not be remarkable if the members of

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of the Opposition should, from that very fact, suspect that the report had been tampered with. On the other hand, what is called a private Member, with cultivated literary taste, having plenty of leisure, might, without altering the sense of anything he had said, cause considerable expenditure in correcting proofs for purposes of mere embellishment. It is for these reasons that I think it is better to leave to the principal shorthand-writer a duty which in Members' own hands might possibly be regarded as drudgery, and also that a report not necessarily perfectly accurate in every particular is to be preferred to one which would not be fully trusted. I have no doubt that the official staff, working under a strict sense of responsibility and having opportunity to fully inform themselves of the business of Parliament, are capable of producing a report which shall come near to absolute accuracy.

2139. *Mr. Black.*] Do you think that a speaker such as the gentleman to whom you referred could be heard anywhere under any circumstances? Yes; I think we should be able to hear him if we were on the same level. If we are behind the speaker we get no help from seeing his face when we cannot fully hear his voice.

2140. *Mr. Lee.*] How many reporters are in your gallery at one and the same time? Three when a "turn" is being relieved. There are usually only two there.

2141. How often are the "turns" relieved? It depends much upon the business in hand. If both Houses are sitting the "turns" vary from twenty minutes to half an hour. There have been times when it has been necessary to extend the "turns" to even two hours. Then again at other times we reduce them to five minutes.

2142. Is it necessary to keep three members of the staff in the gallery constantly? No; my business in the gallery is to take a check note to enable me to complete my revision of the proofs on the following day. Then there is the gentleman who is taking his turn for, say, twenty minutes, and just before he leaves the gallery there would be another reporter there to take his place. Practically, there are always two members of the staff in the gallery; but for the reason I have explained there must be sitting accommodation for three.

2143. If there were three members of your staff at the Table, would not their passing in and out of the Chamber prove an inconvenience to honorable Members? It is a matter entirely for Members of the House to determine whether it would be inconvenient to them. But in most cases elsewhere where an official report is produced the usual number of reporters is 12. In Denmark there are 23 reporters; in Spain, 19; in Sweden, 51; in Japan, 44.

2144. But are the reporters in those cases accommodated on the floor of the Chamber? Presumably. In Japan the number of the reporters engaged in each House is twenty-two. Two reporters relieve in relays of fifteen minutes in the Upper House, and of ten minutes in the House of Representatives.

2145. *Chairman.*] You have dealt with the question of the transcription accommodation in the Assembly Chamber—what have you to say as to the transcription accommodation in connection with the Council Chamber? We have two transcription rooms there at present, and those under present arrangements are quite satisfactory. But as soon as the Upper House rises—and it generally rises before the Assembly House—the whole staff is transferred to the Assembly gallery, and it is on that account that we require larger accommodation on the Assembly side.

2146. If sufficient room were given you adjacent to the Assembly Chamber for transcription purposes, would it be possible to do away with any of the transcribing rooms in connection with the Council Chamber? If reporting were done from the floor of the Lower House, it would be most desirable that arrangements should be made under which transcription could be done on the lower floor near the Chamber, if only to economise the time of the reporters.

2147. If transcription accommodation were afforded near the Legislative Assembly Chamber, would you still require accommodation near the Legislative Council Chamber? We should still want two rooms there, as at present. We have two small rooms there, which are immediately behind our gallery.

2148. Then all that you would require would be readjustment of the accommodation, if the reporting were done on the floor of the Council Chamber also? Yes; if the reporting were still done in the gallery in that Chamber, the existing arrangements would be quite convenient.

2149. *Mr. Trickett.*] You have no doubt observed that from time to time many persons have contemplated the establishment of a daily *Hansard*;—have you considered that proposal at all? I have been familiar with the proposal for many years; but I cannot say that I have thought much about it.

2150. Do you favour the proposal? I do not either favour it or oppose it. It is a matter concerning which I feel that I ought not to express an opinion.

2151. There is, I believe, a daily *Hansard* in South Australia, and in the event of a daily *Hansard* being established here, how would the calculations you have made as to the space required fit in with the change? Practically, the only difference it would make would be this—it would be necessary to enlarge the reporting staff proportionately. We should probably require somewhat larger rooms for transcription, but there would not be any appreciable difference in the accommodation required.

2152. I suppose it would be quite practicable to issue a daily *Hansard* if you had a sufficient number of reporters? Anything of the kind would be practicable if Parliament cared to provide the money.

2153. Do you know how the official report is done in South Australia—is it done by the Government? The Government have had a contract for many years with the newspapers there—sometimes with one newspaper, and sometimes with the other.

2154. You do not think that much extra space would be required if a daily *Hansard* were eventually established here? There would not be much additional space required beyond that which the Chairman has suggested. His suggestion, I understand, was that our present accommodation should be increased by one-third. That would afford an ample margin to cover such a contingency as you have in view.

2155. I suppose it would not be practicable to publish a daily *Hansard* with your present accommodation? Our staff would not be large enough to do the work. In England they have eighteen or twenty reporters to produce a report. We have ten who report the Debates, Select Committees, and Royal Commissions. If you established a daily *Hansard* here you would require to have a larger staff.

2156. Is there a daily *Hansard* published in London? I think that Eyre and Spottiswoode have a contract in connection with which practically *The Times'* reports are used. For some years the state of things as regards *Hansard* has been in a transition state. An agitation has been on foot there for the establishment of an official report for the last fifteen years. Some special arrangements have been recently made, but whether or not they are satisfactory I do not know. I am under the impression that the existing arrangement is regarded as merely tentative.

2157.

2157. As far as your knowledge goes, is there a general tendency towards the establishment of daily *Hansards*? I am not aware that there is. C. Robinson.
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2158. The cases which you have instanced in which such a large number of reporters are engaged would probably be cases in which a daily *Hansard* is published? I think it is very likely; and it may also be explained by difference of dialects. I do not know why such a multitude of reporters would be necessary unless there be a daily *Hansard*. Even then the number is apparently in excess of requirements.
2159. Would there be any difficulty in checking the reports for the purposes of a daily *Hansard* to ensure correctness? The report could not be revised and checked with the same minute care which is bestowed upon the present report. The copy would have to go straight from the reporter to the newspaper office. It would, no doubt, be a substantially accurate report as newspaper reports go.
2160. *Mr. Black.*] You said just now, in reply to Mr. Trickett, that a daily *Hansard* could be brought out if the Government would provide the necessary money? No doubt.
2161. Could it not be brought out without cost;—you know, for instance, that the Government go to great expense in advertising in the various newspapers throughout the Colony? I presume you are referring to the idea mentioned by Sir John Robertson some years ago, that of using the *Gazette* practically as a newspaper, in which the Government would do its own advertising and publish the reports of the proceedings of Parliament.
2162. I myself have made a suggestion on several occasions that the Government should do its own advertising and distribute the newspaper free of cost. They would be recouped, I take it, by the provision of such a grand advertising medium? Has it occurred to you to consider how you would get the newspaper circulated.
2163. I would have the newspaper distributed free;—I would send it into every household in the Colony? Making the advertisements pay the cost, I presume. I have not considered the matter sufficiently to justify me in expressing an opinion.

FRIDAY, 11 JUNE, 1897.

Present:—

THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esq. (CHAIRMAN).

The Hon. FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHERY.
The Hon. JAMES HOSKINS.
The Hon. CHARLES JAMES ROBERTS, C.M.G.
The Hon. WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT.
The Hon. DANIEL O'CONNOR.
HENRY CLARKE, Esq.

CHARLES ALFRED LEE, Esq.
JOHN LYONEL FEGAN, Esq.
THOMAS HENRY HASSALL, Esq.
GEORGE BLACK, Esq.
FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WRIGHT, Esq.
FRANK FARNELL, Esq.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting New Houses of Parliament for the Colony.

Edward Henry Silberstein Von Arnheim, Acting Deputy-Master of the Mint, sworn, and examined:—

2164. *Mr. Hoskins.*] You have seen the design of the proposed new Houses of Parliament? Yes.
2165. You are pretty familiar with it? Yes.
2166. You are aware that the Government Architect proposes to widen a certain length of Macquarie-street by 22 feet? Yes.
2167. A portion of the increased width presumably would be given to the roadway and the remainder of the footpath;—would you, as Acting Deputy-Master of the Mint, have any objection to the roadway and footway being taken closer to the Mint buildings than they are at the present time? It would not affect the working of the Mint in any way.
2168. It is also proposed to add to the ground at the back of the Mint;—do you think that additional ground would counterbalance any disadvantage which might accrue from the widening of the thoroughfare in the front of the building? I should say the additional ground at the rear would be a distinct advantage to the Mint, because it would add to the security of the place. At the present time the wall at the back is not very safe. The police have to visit it every 20 minutes during the night, and it is not at present in a secure state at all.
2169. You are aware that the widening of the street might do away with the lodge at the entrance of the Mint;—would that have any injurious effect upon your operations? I think not.
2170. Then we are to understand that the Mint authorities would have no objection to the proposed alteration? I do not see how they could possibly urge any objection. In regard to the proposed pathway at the northern end of the building I would suggest that there should be a high wall there instead of an iron railing. It would add to the security of the place. Passers-by would not be able to look in, and our workmen would not be able to communicate with them.
2171. *Mr. Lee.*] Have you considered how the proposed taking away of space in front of the building might affect any extension which it might be found necessary to make in the Mint in the future? I think there would be plenty of ground. The area is certainly quite large enough for all the present purposes. If a silver or copper coinage were added to our present work it would be necessary, of course, to extend the building, but even then I think the ground would be large enough.
2172. How far does your ground run from behind the building? Not more than about 100 feet I should say. But I could not give you the exact distance.
2173. You do not know the actual area of the Mint ground? No.
2174. If it were decided to add a silver and copper coinage, you would require a large extension of your present premises? Yes.
2175. And you are satisfied that even then you would have sufficient ground to erect the extension if the alteration of space now proposed were made? Yes; I think it could be done. Of course I could not give you an authoritative opinion upon the point, but there would appear to be sufficient room to put up any extra buildings which might be required for the purposes you indicate.
2176. Does there appear to you to be any need for a fresh site for the Mint? No.
2177. You think that the present site answers all purposes? Yes.
2178. *Mr. Fegan.*] How would the ground, which it is proposed to take from the front of the building, affect the accommodation of the police officers on duty there? The building at present being erected there is, I understand, for the police.

E. H. S.
Von Arnheim.
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George John Oakeshott, A.R.I.B.A., Draftsman, Government Architect's Branch, Department of Public Works, sworn, and examined:—

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2179. *Chairman.*] You are a draftsman in the Government Architect's Department? Yes.

2180. Various matters were pointed out by the Committee to you a few days ago in connection with the utilisation of the present Parliamentary buildings, or such portions of them as might be worth preserving;—have you looked into the matter? Yes; I have prepared a plan which is submitted by the Department to the Committee. Before dealing with it, however, I desire to make some references to the evidence which has already been given by various witnesses.

2181. You believe that in some instances witnesses have spoken under a misapprehension as to the intentions of the Department? Yes. In the first place I should like to say that Mr. Vernon left me instructions that I was not to make any reference to any debatable or controversial matter, but that I was merely to direct your attention to any deviation from actual fact. He wishes, I take it, that all questions of opinion should be left entirely for you to decide, and it is for that reason that until we come to the professional evidence which has been tendered—and up to that point matters of detail were not gone into so much—only one or two little slips were made to which I need not direct the attention of the Committee. I will deal first with Mr. Kirkpatrick's evidence upon page 51, Question 1027. He there says "In this instance, however, it appears to me that the elevation has been dealt with first, while the the plans have been made afterwards. I notice that there are four elevation drawings, and only one plan." That fact, in my opinion, appears to contradict the first part of the statement. Mr. Vernon particularly desired that only one plan should be made, because he considered that we should thresh out the requirements to a nicety, leaving, in respect of the elevation, which is more or less a matter for taste, three or four different alternatives from which the Committee might choose. It is quite a mistake to suppose that the plan was made after the elevation was determined upon. Then, in answer to Question 1029, he says that through the Legislative Assembly Chamber being placed in the position assigned to it, "no ventilation can be given to it except that which can be got through the roof, and that there are no windows opening into the outer air." You will see that Mr. Vernon, upon page 7, describes the method of ventilation fully.

2182. *Mr. Lee.*] Mr. Kirkpatrick's criticism is to the effect that all the air is to be got through the roof, and that the Assembly building is surrounded by corridors? Quite so.

2183. It is a fact that it is proposed to surround the Chamber with corridors, is it not? Yes; but Mr. Kirkpatrick says that no ventilation will be given, except that which is given through the roof.

2184. I cannot see that Mr. Vernon proposes to bring in extra ventilation; he proposes to provide artificial ventilation through a subway? Yes.

2185. Consequently, Mr. Kirkpatrick's criticism is, to a certain extent, right? No, because there is absolutely no ventilation got through the roof of the Chamber; it is got entirely from the subway, whereas Mr. Kirkpatrick says that no ventilation can be got except through the roof.

2186. *Mr. Black.*] I presume he meant internal ventilation? He does not say so.

2187. *Mr. Lee.*] At all events you differ from Mr. Kirkpatrick in this respect, and you say that if you had to depend entirely on ventilation from the roof it would be quite inadequate for the purpose? Yes. Throughout his evidence Mr. Kirkpatrick attacks the system of ventilation which I wish to defend as being feasible and good.

2188. But you go further, and you say that no proper ventilation can be obtained for the Chamber at all seasons of the year, except in an artificial way? Quite so. The next evidence to which I would direct attention is contained in the replies to Questions 1032 to 1036. Mr. Kirkpatrick draws attention to the Japanese Houses of Parliament, and to the Houses of Parliament at Rhode Island, as instances where ventilation is gained by direct access to the outer air. It so happens that exactly the opposite is the case. The two instances he mentions agree with the plan before you in respect of light and ventilation. The Chambers are lighted and ventilated in exactly the same way in which the Government Architect proposes to light and ventilate the Chambers in this Colony. In answering the same question, Mr. Kirkpatrick attacks the lighting of the main Members' corridor extending from north to south. The corridor is lighted at both ends, not only by windows directly opposite the length of the corridor, but also by a flood of light which will come from the staircase windows, so that each end of the corridor will be amply lighted. In the centre also there are three openings, through which light will be obtained from the dome. Therefore the centre of the corridor is also amply lighted. As for the lighting of the intervening spaces, on the Council side there are four areas, and on the Assembly three areas. This provision, the Government Architect maintains, will be enough to thoroughly light the corridors from end to end. While referring to this matter, I might mention that Mr. Backhouse expressed a preference for a corridor in a straight line. Mr. Vernon, however, desired particularly to break it. You will see that a corridor nearly 500 feet in length would be more like a shooting gallery than anything else. He desired purely from an artistic point of view to break the corridor.

2189. The corridor was not broken from any architectural point of view in connection with the stability of the building? No, that would not be affected either way.

2190. What is the length of the corridor on the Assembly side from the corner of the building to the corner of the library? 172 feet.

2191. You therefore have 172 feet of corridor in which the light on one side is completely blocked, and in which, on the other side, there are only three light areas? Yes; but there is also light at both ends.

2192. How do you obtain a sufficient light;—you do not obtain it from the roof? I have already explained that the window at the end of the corridor and the light from the staircase there would light the corridor for a considerable distance.

2193. But not for the 172 feet? No; but for a considerable distance.

2194. I should like to direct your attention to the corridors in some of our public buildings, notably the Lands Office. On dull days some of these corridors are in utter darkness and gas has to be used. I should like to know whether that state of things will obtain in these corridors? The Lands Office is on a square block plan, and not on an elongated plan.

2195. The lighting to the corridors on the main floor of the Lands Office would come from the areas on the northern side, I presume, all the windows and doors opening on that side? Take the Bridge-street frontage. When the doors of the various rooms are closed, the only light which could get into the corridor

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corridor would be from the fan-lights? The corridors to which you refer are, I think, blocked at the end by rooms. There is no window throwing light into the corridor as in this case.

2196. There are windows at the end of the corridors in the Lands Office, but nevertheless they are absolutely dark on dull days;—what would be the dimensions of the windows shown on the plan at the end of this corridor? It would be 8 ft. x 4 ft.—about the same size as one of the windows in this room.

2197. *Mr. Wright.*] It would not throw the light 40 ft., would it? Considerably more than that, especially if the corridor were in Keene's cement or some material which would reflect light.

2198. *Mr. Black.*] Is the window shaded by a verandah? No; it is not covered either on the ground floor or on the first floor. On the basement it is covered by the Speaker's staircase at one end of the building, and by the President's staircase at the other end.

2199. *Mr. Lee.*] Every provision has been made, in your opinion, to throw the maximum quantity of light into the Assembly corridor from end to end? Yes.

2200. You are satisfied that, in the event of light being excluded by reason of the doors of the rooms in the corridors being closed, there would still be sufficient? Yes. Mr. Vernon has not taken into consideration at all the light which would come through the doors. You must bear in mind that the three light areas in the case of the Assembly corridor, and the four light areas in the case of the Council corridor, will be lined with glazed bricks. When light areas are made of that material the light coming through is reflected downward.

2201. From what point will the areas pick up the light? From the roof. There will be an open space above. These areas have been compared with the light area outside of this room, but that is not at all a fair comparison. It is true that there is a greater superficial area outside of this room, but there is a height of 108 ft. to be considered. Moreover, you are dealing with a building in cement, which has been painted a colour which is now dirty. In the case of these corridors the light areas are only 45 ft. high, and are to be constructed of highly glazed material. You have to deduct from the 45 ft. 14 ft. for the basement, making only 31 ft. through which the light would have to travel down to the areas.

2202. The areas differ in size? Yes.

2203. What is the size of the largest in the Assembly corridor? Nineteen feet x 14 ft. 6 in.; the next is 20 ft. 6 in. x 10 ft.; and the other is an equilateral triangle with 9 ft. sides.

2204. Your light areas are confined to one-half of the corridor space? To the part where light is most needed.

2205. They might be effective in lighting that portion of the corridor, but would they be effective in lighting the remaining portion? They would not be required to light that portion. When you get past the Members' private corridor leading round the Chamber there is no need for supplementary light, because the space is amply lighted from the staircases and from the windows at each end.

2206. You hold that, unless under exceptional circumstances, there would be always an ample supply of light for the corridors? I am confident of it.

2207. Would your remark apply to the corridor on the Legislative Council side? Yes, with greater force, because there is an extra area on that side on the southern side of the Chamber.

2208. *Mr. Black.*] Will the window at that end throw in as much light as will the window at the other end? It will be southern light, and it will be a steadier light than you will obtain from the window at the opposite end.

2209. *Mr. Lee.*] You must remember that the Hospital buildings stand at that end? The Hospital buildings will not affect the light obtained through the window in the least degree.

2210. Do your remarks apply also to the first floor? More so, because the light has not to come so far down the areas. On the first floor it will have to come down only from 13 to 15 feet. The corridor, therefore, will be much better lighted on the first floor than on the ground floor.

2211. Would there not be also an advantage from the fact that there will be no verandah roof over the windows in the different rooms? There would be some advantage in that. The next portion of the evidence to which I will refer is Mr. Kirkpatrick's reply to Question 1035. He was asked by Mr. Trickett whether the areas would not be a great height, and he said that they would be 40 or 50 feet, or perhaps 60 feet high. As a matter of fact they are 45 feet. On page 52 it will be seen that Mr. Kirkpatrick says that the size of the rooms provided for the Speaker is enormous. They are intentionally made bigger than at present. The dining-room, for instance, is bigger on account of levees or dinners which it was supposed might take place there on ceremonial occasions. In reply to Question 1044, Mr. Kirkpatrick says that "the Opposition room is very small in comparison with the Ministerial rooms." As a matter of fact the Opposition room contains 1,022 superficial feet, whereas the Ministerial room contains 1,315 superficial feet, that being, in the Government Architect's opinion, a very fair proportion between the two. In reply to Question 1053, Mr. Kirkpatrick attacks the waste space over the Chambers, and, dealing with that point, he says that "there are 100,000 cubic feet of waste space above the ceilings of the Chambers." As a matter of fact the cubing up from the cover-lights on the Chamber to the apex of the roof gives only 75,000 cubic feet. If you refer to page 60, Question 1203, you will see that Mr. Kirkpatrick says that there are 100,000 cubic feet of waste space, which, taken at 1s. 8d. per cubic foot, amounts to £10,000." He says that this amount is wasted. The cubing at 1s. 8d., however, is evidently unfair, because the 1s. 8d. at which Mr. Vernon roughly estimated the cost of the building included the most elaborate portions in conjunction with the plainest, where there would be absolutely no detail. To take any particular portion, therefore, in which there is no detail, and to cube it at 1s. 8d. is manifestly unfair. I have made an estimate by taking out the cube of the walling. I find that there are 7,500 cubic feet of walling from the cover-lights to the circular windows, and that at 4s., which is mentioned in the evidence by two or three witnesses as a fair price, would amount to £1,500. That is a very liberal allowance, because there must be some wall to carry the roof, and I have taken the cubing *in toto*. Also the wall would not be entirely in stone; the part hidden by the roof would be in brick, so that £1,500 is a very liberal allowance for the extra money spent upon that architectural effect. That would be £3,000 for the two roofs. The question for the Committee to decide is whether that is a fair price to pay in opposition to the £20,000 which Mr. Kirkpatrick has mentioned for two features which, in the Government Architect's opinion, simply make the elevation.

2212. You think that while Mr. Kirkpatrick may be approximately right in his figures as regards the waste space, he is altogether wrong in his estimate of cost? Yes.

2213. Do you hold that that waste space is inevitable in connection with that particular style of architecture? I do. You will see from the competitive designs of the Berlin Houses of Parliament, which I now produce, that in almost every instance the same thing occurs in connection with the roofing.

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2214. It is inseparable from any design of that character? I do not say that it is inseparable.

2215. But if you want a design of that character there must be a certain amount of waste space? Undoubtedly. Going back to Question 1053, you will see that Mr. Kirkpatrick attacks the system of construction employed in the dome. He says that the conical brickwork is antiquated and out of date. It is quite true that Sir Christopher Wren did employ it in the construction of St. Paul's Cathedral, but it was done for the express purpose of carrying a stone lantern up above. Of course if you employed copper or zinc in construction with an iron framework Mr. Kirkpatrick would be quite right; but if you want a construction in stone, as the Government Architect proposes, then the weight would be so enormous that it would be cheaper and far more economical to build a brick cone in order to bring the weight down on to the abutments. You could do the same thing with elaborate heavy ironwork, but still the abutments below would have to be of just the same strength. You have the same amount to bring down. I do not think it is an argument against the construction to say that because Sir Christopher Wren used it we should not do so.

2216. Why does Mr. Kirkpatrick designate the style of construction as old-fashioned;—has it become obsolete in architecture? Certainly not, in my opinion. Of course the stone construction is an extra expense. In most cases where there is a dome with a small lantern above it the construction is on the same model. Sometimes it is done in lighter work to save expense.

2217. The dome is introduced into this design purely and simply for the purposes of ornamentation? Yes; it is introduced to give a monumental character to the building. Mr. Shervey upon page 72 offers similar criticism to that offered by Mr. Kirkpatrick. At Question 1054 Mr. Kirkpatrick says that the light for each Chamber comes through a series of small windows 3 feet in diameter. As a matter of fact, we also get it from the skylight. The central feature of the domed roofs is a skylight of glass, which throws the light directly down on to the cover-lights, as shown on the perspective drawing. There is therefore ample light coming down for the Chamber.

2218. Is Mr. Kirkpatrick right in saying that the only way in which to get the light is from the roof? Certainly.

2219. You hold that that is the proper way, and you say that you can get sufficient? Yes. The windows to which Mr. Kirkpatrick referred are not the only way of getting light. If they were it would be insufficient. At Question 1061 Mr. Trickett informed Mr. Kirkpatrick that it had been estimated that the building would cost £530,000. Mr. Kirkpatrick said he did not think it should cost anything like that sum. But upon page 56, in reply to Question 1105, he said he thought that 1s. 8d. per cubic foot was too low an estimate. The two statements appear contradictory.

2220. Mr. Kirkpatrick contended that the estimate of the cost of the building had been arrived at by rule of thumb, or, in other words, that no proper precautions had been taken in working out the cost;—will you tell the Committee in what way you arrived at the estimate? When drawings are in the state in which these drawings are at present—that is, mere sketch plans—the only possible way of making an estimate is by cubing the building, and then, judging from previous experience and current prices, what the cost would be. That is the universal custom. The only other way would be to go elaborately into quantities, and that process at this stage would be far too costly.

2221. The Department only puts the estimate forward as an approximate estimate? Yes. It would be right within about 10 per cent. either way. Upon page 56, in reply to Question 1117, Mr. Kirkpatrick said that the drawings before you had taken twelve months to prepare. As a matter of fact, they took only five months. I thought it well to correct that misapprehension. He also says that they will have cost from £1,500 to £2,000. As a matter of fact, they cost £600, including all incidental expenses, that is, for preparing two complete sets—the thirty-second scale and the eighth scale. That does not include the £120 for the model.

2222. What would it cost to complete the drawings and specifications? It would take a full staff a year to do the work certainly. I should not like to say off-hand what it would cost.

2223. If competitive designs were called for, the competitors would not supply plans in detail and specifications? No.

2224. If they did, do you think they could supply them for £1,500? They could not do it for £1,500. They could hardly do a set of competition drawings for that figure.

2225. Of what nature were the plans sent in in connection with the State House competition? They were simply sketch plans similar to those before you.

2226. Is there any architect's staff in the Colony equal to the staff of the Government Architect? No.

2227. If it would take you a year to prepare complete plans, how long would it take the staff of a private architect to make them? It would depend upon whether the private architect increased his staff or not. He would probably do so.

2228. If the plans were thrown open to public competition, what premium ought to be offered to enable first-class architects to supply drawings in detail? It would depend entirely upon the scale upon which the drawings were to be submitted. If you asked for them on the thirty-second scale they might be supplied on the dual system of competition, such as Mr. Backhouse suggested. You would have, in the first instance, sketch plans, and you would then give a good substantial premium to five or ten of the best competitors to prepare drawings to the eighth scale.

2229. What would you call a substantial premium? It cost the Government £600 to prepare these plans. You would require to give at least £1,000.

2230. The fact that premiums would have to be offered would make the cost of the plans greater than the cost at which they could be provided by the Government Architect? Yes, decidedly. In reply to Question 1161, Mr. Kirkpatrick, in reply to Mr. Fegan, mentioned an absolutely wasted space of 22,000 feet. He said, "The Government Architect in his design calculates for a superficial area of 94,000 feet, the area for the Melbourne Parliament House being 98,000 feet. Going over the design, I notice that, taken up with corridors, public lobbies, and other spaces, which I look upon as loafing spaces, there is an area of 22,000 feet absolutely wasted." It is true that on page 11 the Government Architect quotes the figures in reference to the Victorian Houses and his own scheme, namely, 99,000 and 94,000 feet respectively. But in that case it is for the whole site—the plot of ground on which the buildings are erected. If you compare the space taken up by the rooms and by the corridors, you ought to take the area which the actual building occupies, and in that case, according to the Government Architect's scheme, the area would be 83,500 feet, and in the case of the Victorian Houses 75,000 feet.

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feet. Then as to the question of the 22,000 feet, taking the ground floor as datum, the corridors throughout amount to 11,070 feet, the two public lobbies to 5,320 feet, and the grand hall to 2,704 feet; making in all 19,094 feet. That is my computation of the space occupied by the corridors, public lobbies, and grand hall. Mr. Kirkpatrick's estimate is 22,000 feet, which he says is absolutely wasted. But in any building of this kind there must be some corridors. There must be some space in which you allow for the movements of a vast number of persons such as may sometimes congregate in a building like Houses of Parliament. Then comparing the space with the space in the Victorian Houses again, the corridor space there is 19,680 feet. So that the comparison is this: There are in the case of the Victorian Houses 19,680 feet to 75,000 feet, and in the case of the Government Architect's scheme 19,094 feet against 83,500 feet. So that there is in Melbourne a far larger proportion of open area and lobby space than under the Government Architect's scheme. The same mistake is repeated in the replies given to subsequent questions both by Mr. Kirkpatrick and Mr. Shervey. Upon page 61, Mr. Kirkpatrick, in reply to Question 1207, said that it would be impossible to see in the lavatory. My reply to that would be similar to the reply I have already given in respect of the light areas. They apply to the lavatory also, which will therefore be amply lighted and well ventilated. On page 63, in reply to Question 1252, Mr. Kirkpatrick says that the Clerk of the Assembly, who has a room 15 feet by 12 feet, has to be in it during the whole day. As a matter of fact, the room referred to is one which the Clerk uses only while the Assembly is sitting, and then only during a portion of the sitting. Upon page 65, in reply to Question 1296, Mr. Morehouse says there will be a drop of 6 feet from the floor of the public lobby to the floor of the Legislative Assembly. As a matter of fact, there is a difference of only 2 feet 6 inches. Then on page 69, in the replies to Questions 1387 to 1391, attacks are made upon the light areas of the building, which I have already defended. Upon page 70, in reply to Question 1411, Mr. Morehouse attacks the additional offices as not being required. As a matter of fact, they were asked for by Mr. Webb and Mr. Calvert. Those officers asked the Government Architect to provide them as shown. 2231. As a matter of fact, the Government Architect could have dispensed with those rooms, but they were provided at the special request of the officers to whom you refer? Yes.

2232. You do not attach much importance to their retention or exclusion? No.

2233. In no way would they interfere with your general design? No. Upon page 71, Mr. Shervey, in reply to Question 1429, says that the fall of the Chamber from the soffit of the gallery is only 10 feet. As a matter of fact, it is 12 feet. Later on he says that behind the boxes provided for the Press in the gallery there is not room for one person to pass another. Whereas there are 3 feet 6 inches between the back of the reporting boxes and the front of the seat behind. So that there is ample room. Then, in reply to Question 1432, he attacks the buttresses, as he calls them, in the gallery plan at the angles of the octagon. He says that the four buttresses occupy 400 superficial feet, while the galleries themselves contain only 513 feet. That does seem damaging criticism, but the statement is incorrect. The four buttresses take up 160 feet, or 40 feet each. The gallery space taken up is 850 feet, being 170 feet to each gallery.

2234. Could you not so alter the design as to save the 160 feet in the galleries? You would have to alter the entire design internally if you did that. The space behind the piers to carry the arches would be useless for seeing or hearing. Mr. Shervey also says that there are 166 feet for the accommodation of the Press in the Assembly Chamber, while in the Council Chamber there are 342 feet. He is right in the area he gives for the Legislative Council Chamber, but there are 250 feet provided in the Legislative Assembly Chamber. Upon page 71, in reply to Question 1434, Mr. Shervey again says, "I maintain that it is impossible to light the superficial area which I have given in a building constructed such as this would be with that small light area." He is referring to the superficial feet of light area. The Government Architect thought quite the contrary. He chose an elongated plan, such as that before you, in order to dispense with as much internal lighting as possible, and to get as much light as possible directly from the outer air. Then upon page 75, Mr. Kirkpatrick is again examined, and in reply to Question 1491 he takes exception to the caretaker's quarters in the basement. The Government Architect placed them there on account of their being found absolutely indispensable in that position in the case of the Victorian Houses of Parliament. They were at one time above in those Houses, but it was found necessary to move them to the basement for the convenience of service. On page 76, in reply to Question 1498, Mr. Kirkpatrick says, "The arrangement would be very much more convenient for the public having occasion to visit or interview the officers of Parliament—making application for documents and things of that kind." I would point out that rooms are already provided in the basement for that purpose, noted "Clerk of printed papers," in order that the public may get the documents with the utmost facility.

2235. The rooms devoted to that purpose could not be in a more convenient position for public access? No.

2236. *Chairman.*] What is the superficial area of the rooms to which you refer? One is 21 feet by 18 feet, another is 29 feet by 26 feet, and a third is 21 feet by 18 feet.

2237. *Mr. Lee.*] I suppose these rooms could, if necessary, be subdivided and used for other purposes? Yes. I would point out that it is also desirable to have this office near the record room under the Chamber. In replying to the same question, Mr. Kirkpatrick attacks the height of the basement generally. As a matter of fact, the space from the basement floor to the ground floor is 14 ft. 6 in., which means that there would be fully 13 feet from floor to ceiling of the basement. Later on, in reply to Mr. Humphery, Mr. Kirkpatrick said that the Chamber floor would be sunk some 5 feet, and that in the record room there would not then be enough head room. As a matter of fact, the floor of the Houses is only 2 ft. 6 in. lower than the corridor, and that would make the height of the basement in the record room 10 ft. 6 in. He said also, in reply to Question 1505, that the basement was too low for exterior appearance, and that, as regarded the interior, it was absolutely useless. The Government Architect considers 13 feet ample for the height of these rooms. Certainly a room of that height could not be accurately described as absolutely useless.

2238. *Chairman.*] With regard to the instructions given you by the Committee some few days ago, are you able to place before them a rough sketch showing in what way it is possible to utilise those portions of the present Parliamentary buildings which may be worth saving? I have prepared a plan, but before I explain it I must emphasise the fact that it is one which the Department does not recommend.

2239. The plan which you now exhibit is the ground plan? Yes. In the first place, it will be found necessary,

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necessary, in order to make a really good job, to remove the present Assembly Chamber, the whole of the front block, including the Library and the Reading-room, and also the Council Chamber and the President's and Members' block to the eastward. This is necessary, in some instances, on account of the construction being of wood, and in other instances on account of there being, to a certainty, nests of white ants in the brickwork. To the eastward of the back Library there are some messengers' rooms which are built of common rubble work. These are very ramshackle, and would have to be taken down; and it is on the site of these messengers' quarters and the back Library that we propose to build a new room for Library purposes. It is proposed to build it of brick in cement, with a concrete floor. Where rooms are above it, it will have a concrete roof, and where there are skylights above it, they will be of iron, there being no wood at all in the ceiling. That would make it as far as we possibly could do so a fire-proof room. This room would give you 1,860 superficial feet, as against 1,690 superficial feet, the area at present contained in the front and back Libraries. So that you would really gain in library accommodation by the proposed alteration. It is proposed to abolish the back portion of the Council reading-room, and to convert it into a large lobby for the circulation of Members. The Council reading-room would be enlarged towards the Macquarie-street front, and the space occupied by the front Library would be devoted to rooms to be used by the Representative of the Government in the Legislative Council, also for the purposes of a post office, and a constituents' room in connection with the Lower Chamber. It is proposed to re-erect both the Assembly and Council Chambers. The Assembly Chamber, because of the white ant in the brickwork, and the Council Chamber, on account of its being of wood. I have not had time yet to work out the details.

2240. Where do you intend to locate the messengers, whose quarters you have taken on the site of the proposed Library? I did at one time propose to put them in the Steward's rooms, to the east of the Library, but those would be taken, I think, for the *Hansard* staff. We should have to build some out-house at the back for the messengers of the Council,—there is ample accommodation for the messengers of the Assembly

2241. Have you designed a front for the building? Not yet. It is included in the estimate of £40,000. It would be a quite plain, but substantial stone front.

2242. *Mr. Hoskins.*] You have borne in mind what the Superintendent of Fire Brigades said as to the necessity for carrying the dividing walls up through the roofs in the form of parapets? Yes; that would be done to prevent a fire spreading from one part of the roof to another.

2243. *Chairman.*] Your plan includes a separate cottage for the steward? Yes.

2244. With how many rooms is the steward at present accommodated? I believe he has seven rooms.

2245. It seems doubtful whether any future steward will be allowed seven rooms for himself and his wife? Of course the cottage intended for his accommodation might be built any size you might think fit.

TUESDAY, 15 JUNE, 1897.

Present:—

THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esq. (CHAIRMAN).

The Hon. FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHREY.
The Hon. JAMES HOSKINS.
The Hon. CHARLES JAMES ROBERTS, C.M.G.
The Hon. WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT.
The Hon. DANIEL O'CONNOR.
HENRY CLARKE, Esq.

CHARLES ALFRED LEE, Esq.
JOHN LIONEL PECAN, Esq.
THOMAS HENRY HASSALL, Esq.
GEORGE BLACK, Esq.
FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WRIGHT, Esq.
FRANK FARNELL, Esq.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting New Houses of Parliament for the Colony.

George John Oakeshott, A.R.I.B.A., Draftsman, Government Architect's Branch, Department of Public Works, sworn, and further examined:—

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2246. *Mr. Wright.*] Are the Committee to understand that in connection with the alterations you have suggested in the existing Houses of Parliament it will be necessary to pull down the front wall? Yes; I have ascertained that it is merely rough convict work. The wall is only faced with dressed stone. The filling-in is of the roughest rubble. I do not think the wall would be worth keeping.

2247. Have you prepared a plan showing the front elevation of the building as affected by the alterations you propose to make? Yes.

2248. It is somewhat after the style of the present buildings? With the exception that it is entirely of stone

2249. What is the height of the elevation? Thirty-eight feet—that is, from the line of the road to the top of the parapet.

2250. Does it not present a rather dumpy appearance? It does to some extent, but I thought the Committee wished us to adhere as far as practicable to the arrangement of the present Houses.

2251. Do you increase the interior accommodation in the proposed alterations? In some directions. We increase the Library accommodation, for example; but you will see that if we increase the accommodation of one branch, we must proportionately decrease the accommodation of another branch.

2252. The buildings, then, with the alterations you propose to make, will not exceed the depth of the present buildings? No.

2253. The size of the Chambers will not be increased? No, not as the plans are at present drawn. I may mention that I have provided for *Hansard* upon the floor of the House, and the accommodation required by the staff for transcription is given in the three most westerly rooms in what is known as the Ministerial block. If those rooms do not afford sufficient accommodation there is a plot of ground to the north, upon which an extra room could be built for the staff.

2254. Of the rooms which you propose to appropriate for the staff, one is now occupied by the Secretary for Lands, and the other by the Secretary for Mines? Although we take away two rooms from Ministers on the ground floor we shall provide another room for them on the first floor. The Labour Members will also be accommodated upon the first floor in a room which will be larger than that taken from them on the ground floor. I should also mention that the size of the Opposition-room has been increased. There is at present a covered lobby to the eastward of the room, and that is now included in it. That addition will

will make the room 33 feet by 24 feet. Over the Opposition-room, upon the first floor, I propose to place the different rooms required for the metropolitan Press. Over the Speaker's quarters there will be a Press tea-room 22 feet by 19 feet, and a room for the country Press. In the same block, also, there is a room which I suppose will be appropriated for the Labour Members. Over the proposed Library there will be a room 33 feet by 18 feet. It will have a fire-proof floor, and a fire-proof ceiling. It will be available for records, and it can also be used by clerks.

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2255. You have made the building fire-proof throughout as far as possible? Yes; but it is only in the Library and Record-room that we have used fire-proof floors. If you make every room fire-proof it will increase the expense immensely. The room over the facade to Macquarie-street will be used by the Clerk of the Assembly, the Clerk Assistant, the Second Clerk, and the Chairman of Committees in the Council.

2256. Is the accommodation which you have provided on the first floor equal to the accommodation on that floor in the present building? Very nearly. In some of the offices it will be improved.

2257. For instance, you will give more accommodation to the Press? Yes; because we have accommodated them over the extra width of the Opposition-room. At present the Opposition-room is not built over at all, on account of there being no light; but we do away with the Members' rooms, and the Opposition-room will be lit direct from the open air. I have so far shown you plans under which *Hansard* is accommodated upon the ground floor. The accommodation was provided on that floor upon the supposition that the note-taking would be done upon the floor of the House. I have here an alternative plan which I have prepared at the request of the Chairman in case it should be thought unwise to accommodate *Hansard* upon the floor of the House—that is, supposing Parliament should not care about the idea of having *Hansard* there—showing how the staff could be accommodated on the first floor.

2258. The plan you now exhibit increases the accommodation of the Press, and at the same time provides an increased accommodation for *Hansard*? Yes.

2259. One or two of the witnesses from the Press gallery stated that if, in addition to their present accommodation, they were afforded the accommodation which is now used by the *Hansard* staff, they would have ample? Yes; but the accommodation now given to *Hansard* is very small and very bad for the purpose.

2260. You are proposing to give the Press even more additional space than the space now occupied by the *Hansard* staff? Yes, a greater superficial area, and their rooms would be all a good deal better lighted and ventilated. The whole of the rooms will have windows to the open air.

2261. What you are now showing us is an alternative scheme, supposing there is an objection to the accommodation of *Hansard* upon the floor? Yes. I propose to leave the metropolitan Press in their present position, with increased accommodation in both schemes, but under the alternative scheme I now put forward, the *Hansard* staff would have to be accommodated in the space occupied by the Clerk of the Assembly under the first proposal, and also in the position of the smoking-room, which has been put over the constituents' room on the ground floor. In the scheme I am now showing you, the smoking-room would be in the light area between the refreshment-room and the latrine block. That appears to be the only place in which it could be put. That would give for the *Hansard* staff two good rooms for transcription and typewriting in proximity to their gallery. The staff would have in all four rooms.

2262. You have read the evidence of the Principal Shorthand-writer, and you think you have afforded in this alternative scheme the increased accommodation for the staff which he thinks so necessary? Yes; I have endeavoured as far as I could to give effect to the requirements of the Principal Shorthand-writer. Of course, you must bear in mind that under the scheme which I have now exhibited to you, in order to accommodate *Hansard* upon the first floor it has been necessary to cut into the accommodation provided on that floor for the officers of the House and the clerical staff generally. If accommodation were provided for *Hansard* on the ground floor, it would be necessary to displace two Ministers. If *Hansard* is accommodated on the first floor, those rooms, of course, would not be interfered with; but then, on the other hand, there must be some displacement in other accommodation. If the *Hansard* reporting is done as at present, and the accommodation the staff requires is on the first floor, two of the rooms which I propose under the first scheme to give to officers of the House or the clerical staff would be required as transcription rooms for *Hansard*. It is necessary that their transcription accommodation should be close to their gallery.

2263. Have you, in the preparation of either of the schemes which you now present to us, consulted the clerical staff? No; I have not yet had time to do so.

2264. Have you looked through the evidence of Mr. Webb and of Mr. Calvert with a view to ascertain what accommodation they think necessary? They gave the Government Architect information upon that point when plans for new Houses were being prepared; but, of course, in the amended scheme which the Committee have asked me to put forward, they would not get anything like the accommodation they asked for.

2265. Their demands were pretty extensive originally? Mr. Calvert was a little extravagant in the matter of private rooms, but we were not able to give him all the rooms he required.

2266. He asked, I believe, for a special robing-room for messengers? Yes; we were not able to give him that.

2267. Although you provided him with a great deal of what he asked for, you were not able to give him all? No. On the other hand we were able to give Mr. Webb pretty nearly all that he asked for.

2268. Mr. Webb, I understand, was not at all extravagant in his request? No; he did not ask for as much as did Mr. Calvert. I have been thinking over the question of how it would be possible to make the alterations suggested while Parliament was in session; but I am afraid we should have to put up in the rear garden a temporary wooden building, in which the deliberations of Parliament could take place for the time being. That would add to the cost another £5,000. I do not see how the alterations could be carried out piece-meal while Parliament was in session.

2269. You think a temporary wooden building good enough for the purpose could be erected on the grass plot immediately behind the Refreshment-room? Yes. It would undoubtedly be inconvenient, but I daresay Members would put up with it for a time, while the contract was being carried out.

2270. How long would it take to make the proposed alterations? I do not think they could be carried out under a year.

2271. And in the meantime it would be necessary to make some provisions for the Legislative work of the Colony? Yes. Most of the present buildings which are retained would be at the back; so that if you put

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put up a temporary building on the grass plot, a covered-way could be constructed in each instance to the Committee-rooms, to the Ministerial block, and to such other portions of the existing building as might be retained.

2272. Is there an ample area for the erection of a temporary building? I would not say there was ample, but I think it would be sufficient for the provision of temporary accommodation.

2273. *Mr. Hoskins.*] Do you not think the Refreshment-room could be used temporarily for the deliberations of Parliament? It might. You must bear in mind that you have to make provision for the sittings of two Houses, and, in the meantime, you would be without a Refreshment-room. Besides, certain alterations would have to be made in the Refreshment-room, and every alteration of the kind will cost a certain amount of money.

2274. What accommodation is there under the present Refreshment-room? There are the kitchen, pantries, stores, and also messengers' rooms.

2275. You think you could provide temporary accommodation for about £5,000? Yes; that would give you an ordinary wooden building. You would be able to have it lined for the amount I have given.

2276. There would be no possibility of the new buildings being erected while the old Houses were in use? I do not see how that could possibly be done.

2277. Unless you built over them altogether, and then necessarily you would take up more room? Yes; I regard that as impracticable. Another great argument in favour of the plan I suggested is, that if we pull down all the walls at once, we have a much better chance of removing the white ants entirely.

2278. I suppose the only chance of removing them would be to pull the whole place down and cart it away? Yes. I was talking the other day to one of the foremen in the office about the white ant there, and he informed me that ten years ago when some alterations were being made to the place, they carried away barrow loads of white ant, and their refuse. In my opinion the best course would be to pull the whole place down to the ground, foundations and all, and erect a new structure.

2279. You do not know what the foundations of the present Legislative Assembly are? I am not certain, but I think they would contain rubble such as I have referred to before. It would be very coarse rubble indeed—almost thrown in.

2280. It would be necessary to consult the officers of Parliament again in connection with the alterations you propose to make? Undoubtedly we should do so before the contract plans were made.

2281. *Mr. Wright.*] Your front elevation is columnar all through? Yes.

2282. *Chairman.*] In the plan you have just exhibited the pillars are run right up? Yes. You will see that the facades of the two chambers are different. I have been trying to confine myself as much as possible to the present accommodation. I have been tied down to the length of the building, and I have also been tied down to a certain extent by the height.

2283. *Mr. Wright.*] One thing which strikes me is that the building requires some relief in the centre in the shape of a portico or pediment? That would imply one entrance, and I do not know how you would manage with one entrance for both Chambers. A better way of affording relief, if you think it necessary, would be to carry up the two wings.

2284. My opinion is that you require some relief in the centre? It could be easily afforded of course if the money were forthcoming. We were very careful in preparing the deviation to make the design as simple as possible, because I understood that you wanted a sort of temporary structure which would last (say) about forty years.

2285. Do you think that if my suggestion were adopted it would improve the external appearance of the building without adding very greatly to the cost? It would cost an additional £2,000, I suppose.

2286. £5,000, at all events, would be ample for any alteration such as I suggest? Yes.

2287. Will you provide us with a sketch of some description of dome for the relief of the centre of the elevation? Yes.

2288. There being 108 feet between the two Chambers, you have a long parapet wall without any relief at all? Quite so.

2289. *Chairman.*] Have you looked into the question of what the State really will save by using those portions of the existing Houses which are worth preserving, at the same time utilising the present site for new buildings? Yes; I estimate the value of the buildings which will be retained at £12,875, while the fittings and furniture and plant, &c., which could be re-used, would have a value of, say, £2,125, making in all £15,000.

2290. What percentage should be allowed for depreciation? I cannot say. I merely looked at the buildings which are to be retained, and cubed them up.

2291. You have provided the Committee with a statement showing that about £15,000 would be saved to the State by the retention of certain portions of the existing buildings? Yes.

2292. But will you look into the matter to see what it will cost to construct a new building entirely, with the proposed accommodation? Yes.

2293. *Mr. Humphery.*] What is the comparison in area between the proposed new buildings, and the buildings you propose to retain? I have not gone into that.

2294. You have not cubed the portions of the buildings you propose to rebuild? No; I could not give you the information now, but I could obtain it for you.

2295. We could then arrive at the proportion between the price of the new and of the old building? Yes; the price of the new buildings would be considerably greater, because it was the intention to provide a structure a great deal better than, for instance, the Ministerial block. In that case we were cut down in price considerably. We had to put in wooden partitions.

2296. You think, then, that the price of the new buildings would exceed proportionately the value which could be placed upon the buildings which would be retained? Yes.

2297. So that, instead of their costing, say, £15,000, there would be a cost of about £40,000? Yes.

2298. In other words, if you pulled down the whole block, instead of there being an expenditure of £55,000 you think there might be an expenditure of something like £80,000? I should not like to say as much as that, but the cost would be considerably more, because it would be a great mistake, if you wanted a building to last some time, to put up wooden partitions. If you have to carry brick wall partitions you must make some provision for them down below, and that, of course, runs into money.

2299. *Mr. Hoskins.*] If there were any necessity to give the officers of the House a little more room, would it not be possible to do so in the space now occupied in the middle of the building by the front
Library?

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Library? That space would be used as I explained the other day for a room for the 'Representative of the Government in the Legislative Council. It would also be a very convenient position for a post office, being in the centre of the building, and it is intended also to provide there a constituents' room in connection with the Lower House. That would be in the portion nearest the Assembly's entrance.

2300. *Chairman.*] But if you were going to erect a new building, so far as the front portion is concerned, could you not have three storeys? Yes.

2301. And in that case you would not be tied by the height of the present structure? No.

2302. *Mr. Trickett.*] Would not a long building like that look better with a parapet wall in front hiding the roof? There is a parapet wall. You would not be able to see the roof at all from Macquarie-street.

2303. *Mr. Hoskins.*] If you had a more elaborate front it would necessarily cost more money? There is no doubt about that. If you could give me a little more time, I could put forward one or two alternative plans from which you could choose.

2304. You could not put a dome of any extent on a building of that size? No; it would be out of scale.

2305. *Chairman.*] Does your proposal extend the accommodation in the present buildings? It extends it in some directions but curtails it in others.

2306. Where does it curtail it? The messengers accommodation is curtailed and two Ministers' rooms are taken away. The latrine block is slightly altered, but it will not be very much affected. Then the steward's quarters are curtailed, and there will not be quite as much accommodation for the clerks upstairs. I have not the exact figures, but I do not think there will be quite as much accommodation for the clerks.

2307. What, on the other hand, are your enlargements? The library accommodation is enlarged, also the accommodation for the metropolitan and for the country Press and for *Hansard*.

2308. An additional room is given to the country Press? Yes.

2309. The Opposition-room is also to be enlarged? Yes.

2310. And there is to be a new room in front of the building for visitors? There will be altogether three Members' rooms, so that the number will remain unchanged.

2311. Do you think that under the arrangement you suggest the clerks will have too small accommodation? I should like to consult Mr. Webb and Mr. Calvert upon that point.

2312. *Mr. Roberts.*] What material do you propose to use in the erection of the front wall if your modified plan be adopted? Sydney freestone.

2313. *Mr. Hoskins.*] If it were in brick it would be much cheaper? Yes; but I hope the Committee will not determine to have it in brick.

2314. *Mr. Roberts.*] What would be the difference in cost between a stone front and a brick front cemented? There would be a considerable difference, but I could not say exactly what it would be.

2315. Would there be a difference of 50 per cent? Yes, as far as the front itself was concerned.

2316. Are not the outer walls of the present Legislative Assembly Chamber only 14 inches thick? Yes.

2317. Would there not be a large saving if the front wall of the building were in brick of the same thickness cemented? It would be cheaper of course; but it would be absolutely hideous. I should prefer the plain brick to having it cemented.

2318. *Mr. Hoskins.*] You say that the alterations will take twelve months to carry out;—if you had a brick front for the building, I suppose they would take considerably less time? It would take longer to prepare the stone; but we could make arrangements to have the stone cut before the existing buildings were pulled down—it could be cut and dressed in the quarries; so that after all there would not be any saving of time by the adoption of brick in place of stone.

2319. *Mr. Clarke.*] Do you think it would be possible to do away with the white ant altogether by the removal of the old buildings in front? I hope so.

2320. You know that they are very difficult to get rid of? Yes; but we should dig up the foundations and put in a 4-inch layer of concrete.

2321. They get into hardwood as well as into softwood, do they not? They seem to prefer hardwood.

2322. Would the ventilation and lighting of the Lower Chamber you suggest be better than the ventilation and lighting of the existing Chamber? We could make it so; but we have not thought much about the internal arrangements yet. We have kept the Chambers of the same dimensions as the present Houses.

2323. Would it not be more economical to erect Parliamentary buildings at a less cost than that proposed;—suppose, for instance, they could be erected for £250,000, as suggested by some of the architects who have been before us, would not that expenditure in the long run be more economical than any patching up of the existing buildings? In my opinion the time has come for the construction of an entirely new building; and if you erect a new building, then I think that a country in the position of New South Wales should have a worthy building. I am speaking now, not only from an architect's standpoint, but also from a citizen's standpoint.

2324. *Mr. Roberts.*] Have you considered the cost of putting the present buildings into repair, without providing additional accommodation, but providing merely for the safety of the books in case of fire? Nothing short of a new Library will do for the safe storage of the books.

2325. Could it not be possible to make the Library secure without going outside the present building? We do not propose to go outside the present building in the scheme the Chairman has asked us to prepare.

2326. Could you not put new walls to the present Library, and in that way make the books secure? You could put in new walls of course, but I think you would be perpetuating a most inconvenient arrangement.

2327. *Chairman.*] You will be able to supply us with alternative designs for the front elevation, and you will at the same time ascertain in what way the accommodation you have arranged will fit in with the requirements of the clerical staff, including of course *Hansard*? Yes.

2328. Can you suggest any alteration by which a larger area could be devoted to the Legislative Assembly Chamber? Yes; the outside wall of the gallery stairs might be carried right through the Assembly Reading-room, taking a slice also from the Lobby. That would make the Chamber 6 feet wider. But it would also have the effect of diminishing on the first floor the accommodation at present given to *Hansard*.

WEDNESDAY, 23 JUNE, 1897.

Present:—

THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esq. (CHAIRMAN).

The Hon. FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHREY.	CHARLES ALFRED LEE, Esq.
The Hon. JAMES HOSKINS.	JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, Esq.
The Hon. CHARLES JAMES ROBERTS, C.M.G.	THOMAS HENRY HASSALL, Esq.
The Hon. WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKEFF.	GEORGE BLACK, Esq.
The Hon. DANIEL O'CONNOR.	FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WRIGHT, Esq.
HENRY CLARKE, Esq.	FRANK FARNELL, Esq.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting New Houses of Parliament for the Colony.

George John Oakeshott, A.R.I.B.A., Draftsman, Government Architect's Branch, Department of Public Works, sworn, and further examined:—

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2329. *Mr. Wright.*] You were to prepare for the Committee a plan to relieve the front elevation of the building, and to do one or two other matters which at this moment have slipped my memory? I was to consult Mr. Speaker, Mr. Webb, and Mr. Robinson about the plans.

2330. Have you made the suggested alteration on the plan? Yes; I have seen Mr. Speaker, Mr. Webb, and Mr. Robinson, and I have adjusted the plan I submitted to you so as to fit in entirely with their ideas and suggestions as to the accommodation and arrangements.

2331. Then, as regards the external elevation, what have you done? The external elevation I have submitted as a suggestion, as made by you, to increase the height between the two Chambers by one storey.

2332. What I suggested was that you could relieve the long space by a cupola of some kind? Yes; but I gave evidence to the effect that that cupola on top would be out of scale with the rest of the building, and it was agreed that no plan should be submitted.

2333. Now I see that you have put an additional storey on top? An additional alternative plan is given showing the colonnade to be curved which would have the effect of breaking up that monotony which was complained of on the straight colonnade.

2334. Is not the additional building you have put on there out of keeping with the rest of the plan? Yes, it is; but the Department does not recommend that further storey. It would spoil the continuity of the design altogether.

2335. Have you an alternative design? I should like to explain this alternative plan, because it falls in exactly with Mr. Speaker's ideas. He suggested that the Chamber should not be widened at all, but that towards the western end it should be lengthened a little in order to get more accommodation for his gallery. He also wished the Ladies' Gallery upstairs to be done away with entirely. He objected strongly to the position of that gallery, and he wanted the ladies to be accommodated in his gallery at the western end of the Chamber. His gallery is to be divided into two, the southern end to be used entirely for ladies, with gentlemen visitors if they wish, and to be entered from the colonnade outside; and the northern half to be used entirely by gentlemen, and to be provided with a separate entrance. We were talking over it with Mr. Webb, and the idea was that ladies do not wish to have a gallery all by themselves, but that they would much prefer gentlemen who knew the Members, and so on, to come and sit by them, and tell them all about the proceedings of the House. The way that is arranged externally is to have a staircase entirely from the grounds, right and left. On the left there would be a separate staircase up to the Strangers' Gallery, so that ladies should not come in contact with any visitors to the other galleries. On that point Mr. Speaker was very emphatic, and wanted me particularly to make this arrangement.

2336. Would the gallery be enlarged? Yes; about 6 feet towards the west.

2337. That will provide two more rows of seats, I suppose? Yes, about two.

2338. It is proposed to close up the present gallery? Not altogether. The Speaker proposes to do away with the *Hansard* Gallery, to close up half the Ladies' Gallery, to use the other half of the Ladies' Gallery as a *Hansard* Gallery, and to give the *Hansard* reporters, as transcribing and clerical rooms, the two rooms at the north-western corner of the Ministerial block. The whole of the *Hansard* staff will be shut off from the rest of the House by a door—their gallery as well as their rooms.

2339. Did you consult Mr. Robinson, the chief of the *Hansard* staff, about this alteration? Yes; he entirely approved of the accommodation to be given, but he wished me to say that he adheres to his evidence as to the necessity for reporting the speeches from the floor of the House. I consulted Mr. Speaker about that matter, and he was very emphatic indeed upon the *Hansard* staff being placed on the first floor. He said that he would, on no account, let them be on the floor of the House. He was so emphatic, indeed, that I did not draw out any alternative scheme, because I felt that it would be useless to do so.

2340. This alternative scheme alters the front elevation? Yes; it was felt that that curved line would give a good deal more magnificence and dignity to the elevation.

2341. The column system is still to be continued as shown in the original plans? Yes.

2342. What are these—simply inner segments;—are they entrance doors? The colonnade being an arc of a circle, the portions towards each Chamber would be considerably wider than in the centre, and it was felt that there was something required in those two corners. It is arranged that there should be a circular bay window at either end—in the reading-room for each House. That, of course, will not come up the full height of the exterior colonnade, but only one storey.

2343. That will be the external entrance to the buildings? No; it will not be an entrance to the rooms at all—it will simply be a bay window in the rooms.

2344. Where are your doors to be? Where they are at present—next to each of the reading-rooms.

2345. Can you show any design of the interior accommodation as it has been modified;—what is the idea of putting that extraordinary thing on the top of the building? A Member of the Committee—I forget which Member—suggested to me that an extra storey should be put on the building, and I drew out this plan.

2346. What I suggested was that you might relieve that segment by a low dome of some kind? Yes; but I think it was decided that that would be out of scale with the low building, and would cost so much money that it would not be desirable.

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2347. Could you not relieve it by a central pediment? I also gave evidence on that point—that that would suggest one single entrance, and would be out of keeping with the design too. There are two entrances—one for the Assembly, and one for the Council.
2348. Will you submit a sketch plan showing that? Here is the plan, but the elevation would be so similar to the one with a square colonnade that I did not feel that it was necessary to draw it out again. On the elevation it would be almost exactly the same.
2349. There is nothing you can suggest to relieve that long parapet wall? I do not think you would require anything.
2350. Do you think the building would be sufficiently attractive? I think so. It would be somewhat plain, but it would be dignified.
2351. It looks too rigid, too harsh? I do not think you would find it so.
2352. What is the height of these columns? Twenty feet.
2353. Do you think that that will make a plain, handsome, and imposing-looking structure? I think so.
2354. Will you now describe the proposed alterations in the interior of the building? I consulted Mr. Speaker about his accommodation. He asked me to take out the partition between his dining-room and the passage he has as an entrance. He finds that when he is dining with any friends the accommodation is too cramped. It is easy to remove the partition and take the bay window of the bedroom out a little further.
2355. What will be the size of the dining-room on the modified plan? His dining-room will be 19 feet by 17 feet. It will have 323 superficial feet, and his bedroom will have 244 superficial feet.
2356. Nineteen feet by 17 feet is a rather large dining-room for about six people, is it not? I do not think so. It is certainly too small as it is.
2357. Is any further accommodation wanted by the Speaker? No; that is all that is required. It is increasing the size of the dining-room, and he does away with the passage altogether, and enters straight from the outside into his dining-room.
2358. Do you not take up any more room? Yes; we have to take the bay window of the bed-room out a little farther.
2359. What about his reception room;—will that be of the same size as the present room? Yes.
2360. And his private room will be of the same size? The Speaker's library is not altered.
2361. Will you now describe the accommodation for Mr. Webb? I went carefully over the accommodation with him, and he agrees entirely with the accommodation given as regards superficial feet, but he wished me to alter it in adjusting the rooms to the different officers. I did not feel that it was necessary to consult the Committee on that matter; I simply altered the names on the plans.
2362. How many rooms has Mr. Webb got? The Clerk of Select Committees will have 190 superficial feet; the Clerk Assistant, 312 superficial feet; second Clerk Assistant, 240 superficial feet. The clerks and records will have two rooms measuring 1,203 superficial feet—that is, one room 24 feet by 24 feet, and the other 33 feet by 19 feet for records, printed papers, and the clerks.
2363. Not as private offices? No. The stores will be 211 superficial feet. The Clerk of the Assembly, on the ground floor, will have a large room, 220 superficial feet, next to the Speaker's room.
2364. What increased accommodation have you made for the Press? That has not been altered since I explained the plan to you last time.
2365. They will have their present accommodation, and the present *Hansard* rooms thrown in? No. If you remember, this plan shows the proposed accommodation on the first floor over the Opposition room.
2366. What is going to be done with the present *Hansard* accommodation? That has been swept away entirely; Mr. Webb gets the benefit of that extra space.
2367. You think you will be able to give sufficient accommodation to the Press by putting additional rooms over the present Opposition room? I am quite certain that they have sufficient.
2368. The present Opposition room is to be enlarged also? Yes.
2369. How will that affect the question of lighting? We have swept away the Members rooms so that the Opposition Room and the rooms above can get light from the outer air.
2370. You will get your light from the south principally? Yes; and a little from the east.
2371. What are you going to do for the Council;—have you consulted the Clerk of the Council? We have simply reproduced the accommodation he has at present, only that it is to be built in brick.
2372. So that the accommodation for the Legislative Council remains as it is, with this exception, that the building will be of a substantial character, in place of the present temporary one? Quite so.
2373. *Mr. Egan.*] Did you point out to Mr. Speaker, when you were conversing with him as to the plan, the necessity for the *Hansard* staff to be accommodated on the ground floor? Yes, I did several times.
2374. And did you point out to Mr. Speaker the evidence of Mr. Robinson on that matter? Yes; and also the evidence of the Press that the *Hansard* staff should be placed on the floor of the House.
2375. Did he give any reason for what he said? No, he did not; except that he would not have them on the floor of the House.
2376. That is strange reasoning. The alternative plan, which you submit, is drawn in conformity with the Speaker's wishes? Yes, entirely.
2377. Do you not think, as a member of the architectural profession, that it would be much more convenient for the *Hansard* reporters to be accommodated on the floor of the House? I think so, certainly.
2378. Was not your chief's opinion just the same as yours? Yes, it was.
2379. Not only from an architectural point of view, but from the point of view of hearing the sound? Undoubtedly, from the *Hansard* point of view, it is better. But the only argument against it is whether the Speaker and honorable Members will tolerate the presence of strangers on the floor of the House.
2380. Do you not think that the correct reporting of a Member's speech is of greater importance than the suffering of a little inconvenience? My own private opinion is certainly so. The *Hansard* staff are really officials of the House, and they hold their present positions for the purpose of giving *verbatim* reports of the speeches, and my own opinion is that every facility should be given to them to do so.
2381. Was Mr. Robinson's opinion asked by Mr. Vernon? Yes; he was consulted before the plans went in.
2382. Did I not understand you to say the last time you were examined that Mr. Vernon, in his original plans, would have accommodated the *Hansard* reporters on the floor of the House only that he did not wish to introduce a new system? He thought it would be an infringement on an old custom.

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2383. Do you remember how much money was put on the Estimates some time ago to give the *Hansard* reporters greater accommodation in the Upper House? Yes; there was a vote of £600, I think.
2384. How much of that sum was spent in giving additional accommodation to the *Hansard* staff? As a matter of fact, only about £15. The rest of the money was spent on a record-room and two clerks' rooms.
2385. How was it that the money was not spent in providing the accommodation for which it was voted? That I cannot say. The Government Architect received instructions.
2386. From whom did he receive instructions? In this case I do not know which Minister it would be.
2387. Was it from a Minister or from the Clerk of Parliaments? It would be through Mr. Young, the Minister; but it would come through some other Minister, I suppose the Colonial Secretary.
2388. You state that only £15 was spent out of that vote of £600, although the money was specially voted to provide additional accommodation for the *Hansard* staff? To the best of my recollection it was.
2389. And that the balance of the vote was spent in erecting a record-room and two clerks' rooms? Yes.
2390. For which purpose the money was never voted? That was in the same contract.
2391. The £600, which was voted expressly to improve the accommodation of the *Hansard* reporters, was used chiefly to build a record-room, and two clerks' rooms? To the best of my knowledge it was.
2392. Could the Committee ascertain the reason why that vote was not spent in improving the accommodation for the *Hansard* staff? I daresay it could—I do not know myself.
2393. Is there any recommendation in the office which you could furnish to the Committee? That I could not say.
2394. Then the money was misappropriated? Pardon me, I do not say that.
2395. Have you been to see the accommodation for the *Hansard* reporters in the Upper House at the present time? Yes.
2396. What accommodation are you giving in the present plans? Exactly the same accommodation as they have at present.
2397. But that is insufficient, is it not? I do not know. Mr. Robinson does not think it is quite sufficient, but it is all I can give them if I am to preserve the same plan.
2398. It makes the conditions no better as far as the *Hansard* staff is concerned? No; except that the rooms will be better. They will be better fitted.
2399. If there will be no more accommodation for the reporters, how can the rooms be better for them? That is only on the Council side. They will be built of brick. They will not be like the present ramshackle rooms.
2400. The proceedings of the Legislative Council are as important to report as the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly? Yes; but there is not such tedious work, or anything like it there.
2401. At the same time, the reporters will want proper accommodation during the time they are working on that side? I do not know. They would not want so much accommodation.
2402. Referring to the original plan, what greater accommodation in the Assembly have you provided for the *Hansard* reporters? The *Hansard* reporters are placed in two rooms at the north-west corner of the Ministerial building, and their accommodation is connected with the rest of the House by only one door.
2403. Is not that worse accommodation than they have at present? No. The rooms are far better; they are well ventilated and fully lighted, and, as far as superficial feet go, they have 839 superficial feet in the new scheme, as against 821 superficial feet at the present time.
2404. But that does not really meet the need of the *Hansard* staff, which is the ability to hear the speeches distinctly? That is only a question of the gallery.
2405. Seeing that the *Hansard* reporters cannot hear very well where they are at present located, will they not be in a worse position to hear the speeches if they are placed in the Ladies' Gallery, which is on the other side of the Chamber? They will be in a worse position for hearing Ministers.
2406. Ministerial statements are of more importance than speeches from the Opposition? Yes. Certainly they will not hear Ministers so well under this arrangement, but that is the Speaker's wish.
2407. That points out that there is a flaw in the position in which it is proposed to place *Hansard* at the present time? Yes; but against that you must remember that we want extra space for Mr. Webb and his staff, and by taking the *Hansard* reporters away from their present position, and placing them in the new position, it relieves Mr. Webb, and gives him a chance of getting far more accommodation, so that there is an advantage in it in that way.
2408. What room is the Clerk of the Assembly short of;—what room has he at the present time? At present he has 1,989 superficial feet, and in the new scheme he gets 2,920 superficial feet.
2409. What is his reason for asking for so much more room than he has? He feels that he is cramped, and that his staff are cramped, and I agree with him too that he requires not only more accommodation, but better rooms than they have at present; they are very bad at present.
2410. They are very bad, but nothing compared to the inconvenience which exists in other portions of the building? No. The Council are better off than they were, now that they have the new rooms; but if you refer to *Hansard*, certainly the *Hansard* rooms at present are in a shocking state; their accommodation is very bad.
2411. You understand that at present the complaint of the chief of the *Hansard* staff—and I think he speaks for his staff—is that they cannot hear very plainly the speeches of Members of the Opposition? Yes.
2412. And that several complaints have been made of the inaccuracies in the reports of their speeches? Yes.
2413. If that be so, how much greater will the inconvenience be if you place the *Hansard* reporters in the Ladies' Gallery, which means that they will be at a disadvantage in taking down Ministerial statements? Undoubtedly they will.
2414. Is it not worse for them to be there than to be on the other side of the House, because Ministers conduct the business of the country? Yes; I suppose it is.
2415. It will really not improve the position as far as the hearing of the speeches is concerned? I do not think so.
2416. It will really be an improvement to place the *Hansard* reporters on the floor of the Chamber, in order to have the Members' speeches taken down accurately? Yes; but as I say, there are objections to that idea, on account of the Speaker's opposition to it. We want to get accommodation for the *Hansard* staff

staff near the floor of the House somewhere, and the only way to do that is to take away two Ministers' rooms; but the Speaker refuses to ask Ministers to give them up. That is where the difficulty came in.

2417. Are you giving the Speaker any more room in the revised plan? We increase his dining-room, and also his bed-room.

2418. What is the size of his present dining-room? It is 228 superficial feet, and we increase it to 323 feet.

2419. 228 superficial feet is quite sufficient for all the guests he has? I do not think so; because the width was not quite sufficient to allow the waiter to go right round the table. The Speaker wants to make it 19 ft. by 17 ft., so that the waiter can pass right round the table. At present he is very much cramped. I think it is a very fair demand.

2420. At the suggestion of the Chairman, you have revised the plan by adding another storey to it? Yes; as far as the central part is concerned.

2421. What accommodation have you in that top storey? That has not been thought out yet; because it was not thought that you would approve of it when you saw it attached to the drawing. I told Mr. Wright that it was not recommended by the Department.

2422. What is the roof comprised of? Slate.

2423. How many rooms have you made provision for in the second storey? I have not been into the plan at all. It would be about two-thirds of Mr. Webb's staff's accommodation repeated; it would be about 5,000 superficial feet.

2424. What would be the extra cost? That question I have not gone into; but I should think it would cost £2,500 extra.

2425. To erect a good building? Yes.

2426. What do you propose to build that storey with? It will have a stone front.

2427. Have you considered these new plans in detail? Do you mean the exterior facade?

2428. I mean the interior, which is of more importance than the exterior? No; not as far as the Chambers are concerned—with the exception of the western gallery.

2429. You do not know whether you could possibly make a more convenient building, seeing that Mr. Speaker objects to the *Hansard* reporters being on the floor of the House, and that there is a great objection to the *Hansard* reporters being put in the Ladies' Gallery? I do not think there can be, unless you deprive the Press of a portion of their gallery accommodation. That would be the only position where they could be placed—that is, at the eastern end.

2430. Do you think it is wise to remove the Ladies' Gallery from that position? I think myself it is very bad for the acoustics of the House. I think, also, that the Speaker's idea of the ladies entering from the colonnade is an excellent one, because I feel myself that the more ladies are kept apart from the working of the House the better.

2431. Does it interfere with the working of the House for ladies to be accommodated where they are? At present I think they have to be conducted through a lot of the business parts of the House.

2432. No? I should think that they must either enter by the Ministerial entrance or go through the Opposition lobby. I quite support the Speaker's idea that it should be a mixed gallery, because I am certain that lady visitors want an explanation of the business that is going on.

2433. Have you been in the House at any time when it is sitting? No.

2434. Therefore, you do not know the interest which is taken in its proceedings by ladies? No.

2435. I do not think so? I know that ladies as a rule always like to have somebody who can explain to them what is going on, and tell them who the Members are.

2436. If they attend pretty regularly, as some of them do, they know that just as well as their gentlemen friends do? I daresay.

2437. You have not considered any other favourable position to place the *Hansard* staff, in the event of exception being taken by the Speaker to their being placed on the floor, or in the event of the Ladies' Gallery being continued as such? No, I have not; with the exception, as I have said, of depriving the metropolitan Press of part of their gallery.

2438. Do you propose to hand over the present *Hansard* Gallery to the metropolitan Press? No; it is proposed to do away with the *Hansard* Gallery entirely.

2439. You propose to make a blank wall where that gallery is? Yes; and that will be all the better, too, because the sound from the Ministers' voices would strike against that wall, and be reflected back to the new *Hansard* Gallery. All openings in walls like that are bad as far as the acoustics are concerned. They absorb a great deal of the sound.

2440. Has any representation been made to you by the *Hansard* staff as to the bad hearing properties of the gallery which they occupy? Yes; Mr. Robinson spoke to me about it when I consulted him on these plans.

2441. Only then? Yes; and before when he came down to the office to tell us about the plans when we were preparing the big scheme.

2442. At each interview you had with the chief of the *Hansard* staff he complained about the position his staff are placed in to distinctly hear the speeches in the House? Certainly.

2443. Have you interviewed the Clerk of the Parliaments? No.

2444. As regards the Library, what do you propose to do? I showed the Library accommodation to Mr. Walsh, and although he acknowledged that he could not get all the accommodation he would require now, and certainly in the future, to house the accumulations of fifty years, yet, considering all things, he agreed with the position, and he was delighted to have more accommodation. He asked me whether we could not possibly give him any more. I suggested that we should excavate a part of the present Library, and give him the basement. He was delighted with that idea, because he said he would not want much light in the basement, but it would be an excellent place in which to store records and other papers which are only wanted occasionally for reference. In this scheme a basement is provided, which is 42 by 28 feet. Beyond that, he was delighted with it. He wanted a little partition for himself, which has been screened off, a part on the southern side of the Library, with access from the verandah outside, for his own private sanctum. In that room he wants to store all the documents which are of particular value.

2445. What do you mean by screening off a place? He wants to have a place where he can see anyone privately, without interfering with the Members who are reading in the Library.

2446. What space will that basement give him? It is 42 feet by 28 feet, which represents 1,176 superficial

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superficial feet. Of course, that will not provide any space for Members to sit about and read. It means the storage, proportionately, of a great deal more books. It would also be well lighted, because you will be able, on the southern side, to get windows, which will have direct access to the outer air. They will be high up in the room, but that will be an advantage.

2447. What are you going to line the basement with? We should have to make it water-proof, but that is an easy matter.

2448. Will it not have a tendency to be damp? No, we could easily prevent that.

2449. You are perfectly satisfied that damp will not intrude there? I am quite certain.

2450. What will the extra cost of that be? In a large contract, such as £40,000, it would be a very small amount. It means little more than the fittings.

2451. The excavations will cost a very small sum? Yes.

2452. Taking the fittings, and the upper storey which you have attached to the plan, and which will give 5,000 superficial feet, about £2,000 will cover all that? I should think so.

2453. You think that that will be material to the convenience of the Library, and Mr. Webb's staff? Yes; that is if you give that space to Mr. Webb's staff.

2454. Would it be practicable to excavate more than that—I mean with advantage? You might, if you wished to get any more accommodation. But it would be a great desideratum to have the outer air if possible.

2455. Which a basement would give you in that instance? You would get very little of it. You would not get any towards the west, and, therefore, I should not advise that the basement be used in that position.

2456. As regards the Chairman's suggestion with reference to the introduction of an upper storey, do you not think that the external appearance of the building is made very much worse by that upper storey? I think it would make it look very much worse. It is not recommended by our Department at all. It would make it look commonplace in our opinion. You must remember that although it shows an elevation from Macquarie-street, scarcely any of that will be seen. You will simply see the parapet, and a part of the slate-roof above it.

2457. Is there any suggestion you can make to improve the front elevation, or to give more room, without extending the plan—without adding that storey? I do not know exactly where you want more accommodation. Mr. Webb is content with his accommodation, and we must presume that Mr. Calvert will be content with his accommodation. Mr. Robinson is content at present with his transcribing accommodation, at any rate; so that I do not know that there is any necessity under the present demands for increasing the accommodation, not so much as 5,000 feet, any way.

2458. If it were necessary two years or eighteen months ago for Parliament to vote £600 to give *Hansard* more accommodation, and you spent only £15 of that vote in giving them accommodation, does not the case remain still the same—that they want more accommodation? It was voted more for improving their accommodation on the Council side.

2459. Which has not been done materially? It has.

2460. Materially? Not materially, because so little was spent on it.

2461. But I do not understand that the money was voted not so much for the Council side as for the Assembly side? I do not know that any of it was spent on the Assembly side.

2462. Do you think that there are any harder working men in the service of Parliament than the short-hand writers? That I cannot say.

2463. Do you think that they should have better accommodation than they have? I certainly think they should. But it is not for me to compare them with other officers.

2464. If the Committee should ask that you should give them extended accommodation, you would not mind considering the matter again? Certainly not.

2465. If the Ladies' Gallery must continue as such, and the Speaker objects to the *Hansard* staff being placed on the floor of the House, it will be worth considering which will be the better place to put the *Hansard* reporters? As far as that is concerned, the plan is very elastic. It may be as you think fit to recommend. I made a suggestion that you should take a part of the Press Gallery, which is, in my opinion, a better position for the *Hansard* reporters than the Ladies' Gallery would be; but then the difficulty would arise "What are we to do with the Press."

2466. Yet you think, apart from that objection, it would be much better for the *Hansard* reporters to be on the floor of the House? Yes. But if it is to be upstairs, comparing one consideration with another, I think the best position for them would be, as is shown on that plan, on the east of the present Ladies' Gallery, because it keeps them all apart. It gives them their accommodation, practically, immediately out of the gallery. It takes them away from the members of the other staffs of the House.

2467. But which, you say in your evidence, would be even worse than their present gallery, seeing that the Ministry have to conduct the affairs of the country? Yes, as far as the hearing of the speeches is concerned, I think it will be worse than the other.

2468. *Mr. Hassall.*] As regards the ventilation of the Chamber, have you made any better provision than that which now exists? I have not gone into that matter, but if we had to build an entirely new Chamber there is no doubt that you could introduce a very much better system of ventilation.

2469. That is in case the Chamber were rebuilt, but you do not propose to do that? Yes, we do; both Chambers will be rebuilt.

2470. In that case you will be able to provide better ventilation? Yes. It is proposed in this plan to introduce clearstory windows into each Chamber.

2471. In what way do you propose to deal with the roof? Mr. Speaker wishes a portion of the roof to be removed, as is done in some of the theatres in Sydney. If it were thought necessary to have a sliding roof, undoubtedly it could be done.

2472. And still provide light? It would not affect the light.

2473. Could anything be done to improve the ventilation of the present Chamber in the event of its not being rebuilt? I do not think so, very much. I think as much has been done to it as can be done.

2474. *Mr. Roberts.*] Will you state the frontage to Macquarie-street which the proposed new building will have? 528 feet.

2475. What is the frontage of the present building? 232 feet.

2476. Would not there be room to erect a new Parliamentary building between Hunter-lane and the entrance to the Domain, opposite Bent-street, having a frontage of 232 feet? There would be only just room. There would not be any room for grounds around the building.

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2477. What frontage would the Free Public Library take up? About 44 feet.

2478. What is the frontage of the Government land between the northern boundary of the present Parliamentary buildings and the Domain gates? About 440 feet.

2479. Will you now give the depth? It varies in depth.

2480. Would not 400 feet be ample frontage on which to put up new Parliamentary buildings, assuming for a moment that the Committee may think fit to recommend that the old buildings be allowed to remain as they are, and that they should be used while new buildings are being erected? Under a new plan you could possibly do it.

2481. Would you like to offer an opinion as to what it would cost to erect a building of Sydney freestone, with a foundation of Sydney freestone, and with room sufficient to accommodate 125 Members in the Assembly and about seventy Members in the Council, affording the same accommodation as is shown in your alternative scheme. I mean a building without an expensive dome, that is a good, plain stone building to give accommodation very similar to the accommodation at present provided in the House, to be built on a frontage of 400 feet, to be more ornamental in appearance than the old one, and to compare favourably with any building in Sydney—with the Sydney Hospital, or the Mutual Provident Society's buildings? Fitted up nicely inside, and with a stone front, and a certain amount of decoration, I should think it would cost at least £100,000.

2482. *Mr. Hoskins.*] Suppose you commenced a building such as Mr. Roberts has suggested, you would have to block up a lane leading to some houses? That lane is not used now.

2483. There are people living at the bottom of the lane? The buildings are put down on the plan as stablemen's cottages in connection with the House.

2484. *Mr. Roberts.*] You think that a good stone building with a presentable appearance could be put up for £100,000? I think so.

2485. Would that give all the accommodation which could fairly be wanted by Members and officials and other persons employed at Parliament House? No; I do not say that at all, because the accommodation which the Government Architect has provided on his complete scheme is his idea, and his estimate of the accommodation which will be required in the future for Members and for the officials and staff of the House. I am only giving that estimate as the cost of a building which will provide more accommodation than you have in the present House. Mr. Walsh, the librarian, told me—and naturally it is so—that his wish for accommodation is increasing every year to the extent of many thousand volumes. In fifty years time there will be a great accumulation of books, and I presume there will be in a certain proportion with all the business of the House.

2486. What opinion did you form after your interview with the Speaker and the various officials at Parliament House as to the accommodation afforded by your alternative or latest plan? As far as Mr. Webb is concerned, he is very well satisfied with his accommodation. As far as Mr. Walsh is concerned, he is pleased with the increased accommodation, but he still has the problem to face of where he is going to put his volumes in the future. As far as Mr. Robinson is concerned, he is very well satisfied with the accommodation provided, that it is an absolute necessity that he should go up on the first floor; but he is still of opinion that he should be placed on the ground floor.

2487. Did Mr. Speaker convey to you the opinions he held as to the accommodation to be afforded to Members of the House? Yes; I showed him the Smoking-room and the Opposition-room. These are the two chief alterations as far as the social aspect of the question is concerned. I also showed Mr. Speaker the new arrangement for constituents' rooms, the post office, and the two reading-rooms.

2488. Did they meet with his approbation? Yes; he seemed to think that the Opposition required more room, and he approved of that. He made a slight alteration in the position of the door of the constituents' rooms. He put it in the entrance to the lobby, not in the lobby itself.

2489. Will there be any difficulty in adding two extra rooms for the Ministers in place of the two rooms to be given up to *Hansard*? One of them is a Members' reading-room—it is not a Minister's room at all. The room over the Speaker's reception-room is intended to be given for a Members' reading-room; but where the other Minister will go I do not know.

2490. There will be no difficulty about adding two rooms? No; we could easily put another on.

2491. An extra room or two would not add very much to the expense? No.

2492. You feel sure that a building, such as I have endeavoured to describe to you, could be put up for £100,000, and would afford accommodation similar to that which, I understand, has been approved by the Speaker, and would be sufficient to accommodate all the officials employed at Parliament House? Yes; but you must understand that their approval is qualified. They would like more. They would like as much as they asked for in the first scheme which we submitted; but under the second scheme it is no good for them to put these claims forward, because there is no possibility of their having the accommodation.

2493. With a view to meet the wishes of those who perhaps best know what accommodation is required, would another £25,000 or £50,000 be ample to give all the accommodation in the new building I have mentioned? I do not quite say that. You want a perfect House of Parliament.

2494. No; you told me that £100,000 would put up a good, plain stone building, without a dome or extravagant or luxurious architecture? Yes; but that is with the present accommodation.

2495. I understood you to say that you could put up a building, affording all the accommodation which is shown on the revised scheme, for £100,000, and if we add another £50,000, would we not be on the safe side? It would undoubtedly give better accommodation. It would certainly content Mr. Walsh and Mr. Webb and others; but still it would not be perfect, looking at it broadly, and looking to the future.

2496. Looking to the future, you hardly think that a building could be put up for £150,000 to give all the accommodation which would be required? Certainly not, looking 100 years hence. If a new building of the nature you describe is put up it ought to be done with the idea of lasting over 100 years.

2497. *Mr. Hoskins.*] Sir Arthur Renwick said that the finest building in Sydney—the Sydney Hospital—cost only £135,000? I daresay it would. It is two storeys high. It occupies a vast deal more space than does the present House, and it is very elaborate in its stone-work, too.

2498. *Mr. Roberts.*] Would not the fact that two contracts were let for the erection of the Sydney Hospital be a factor in making it so expensive a building? It would undoubtedly make it more expensive.

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2499. If a £150,000 building were put up, what would be a fair allowance for the fittings, fixtures, and furniture? Very little, I think, could be saved on that. The fittings and furniture should certainly be new in each House if it is to be a permanent building of that description.
2500. But one would be very much smaller than the other;—it would not cost as much to fit up a £150,000 house as to furnish a house costing £500,000? No; it would not be nearly so costly in that way. But I thought you wished me to say how much could be saved.
2501. I thought, from your professional knowledge, you might be able to give a rough guess as to what the whole building would cost ready for occupation? It is so very difficult to make an estimation of that kind. You could spend £1,000 or £100,000.
2502. Well, with a due regard to economy, what should it cost? I could not say without working it out.
2503. Apart from fixtures and fittings, £150,000 will give us all the accommodation which will be required for the next fifty years probably? Yes; they would have to put up with it.
2504. Speaking individually, would you approve of the alternative or revised scheme being adopted by the Committee? Of course, I should favour the big scheme; but if it is decided to carry out the revised scheme of adopting the old House, I think the alternative plan should most decidedly be the one which should be carried out with the colonnade curves shown there.
2505. Would you, as an architect, recommend the revised scheme? If it were an absolute necessity to abandon the big one, I should.
2506. Do you think it better to try and patch up the old Parliamentary buildings, or do you regard with any favour the expenditure of £150,000 on the erection of a new building to the north of the present building? No; I do not. I should think that this revised scheme, if carried out, should only be built with the idea of lasting, say, fifty years, because the conditions of the Colony must alter in fifty years, and you may be in a position to spend sufficient money to erect a building which will be worthy of the Colony. If it is deemed impossible to adopt the big scheme at present, I think every facility should be given for it to be built in the future.
2507. Your professional opinion is that we should do one of two things—namely, either patch up the old building? Temporarily.
2508. Or erect the new building submitted by the Government Architect? Or one almost as elaborate.
2509. One of that character? One of that character, certainly.

WEDNESDAY, 3 NOVEMBER, 1897.

Present:—

THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esq. (CHAIRMAN).

The Hon. FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHERY.
The Hon. JAMES HOSKINS.
The Hon. CHARLES JAMES ROBERTS, C.M.G.
HENRY CLARKE, Esq.
CHARLES ALFRED LEE, Esq.

JOHN LIONEL FROAN, Esq.
THOMAS HENRY HASSALL, Esq.
GEORGE BLACK, Esq.
FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WRIGHT, Esq.
FRANK FARNELL, Esq.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting New Houses of Parliament for the Colony.

Walter Liberty Vernon, Government Architect, sworn, and further examined:—

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2510. *Chairman.*] You have had an opportunity of reading the criticisms applied to the plans for new Parliament buildings which you submitted to this Committee some time ago? Yes.
2511. The Committee, in discussing the matter informally yesterday, found that there were three aspects of the case:—the first is the possibility of utilising the present building; the second is the question whether the site of the present building could not be used for a new building; and the third is whether buildings could not be erected upon another site upon a more moderate scale than the designs submitted by you;—I believe the Secretary has conveyed our opinions to you? Yes.
2512. Are you prepared to make any statement in regard to these points? I can only express an opinion upon them. I will take them *seriatim*. As to the desirability of adding to or altering the present buildings in order to make them suitable for some time to come, I have carefully looked through a design which has been placed before you by the Department, and, although it was prepared in my absence, I am quite prepared, taking into consideration the difficulties and the limitations of the site, and the necessity of working in the new accommodation with the portions of the present building which are to remain, to adopt it as a reasonable design, though, of course, in working it out one may see where improvements in small details may be made.
2513. Will you tell us what the design purports to be, and what it will cost approximately to carry out? The proposal is to take down those portions of the present building which are attacked by white ant, and which are exposed to danger of catching fire. This applies particularly to the Library, which is exactly in the middle of the present building, and to the Legislative Council Chamber, because, although of iron construction, it is also constructed largely of wood, and is dangerous only in a less degree than the Library. The scheme involves the reconstruction of both Chambers, of the accommodation for officials, and to some extent of the accommodation for Members.
2514. *Mr. Wright.*] The present main building must be rebuilt? Yes; the old stone building and the old boarding-house which came up from Melbourne. In looking at the plan, I find that the accommodation provided for the Members of the Upper House is not increased in any way, not even by 1 inch. The Members of the Upper House will have no more accommodation in the altered design than they have now. The accommodation for the President and for the Members will be exactly what it is now, except that the rooms may be higher; and I think I am right in saying that the accommodation in the reading-room will be diminished.
2515. *Chairman.*] Materially? The new reading-room will have 770 superficial feet, whereas the present reading-room has 1,000 superficial feet.
2516. *Mr. Hoskins.*] Do you propose to have only one room for the library? I am talking about the reading-room which is connected with the Council Chamber. The new room will be somewhat smaller than

than the present room; but the accommodation for the President and the Members' lounge-rooms will be the same as now. Upstairs, there is just the same difficulty in connection with the accommodation for the clerks of the House.

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2517. *Mr. Wright.*] If you have the same area of ground, why should there be any diminution of space anywhere? There is a variation in the arrangement of the front rooms, which curtails the size of the reading-room. Upstairs, the accommodation for the officials would be the same as it is now—though this could be got over by erecting an extra storey at the rear—but the walls would be thicker, and in rooms 12 x 12 or 12 x 14, a difference of 9 inches on each side would materially affect the floor space.

2518. Could not more room be obtained by carrying the whole building a little further to the front? Then comes the difficulty of lighting the middle of the building. One has to study the question of lighting as well as that of providing floor space. In fitting in new rooms between the disjointed portions of the present building, you are so bound down that it is extremely difficult to get what you want. I do not say that sufficient light could not be obtained, but it would be difficult to get it. The Library would, no doubt, be very much improved. Its size would be 1,860 feet, as against 1,619 feet at present, a difference of about 120 feet; but the room space is cramped because of the proximity of the dining-room. The new library would be better lighted than the present room, because the steward's house would be taken away, and a top light would be obtained. Still, the superficial floor space would be increased only a very little. In addition, there would be a basement in which excess books, and perhaps books of reference could be stored. That would be given as much light as possible; but if one compares the new accommodation in the Library with that for which the Librarian is asking, it is altogether too small. I do not know how many books the Librarian has stored in "Richmond Villa;" but I know that he has a great many books there for which he cannot find room in the Library.

2519. *Chairman.*] What would be the size of the basement? 1,176 superficial feet.

2520. In the new design, part of the present Upper House reading-room will be taken for a lobby? Yes. It will be necessary to have a staircase leading to the room in the upper part of the building, and it would be convenient to put it somewhere at the back of the present reading-room.

2521. Is the space shown at the back of the reading-room required for a staircase;—is there any sufficient reason why the reading-room should not go back as far as the present passage leading to the Chamber? No doubt the reading-room might be made larger by sacrificing the space at the back; but then the difficulty of lighting would come in again. The room would be too long to be lit from the front windows.

2522. But the space at the back will be very large? It is none too much for an approach to a chamber like the Legislative Council Chamber.

2523. Why could not the Library be extended west, bringing it out flush with the front of the Council Chamber? I would not recommend that, because it would take away the prominence which I think the ends of the Chambers should have in the design of the front.

2524. *Mr. Wright.*] The present building stands about 10 feet behind the line of the Sydney Hospital;—would it not add to the uniformity of the street if it were brought into line with the Hospital? Of course it could be brought into line with the Hospital; but, so far as appearance goes, I would not recommend it.

2525. Would it detract from the appearance of the building if it were brought into line with a fine structure like the Hospital? Well, that is so much a matter of taste. Personally, I prefer to see an ample space left in front of every public building, though, if necessary, you must sacrifice that space to the requirements of the building.

2526. You could not put the Refreshment-room further back, but you could bring the front forward? Yes; but I do not recommend it.

2527. *Chairman.*] Suppose it were necessary to bring the Library forward in order to give extra accommodation, what would there be to prevent you from bringing the ends of the Chambers forward also? That could be done, but of course it would increase the depth of the rooms and reduce the light. The Library would be 35 feet long and would be lighted from one end.

2528. But you would be able to get light from the corridor at the back? That is only borrowed light.

2529. The Library will not have to depend totally upon the front windows for light? That may be the case with the Council Reading-room, but the corresponding room on the Lower House side will not be able to get any borrowed light at all. It must depend entirely upon the front light. The same might be said of the intermediate rooms.

2530. If you wanted to preserve your design, you could bring the ends of the chamber forward? Yes. They should be the most prominent parts of the front.

2531. Is it possible to get over the difficulty of insufficient light? It might be got over in connection with the Council Reading-room to some extent by using borrowed light obtained from the back corridor; but it could not be got over in connection with the corresponding room on the Lower House side, because of the want of light in the lobby there.

2532. Why should the corridor at the back of the Lower House reading-room be dark? Because more accommodation is wanted on the Lower House side, and rooms have to be put up wherever space can be found for them.

2533. But that corridor will not be absolutely dark, because it will get light from the entrance to it, and from the back? The light is so extremely remote that I do not think you could depend on it. For reading purposes you want a good light.

2534. *Mr. Hoskins.*] Superintendent Bear pointed out that there was an extreme danger of fire where there was a long roof like that of the present Parliamentary buildings, and he suggested the use of parapets to break the fire? It is a very good plan to put in fire-breaks in a roof of that character.

2535. Will you think of that? I will.

2536. *Chairman.*] In extending the building towards Macquarie-street you could get over the difficulty of lighting? The building might come 3 or 5 feet forward, without detriment to the lighting of the rooms; but I think that that is the extreme.

2537. What will be the width of the new Council reading-room? Twenty-two feet.

2538. So that by bringing it forward 5 feet, you would get an additional 100 feet of floor-space? Yes; but it must not be lost sight of that that room will be lighted from the west, and in the afternoon when the sun is shining directly into the windows, it will be found necessary to have the blinds down, so that the light will not be very good. The best light for a reading room is light obtained from the top, and, failing that, light from the south or east.

- W. L. Vernon. 2539. *Mr. Hoskins.*] But there would be windows in the back wall of the room? There would be borrowed light there.
- 3 Nov., 1897. 2540. *Chairman.*] If it were possible to fully light the corridors at the back, the difficulty of lighting the Library would disappear? Well, it is not what I should recommend; it would be a make-shift.
2541. Is it not all a make-shift? Yes; it is absolutely. I will see if it would be possible to move the rooms intended for the public so as to obtain a direct light for the lobbies, which could be borrowed for the reading-rooms.
2542. That gets rid of one portion of the design;—will you proceed with your explanation? The present Opposition room will be improved. It is possible to obtain horizontal lights for it, and to increase the floor space from 480 to 792 superficial feet.
2543. That is equivalent to an extra room 20 feet by 15? Yes. I should point out, however, that the lobby, between the Opposition room and the Chamber, which is now very often used for writing purposes and for conferences, would be taken away. It is a room which gives space for the circulation of Members and visitors to the Chamber; but in the altered design the space will be taken up by a room for the Clerk of the Assembly.
2544. How far will the Opposition room be from the Chamber? It will be within easy reach of the Chamber, but it will not have quite as direct access as it has at present. The distance from one door to the other is now about 16 feet; but in the altered design it will be about 35 feet. This distance could be shortened by taking something off the Clerk of Assembly's room so as to give a passage through; but that would separate the Clerk's room from the Speaker's rooms, and the Speaker would like to have his officer as close to him as possible. The accommodation for the Speaker will remain what it is now, except that the wooden portion will be rebuilt. In my opinion the Legislative Assembly Chamber suffers by its proportions. Its proportions are not good for speaking in. I do not for a moment say that its acoustic properties are not fairly good; but it is too long, and too narrow, and if it were pushed out towards Macquarie-street this defect would be increased. It has not been planned on a good model; but it would not be possible to make any alterations to it in connection with this design.
2545. Suppose you pushed it out to Macquarie-street 10 feet, would that materially affect its acoustic properties? I do not think it would. The design which has been prepared shows a front lobby, a staircase, and a colonnade at the Macquarie-street end; but, at the best, the Chamber will have a very bad shape. Going upstairs, *Hansard* it seems to me will have very little accommodation; but I do not see how it would be possible to give more, unless some of the Ministerial rooms are taken. I should like to draw attention to the altered design, which shows accommodation for *Hansard* in a side gallery corresponding with the present ladies' gallery. For that gallery the rooms which are provided, although small, would be very convenient. If the Committee consider it desirable to put *Hansard* on the floor of the House, of course these rooms would be useless to the reporters.
2546. *Mr. Hoskins.*] The Principal Shorthand Writer is very much against having the staff put into a gallery? Yes, I believe he said that the reporter should be in the current of sound which is directed towards the Speaker. All I wish to point out is that if *Hansard* did not occupy the side gallery, the rooms at the back which are allotted to the reporters would not be suitable, and the difficulty at once arises, where else could they be put.
2547. Sir Joseph Abbott, when examined before us, stated that he considered from what he saw at Adelaide, that it would be very inconvenient to Members to have *Hansard* on the floor of the House; that the reporters passing in and out to relieve each other obstructed Members' view of the Chair, and diverted the attention of the occupant of the Chair? I made some inquiries upon this point when I was at Home, and I found that in London *Hansard* has occasionally been accommodated on the floor of the House of Lords, because of the inaudibility of some of the speakers; but that was only on special occasions. On the Continent the stenographers, as they are called, are without exception, placed on the floor of the House. The press is accommodated elsewhere; but the official reporters are always on the floor of the House. I myself saw that that was so in three places. I know that it is so at Brussels and at Stockholm. If *Hansard* is placed in the ladies' gallery, the Ministers' rooms at the back would accommodate the reporters, if they could be obtained. As another suggestion, I think it might be possible to bring the Press gallery down to a lower level, and to put *Hansard* in front and the Press behind.
2548. *Chairman.*] Could you not put *Hansard* at a lower level than the Press? That is the suggestion I make. *Hansard* would be at a lower level, and the Press could have their present accommodation. Of course that would prevent the space under the gallery from being used by spectators; but I do not think that would matter very much, because the Chamber is so long.
2549. *Mr. Hoskins.*] The great complaint that the Principal Shorthand Writer made was that the staff was so limited in its transcribing accommodation? Yes, I understand that that is so. Without having specially considered the matter, I think that *Hansard* might be put within 6 or 7 feet of the floor of the House, and the press above them again. The press would then have the same raking view of the House that they have now, because they would be completely over the heads of the *Hansard* Staff.
2550. *Chairman.*] So far as the Chamber is concerned, you feel that you could make reasonable accommodation for the Press and for *Hansard*. What are you going to do with the ladies' gallery? Accommodation is provided for the ladies, underneath the gallery at the end of the Chamber. That space will be divided into two halves, one-half being for the accommodation of ladies, and the other for a Speaker's gallery, separate entrances being given. Above would be a general gallery.
2551. Would the new Speaker's gallery hold as many persons as the present Speaker's gallery? I could not tell you now; I will obtain the information.
2552. The strangers' gallery will remain as it is? Yes; though it might be deeper. If *Hansard* were placed at the back of the Speaker, the plan of the Chamber would require some alteration, and the rooms immediately in the rear, which are intended for Press writing-rooms, and the Press tea-room, would have to be given to the *Hansard* reporters. The *Hansard* Staff would have to take the whole of the wing immediately over Mr. Speaker's quarters, and the Press would have to be accommodated elsewhere.
2553. Would there be easy access to these rooms from the *Hansard* gallery? Yes.
2554. As easy access as there is from and to the present rooms? Yes, quite as easy.
2555. What do you propose to do for the Press? The Press would have four rooms, one for each of the Sydney newspapers, and a general country Press-room. That accommodation would have to be given somewhere over the Ministers' wing.

2556. What would be the extra accommodation given to the Press? On the Assembly side, the Press have now 726 feet, and in the altered design they would have 1,444 feet; on the Council side their accommodation would not be altered. With regard to the accommodation for the clerks, they have at present 1,989 feet; but in the altered design they will have 2,920 feet—nearly 1,000 feet more. I understand they are content with that.

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2557. What will *Hansard* get? On the Assembly side, *Hansard* has now 821 feet, and in the new plan it will have 839 feet. That is too little, and must be altered.

2558. Can you suggest how it can be altered? I will see if it is possible to provide for them behind the Speaker's Chair.

2559. Why could you not build another room between the Ministerial rooms and the Lending Library, in the side garden? I do not think you want another room on the ground floor.

2560. There is plenty of space there for three more rooms;—why should not the Ministers be put there instead of upstairs? I think it would be better to have another Members' room there, and give up some of the Members' accommodation to the Ministers. The Ministerial supporters' room is a wooden structure.

2561. But it is quite new. It ought to last for twenty years? For quite twenty years.

2562. *Mr. Hoskins.*] Parliament House at Wellington, New Zealand, is built entirely of wood? Yes, and I believe that it is in a shocking state.

2563. *Chairman.*] Is there anything else? I should like to express the opinion that I do not think this altered design is a good one to adopt.

2564. What will it cost, approximately, to carry out? I have not gone into the matter; but, judging from what I have seen of it, it would cost about £40,000.

2565. *Mr. Hoskins.*] How long would it take to carry out the alterations? Very nearly two years. It would be pretty well two years before the building was finished with.

2566. *Chairman.*] Would it be possible to carry out the alterations and to conduct the business of Parliament in the buildings at the same time? Quite impossible. It might be possible to carry on the alterations to one Chamber at a time, though I would not recommend that, because it would prevent the contractor from doing his work efficiently and quickly. It would be quite impossible to carry on the whole business of Parliament while the alterations were going on.

2567. Suppose it were decided that the alterations should be made, can you suggest how the work of Parliament could be carried on? It might be possible to put up a couple of temporary Chambers at the rear, and to connect them with the present buildings; but I should not like to speak positively about that, without thinking the matter over. It might also be possible to use the Lending Library for one Chamber, and to put up another Chamber alongside it; but Members would suffer extreme inconvenience if we did that.

2568. To provide this temporary accommodation would materially add to the cost? Yes. I was going to say that, in my opinion, it would be extremely unwise to spend £40,000 upon the old building. It would be far better to let the place remain as it stands.

2569. But it cannot remain as it stands. The Library is in danger of being destroyed, and although Members do not require anything pretentious, the accommodation is not satisfactory, and something must be done to improve it. What would it cost to give accommodation equal to that which would be given by the alterations we have been speaking of, or from 10 to 30 per cent. better, by constructing a new building? Every building which is put up must be of a national character.

2570. It must not be too big? No; and it is not necessary to follow the design first submitted to the Committee; but the building should be of a national character, and one which the country will not be ashamed of fifty years hence. Such a building could be put up for anything from £100,000 upwards.

2571. Could you give the accommodation you have spoken of to-day in a handsome building for £100,000? If you are going to build a new building it would not be advisable to arrange the accommodation as in this altered design. I think that in a new building the accommodation should be arranged on new lines. I do not wish to bind myself at the present moment to an opinion as to exactly what could be done, but I believe that a building costing from £250,000 to £300,000 would answer the purpose extremely well and be a valuable property to the Colony. I am guided in making this statement by a knowledge, not of the extravagance of other countries, but of their proper views in regard to these matters. The Parliament of a country should be housed in a building having a certain amount of dignity.

2572. How are you going to get over the difficulty of providing accommodation for Members while you are altering the old building? I presume the accommodation will have to be found elsewhere if temporary buildings cannot be erected near the present building.

2573. *Mr. Lee.*] Why should not the Refreshment-room be used as a Chamber? It might be possible to erect temporary Chambers in the space at the back of the Refreshment-room, and to connect them by temporary passages with the buildings which are to remain.

2574. *Mr. Fegan.*] That would add to the expense? Yes.

2575. *Mr. Hoskins.*] Would it not be possible to get, say, the Assembly half of the alterations finished during a six months' recess, and to let the Council alterations stand over until the next recess? I do not think that would be possible. Not only would the arrangement be an inconvenient one for Members and for the contractor, but it would interfere with the work of the officials connected with the House.

2576. *Chairman.*] In a six months' recess could you not put in order, say, the Lower Chamber, the *Hansard* accommodation, the Press accommodation, and the Opposition accommodation; then next recess you might be able to do so much more—perhaps the alteration to the Council side? I should not advise that. I understand perfectly what you mean, but it would be almost impossible to make the connections between the different portions of new work. Unless one built at express speed and carried on the work with relays of men night and day, I do not think it would be possible to make the alterations, except with the utmost inconvenience to every one. I believe that the result would be that the two Houses would have to find accommodation elsewhere. The alterations would mean an absolute disturbance of all the important parts of the buildings. The portions that would be left are the unimportant parts of the buildings.

2577. How much of the old building would be left? In my opinion if a smaller building were required than that which has been suggested to the Committee, it might be erected on the ground to the north of the present buildings without interfering with them.

2578. How much of the old buildings would remain if these alterations were carried out? The refreshment-rooms, the kitchens, &c., the Committee rooms, and the Ministers' rooms would remain.

- W. L. Vernon. 2579. *Mr. Lee.*] And the Ministerial rooms? Yes. Part of the servants' quarters at the back of the Legislative Council Chamber would also remain.
- 3 Nov., 1897. 2580. *Mr. Hoskins.*] The front part of the Library would remain? No, that would come down.
2581. *Chairman.*] Well, what saving would be effected by allowing these buildings to remain? The buildings that would remain would cost about £10,000 to put up.
2582. You could replace them for £10,000? I believe I could.
2583. Therefore, to rebuild the whole building would cost £50,000? Yes.
2584. Then for £100,000 you ought to get a very fair building? I imagine that for a Parliament House for a country like New South Wales a stone construction ought to be a *sine qua non*. The building should have four fronts; not two fronts and a sham back, or anything like that. This is where a great deal of the money would be expended. The design originally placed before the Committee would cost something over £500,000, because of the large amount of work of a monumental character which is required to give dignity and importance to it. Merely to give accommodation for the transaction of the actual business of Parliament would cost very much less; but I should not like to say that you would be satisfied with a building costing only £100,000.
2585. What could you do with £150,000? Half as much again. Of course, you must have some feature in a building of this sort, and money must be provided for that, apart from the expenditure required merely to provide accommodation. You must have a central dome or tower or something of that kind, and of course that requires money.

THURSDAY, 4 NOVEMBER, 1897.

Present:—

THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esq. (CHAIRMAN).

The Hon. FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHERY.	JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, Esq.
The Hon. JAMES HOSKINS.	THOMAS HENRY HASSALL, Esq.
The Hon. CHARLES JAMES ROBERTS, C.M.G.	GEORGE BLACK, Esq.
HENRY CLARKE, Esq.	FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WRIGHT, Esq.
CHARLES ALFRED LEE, Esq.	FRANK FARNELL, Esq.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting New Houses of Parliament for the Colony.

Walter Liberty Vernon, Government Architect, sworn, and further examined:—

- W. L. Vernon. 2586. *Chairman.*] Would you kindly give the Committee information in regard to your revised plan of the new Parliamentary buildings? With a view of seeing whether it is possible to obtain a new building for a smaller sum than that previously estimated, I have prepared a rough draft of a very much compressed plan, omitting the portions, to a very large extent, which were devoted to the public, and curtailing the accommodation for the Press and for the official staff—not so much in the number of rooms as in the size of the rooms—and reducing the whole design to a much smaller compass. I have had to keep the Chambers the same size as originally proposed, because until I am authorised to provide Chambers for a smaller number I presume the old construction will stand. According to the revised plan, which of course would be subject to correction on reconsideration, the building would take up a frontage of about 100 feet less than the frontage of the original design. If one were not very strictly bound as to the entrance to the Garden Palace grounds the new building could be placed immediately at the end of the present building, north of the Speaker's rooms, and carried out in a northerly direction. This might involve shifting the proposed new road to the Domain, as shown on the original plan, by giving it a greater curve to the north; but it would still join the avenue.
2587. From the entrance to the Garden Palace grounds, on the south side of the road, what is the length to the furthest point north of the present building? The revised plan overlaps the north end of the present building about 100 feet. The building could be erected without interfering with anything but the stables of the old building by placing it close behind the Speaker's rooms towards the north, lapping the Premier's room and that wing, and the site would then extend northwards until it cut the present proposed road to the Garden Palace grounds.
2588. Would it project into the park towards the east? It would be necessary to take some of the Domain—in fact, the present foundation-stone stands in the Domain.
2589. What is the total frontage according to the plan originally placed before the Committee? 528 feet. In the revised plan I have reduced the frontage to 442 feet.
2590. *Mr. Wright.*] What is the distance between the wall now dividing the present building from the Hospital and the boundary of the Lending Library, including the latter building? About 350 feet.
2591. *Mr. Hoskins.*] I suppose you know that if you took the building towards the road on which Governor Bourke's Statue stands you would have to close a public right-of-way? I propose to divert the road leading into the Domain.
2592. You know there is a road going down to what is called the Domain-terrace? That is all Crown land. There are no public rights as regards that.
2593. *Chairman.*] According to your plan that would be all raised by a terrace? Yes. I am still strongly of opinion that the back boundary on the Domain side should follow the original plan. We should be in a position to take sufficient to give proper surroundings to the House, even from the Domain. I do not think it is possible to get this necessary space on the present alignment.
2594. Roughly speaking, you propose an extension into the Domain of about 120 feet? Yes.
2595. *Mr. Humphery.*] What would be the total area of encroachment? I think that is given in Mr. Maiden's evidence at about 2 acres. The total depth, at the widest point, of this modified scheme, is 160 feet. The total depth on the same lines of the other building is 233 feet.
2596. *Mr. Wright.*] Mr. Maiden, in his evidence, says: "The area of the park required under Mr. Vernon's scheme is 4 acres"? That includes the Hospital ground, and the piece by the Royal Mint. As the proposed building is 79 feet less in depth, probably the same area could be saved off the Domain.

2597.

2597. *Chairman.*] Would you make a general statement as to the modified scheme? At present it is not in a fit position to be put before the Committee, except in a most approximate way. Instead of taking the building 60 feet high to the mean of the roof, I have only taken it 55 feet, considering that with smaller rooms a less height in the ceilings will be sufficient; and in making my estimate I have left out of consideration any completion of the design above the height of 55 feet—that is to say, if it is intended to have a dome or anything of that kind. I have left that out altogether at present, because, if necessary, it might be done at some future time, and need not come into consideration at present. I have also left out the four corner towers which show in the first design, and the smaller towers at the foot of the dome, so as to simplify the design in that respect. Taking the work as of the same class as that estimated before—namely, costing 1s. 8d. per cubic foot—the new scheme totals up to £257,000. I should like to place before the Committee, by way of comparison, the cost of several public buildings in Sydney, to show what has been the cost in former times. The Lands Office cost £232,490; the Public Works Office (the present building) has cost to date £141,174. That is not allowing for repairs or alterations, but is simply the capital account of the expenditure upon the buildings themselves. The University, which includes the medical school, as well as the main building, cost £204,000; and the General Post Office cost £331,514.

2598. *Mr. Hoskins.*] Wages were much higher then than they are now? Yes.

2599. *Mr. Roberts.*] Can you state the cost of the new Markets in George-street? According to some particulars I obtained some months ago, I calculated that this building was costing 9½d. a foot. According to information just received, the cost, including the lifts or elevators, is between £260,000 and £270,000. But Mr. McRae explains that the finishing inside is very plain. The building has a stone fronting all round, but the internal portions are finished off in the simplest manner possible.

2600. But the foundations were very expensive? Yes; but that all goes into the cube cost. The walls are not plastered, except, I think, in the avenue down the centre, and the shops are left for the tenants themselves to complete. At any rate the work is of a much less elaborate character than that required for a Parliament House, and, therefore, this brought the cube cost of the Markets down to 9½d., as against 1s. 8d. for Parliament House. As I have explained, this is owing to the difference in the class of work internally.

2601. *Chairman.*] In your modified plan is the building to be of the same material as in the original plan? Yes, the same right through—stone externally and brick internally.

2602. *Mr. Humphery.*] Stone basement? I should recommend trachyte for the basement.

2603. *Mr. Hoskins.*] During your absence we heard that trachyte was not developing very well—that it blisters and contracts? Trachyte has failed in instances where it was to do a great deal of work in the shape of columns.

2604. The foundations of large buildings have to carry a great weight? That weight is so equally distributed over the basement walls, that there has been no failure of trachyte placed in that position. Where it is placed in columns, carrying much superabundant weight, no doubt trachyte has failed, as it has done in Sydney in two or three important particulars.

2605. *Mr. Kirkpatrick* says it failed seriously in the Equitable Life Assurance building? I did not know it had failed there. It failed immediately opposite there, and also in the Markets, and in George-street, at the Equitable. But in those cases it was placed in a position where it had an immense amount of work to do. I believe Professor Warren is making some very close researches as to the value of trachyte for building material, and will be prepared to read a paper next January before the Australasian Association on that very subject, and we are all anxiously looking forward to see the results. But so far as building trachyte into a solid basement is concerned, there is no question at all.

2606. *Chairman.*] How does the accommodation in the proposed building to cost £250,000 compare right through with the present Parliamentary buildings? I have not compared it with the present building, because I thought it was better to start absolutely unbiassed, and provide what I thought would be required.

2607. *Mr. Roberts.*] Perhaps you could point to the original plan and show the Committee what you have omitted in your amended plan? The whole of the lavatory arrangements on both sides in the Public lobby are taken right out, and the two sets of rooms towards the extreme east and west are brought close in, so that there is only then what is called a Members' lobby between them—a corridor about 18 or 20 feet wide. The Speaker's quarters are diminished in size. At the access ends of the building, instead of having two staircases going up to the towers, those staircases are both omitted, and one staircase is put in the centre of the northern front, and also in the southern front to correspond. The rooms on the northern side are reduced in number from six to four, so that the Ministers will have to curtail their individual rooms. The Ministerial Supporters' wing on the western side is reduced in dimensions. The division lobbies in connection with the Chamber are both omitted, while the corridor, which at present runs round independently of the Chamber in the division lobbies, now forms a lobby at each corner, so that access must be had for Members through the lobbies and not by independent corridors. That saves a considerable amount of space. The central dome—the simple dome itself—on a smaller scale, is still retained, and that is the only portion open to the public. The adjuncts to the dome, in the way of double archways and double lobbies, shown on the plan, are all taken away, as are also the four corner towers, and the dome, of course, is on a smaller scale. The entrance lobby to the main building is also reduced in dimensions, although the accommodation is on a somewhat similar scale. The Library is reduced in size considerably, although it is still much larger than the one you have at present. You will also have the basement Library to help out the accommodation. The reduction in the accommodation on the Lower House side has been carried out on precisely the same scale on the Upper House side, and up-stairs the accommodation is reduced in dimensions, although practically not in the number of rooms. The building is reduced from 528 feet in total length to 442 feet.

2608. *Mr. Hoskins.*] You do not propose that the Clerk of Parliaments and every principal officer shall have an office, and a sitting room, with a lounge and a lavatory? I do not think that was proposed in the original plan. We have a robing room in one or two cases where the officials have certain robes to put on, but that is all we have. The basement, which I could not explain in detail, also follows the same reduction. The disposition of the rooms, and so on, would be almost the same as before. The eastern corridor is taken out and Members would use the central corridor instead. It would be somewhat similar to the Houses at Westminster, so far as that part of the building is concerned.

2609. Do you not think that the granite they get from Moruya would be better than trachyte for foundations? It would be very nice indeed. I should like to see granite used if the cost were not prohibitive.

W. L. Vernon. 2610. Is the cost much in excess of the cost of trachyte? It is more at present, because trachyte has been so developed by the use of modern plant, while the Moruya granite has not been up to the present. There is no reason why it should not be.

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2611. *Mr. Wright.*] You propose to leave the main corridor as originally designed? No; it would be much narrower. Instead of being an absolute Chamber of itself, it would be nothing more than a corridor about 20 feet wide between the Members' rooms.

2612. I should like to call your attention to this statement made by Mr. Kirkpatrick:—

The corridor will be as dark as night . . . I guarantee that it would be darker than the corridor in the Colonial Secretary's and Works Departments.

? I think Mr. Kirkpatrick was not there referring to the central corridor. If he was, then he was absolutely wrong.

2613. Referring to Japan, he says:—

They may have two separate corridors—one for the private use of Members, and the other for the public—but you will not find them jammed into the building in such a way as to give them no air. Then again, in this design, there is a long corridor for Members several hundred feet in length which I do not see any possibility of lighting."

? My opinion is quite the contrary.

2614. *Chairman.*] Have you a statement you desire to make in regard to those criticisms on your work? I did not wish particularly to go into those, because so many of them are questions of taste and matters of opinion generally, but there are one or two things particularly where the facts are not exactly as represented. The principal one relates to the enclosing of the Chamber itself in the surrounding buildings. In reply to question 1032, Mr. Kirkpatrick states that in the new Japanese Houses of Parliament, and the later Parliamentary buildings of other places, the Chambers are not immediately surrounded with offices, meaning by the context that they have direct lateral access to the open air; and in reply to question No. 1036, he further states, "At Rhode Island they have designs for Chambers with direct access to the open air."

2615. *Mr. Wright.*] In another part of the same answer he says "All the Parliament Houses whose Chambers are within the building have them situated in enormous areas or court-yards, the superficial space of which is nearly always double that of the Chamber itself"? This statement is quite opposed to the real facts of the case. The whole of the designs referred to by Mr. Kirkpatrick were before this Committee at the time, and the slightest investigation would have shown that in the majority of cases the Chambers depend upon a top light, and are surrounded by offices and corridors. I have prepared a statement referring to such buildings, and I have tabulated all the buildings concerning which information could be obtained. The first is that at Westminster. This is artificially lighted from on top. The upper portions of the side walls are also built with windows, but these are fitted with stained glass, exclusively for decorative purposes, and not in any way for ventilation, which is all done by a complete system conducted in the clock tower, by means of a huge furnace and fans. These windows are merely for decorative purposes to enable richly stained glass to be used, and daylight to be diffused through the room. At night there is a glass decoration on top which gives the light. In Ottawa there is a very similar arrangement. There is a top light and there are side lights which are used also decoratively. In Melbourne the Chambers are lighted entirely from the ceiling. In Tokio, in Japan, which was also referred to by Mr. Kirkpatrick, the Chamber is lighted from the ceiling, and there are no side lights whatever. I may say that Tokio has been spoken of as a building in existence, but it is only on paper at present. Rhode Island, which has also been referred to, is entirely lighted from the ceiling and enclosed by rooms all round it. In Brussels both the Chambers are lighted from the ceiling. I brought a sketch with me which I took when in Brussels, showing the arrangement of that Chamber, and which, perhaps, might be interesting to the Committee. In Paris, at the *Corps Legislatif*, the light is entirely from the ceiling. In Versailles at the *Salle des Seances* the lighting is also entirely from the ceiling. A series of designs was prepared for the large Houses of Parliament in Berlin, and the building, which was executed by Wallot, is also lighted entirely from the ceiling with no side windows. The second premiated design by Bohnstedt is exactly the same. The third design was by Scott, and is lighted from the top with some side windows looking into some small areas. The next design was by Thiersch. That is lighted exclusively from the ceiling. The next design by Kayser and Von Groszheim was lighted from the ceiling; the next by Ende and Bockman the same; another by Giese and Weidner, the same; another by Busse and Schwechten, lighted entirely from the ceiling; another by Seeling, exactly the same; another by Cremer and Wolfenstein, the same; another by Schupmann, the same; and another by Stier, the same. So that the whole of the Berlin designs are upon the principle which I have adopted in this design before the Committee. In Adelaide there are side windows, and in Brisbane there are side windows. In Stockholm the lighting in the design is from the roof, with some side windows on areas very much like the building at Ottawa. In Rome the lighting is provided exclusively from the roof or ceiling.

2616. How is the ventilation arranged? I cannot tell you how that is done in Rome. There is nothing to give one any indication. But in most Chambers that are built the ventilation is forced through the ceiling, either by mechanical or automatic means. At Buda-Pesth there are side windows. So that out of twenty-five designs, including all the modern buildings of the kind in Europe, eighteen have Chambers lighted exclusively from the roof, four are composite—that is, lighted both from the ceiling and from the walls, although some of these are more for decorative purposes than for ventilation—and only three, namely, Buda-Pesth, Adelaide, and Brisbane, depend for light exclusively upon the side windows. I do not think Brisbane should come into consideration in a matter of this kind, because the building is not up to the proper class. In these cases the drawings are all before the Committee, so that there can be no mistake as to what the arrangement is, and having so many examples before me, I considered myself justified in following the same system, and I still recommend it in the new building. I do so also for a second reason. If it were decided to build Chambers with external walls, these Chambers must, of course, be cased in stone, and that at once makes the plan of a far more expensive character, because it spreads the buildings out, and there are more numerous means of access to different portions of the building. There being so much more external wall also makes it much more expensive. In regard to the Chambers having side windows, looking into open areas, the only three buildings which have side-lights—leaving out Adelaide for the moment—namely, Buda-Pesth, Ottawa, and Westminster, are Gothic buildings. It is apparent that in Gothic work the skylight is not suitable to the design, and therefore I presume the architects who built those buildings were forced to get their lights from side walls.

2617. *Mr. Black.*] I understood you to say that with external Chambers the expense would be greater because, the Chambers being spread out, there would be more stone work? Yes.

2618.

2618. But on the plan you have the two Chambers extending to the front and rear of the building, and I presume those portions which extend would be built of stone? All external faces would certainly be built in stone. W.L. Vernon.
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2619. Then how can the external stone area be greater if you remove those two extreme ends than if they are left. If at the extremities on each side, they would form the outer part of the building, and no more stonework would be required in one case than the other? Perhaps I could show it on the plan. If that Chamber is taken from the position shown on the plan and put on to the north-east wing you leave a courtyard where the Chamber is now shown. There would be two or three sides completely exposed if Chambers be placed in eastern wings.

2620. You have the two ends exposed now? At present I have no external stone-work for this Chamber at all.

2621. What I understood by external Chambers was that each Chamber should form an extremity of the building, having three sides and a portion of the fourth side exposed? It is quite true the Chamber might be so placed; but then you would have to find accommodation for the rooms now in the north-east wing. And where you can light a Chamber and several rooms from the ceiling, you cannot do it with the ordinary rooms, but must light them horizontally.

2622. Such a Chamber would be an impediment to the lighting of the rooms placed on the inside? It would there. It would be necessary to considerably spread the plan to do what you propose. It would mean two or four quadrangles in the building.

WEDNESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER, 1897.

Present:—

THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esq. (CHAIRMAN).

The Hon. FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHREY.

The Hon. JAMES HOSKINS.

The Hon. CHARLES JAMES ROBERTS, C.M.G.

The Hon. WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT.

The Hon. DANIEL O'CONNOR.

HENRY CLARKE, Esq.

CHARLES ALFRED LEE, Esq.

JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, Esq.

THOMAS HENRY HASSALL, Esq.

GEORGE BLACK, Esq.

FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WRIGHT, Esq.

FRANK FARNELL, Esq.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting New Houses of Parliament for the Colony.

Walter Liberty Vernon, Government Architect, sworn, and further examined:—

2623. *Chairman.*] Have you a statement to make? I believe the Committee wish to have a comparative statement of the accommodation in the present building, as compared with the accommodation in those parts which will undergo alteration. In the rooms that are affected by the alterations there is at present a total space of 8,040 superficial feet, and according to the improved plan there will be a clear space of 10,266 feet. This is made up principally by the addition of the cottage for the messengers and the House steward, and the additional wing, which is proposed to be put up for the Press. That is where the additional accommodation comes in. W.L. Vernon.
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2624. The steward's quarters, Library, and Press-rooms? Quite so. Analysing it, the difference is as follows:—The Upper House reading-room—the back reading-room—is now 475 feet, and it will be reduced to 266 feet. That is the only alteration in the Upper House. In the Lower House—the Members' rooms—three rooms have a superficial area of 578 feet, and now there will be five rooms with 722 feet. The Opposition room is 480 feet, and it will now be 792 feet. The Speaker has now 976 feet, and I am giving him 1,071 feet. For the Clerk of Records there is an extra room of 513 feet. *Hansard*, which now has six rooms, has 1,434 feet. I should explain that when the *Hansard* space was measured up they were using the whole of the corridor, and some odd places about there, and the whole of those were measured in; so that they have at the present moment, in a very uncomfortable way, rather a large area in feet. In the new scheme they get a larger area, and an improved system of rooms.

2625. They have those passages still? I hope they will not use them; but the passages remain there. The 1,434 feet of room, not fully utilised, is now increased to 1,695 feet which can be fully utilised, and I think it will be of more value than the present accommodation.

2626. *Mr. Fegan.*] That is not very much room for so many men? At present the corridor is measured in as part of the *Hansard* space, which, of course, is an unfair thing, because they can only use it partially.

2627. *Mr. Humphrey.*] How many feet would the corridor be? Nine hundred feet. The Press-rooms are altered from four at 620 feet to six at 1,008 feet. The Press tea-room was 240 feet; it is now 300 feet. In the accommodation common to both Houses the back library is 777 feet; it will be 1,927 feet. The messengers' quarters are 900 feet, and they will be reduced to 689 feet; but they are better rooms. The messengers' quarters at present embrace three rooms in a low dark basement, which cannot be fully utilised because there is not sufficient light; but now they will have two larger rooms, well lighted, in the new cottage—less clear floor space, but better accommodation.

2628. *Chairman.*] It will be possible to give them more floor space if it should be desirable? Yes; it is only a question of expense.

2629. *Mr. Black.*] Would not the cottage in which you propose to place the messengers be rather far away from the hall? That is so.

2630. Is it not necessary that the messengers should be so near that they will be able to be quickly at their post? The explanation is this: The messengers on duty have all got their boxes and their stations in the House at the present moment, and it is those who are not on duty who will use these rooms. They will have their meals there, and camp there during long sittings. I do not think there will be any inconvenience in sending them across the green to the cottage.

2631. The rooms you refer to as being in the basement are used now by waiters as well as by messengers;—if a bell rang for a waiter, would he not be rather out of the way down in the cottage? There are several rooms for waiters as well. There are three rooms just opposite the telegraph-office; I do not touch those. I take the three rooms which are under a sort of basement. In regard to the steward's quarters,

W. L. Vernon. quarters, they now have a space of 1,048 feet, comprising four rooms; that is now reduced to 616 feet. At present the steward's quarters are rather ample, so that the new steward will have 616 feet in four rooms, and of course there is accommodation in the way of lavatory and bathroom.

17 Nov., 1897.

2632. *Mr. Fegan.*] Though the former steward had no family and the present steward has a family, you are going to make the accommodation smaller, while it is insisted that the steward should live on the premises? This cottage can be increased or decreased in size.

2633. It means a few hundred pounds more if it is determined to give the steward more room? Yes; it could be easily done by either having another floor or increasing the dimensions.

2634. *Mr. Black.*] What did you say was the increased space given to the Speaker? In order to reach the Speaker's quarters from the kitchen we have had to rearrange the bedroom and bathroom, and in doing that we have had to subdivide the walls again, and in the vacancy thus caused we have arranged to give the Speaker a little larger bedroom than he had before. It is not that the Speaker wanted it, but the plan required it. In regard to *Hansard*, the 900 feet of space occupied by the corridor is included in the total of 1,434 feet now used by *Hansard*.

2635. *Mr. Humphery.*] Would it not be as well to put it this way: That the present accommodation is 534 feet, and you propose to give them 795 feet? Yes.

2636. *Chairman.*] If they go back to the old state of things which they have at present they will have 1,900 feet? No; 1,400 feet.

2637. You say you are giving them 1,695 feet? Yes.

2638. And there are 900 feet in the corridors if they still determine to use them, objectionable though the practice would be;—in that way they would have 2,595 feet? Yes; but the corridors should not be used.

2639. Do you think that as regards *Hansard*, the Press, the Opposition Room, and the Library the improvements will be sufficient to meet the present demand? So far as the Opposition Room and the Press are concerned, I feel certain they will be satisfactory. With regard to the *Hansard*, I have not had time to see Mr. Robinson; but I think I can speak with certainty about that, because we are giving much better accommodation. There is no doubt about the improvement; there will be a great improvement. There will be better light.

2640. *Mr. Lee.*] Have you included in your alterations any improvement in the ventilation of the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly? No; that would be a matter of expenditure on the building generally. I might perhaps explain, in defence of the present system of ventilation, that there is a recording register which shows a most equal temperature all through the evening. It rises, certainly, on Wednesday and Thursday nights sometimes two and three and four degrees, from about half-past 10 to 12 o'clock.

2641. What would be the temperature of the air then? I can send for some of the dials, from which you can see the temperature.

2642. *Mr. Wright.*] It depends on the temperature outside, I suppose? The fault is this: It is not the want of air passing through the Chamber; but you have to use air which is of a certain temperature outside, and unless you like to deal with that you must always be content with the present system. I mean that if it is a hot night outside, and you are pumping hot air into the room, of course you get the natural result.

2643. *Mr. Lee.*] Could not that be remedied by forcing the air through water or something of that kind? That could be done.

2644. At a small expense? Well, it does not do to force air through water too much, because it becomes so laden with saturation. My opinion is that you want to pass it through cool chambers.

2645. *Mr. Wright.*] Is the atmosphere in the Chamber kept free from bad air? The air in the Chamber is fresh. I do not say that the temperature is lower than that outside, because it is not; it follows the outside temperature.

2646. What test do you apply to ascertain whether the air is really fresh;—do you rely upon the exhaust-pipes? Every night the House sits we have two large fans which run something like 600 cubic feet per minute each fan. The whole of that Chamber is cleared entirely of the air every twenty-four minutes; but if it is a hot night outside you get the hot air inside.

2647. *Chairman.*] The case stands in this way: To improve the ventilation by more fans, or by additional-exhaust apparatus in the roof, means a small additional expense, and to bring the air through cool chambers or through ice means considerable additional expense? That is so.

2648. Whether the ventilation is sufficiently bad, or whether the results to be obtained are sufficiently good to justify the expenditure, is a thing to be decided? Yes. I should like to show the Committee some of the dials on which the temperature is recorded. The temperature is taken every night in three different places inside the House and outside, and the results are all recorded. Some little time ago the same question arose in the House of Commons, and a Select Committee was appointed to make inquiries into the matter, and in the Parliamentary Library there is a full report of their proceedings. There they had a cold storage chamber in the basement of the building, with large canvas screens crossing the Chamber. I am speaking now of a vault which in winter was heated by hot pipes and in summer was dashed with spray taken from large ice-lumps. By this means all the dust and dirt in the London air was caught on the screen. The air was thus cooled in the summer, and it proceeded into the Chamber. Then, up in the clock-tower, at the other end of the building, there is a large furnace which answers exactly the same purpose as the upcast shaft of a colliery.

2649. Suppose the Committee determined, contingently only upon including in the present building one of two schemes for ventilation—either an extension of the present system, or a system which would deal with the ventilation beyond doubt—what would be the cost, one or the other, approximately? The second one would require some little consideration. The first one is very simply answered. If you wish to renew the air in the Chamber more rapidly than at present it is simply a question of having more fans. These are worked by the hydraulic water-power from the street, so that we would have no difficulty as to power. It is only a question of adding more fans and probably more tubing. There is a perfect net-work of tubing now. There is a distributing set of tubes and an exhaust set. There is one fan which forces the air in and another fan which draws it out. These appliances can be multiplied at a very small cost; £100 or £150 would do all that is required. As regards the second question, I should recommend that a tunnel be constructed from the Domain—or, at any rate, from the gardens at the rear of the building—and a small underground chamber made in which the air could be dealt with in the same way as is done at Adelaide, and, as I have described, in the Houses of Parliament in London.

2650. *Mr. Lee.*] At the present time your system of ventilation is so adapted that it acts directly upon the Chamber? Yes, directly. W.L. Vernon.

2651. Does not this take place—that as you exhaust the air from the Chamber the foul air keeps pouring in from every other part of the building, and you bring all this foul air through the Chamber? Yes; it has a tendency to ventilate the whole of the building as well as the Chamber; but, of course, we are forcing air in. All under the Speaker's chair, and under the gallery fronts, and under the raised space round the House, there is air coming in. The dials show that the temperature is never very high. 17 Nov., 1897.

2652. *Mr. Wright.*] The highest temperature recorded in October is 72? Yes.

2653. *Chairman.*] Have you anything to say in regard to the alternative scheme? I wish to give the Committee the area of the alternative scheme as compared with the original scheme. For the original building the whole of the area was 83,500 feet. In the modified scheme, in accordance with the plan coloured blue, the area is 58,150 feet.

2654. *Mr. Roberts.*] How many members would that accommodate? The same number as the original scheme.

2655. *Chairman.*] You say that the area of the portions of the old building which will be affected by the alterations is 7,500 feet, as against 9,000 feet, which will be the area of the same portions after the alterations have been made? Yes.

2656. How much accommodation will there be in the old building, plus the difference of 1,500 feet? The present building, adding 1,500 feet for the improvements now put before the Committee, shows a total area of 36,396 feet. I may say that that is not giving a fair comparison, because the 36,396 feet only represent the actual rooms, while the area in the other scheme includes the whole of the rooms and the corridors as well.

2657. What did you allow for corridors? Ten per cent. for corridors and staircases, so that the figures would be 40,000 feet as against 58,000 feet.

2658. How wide are the corridors, as a rule, in the old building? They are all widths.

2659. Would they average 7 feet? No; they would average about 6 feet.

2660. Then the building as altered would have (approximately) 40,000 feet of space? Yes.

2661. And the building under the modified scheme would have 58,000 feet, and under the original scheme 83,000 feet? Yes.

2662. Subject, of course, to such alterations as might be required? Yes.

2663. You gave as an estimate of the cost of the improvements to the present building from £10,000 to £12,000; in your opinion is £12,000 ample? £12,000 should be sufficient to do well the items shown on the plan and discussed; but one can never tell, when you begin to pull down parts of the building, how far you may have to go.

2664. There is no doubt that another £2,000 or £3,000 would cover the cost? I feel certain that when they saw that the Members' smoking-room was being left as it is, they would at once wish to have that taken down too. It is a wooden construction. In that way there would be a great tendency to creep on and creep on. To carry out the work shown on the plan, about £12,000 would be a very fair price.

2665. *Mr. Lee.*] If that amount is expended, and the present proposal is carried out, will it dispose of those worm-eaten portions of the building—all those portions that are a danger to the whole building, being liable to fire? No, it would not. It would not touch the stone walls which are now riddled with white-ant. It would clear away the ant-caten library; but it would not affect the whole of the building. It would, of course, be a very great check upon the white-ant.

2666. Would not this be the effect—if these additions are made, largely consisting of wood, the ant-infested portions would contribute the ant to the new wood, and so destroy the whole? Possibly. We should take every precaution we could think of to check it; but I doubt if we could stop it. I do not think anybody could.

2667. Can you preserve wood in any way so as to prevent the white-ant from touching it? I do not think so. I have specimens in my office now of 6-lb. lead through which the white-ant have eaten holes. I do not know how to stop them. This lead was taken off the roof of the Museum, and the white-ant had found its way up from the street.

2668. But are there not a great many remedies against the ravages of the white-ant;—is it not possible to coat timber in such a way as to make it practically impervious to the ant? Some of these preparations are good in their way, and so far as they go; but the nature of all these preparations in time is lost. Sometimes the tannin in the wood itself will eat up the poison in these preparations. So that while they last for a time, it is only for a time. Then, again, it is almost impossible to treat every piece of timber that is put into the building. Even a saw-cut in a joist at once gives the white-ant an opening which, perhaps, the surface of the joist would not give him. He at once goes for that saw-cut, and then his depredations begin.

2669. You have told us that the whole of the building is infested with these ants—the stone walls, the brick walls, and the woodwork. If the improvements proposed are carried out, the present building will be, to a certain extent, permanent, and will last for many years to come. If additions of the character mentioned are made, shall we not be really spending money to create food for white-ants? Well, only in a degree; because I should use as much hard materials—as much brick, and iron, and concrete—as it is possible to use. I should diminish the field for the white-ant.

2670. If the alterations are carried out in the way suggested by yourself, would you be of opinion that the building would remain in a very much superior condition for many years to come? It would be better. But, if I might correct you, I did not suggest these alterations to the building. There is no doubt the building would be better by the expenditure proposed to be made.

2671. *Mr. Hoskins.*] You have never heard of white-ants eating into stone walls so that they became so weak that they tumbled down? No; I do not think I have.

2672. I understood you to say that the stone walls of the present building were permeated with white-ants? They eat the joist out, and then the whole of the floor or roof falls in, and by that means the walls may collapse.

2673. *Mr. Hassall.*] In the event of a new building being erected on the present ground, or on any portion of it which you know is ant-infested, would there not still be a liability of the ants getting into the new building? Except that the whole of the basement would be cleared off and covered with concrete, and plenty of light and air would be thrown in upon it in all directions.

- W. L. Vernon. 2674. Which would be the best preventive? Yes; as long as you can give light and air into a building you need not bother about ants.
- 17 Nov., 1897. 2675. *Mr. Roberts.*] If these alterations were carried out, how long would they last. Would it be a fair thing to say twenty years? I think, so far as the actual accommodation itself is concerned, it would last that time. That is, it would meet the requirements of the House. But I am not prepared to offer any opinion as to the durability of the wooden portions which are still left, and also as to the white-ant.
2676. Would it be a fair thing to say it would probably last fifteen or twenty years? I think we should best spend money on it. For instance, there are the Library floors in front. We had a failure some eighteen months ago in one of these, and we are just as likely to have failures in the floors above.
2677. They would certainly last for ten years? Yes, with patching and repairing.
2678. *Mr. Hoskins.*] There will not be much timber in the building with your proposed alterations? Not in the Library; but there must necessarily be some in the Press-rooms, and so on. There would also be wood in the construction of the Opposition room.
2679. Is there not some class of colonial timber that is almost white-ant proof which could be used? Some of the colonial pine checks the white-ant, but I have seen specimens of colonial pine attacked by them—Cyprus pine. But then I would not use Cyprus pine where I wanted strength. It is too short in the grain, too brittle, and for joiners' work it is impossible to use it.
2680. *Mr. Lee.*] Would your views be fairly summarised in this way: You do not suggest these alterations to Parliament House, and you do not approve of them; but if it is decided that they should be carried out it would be possible, by using the best material, and as little wood as possible, to reduce the danger from white-ant to a minimum? It would reduce it so far as those new portions are concerned, but it would make no difference to the remainder.
2681. But you would remove a great deal of the old portions which are now ant-infested? That would be so.
2682. When finished under those conditions, the building would be a much superior building in that respect to what it is now? It would be comparatively better.
2683. And under those circumstances should last at least another twenty years? I do not think the wooden partitions which would be left would last that time. I could not give an opinion about those—and possibly the roof.
2684. *Mr. Wright.*] Have you any idea of the life of a building infested with white-ant—an ordinary building? On the northern rivers it is very short.
2685. In Sydney, buildings known to have been infested with the white-ant for fifteen years are still standing—the Royal Hotel for instance? It varies. I do not think there is any rule to guide one. It depends on the circumstances.
2686. Did you ever know of the collapse of a building through white-ant? I have had portions of a building collapse—not the whole building. I have not known a case where a whole building has collapsed, but I have had floors and roofs collapse. In the case of the Museum, to which I have referred, it was apparent, when they opened the roof up and saw the condition of things that the whole might have come down at any moment.
2687. There is no knowing how long the present Parliamentary buildings have been infested with white-ants? I do not think so. I have no record in the office.
2688. And they are still standing? Yes.
2689. *Mr. Humphery.*] Comparing the floor space in the modified scheme with that of the existing building, including the proposed alterations, the modified scheme has 58,000 feet? Yes.
2690. About what proportion of that would represent corridor space? About 10 per cent.
2691. So that you take off nearly 6,000 feet, which would bring it down to 52,000 feet as compared with 58,000 feet for the existing building? Yes.
2692. *Mr. Clarke.*] I think you stated yesterday that you thought it would require five months to complete these alterations to the old building? I said I thought about five months.
2693. Would it not be possible, by putting on a larger staff of workmen, to do it in a shorter time? I do not think so, because I was calculating in my mind the putting on of as many men as it was possible to find room for. I might work with double shifts; but I should not double the amount of work by doing that.
2694. That would entail, I suppose, additional expenditure? It would cost a great deal more money.
2695. How much? I suppose you would have to pay one and a half wages, or perhaps more, up to a certain hour. It has been so rarely done in Sydney that I can hardly tell.
2696. The work would have to be done during a Parliamentary recess? Yes; it would have to be done during a long recess.
2697. *Mr. O'Connor.*] Would there be any possibility of doing the work during the night by night-shifts? It could be done; but it would not be with any very great advantage, because you would have to put on a different gang of men at night from those who were working in the day, and perhaps they would not work on the same scheme.
2698. *Mr. Lee.*] Would the proposed alterations interfere with the elevation of the present building? No.
2699. Would they involve any alteration to the balcony? No; there would be no alteration in the front of the building.
2700. *Mr. Roberts.*] Would you consider the desirableness or otherwise of having the Legislative Chambers on the eastern boundary of the building with the view of getting more air and ventilation? The difficulty would be to get proper approaches to the Chambers.
2701. In the present plan the debating Chambers of both Houses are surrounded by corridors;—do you not think that in a climate like this it would be desirable to have the rooms adjacent to the fresh air? I do not think so. Out of twenty-eight examples I brought before the Committee the other day there were only three where such a method was adopted.
2702. I would direct your attention to the case of Buda Pesth? I know the drawings of the Buda Pesth building very well. It is being built at an enormous cost. It is called the Westminster of Hungary. It is a palatial building, and the Chambers themselves are surrounded by quadrangles, so that light is gained on the sides, but at the expense of having an enormous building. That has been the difficulty all through. Another difficulty in putting a chamber facing the east at the end of a wing is, that you can only

only approach it from one end. You want the public to approach it at one end and the officials at another, and the Members to have access to it from all directions. I tried several ways to get that in; but I could not see my way, except at very great cost. W. L. Vernon.
17 Nov., 1897.

2703. Did you think of having a sort of semi-open corridor? I will see what I can do in that way.

2704. *Mr. Black.*] What about a balcony? In the case of the Chambers at Ottawa, there are little angular areas where there is light. I will see if I can get those. I am afraid it will very much alter the plan. It is not at all necessary.

2705. In submitting a plan of a building of this kind, you have to be guided by the climate of the country, and in Ottawa for six months in the year they are snowed up? But a building in this climate is much cooler if it is surrounded by other buildings than if it stands baking in the sun.

2706. Speaking about the approaches, would it not be possible to have a sort of open corridor or balcony by which to approach the Chamber, so as to have the Chamber as near the natural daylight as possible? I could prepare another scheme; but it would take some little time, and such a building would cost a great deal more money.

2707. But a question of £1,000 or £2,000 is not to be considered in a case like that? I will see if I can get a rough sketch which will embody your views in that respect.

FRIDAY, 26 NOVEMBER, 1897.

Present:—

THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esq. (CHAIRMAN).

The Hon. FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHERY.

The Hon. JAMES HOSKINS.

The Hon. CHARLES JAMES ROBERTS, C.M.G.

The Hon. WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT.

The Hon. DANIEL O'CONNOR.

HENRY CLARKE, Esq.

CHARLES ALFRED LEE, Esq.

JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, Esq.

THOMAS HENRY HASSALL, Esq.

GEORGE BLACK, Esq.

FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WRIGHT, Esq.

FRANK FARNELL, Esq.

The Committee further considered the proposed new Houses of Parliament for the Colony.

Walter Liberty Vernon, Government Architect, sworn, and further examined:—

2708. *Chairman.*] You have prepared a statement of an amended design. Will you read it to the Committee? This is the statement:— W. L. Vernon.
26 Nov., 1897.

Department of Public Works,
Government Architect's Branch,
Sydney, 18 November, 1897.

ACTING on the instructions of the Committee, I have the honor to place before them an amended design of entirely new Parliamentary Buildings, to be erected on the site marked out for the first design, but necessarily taking a smaller area.

The space required may be generally stated as that lying north of the existing Parliamentary Buildings, extending to the Bourke Statue, and from the Macquarie-street frontage eastward to a line 60 feet in advance of the present eastern boundary of the existing Parliamentary Buildings, and extending into the Domain. The space required from the Domain is therefore represented by a depth of 60 feet, as against 120 feet in the first design.

In preparing this amended design, it has been necessary to bear in mind that the amount of accommodation required for the various bodies and officials connected with the Parliament of the country was very closely gone into in the first design, and unless instructions were given to reduce this, which I venture to suggest would be unwise, no alteration of any moment has been made in the amount and variety of the accommodation. A great change, however, has been made as regards the disposition and area of those portions of the building more devoted to the public and perhaps to monumental architectural effect, while corridors have been curtailed in some cases and omitted in others, and suites of rooms have been carried out in wings running towards the east instead of in the main body of the building.

The two Chambers, which are retained with practically the same dimensions as before, are still placed centrally in the buildings; while direct outside light is provided for at each corner of the surrounding corridors, meeting some of the suggestions made in considering the first design. It is, however, after the closest consideration that I have retained in this design the same relative position of the Chambers as in the first. I have already pointed out that in the large majority of designs for Parliamentary buildings elsewhere the same principle is adopted, the only exceptions worth consideration being three designs of Gothic character necessitating the use of horizontal lights.

I am further of opinion it would be unwise to expose the outside walls of the Chamber to the intense heat radiation of a Sydney summer. As a practical proof of this, I might point to the thermometrical reading taken at the present Lower Chamber on the 13th instant, whereby it will be seen that at 4.30 p.m. the temperature outside was 81 degrees and inside the Chamber only 66. Had this Chamber not been surrounded as it is on all sides by other buildings, the low reading would not have been possible.

Without going closely into details of the plans, the superficial area of the building may be compared with that of the first design and the present building, as follows:—

Area of original scheme	83,500 sup. feet
„ amended scheme	58,150 „
„ present building	37,341 „

I also submit a sketch elevation indicating the general appearance that this building can be given, designed in Italian Renaissance of somewhat similar feeling and general features to that of the original scheme. On the eastern front, however, there is a considerable difference in treatment, necessitated by the prolongation of the three wings before referred to in front of the main building, making it necessary and

W. L. Vernon. and desirable to treat the fronts of the wings instead of the main building as a façade. This gives an admirable opportunity of introducing the telling feature of two connecting double colonnades, which again enclose two garden courts, which should be very attractive and applicable for Members' use.

26 Nov., 1897.

The design has been so drawn as to provide for the future construction of a central dome, but in such a way as to obviate the necessity of any further consideration of that part for the present.

Calculating the style of the building and the quality of the materials to be of the same description as that provided for in the first design, I estimate the amended one can be erected, up to 55 feet from the ground level, at £257,000, towards which the sum of £100,000 already stands at credit.

The building can be erected without any disturbance whatever of the present Parliamentary Buildings, the only removals necessary being Richmond-terrace and the Lending Library.

A prospective sketch of the eastern front is also attached to the exhibits.

W. L. VERNON.

I have so arranged this design that to each of the two Chambers I have direct windows at each corridor, so that there may be in all directions a complete current of air. This differs from the first design in that respect. In the first design there was no direct access to the outer air, except through the long corridors, but here the air comes directly into the Chamber corridors on each of the four corners. I have here met the suggestion of having an outside current of air, and at the same time of having all the different accommodation of the House distributed around the Chambers.

2709. *Mr. Roberts.*] What would be the extra cost if a dome be provided for? I think £70,000 or £80,000 extra.

2710. *Chairman.*] The amended scheme shows an area of 58,150 superficial feet;—what are the respective areas of the two Chambers in the present building, and in your amended scheme? The Upper Chamber in the present building shows 1,540 feet for the Members, and the amended scheme provides 2,880 feet. For the public the present gallery contains 1,260 feet, and the new gallery in the amended scheme would contain 1,400 feet. I might explain that the large addition to the Members' portion of the Chamber is really intended for the occupation and convenience of the Members of the other House on the opening of Parliament, and so on. That is the reason for the large increase. In the Lower House, the present Chamber for Members contains 1,512 feet, but in the amended scheme the area would be 2,918. The public in the present Chamber have 1,196 feet, and in the new galleries there would be 1,650 feet. That is an extension of the accommodation for the public on the first scheme which was placed before the Committee. It has been obtained by continuing the gallery continuously around the Chamber, instead of having it broken into recesses. By that means a considerable amount of space has been given.

2711. Give us the total accommodation in the Legislative Council Chamber as you propose and as it is, and in the Legislative Assembly as you propose and as it is, both for Members and the public? The Upper House has at present a total of 2,800 feet; as proposed it would have 4,280 feet. The Lower Chamber at present has 2,708 feet; as proposed it would have 4,568 feet.

2712. What does the aggregate increase in the two Chambers amount to? 3,210 feet.

2713. *Mr. Wright.*] Nearly double, is it not? Yes.

2714. *Chairman.*] Therefore, with regard to the accommodation outside the Chambers, the difference will not be 58,150 as against 39,000, but 58,150, less 2,340 outside? That is so.

2715. In other words 54,910? Yes.

2716. *Mr. Roberts.*] What is the difference in the cost of the amended design and that of the original design? There is a difference in cost, if I include the estimated value of the dome, of £195,000. I have put the dome down at £80,000.

2717. That is your completed building? Yes; the completed building would show a difference of £195,000, but for present purposes the difference would be about £275,000.

2718. The original scheme would cost £278,000 more than the amended scheme? Yes; the amended scheme without the dome. The façade elevation of the first design is comparatively a flat surface. The main end wings are very subservient. In order to do away with corridor space, and to meet some objections that have been raised, I would bring these wings out almost into the same line as the library, and that means that the façade design is transferred to this line; and I have connected these wings in order to give emphasis to the design, and, I think, a certain amount of dignity and character. I have connected them by open corridors, which will be useful for communication from the different wings, as well as for the sake of general appearance. At the same time, the centre of each of these wings was set apart for an open corridor, lighted at the ends, so that any extension stretching any distance could be easily obtained without interfering with the general structure of the building.

2719. What was the annual expenditure in keeping the present buildings in repair? It is put down at about £1,500 a year. As far as I could ascertain at the time I gave my evidence on a former occasion, I stated it, approximately, at £1,000 a year, and I said "at any moment I may be called upon to do unforeseen work in connection with these buildings." All that expense I have dissociated from the constant expenditure going on in improving the accommodation.

2720. *Chairman.*] If the improvements are made as suggested in your second paper, will the cost of maintenance be still as great—£1,000 a year? It will still be a considerable sum. It will be an expenditure comparatively on the whole building less the new portions.

2721. *Mr. Fegan.*] By having the old building as it is, and adding a new wing, it would take as much to keep the old building in repair afterwards as it does at the present time? Just as much. And I might explain that the portion of the old building which is affected by the proposed alterations amounts to 8,000 feet, as against 39,000 feet. So one might put it thus: as 80 is to 39 so is £1,000 a year to the annual expense.

2722. *Chairman.*] Therefore you could not expect a reduction under any circumstances of more than £200 a year? A reduction of, say, a fifth.

2723. That is the best you could expect? Yes.

2724. *Mr. Roberts.*] What is the difference in the accommodation afforded by the amended scheme and that of the original scheme? There is a difference of about 58,000 feet as against 83,000 feet.

2725. I wanted you to point out, if you could, where the difference exists—what rooms, if any, are curtailed? I have left the rooms just about the same in number as they were. In some cases they are certainly smaller, and not so high.

2726.

2726. In what manner is this nearly 30,000 superficial feet accounted for in the way of curtailing? W.L. Vernon.
Principally by omitting altogether the large public corridors on either side.
2727. Are these corridors done away with altogether? They are completely done away with. The long Members' corridor is done away with, and a Members' corridor of smaller dimensions is carried down the centre of the two wings of the building. The dome is also much smaller in extent, and the entrance portico is reduced in scale.
2728. When you say the Members' corridor is done away with, is it absolutely so, or only curtailed? It is removed altogether and brought into the centre of the building.
2729. Is the library curtailed in any way? It is curtailed in size.
2730. To what extent? The library on the ground floor is reduced from 4,454 feet down to 3,594 feet. Then there is a corresponding reduction, or rather a greater reduction, in the archives library in the basement. It was very extensive before; now it is of more moderate dimensions.
2731. Is the area of the refreshment room lessened;—that will be the same as the library, will it not? That will be almost the same as the library. The size of the dining-room in the amended scheme is 3,311 feet as against 1,560 in the present building.
2732. Do the same number of rooms exist in the amended design as in the original design, or are any done away with altogether? Some are done away with, but I think it is only half-a-dozen rooms at the most.
2733. Where would they be? I think there is one Minister's room, and some of the rooms in the basement. We had, in the first design, two or three sets of spare rooms, for which there would be no specific use at present. Those I have curtailed to some extent, but very slightly.
2734. After the inquiries that I imagine you have made as to the accommodation required for the carrying on of the business of both Houses of Parliament, do you think that this amended design would afford all the requisite accommodation equally as well as the more expensive building? Yes, it would, and it is accommodation that would do for a long time to come; in fact, I do not know, unless there should be very great changes made in Government control, that there would be any occasion to alter it.
2735. As far as usefulness goes, the amended design would be equal to the more expensive design—the original design? I think it would.
2736. Will the Committee be right in assuming that the only difference would be that the other would be, from an architectural point of view, a more noble building? That is so. I may add that I have put the Press in a most unexceptional position. I know there was a criticism as to the position of their rooms. Now, I have placed them where the Ministers' rooms were originally on the first floor, immediately in the rear of their own galleries. They could not have a better position. There is a direct staircase leading down to the street, so that they will be able to get to the street from their gallery without going through the House at all.
2737. If the Committee should favourably entertain the amended design, would there not be a great saving—having in view the desirableness of erecting the building at as low a cost as possible—if the dome were included in the original contract? There would, to some extent, because the contractor would have his scaffolding and plant on the work; but in any case a building of that kind would take three years to consolidate before the dome should be put up at all. For practical purposes, it is almost better to leave it for a time; but so far as cost goes, it would be better to include the dome in one contract, so that the contractor could leave his scaffolding until the time came to go on with the dome.
2738. Are you able to say what would be the difference in the estimate if the dome were included in the original contract, and if it were erected subsequently to the completion of the building? The difference would mean the cost of re-scaffolding and the cost of a temporary roof over the dome chamber. It would make a difference, probably, of £5,000 or £6,000; I do not think more.
2739. In what time do you think this amended design could be carried out? Three years—well within three years.
2740. And during that time the work of Parliament could go on in the present building? Uninterruptedly.
2741. *Mr. Black.*] Is it an absolute necessity, for any other reason than an architectural reason, that these two wings should be run back? Yes; to obtain the accommodation which I have had to take away from the central building.
2742. Yes, but are there not a number of rooms which are unnecessary in the centre of the building; I see you have eleven committee rooms there. As far as I know there has never been any need for that number of rooms? There are eight in the present building.
2743. That is about six too many, in my opinion? I think two or three excess-rooms for purposes of that kind are always useful. A spare room in a building of that kind is always of great use. It comes in for accidental purposes.
2744. What is the space you give to these Committee-rooms? I have given them 5,090 feet, as against 2,640 feet at present. The present Committee-rooms, I might explain, were constructed out of the old coach-house, and some of them are, necessarily, very confined in space, so much so that there is not much more than room around the tables. There is very little room for witnesses. They were circumscribed by the existing conditions.
2745. What is the space you allow to *Hansard* in your amended scheme? In the Upper House I have given 15 feet of desk space, as against 13 feet.
2746. I want the totals for both Houses of Parliament, comparing the amended scheme with the present accommodation? At present there is 1,344 feet for *Hansard*, including the corridor accommodation which is now used, and in the new plan there is 1,711 feet.
2747. The 1,344 feet includes lobbies? Yes; I have 1,711 feet in good rooms.
2748. What space do you devote to the Press in the amended scheme? The present building contains 785 feet for the Press, and the amended scheme would give 2,046 feet for the Press, and 462 feet for tea-room accommodation.
2749. The Speaker's accommodation? The Speaker at present has 976 feet, and in the amended scheme he would have 1,056.
2750. What is the difference with regard to Ministers? The Ministers at present have 2,402 feet in eight rooms; the amended scheme gives them 3,292 feet in nine rooms. The area is larger, because the rooms are on a larger scale.
2751. And the Parliamentary officials? The Parliamentary officials now have 1,824 feet; they would then have 3,775 feet.

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2752. *Mr. Wright.*] Is that in both Houses? That is for the Lower House.
2753. *Chairman.*] That does not include *Hansard*? Oh no.
2754. *Mr. Black.*] It includes messengers and waiters? No; messengers I include under their own heading. I have six rooms for the officials. At present they are scattered, and it is difficult to ascertain where they are. This is based really upon the accommodation which was mentioned to me by Mr. Webb when I was instructed to inquire from him in the first instance what accommodation would be required for future uses.
2755. *Mr. Fegan.*] These men have double the room that the *Hansard* men have, and they do not do half the work that the *Hansard* men have to do? Of course, in designing a building of this kind one must make it elastic for future uses as well as adapted to the present.
2756. *Mr. Black.*] The Under Secretaries? At present they have 240 feet; they would have 336 feet.
2757. The Government supporters? They now have 798 feet; in the amended scheme they would have 1,190 feet.
2758. The Opposition? The Opposition now have 480 feet; they will then have 1,120 feet.
2759. The Labour Party? The Labour Party now have 308 feet, and in the amended scheme they would have 484 feet.
2760. The messengers? I do not think I have the messengers down clearly. I am afraid I cannot give that at present, but I will supply the particulars later on. It is a vast improvement on the present arrangements.
2761. The Chairman of Committees? He has now 308 feet; in the amended scheme he will have 460 feet in two rooms.
2762. The refreshment-room? The present dining-room has 1,560 feet; in the amended scheme it will have 3,311 feet; and the service-room, which has 210 feet, will be increased to 480 feet. The service-room comprises the pantry. Then there are two private dining-rooms in the amended scheme which are not in existence now, and these will contain 792 feet.
2763. *Mr. Wright.*] What will that make the total dining accommodation? The present accommodation for dining-room shows 1,770 feet; in the amended scheme there will be 3,580 feet.
2764. *Mr. Black.*] What is the area of the lavatory and bath accommodation? I have not that here; but I will supply it.
2765. Reception-rooms for visitors? In the Upper House there will be a room for the Governor and his Aide-de-Camp, containing 759 feet. The President now has 811 feet.
2766. Is that for visitors? Oh, no.
2767. *Mr. Lee.*] What is the necessity for a room for the Governor? My precedent for providing a room for the Governor is the fact that the other Colonial Houses of Parliament possess it.
2768. *Mr. Black.*] Will you mind giving me the accommodation for visitors? There is one reception-room of 1,113 feet; that is in connection with the Upper House.
2769. Does that include the reception rooms for both Houses? That would be used by both Houses.
2770. There are no reception rooms other than that included in the 1,113 feet? No other. The public accommodation rooms now are four, with 578 feet. In the amended scheme there are nine rooms, with 2,149 feet.
2771. Is that in addition to the reception rooms? Yes; those are rooms where Members may be interviewed by their constituents.
2772. What space has the President? The President now has 811 feet; in the amended scheme he will have 864 feet.
2773. When you gave me the Chairman of Committees, was that the Chairman of Committees in the Assembly or both Chairmen of Committees? I gave you the Assembly Chairman.
2774. Give me the Upper House Chairman? He now has 224 feet; in the amended design he will have 417 feet.
2775. When you gave me the accommodation for Parliamentary officials did you include Black Rod and the Sergeant-at-Arms? No, I did not.
2776. Well, Black Rod? I have included him among the officials, but the Sergeant-at-Arms I have not. He has now 308 feet with two rooms, and I am giving him three rooms with 1,056 feet.
2777. Have you included a smoking room in the rooms for the use of Members which you have given me? No, I have not. The smoking room now has 459 feet; in the amended scheme it will have 840 feet.
2778. That is one for each House? No; it is to be common to both Houses in the new scheme.
2779. I see you have a ladies' cloak-room, in the new scheme? It is a small room at the top of the staircase.
2780. How much space will that take? In the Lower House, 220 feet, including a lavatory, and the same in the other House.
2781. Four hundred and forty feet in the two Houses, as against nothing? Yes.
2782. Is the Aide-de-Camp's room included in the Governor's room? Yes, it is; two rooms and a lavatory.
2783. There is a lounge-room? The lounge-room is the common-room of the Upper House. The lounge-room, which is now used as a smoking-room, has 612 feet; that is proposed to be increased to 1,104 feet in the amended scheme. There is no writing-room for Members of the Upper House, at present. It is proposed to give them one with 484 feet.
2784. And what writing-room accommodation will there be for Members of the Lower House? They will have a writing-room of 528 feet, and one reading-room of 462 feet.
2785. You do not include the reading-room in the library accommodation? No.
2786. What is the area of the present writing-rooms? There are none.
2787. You do not call them writing-rooms? We call them libraries at present.
2788. There is one room off the Chamber now, between the Chamber and the lobbies as you enter? That is called the front library; it is used as a writing-room. The library and reading-rooms at present comprise six rooms with 2,997 feet; in the amended scheme I give the library by itself, 3,594 feet, with a small room of 160 feet for the Librarian. And then I give writing-rooms in addition.
2789. But you have a reading-room on the plan? The reading-room for the Lower House contains 462 feet.
2790. Any for the Upper House? No. The old smoking-room in the Upper House, containing 228 feet, is now supplanted by a room of 946 feet in the amended scheme. That is in addition to the 4,216 feet, which I have made up as follows:—3,594 feet the library space; 160 feet, Librarian; and 562 feet for the reading-room.
- 2791.

2791. In addition to that 4,216 feet, did you say there will be a large reading-room? I am afraid we are rather confused by my calling the little room of the Upper House a smoking-room, which it used to be; it is now a reading-room. The present reading-room in the Upper House has 228 feet and the new one will have 946 feet. Perhaps we had better call it, according to my list, a smoking-room—the Upper House smoking-room.

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2792. I have put down a Council smoking-room at 612 feet, which is to be 1,104? I think there is some mistake there. The smoking-room for the Lower House is 840 feet as against 459.

2793. In the Council, I have 1,104 against 612? That is a lounge-room for non-smokers.

2794. You said it was a lounge-room used as a smoking-room? It is used so temporarily.

2795. I am not at all clear about the reading-rooms and the library? The present library, which includes the writing-rooms, in the present House is 2,997 feet. That is increased in the amended scheme for library only to 3,594 feet, and there is 160 feet for Librarian. The reading-room of the Lower House has 462 feet, and for the Upper House, 1,104 feet.

2796. That is a total of 5,320 feet? Yes.

2797. I want to make this information as complete as possible; I would like it in the shape of a return? I can give you that.

2798. I would like to have the items. It appears to me that some of the increases in accommodation are not necessary. For instance, I think the Speaker has already too much accommodation. The increase to twice the area in the case of the Parliamentary officials is not necessary? The Speaker has at present four rooms. That is reduced to three; but one room is made larger. He has an accommodation of 80 feet in excess of what he has at present. That is more in proportion with the new building than his present room.

2799. Will you give me the space for lobbies, corridors, and all the internal means of moving about? That could be taken out; but it would take a rather long time to do it. I think it would be a fair thing to reckon 10 per cent. on the 58,000 feet, and the 39,000 feet as a proportion. That would be nearly 6,000 feet for corridors and staircases in the amended scheme, and in the old building about 4,000 feet.

2800. Then the kitchen? The kitchen at present has 784 feet; that is increased to 1,672 feet. The stores and larders at present have 520 feet; they are increased to 1,485 feet.

2801. The records? They come under the heading of officials; but there is a strong-room for the storing of records in the basement. That is not in existence at present. The record clerks are in the statement of officials.

2802. What have you in the basement—the machinery and the records, is that all? I have the machinery and the strong-room for records.

2803. Now lavatories and baths? The lavatories and baths throughout the building at present have 1,738 feet; the amended scheme shows 2,160 feet. The post-office at present has 130 feet. That is increased to 280 feet, but the 280 is doubled; there is a room on either side of the front entrance. That makes 560 feet, which is for the telephone as well as the post-office. The Leader of the Opposition has 224 feet; that is increased to 273.

2804. Is there anything else? There is nothing except the arrangement for caretakers.

2805. How about the steward's accommodation? The steward at present has 1,048 feet; the amended scheme shows 851 feet. The housekeepers and female servants have a cottage at present, the dimensions of which I do not possess. I give them 582 feet, which I should imagine is about the same accommodation.

2806. What will the Librarian have? He will have six rooms of 1,471 feet.

2807. Will there be any other resident in the building in the shape of a caretaker? There are the waiters' dormitories with at present 560 feet in the basement, which is very bad. We put them on the top of the building at 446 feet.

2808. Waiters and messengers is it, or are the messengers separate? The messengers are separate. I have given the messengers a mess-room of 660 feet which they have not at present.

2809. They have a feeding-room, have they not? Yes, it is 684 feet at present in the basement. The Clerk of Parliaments in the Upper House at present has 1,555 feet. I propose to give him in the amended scheme 1,320 feet on the first floor, and then there is a set of rooms in the basement which he could take if he wanted them, which now contain 2,588 feet.

2810. How about the Clerk on the other side—Mr. Webb? I gave you Mr. Webb, I think. The Clerk of Assembly now has 104 feet. I will give him 333 feet.

2811. I will ask you to give the accommodation in your scheme for altering the present House? I think that is embodied already in the report, at page 3.

2812. I do not mean that at all. I want to find out what is the area in these two wings to which I have drawn your notice, the wings fronting the Domain? They contain on each floor 8,704 feet, or a total for the two floors of 17,408 feet.

2813. Is that of both? Yes; but in the list of the accommodation you have just received there are three floors included, because a portion of the accommodation already recited is in the basement of the two wings.

2814. What is that? There is the accommodation for the Sergeant-at-Arms, and there are some lavatories. The additional offices in the basement have 2,588 feet, and the tea-room 1,330 feet.

2815. Then, on the three floors in these two wings there will be a space of 26,112 feet? Yes.

2816. You do not think it would be possible in your amended scheme to so economise space in the main building that the two wings might be rendered unnecessary? I am afraid not, because when I was preparing this amended design I was forced into making these wings to get the accommodation which one was setting out for; to reduce these wings would mean to take 25,000 feet off the floor space without any reference to corridors at all, and I do not think it is possible to do that. Some rooms in the new building are larger than those in the present building, but then the building is on a different scale altogether, and it is built for the future as well as for the present.

2817. I have been going roughly through the figures, and I think a saving of some 19,000 or 20,000 feet could be made; I think that the two wings could be saved;—what saving would that effect if the two wings were not erected? The omission of these two wings, at the same scale per cubic foot, would mean about £38,898—a reduction of £40,000 you might call it; but I am sure I could not get the accommodation that you want.

2818. This is the position: if you build a new building as like your amended design as possible, to give the same accommodation that we would have in the amended design of the present building, the amount of £257,000 would be brought down to £217,000? I am not prepared to say.

2819.

W. L. Vernon. 2819. By giving us the same accommodation in the new building as we would have in the old building as altered, that would mean you could reduce your £257,000 by approximately £40,000? That is not quite how it would be. The reduction would be, to begin with, from 58,150 feet superficial, to 47,446, by the omission of these two wings; whereas the present improved building only comes to 39,000 feet. So it would be 47,000, as against 39,000.

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2820. And that could be obtained by bringing the cost down to £217,000? That is true; but whether the accommodation could be provided for or not, I do not know. I would have to go closely into it.

2821. *Mr. Humphery.*] Then you can take 10 per cent. off the space for corridors; that would be in round figures 42,000 as against 35,000 feet? If the corridor space of the present building were measured up it is quite possible that it would not come quite up to 10 per cent.

2822. *Mr. Black.*] Roughly speaking, my idea is that we want more accommodation for visitors, the Press, *Hansard*, messengers, waiters, and the library. We don't want any more accommodation for Members, the President, the Speaker, Parliamentary officials, Sergeant-at-Arms, smoking and cloak rooms, writing-rooms, kitchen, tea-rooms, Ministers' and refreshment-rooms. I think the increase of committee-room space is equally unwarranted? But if you shear these down to the present accommodation you will not reduce it down to the 25,000 feet. It would be quite possible in working this plan out to reduce these projections, but at the same time, one should be very careful not to lessen the dignity of the building, when it is to be a new building. One has to study that as well as the exact number of feet in floor space.

2823. *Mr. Fegan.*] But you would rather have these reduced than commence to build and try to make up afresh the old building? As long as you would not reduce them too much.

2824. *Chairman.*] You have extended *Hansard* from 1,434 feet to 1,695 feet. See if you cannot, by making another room in some way, make it, say 1,800 feet? I will see.

2825. *Mr. Fegan.*] The room which is given to the Press—and the Press is not as important as *Hansard*—is very much increased, while *Hansard* has very little more? I notice that myself. That will want revision.

2826. *Chairman.*] Another matter is this: I spoke to you previously with regard to a lavatory for *Hansard*, and your objection was to bringing the plumbers into that part of the building. When I spoke of lavatories, I did not mean latrines; I simply meant a basin of some sort, or washing appliances connected on to the washing appliances that the clerks are using; will you look into that? Yes.

2827. The messengers' quarters are to be increased to 900 from 689 feet. I think you are satisfied that these quarters are not fair to the messengers. See whether you cannot make it up to 1,200 feet? That can easily be done, because the messengers are moved into the cottage, and you can make the cottage any size you like. At the same time, I should point out that there is 700 feet in the cottage, which is infinitely better than 900 feet in the cellar; but I will see to that matter.

2828. The steward's quarters which you are going to move into the corner of the garden, you have that down 616 feet. That would mean under five rooms of 14 feet. See if you cannot make it a little better? That would be increased in the same way as the messengers' quarters.

2829. *Mr. Fegan.*] There is another point. Perhaps Mr. Vernon could tell us by Tuesday how much of the road that runs in front of Richmond-terrace he is going to take? I will have a plan prepared.

TUESDAY, 30 NOVEMBER, 1897.

Present:—

THOMAS THOMSON EWING, Esq. (CHAIRMAN).

The Hon. FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHERY.

The Hon. JAMES HOSKINS.

The Hon. CHARLES JAMES ROBERTS, C.M.G.

The Hon. WILLIAM JOSEPH TRICKETT.

The Hon. DANIEL O'CONNOR.

HENRY CLARKE, Esq.

CHARLES ALFRED LEE, Esq.

JOHN LIONEL FEGAN, Esq.

THOMAS HENRY HASSALL, Esq.

GEORGE BLACK, Esq.

FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WRIGHT, Esq.

FRANK FARNELL, Esq.

The Committee further considered the expediency of erecting New Houses of Parliament for the Colony.

Walter Liberty Vernon, Government Architect, sworn, and further examined:—

W. L. Vernon. 2830. *Chairman.*] Have you a statement to hand in to the Committee? Yes; I have a tabulated statement showing the accommodation of the present Parliamentary buildings, the accommodation in the first design, and the accommodation in the reduced design. It is as follows:—

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NEW PARLIAMENTARY BUILDINGS.—Comparative Statement of Accommodation.

	Present building.		New design.		New reduced design.	
	Rooms.	Area.	Rooms.	Area.	Rooms.	Area.
<i>Upper House.</i>						
Chamber (Members)	1	Feet. 1,540	1	Feet. 2,564	1	Feet. 2,750
„ (public)	Gallery.	1,260	Galleries.	1,881	Galleries.	1,541
The Governor	2 & lavatory.	811	2 & lavatory.	755	2 & lavatory.	747
The President .....	.....	.....	.....	300	.....	352
The Vice-President .....	.....	.....	.....	300	.....	360
Ministers' room	1	224	2	423	1	288
Chairman of Committees	1	224	2	1,628	1	1,092
Reception-rooms .....	.....	.....	.....	962	.....	936
Members' lounge-room	1	612	1	400	1	946
„ writing-room	750	539
„ smoking-room	1	228	2,076	2	1,416
„ lavatories, &c.	378

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	Present building.		New design.		New reduced design.	
	Rooms.	Area.	Rooms.	Area.	Rooms.	Area.
<i>Upper House.—continued.</i>						
Clerk of Parliament and officials	8	1,555	8	1,881	4	1,584
Additional offices (basement)			7	3,076	2	2,224
Strong-room for Records	2	488	1	5,248	1	2,750
Hansard gallery	13 ft. desk.		19 ft. desk.		11 ft. desk.	
" room	1	300	2	520	1	382
Press reporters' gallery	11 ft. desk.		38 ft. desk.		32 ft. desk.	
" room	1	165	4	940	4	1,092
Messengers	2	60	2	383	3	244
Ladies' cloak-room			1 & lavatory.	157	1	220
Public rooms			4	1,278	3	650
Post-office			1	436	1	209
Caretaker (basement)			4	907	4	1,026
Messengers' mess-room			1	292	1	666
Spare room					1	396
<i>Lower House.</i>						
Chamber (Members)	1	1,512	1	3,255	1	2,750
" (enlargement)				950		
" division lobbies			2	980		
" (public)		1,196		900		1,541
The Speaker	4	976	3	1,208	3	972
The Ministers	3	2,402	8	2,856	8	2,696
Ministerial supporters' room	1	798	1	1,315	1	1,020
Opposition supporters' room	1	480	1	1,022	1	840
Leader of Opposition	1	224	1	380	1	260
Members' room		308	1	430	1	484
Members' writing-room			1	620	1	528
Members' lavatories	2	1,360	3	2,076	1	456
Members' reading-room					1	462
Chairman of Committees	2	308	2	416	1	250
Clerk of Committees			1	204	1	210
Under Secretaries' room	1	240	1	360	1	240
Clerk of Assembly (Chamber)	1	104	2	292	1	216
" and officials and spare rooms	7	1,720	5	1,613	7	4,468
" 2nd floor			5	2,170		
Strong-room for Records			1	5,248	1	2,750
Sergeant-at-Arms	2	308	3	938	3	736
Hansard gallery	11 ft. desk.		12 ft. desk.		11 ft. desk.	
" rooms	6	1,434	4	1,288	5	2,037
Press gallery	28 ft. desk.		31 ft. desk.		32 ft. desk.	
" rooms	4	620	5	1,140	5	1,420
" dining-rooms			1	451	1	462
Messengers	1	140	2	398	3	367
Ladies' cloak-room			1	165	1	160
Public rooms	4	578	4	1,278	4	880
" basement			4	1,435		
Telegraph and Telephone room	1	130	1	436	1	209
Messengers' mess-room	2	684	2	581	1	391
Caretaker (basement)			4	772	4	982
Additional offices (basement)			4	2,301	1	183
<i>Accommodation common to both Houses.</i>						
Library (ground floor)	6	2,997	3	6,188	1	3,388
" archives			6	9,348	6	7,194
Librarian			1	190	1	176
Dining-room	1	1,560	1	1,736	1	3,406
" service	1	210	1	620	1	510
" private			1	380	1	396
" wine-steward			1	234		
" officers			1	336		
Smoking-room	1	459	1	360	1	660
Bar	1	640	1	682	1	528
Billiard-room			1	837		
Tea-room (garden)			1	669	1	1,536
Committee rooms	8	2,640	10	4,904	9	3,779
Muniment-room			1	2,720	1	1,188
Librarian's quarters			6	1,362	6	1,699
Machinery-room			1	2,720	1	1,188
Crypt			1	2,500	1	2,116
Stores (basement)			7	1,990	4	408
Messengers' lavatories			2	1,320	1	80
Laundry			1	700		
Kitchen	1	784	1	1,404	1	1,452
Kitchen stores	3	521	1	308		
Larders	1	100	2	330	5	598
Waiters' dormitories	5	560	3	639	3	239
Houskeeper's rooms			2	460	1	206
Female servants			3	515	4	338
Stewards' quarters	4	1,048	5	715	4	964
Total		34,886		109,743		81,925

W. L. Vernon. I have also had a new site plan prepared showing the amended design. It will be seen that the building commences at the northern limit of the present building, and that the only buildings that will be disturbed at present are the stables, Richmond House, and Richmond Terrace. Eventually the Lending Library will have to go. This plan also shows that I have taken only 60 feet from the Domain, instead of 120 feet. It shows Bourke's Statue in its present position undisturbed. It shows, of course, an alteration in the outside gates leading into the Garden Palace Grounds, and also that the present gates leading into the Domain will be put back at the head of the avenue. Those are the main features of the alteration. I should like to make a correction in regard to a statement I put in at the last meeting, giving the comparative areas of the three schemes. By some means I put in the area in the present buildings of both floors, as against the general area of one floor only in the new designs. I must correct that to this extent, that the area of the original scheme is 83,500 feet, of the amended scheme, 58,150 feet, and of the present building 37,341 feet.

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2831. *Mr. Lee.*] What would be the area of the present buildings if the alterations suggested were carried out? The area would be increased by the wing at the back of the Speaker's quarters and the cottage for the messengers and the steward. In regard to the accommodation, in the first scheme the accommodation in rooms is 109,743 feet, in the amended design, 81,925 feet, and in the present building, 34,886 feet. The figures in the latter case do not include the Librarian's quarters, which, one may say, are outside the premises, while in the other two designs they are included.

2832. What is the area of the Librarian's quarters? In the amended design the accommodation provided is 1,699 feet.

2833. *Chairman.*] The proposed alterations to the existing buildings show an increase of 3,460 feet? Yes. One of the instructions by the Committee at the last meeting was to see if I could increase the accommodation for *Hansard* up to 1,800 feet. I have increased it up to 1,852 feet. At present the area of the rooms altered is 8,193 feet, and by the proposed alterations it will be increased to 11,653 feet.

2834-5. Therefore it will be necessary to add (say) 3,000 feet to the total accommodation in the present buildings of 34,000 feet? Yes.

2836. *Mr. Lee.*] What will be the accommodation of the present buildings with the proposed alterations? 38,346 feet.

2837. *Chairman.*] Making a fair comparison it may be said that the accommodation in the old design is 109,000; in the amended design, 82,000; and in the present buildings as altered, 38,000? That is so. I have a statement with reference to the alterations of the present buildings which I desire to give to the Committee:—

A SCHEME involving the smallest possible disturbance of the present Parliamentary Buildings, consistent with the removal of some of the most dangerous portions, is now under the consideration of the Committee, and by their instructions I have prepared plans showing the extent of this work, and which I estimate at a cost not exceeding £15,000. The scheme provides as follows:—

	At present.		Altered.	
	Rooms.	Area.	Rooms.	Area.
<i>Upper House.</i>				
Reading-room	1	475	1	266
<i>Lower House.</i>				
Members' rooms	3	578	6	865
Opposition room'	1	480	1	792
Speaker	4	976	4	1,071
Clerks and Records .....	.....	.....	1	513
<i>Hansard</i>	6	1,434	6	1,852
Press-rooms	4	620	6	1,128
Press dining-room	1	240	1	300
Clerk of Assembly	1	324	1	414
Printed papers	1	198	1	253
Post-office	1	143	1	120
<i>Common to both Houses.</i>				
Back Library	1	777	1	1,927
Messengers' quarters	3	900	5	1,152
Stewards' quarters	4	1,048	5	1,000
.....	.....	8,193	.....	11,653

The removal of the present back Library and the steward's rooms adjoining, and the messengers' rooms underneath, provides space for the erection of a central Library, measuring 47 feet x 41 feet. In order to obtain this full dimension it has been necessary to curtail the rear of the Reading-room in connection with the Upper House from 25 feet x 19 feet to 19 feet x 19 feet. This new Library would be built as much as possible with fire-resisting material, the floor and roof being of concrete, the walls of brick, and the lighting by horizontal window opening into the large area belonging to the Upper House, but mainly by a top skylight over one portion, constructed with metal bars and thick glass.

Over one portion of the Library on the first floor are provided three rooms for the *Hansard* staff, to be used in lieu of the present ill-arranged corridor, which latter would then be opened in its full extent for general access throughout the building on the first floor. Although it may appear that but little additional accommodation is given *Hansard* staff than at present, in reality the new accommodation is better and more capable of full utilisation. Two small public rooms are provided under the staircase leading to the Refreshment-room, and immediately facing the Post-office and other similar rooms. The present Post-office will also be used as a Members' room, and a new room will be erected for use as a Post-office.

The Opposition Members' room is enlarged and generally improved, and is to be lit both by a horizontal bay window and a top light.

To

To provide better accommodation for the Press the scheme includes the erection of a continuation in brick of the Speaker's wing, giving on the ground-floor somewhat increased accommodation to the Speaker, and a room for records, while on the first floor the whole space is apportioned for the accommodation of the Press, which, together with the existing rooms which are not to be removed, will give a total of seven rooms for this purpose.

The small staircase giving access for *Hansard* and the Press from the central hall and the ground-floor will be swept away, and a new staircase erected in the Lobby.

The house steward and messenger, who are displaced to make room for the Library, are provided for in a detached cottage standing on the site of the laundry-yard overlooking the Domain.

By the above it will be seen that about 3,460 feet super. floor-space is gained.

It must be clearly borne in mind that the scheme still leaves considerable portions of the wooden construction of the Parliamentary buildings, and also of the ant-infested portions, altogether untouched, and although new work, and as much of the old as is involved in the alterations, will be constructed of non-flammable material, the result can be considered only as a check to the damage going on and to the risk from fire, and not as a cure.

The estimated cost, £15,000, provides for some limited addition to the ventilating plant of the Lower House, to which will be added that of the new Library; but it is quite possible, if the alterations are entered into, the re-building of other portions may be taken into consideration, and the amount mentioned, therefore, become inadequate.

2838. You have provided special accommodation for the stewards in the east corner of the yard? Yes.

2839. There were two rooms, marked on the ground-plan, previously occupied as steward's rooms;—do you know their area? They measure 280 feet.

2840. Could not the messengers have those rooms? Possibly they might; but I think that at times they are used in connection with the kitchen. I find that one has been occupied by the steward and the other has been used for kitchen purposes.

2841. Those two rooms can go to the messengers? Yes.

2842. And then they will have 1,152 feet? Yes.

2843. Are you keeping the messengers and the steward's separate? I am putting them into the same building, but I am giving each separate entrances and separate floors. It seems almost a pity to destroy that nice garden plot by covering it with buildings of that description, and it is quite possible and easy to put the messengers on the ground-floor with one entrance, and give the steward the house above with a separate entrance. It is also economical, because it saves one roof. However, the planning of this cottage may be well left for future arrangement.

2844. There will still be a number of rooms remaining in the building for the use of the messengers, so that they will have reasonable accommodation? Yes; there are several rooms throughout the building which they can use.

2845. And you estimate the cost of all these alterations at £15,000? Yes.

2846. *Mr. Hoskins.*] Including the roof? Including carrying the walls through the roof, and making parapet fire walls.

2847. *Mr. Roberts.*] I understand you to say that possibly, when you once begin to pull this old building about, it might cost a great deal more than £15,000? I did say so, and I am still of the opinion that when once you begin to pull the old building about, you will hardly know where to stop.

2848. And the probability is that the alterations will cost £20,000? Most likely, yes. The building has already cost £100,000, as nearly as the records tell us, and an annual average expenditure of £1,000.

2849. Would it still continue to cost £1,000 per annum? Quite that amount.

2850. *Mr. Wright.*] You could not keep up a new building at a less cost than £1,000 a year for painting and everything of that sort? The new building would not cost anything for renewals. It might cost money for decorations, but not for renewals of structure.

2851. *Chairman.*] Will you state what portions of the building, after these alterations have been carried out, will still consist of inflammable material? The whole of the Legislative Council buildings, including the Council Chamber, the President's rooms, and the Members' rooms, in the rear; also the offices in connection with the officials on the first floor, with the exception of the front, which is of iron. The rest is nearly all of wood. A few walls exist—chimney-breasts, and so on—but, generally speaking, the building is of timber. The back reading-room, in the Legislative Council, is also of wood, as well as the office of the Clerk Assistant and the Clerk of Select Committees, immediately from the back Library—the whole of that place is one labyrinth of passages and corridors. The partitions in the main front of the building are of wood, except where there are fire-places, and there they are of brick and stone. The smoking-room belonging to the Lower House is entirely constructed of wood, and the surrounding corridors and passages are also of wood. Some portions of the Speaker's quarters are of wood; but these are not in such a dangerous state, because they are more isolated.

2852. In point of fact, you will be putting a brick face over the top of that part? Yes.

2853. Then there is the Government supporters' room? That is wood, but that is isolated to some little extent. Then the whole of the partitions in connection with the Members' rooms, down by the Post-office, and the partitions which run from that floor up into the floor above are all of wood. I suppose one-third of the structure which would remain would still be of wood, roughly speaking.

2854. *Mr. Hoskins.*] I suppose you know that the Water and Sewerage Board have put extra water-pressure in Macquarie-street to the extent of another pipe? I believe they have.

2855. *Chairman.*] Do you think the estimate of £15,000 as the cost of the alterations requires to be increased? It is difficult to answer that question. If the Committee binds the scheme to the accommodation set forth in the statement I have read, the £15,000 will do the work; but, as I fully expect, if it be found necessary to go on further, no one can tell what the cost will be.

2856. *Mr. Hoskins.*] How long do you think it will take to carry out the alterations and improvements to the existing buildings? It will take nearly twelve months; but the most important portions—those interfering with the use of the House and with Members—might be done in a shorter time—probably, with great pressure, within five months.

2857. Then, if the alterations to the present building were carried out, Members would not be dispossessed of their rooms, or the House be unable to sit and carry on public business, for a longer period than five months? I think it could be done in that period.

- W. L. Vernon. 2858. *Chairman.*] It could be done in a recess? In a long recess—a five months' recess; but the works generally would take longer.
- 30 Nov., 1897. 2859. *Mr. Fegan.*] Did I understand you to say that you could complete the new building in three years? Yes.
2860. Have you plenty of stone? We have abundance of stone.
2861. How is that;—at times there is a scarcity? The fact is that at present there is little or no stone-work being executed in the city or in the neighbourhood of Sydney. Stonework is almost at a standstill, and the consequence is there is a large amount of stone in the quarries easy to be worked, and also, unfortunately, a large amount of available labour.
2862. *Mr. Trickett.*] I suppose the alterations to the present buildings would have to be carried out by day-labour? I think I should recommend so in this case. I could never draw up a clear contract with a contractor.
2863. It would be very difficult to provide for emergencies? Yes.
2864. *Mr. Lee.*] With regard to the height mentioned in your amended scheme of 55 feet from the ground level, would that be 55 feet to the highest point, or 55 feet to the top of the running-wall? It is the average height of the roof. It would provide for covering the building with a permanent roof.
2865. Could you give us any definite idea how you arrive at the cost; you have given us the superficial area and the particulars as regards material; but what have you to guide you in the absence of a specification and detailed drawings? I have the experience that has been obtained in other buildings of a similar character. In my first evidence I gave a comparative statement of the cost of several well-known buildings, and I feel justified in relying upon that.
2866. At best, then, it is an estimate? Certainly.
2867. And it is quite within the bounds of probability that the estimate will be exceeded? I do not think so, because these other buildings were constructed at more expensive times than the present, and all material is cheaper now than it was in those days.
2868. Is it practicable to take the cubical contents of the building, and give an accurate estimate of its cost? Practice works out a most exact system of that kind. Of course, consideration must be given to the class of building. Take a wool warehouse, for instance, in the city. If it is built on recognised lines as regards dimension and construction, and there is nothing out of the way either in the foundations or the outside design, the cost of such a building can be told to a halfpenny.
2869. Your design for a Parliament House differs very largely from the square brick-stone building which would be used for a wool warehouse? That is true; but the wool warehouse can be built for about 4½d. or 5d. a cube foot, whereas, in my estimate, I consider that I am putting a perfectly safe valuation on the cost at 1s. 6d. per cube foot. The building we are in now cost 1s. 5¼d., and the Lands Office cost 1s. 7d.
2870. That would be irrespective of either furniture or fittings? Yes; irrespective of movable furniture.
2871. I presume there are no portions of the fittings in the old House that would be fit to put into the new one? A good deal of the furniture would go in; but I do not think it would be desirable, for instance, to put the old Library fittings in, unless there are any particularly good ones. The other fittings are of very small moment. They comprise, principally, movable furniture in connection with the offices and the comfort and the convenience of Members. These are all movable.
2872. Do you estimate, then, that £257,000 would completely finish the building in every respect, so that it would be ready for taking the furniture? Yes, up to 55 feet.
2873. But it would not include fittings, such as library shelves? I daresay it would do even that, although I would not bind myself strictly upon a small detail of that kind.
2874. I suppose if a new building is erected we must make up our minds to furnish it pretty well through with new furniture? Very possibly.
2875. Have you made any provision for the disposal of the old building? No.
2876. What would be the fate of those buildings if a new House of Parliament were erected? I should imagine they would be removed when the new building was erected, so that there should be an open space around the new building.
2877. Have you provided in your scheme for committee-rooms, stable accommodation, and all that sort of thing, such as we find at the present time? I have for committee-rooms, but not for stabling.
2878. You propose to take 60 feet from the Domain? Yes.
2879. How far will that throw the new building out beyond the present stone wall at the rear of Parliament House? The two outside wings are, as nearly as possible, in a line with the stone wall, but the central wing runs out 12 or 14 feet more to the eastward.
2880. By going as far north as you propose, you will bring Governor Bourke's Statue inside Parliament grounds? Yes.
2881. What portion of ground have you to take off the Garden Palace Grounds to admit of a new entrance to those grounds? The new road shown on the plan is 57 feet wide. It will be necessary to push that road right into the garden in order to get round the building.
2882. Then you will have to remove the large gate? I propose to shift the gates, which, I think, were always intended to be shifted, because they are not in a very good position. I propose to put those gates in another position, and continue the carriage drive a short distance; so that it comes out into the centre of a sort of public square; and then the Domain gates I recommend should be taken back to the head of the avenue, so that the Domain can still be shut at night-time.
2883. Beyond the point at which you propose to put the Domain gates there will be no alteration? None whatever.
2884. So that the alterations to the Gardens and the Domain will be between the avenue and Bent-street? Yes.
2885. What width of road will you have as an entrance into the Domain? At the narrowest point it will be 57 feet wide. The building will stand back 240 feet from the opposite side of Macquarie-street. In my reduced scheme, I have stopped the encroachment on the Domain at the boundary wall of the hospital, instead of its being carried to the Government Architect's yard.
2886. Do you propose to alter Macquarie-street in any way, or include any large garden in front of Parliament House? I have a very strong opinion that Macquarie-street should be widened; but, at the present

present moment, I have brought the boundary palisade of the new building up to the wall of the present building at the proper position for its widening, but there I have left it. Instead of building the palisade wall out to the present alignment, I have taken it back to correspond with the position which it will take some day at the Royal Mint.

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2887. The buildings then to be destroyed will be Richmond Terrace, the Librarian's house, and the Lending Library? Yes; and the stables—the old cottages.

2888. Those will have to be removed? Yes; but the Lending Library might remain there for another two or three years—a couple of years, at any rate.

2889. It would be an eyesore, would it not? Undoubtedly; but for two years, during the building of the new structure, it might very well stand there until other arrangements could be made elsewhere.

2890. Does the new design necessitate any other alterations, either to the ground, the gardens, or the street? None whatever.

2891. Do you propose to make another opening into Macquarie-street at Bent-street, or leave the opening from Bent-street at an angle? I do not propose to make any other carriage entrance. There are several outside doors in the building, and I propose to reach those from special entrances, which may be put wherever is most convenient in the boundary wall.

2892. How do you propose to approach the main entrance to the building? I propose to widen Macquarie-street with a very gradual slope, so that the roadway touches the foot of the steps leading up to the top portico.

2893. How high are those steps? About 6 or 7 feet above Macquarie-street.

2894. Then the main floor of the building will be from 6 to 7 feet above the street level? That is so. The steps leading up from the main road in Macquarie-street will be divided into two flights—one outside of the portico and one inside the vestibule—so that the height is gained without appearing to suffer.

2895. *Mr. Wright.*] Could not the building be carried more to the south, so as not to interfere with the existing approach to the Domain and to the statue? Only by interfering with the present building.

2896. What distance is the new design from the present building? About 10 feet from the Premier's room, and 28 feet from the present Committee rooms. These are the two nearest points.

2897. Could not arrangements be made to build the northern end first, so as to bring the building eventually much further south, and thus save all that portion of the roadway now intended to be destroyed;—it will be seen that you are not only destroying the site of Governor Bourke's Statue, and altering the position of the roadway, but also taking a portion of the Garden Palace Grounds? Of course, it could be done, but it would not be of the same advantage to put a portion of the building up first. It would be far better to put the whole building up level by level all the way through. As regards the shifting of the boundaries in the Domain, they only consist of a picket-fence, and as far as the Garden Palace Grounds are concerned, the planting there is only of young trees.

2898. Besides interfering with Governor Bourke's Statue which is of historic importance to the Colony you would also alter the main entrance to the Domain, and push it further away to the north—it is too far to the north now? The entrance, I think, would be in a better position than at present.

2899. With regard to the depth back from Macquarie-street, is it necessary to put the building so far back from the existing street front;—would it not be better for an imposing structure of that kind to stand out say 100 feet back from the street, with no garden or palisading in front;—why should a great public building have iron rails, and a garden in front? I have had to put the balustrade along in the position it occupies on the plan owing to a natural fall in the ground from Macquarie-street down to the Domain. While the basement floor at the back of the building is on level ground, the ground gradually rises to the front, and brings Macquarie-street into what is called the half basement, and in order to obtain the full basement again, I excavate all this ground, and put up this low balustrade.

2900. Did you ever see any public building in any city surrounded by a picket fence and a low wall? I do not intend to put up a picket fence.

2901. Well, a balustrade? I only suggest it in order to provide for the difference in the level of the ground. There is a large open space, which I think meets the requirements of the building.

2902. Do you know of any great public building in any part of the world which is surrounded by walls and palisading? Very few.

2903. Do you not think it destroys the effect of a great building like that, and makes it like a gentleman's private residence? Yes; I dislike them very much.

2904. Would it not present a better appearance if the building were brought 100 feet nearer to Macquarie-street, and the whole space left open? I do not think so.

2905. Would not the Town Hall in Sydney be very much improved if the wall in front were taken away, and the building left open to the street? Yes, very much.

2906. Could not this building be brought 100 feet nearer the street, and the whole space left open without any garden or palisading or walls? I do not think it could come any nearer the road; but so far as the balustrade is concerned, it is a mere structure to meet the difference of the two levels.

2907. *Chairman.*] Do you remember being asked if it were possible to have some appurtenances for washing purposes in the *Hansard* rooms to be connected with the clerks' lavatory;—is that possible? I made a note of that, and I find the best way is to put lavatory basins in the principal rooms of *Hansard* as they may be required. I thought the space was too valuable to give to *Hansard* to break up for lavatory purposes, and I thought I had better give them hand-basins, leaving them to use the general lavatory furnished for the Press.

2908. You are aware that it was originally proposed that the new Parliament buildings should be used for the purposes of an exhibition? The amended design would not be suitable for an exhibition. The area would not be sufficiently large to warrant it being converted into that purpose.

2909. *Mr. Trickett.*] Could you give the Committee any information showing that the proposed expenditure on a new building would not be excessive for a Colony like this, having regard to its population, its revenue, and the number of Members of Parliament;—could you give a comparative statement showing how, in these respects, this Colony compares with other countries, as bearing upon the question of Houses of Parliament? I did endeavour to get some information of that kind; but I found that the circumstances were so different in the case of the European countries, and especially the northern countries, that I could not make a fair comparison. In Belgium, which has a population of about 8,000,000, they have a Parliamentary building very similar in dimensions to the one here proposed—in fact, the Chambers themselves

W. L. Vernon. themselves would be almost identical, except that the design is different. A new building which is being commenced at Stockholm for the two Scandinavian nations of Norway and Sweden is combined with a large Bank—the Royal Bank of Sweden. Therefore, we could not get any fair comparison. That building is to cost very nearly £1,000,000. In Denmark they are about in the same position as New South Wales at the present moment—they are considering what they will do.

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2910. *Mr. Roberts.*] With regard to the amended scheme, you say you will encroach 60 feet upon the Domain in an easterly direction;—that is just half the area you would have taken if the original design had been selected? Yes.

2911. In the other case it is 120 feet, and it was extended in a southerly direction to the southern boundary of the Mint? Quite so.

2912. *Mr. Lee.*] Will your new road to the Domain avoid the building used as a Technological Museum? Yes; I do not touch that at all.

2913. *Mr. Roberts.*] Do you not regard that building as an eyesore from an architectural point of view? Yes.

2914. *Mr. Black.*] In your proposal to alter the old building, would it be possible to do anything which would remove from the Domain the present appliances for generating electricity? Yes; we could probably erect a temporary engine plant adjoining the present stables;—in fact, some time ago it was suggested that that should be done. But the question now is a little more complicated by the fact that the Museum is now there in a somewhat more permanent form than was the case at that time.

2915. But there would be room beyond where the stables are, and where the buildings would be pulled down? Yes.

2916. With regard to the depth on your plan from Macquarie-street; Macquarie-street is a chain wide, is it not? Sixty feet.

2917. You are widening the space there in front of the proposed building by 170 feet? Yes; there will be a total width from the opposite side of Macquarie-street of 240 feet.

2918. How much would you require to reduce that space which you intend to give in front of the building in order to save the trees behind? I do not think we could save any of the trees affected by the design.

2919. If you brought forward the new building on the alignment of the present building, would you still have to destroy those trees? Yes; I am afraid they would have to go. I may state that provision already exists for new Parliament Houses to the amount of £100,000, passed in a Loan Bill, and which still stands to the credit of the scheme. Assuming that the Committee made a recommendation in favour of a new scheme, no more money would be required for two years. There is £100,000 available now. It would not be possible to spend more than £40,000 in the first year and £60,000 in the next year, and then provision would have to be made for the following year.

2920. Where is that £100,000? It is due now. It was passed in a Loan Bill in 1889.

2921. It formed portion of an item in a Loan Bill? It was a distinct item in itself.

2922. Was the money raised for the purpose? I could not say.

2923. But there was permission to raise it? Yes; we have expended a portion of it in connection with this inquiry. In the Loan Act of 1889 there is the item, "New Houses of Parliament; towards the erection of, £100,000." We have expended £317 13s. 6d. up to the 30th December, and we have in hand £99,682 6s. 6d.

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS.
New Houses of Parliament for the Colony.

APPENDIX.

A.

[To Evidence of William Douglas Bear.]

FIRE APPLIANCES IN ASYLUMS AND WAREHOUSES.

Head Quarters Fire Station, Castlereagh-street,

Sydney, 1 June, 1897.

Sir,

I have the honor to state that I have read my evidence through very carefully and corrected same.

On page 86 there appears to be a little misunderstanding about the asylums, warehouses, &c.

The buckets in some of our asylums were of wooden construction, containing over 3 gallons of water. These buckets are made in our gaols, but they are not fit for fire purposes. Two-gallon buckets should be used, with a good rim at the bottom, so as to allow of the water being thrown a good distance.

The common practice for warehouses, &c., of using empty oil drums holding about 12 to 13 gallons, and putting a wire or rope on them for a handle, or using kerosene tins in a similar manner, is a mistake altogether.

In the one case the drum and water are too heavy for lifting about, and in the case of the kerosene tins, there being no rim, the water cannot be thrown very far.

These are used in some of our warehouses, timber yards, &c.

I should like this matter explained to your Committee, but I do not wish to say where the practice exists as it may affect the insurances.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM D. BEAR,

Superintendent of Fire Brigades.

The Secretary, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works.

B.

[To Evidence of the Hon. Sir Arthur Renwick, M.D., M.L.C.]

INFORMATION RESPECTING SYDNEY HOSPITAL.

Sydney Hospital, Macquarie-street,

Sydney, N.S. Wales, 11 June, 1897.

Sir,

I am directed by the President of the Sydney Hospital, the Hon. Sir Arthur Renwick, to forward you the following particulars which were requested from him when he was examined as a witness before the Parliamentary Public Works Standing Committee.

1. The area of the Hospital ground is 121,776 superficial feet.
2. The frontage to Macquarie-street is 364 feet.
3. The distance from the alignment of the footpath to the front steps is 20 feet.
4. The distance from the alignment of the footpath to the wards in which the patients are domiciled is 52 feet.
5. The area of ground occupied by buildings of the Hospital is 52,360 superficial feet.
6. The cost of construction of the buildings was £138,262 16s. 6d., viz., under supervision of Mr. Rowe, £69,218 1s. 3d., under supervision of Mr. Kirpatrick, £69,044 15s. 3d.

I have, &c.,

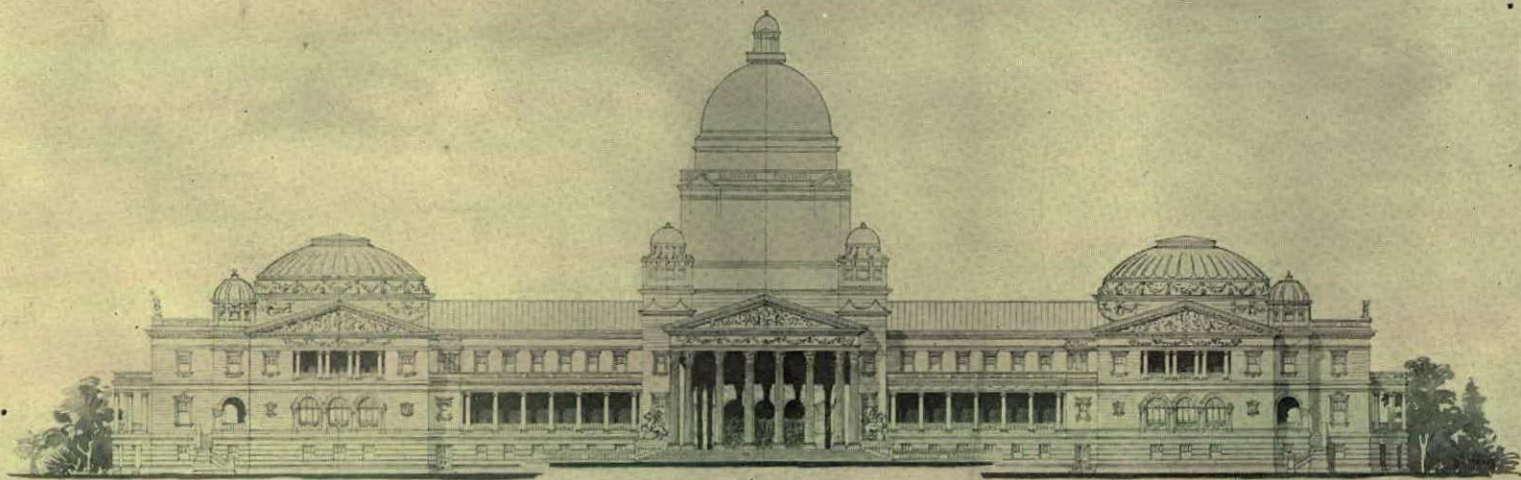
H. D. RUSSELL,

Secretary.

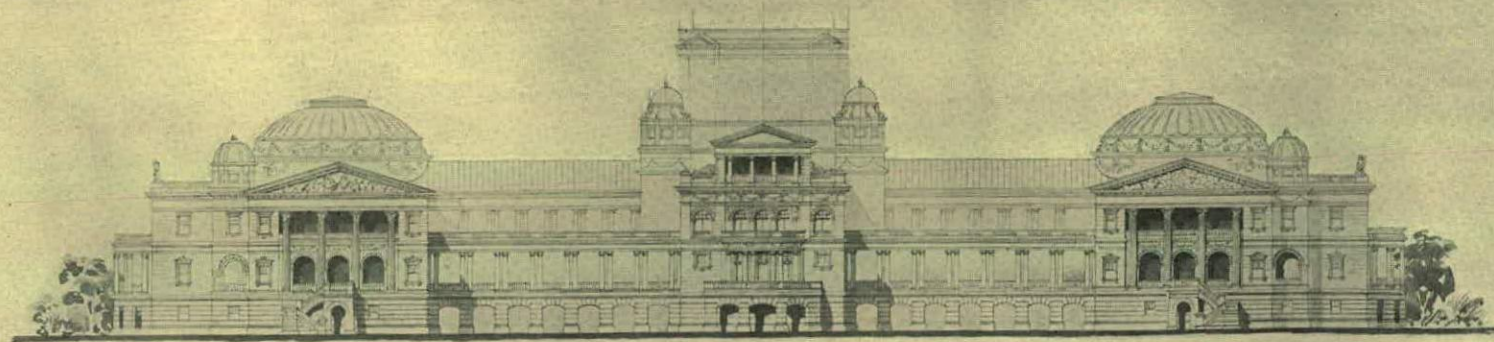
The Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works.

[Two plans and two photos.]

NEW PARLIAMENTARY BUILDINGS SYDNEY.
(Reduced Scheme)



ELEVATION TO MACQUARIE STREET



ELEVATION TO DOMAIN

1852

* 42 —

NEW PARLIAMENTARY BUILDINGS, SYDNEY.
Reduced Scheme.
Estimated Cost (without a Dome), £257,000.

PROPOSED NEW HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.
Estimated Cost, £533,484.

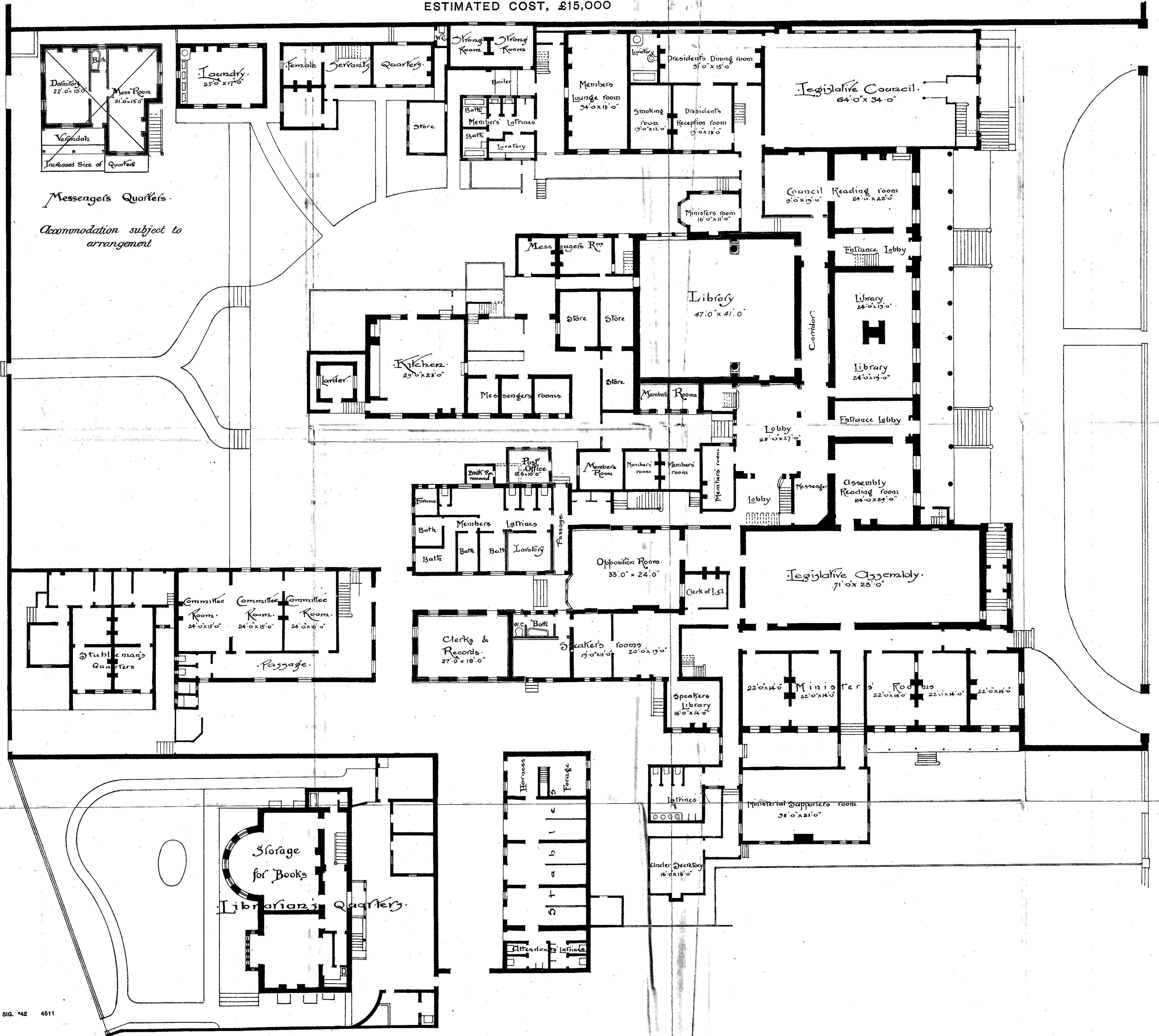


: Existing Parliamentary Buildings : Sydney :

1/16" Scale

PROPOSED ALTERATIONS

ESTIMATED COST, £15,000



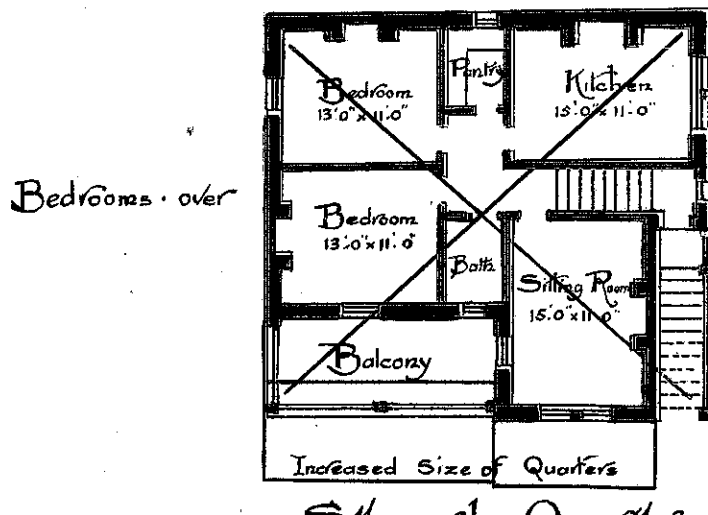
Messengers Quarters.
Accommodation subject to arrangement

Ground Plan

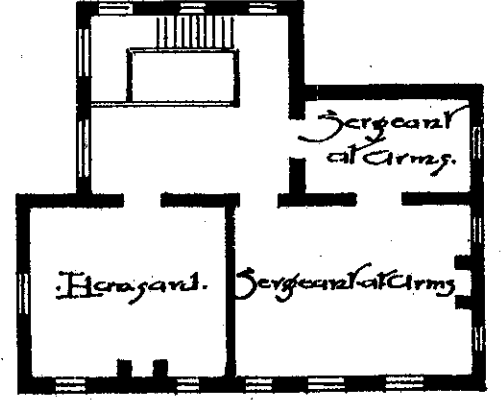
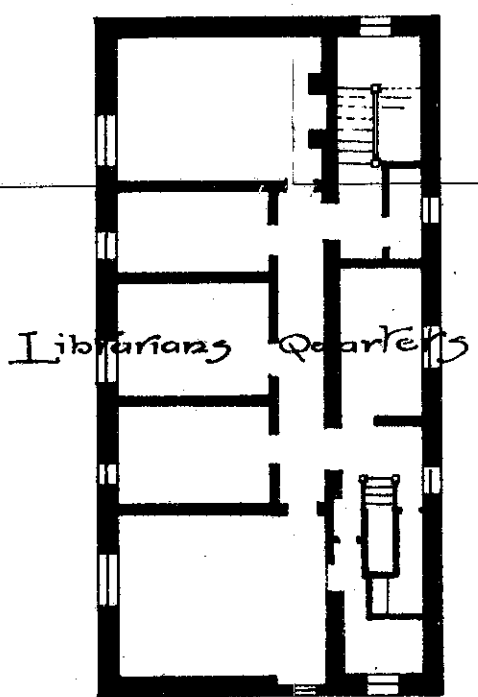
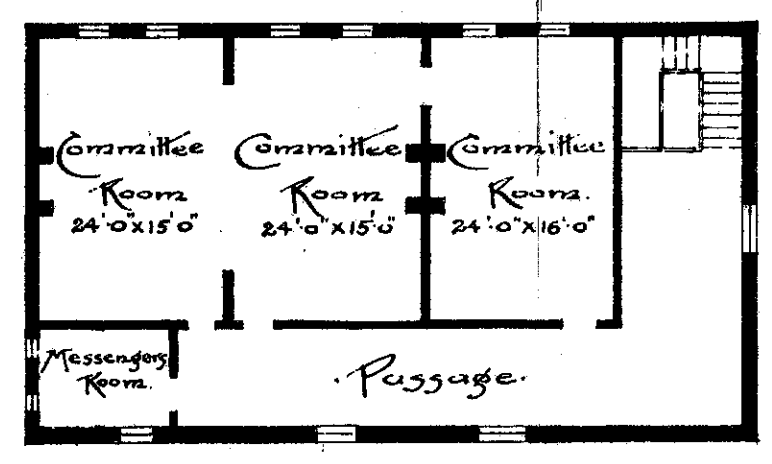
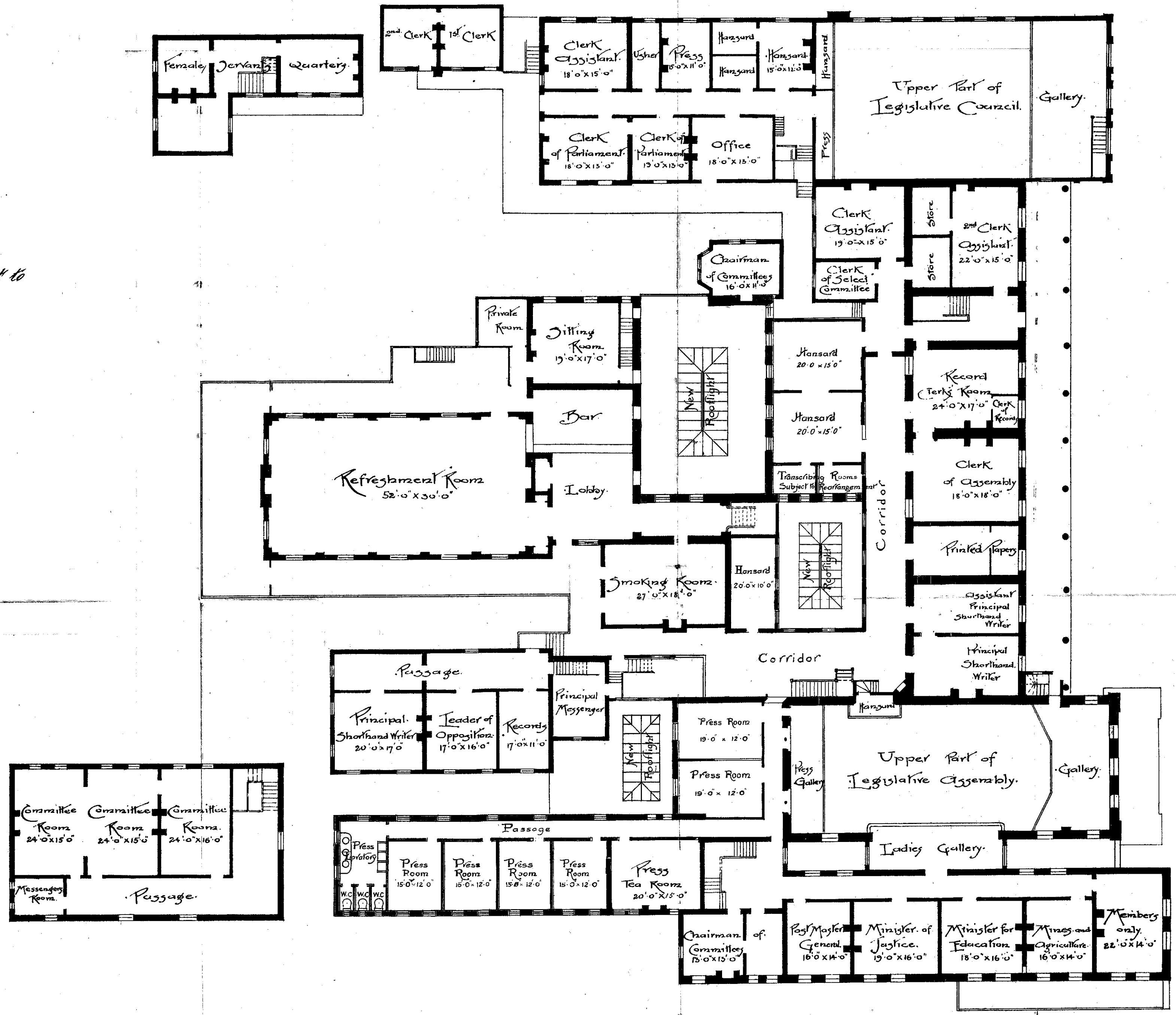
PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHED AT THE GOVT. PRINTING OFFICE, SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

Existing Parliamentary Buildings : Sydney

1/16" Scale : PROPOSED ALTERATIONS
ESTIMATED COST, £15,000



Accommodation subject to Arrangement



SIG. 42 4511

First Floor Plan

Second Floor Plan

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

EXTENSION OF THE FRANCHISE TO WOMEN.
(PETITION FROM CERTAIN RESIDENTS OF NEW SOUTH WALES, IN FAVOUR OF.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 30 November, 1897.

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

The humble Petition of the undersigned residents of New South Wales, over the age of twenty-
one years,—

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :—

1. That it is expedient that the electoral franchise should be extended to women on the same
conditions as apply to men.

2. That the time is now ripe for such a measure.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray your Honorable House will take measures to further
the object of your Petitioners.

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

[Here follow 361 signatures.]



1897.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

EXTENSION OF THE FRANCHISE TO WOMEN.

(PETITION FROM CERTAIN RESIDENTS OF NEW SOUTH WALES IN FAVOUR OF.)

—
Received by the Legislative Assembly, 7 December, 1897.
 —

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

The humble Petition of the undersigned Residents of New South Wales over the age of twenty-one years,—

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:—

1. That it is expedient that the Electoral Franchise should be extended to women on the same conditions as apply to men.

2. That the time is now ripe for such a measure.

Your Petitioners, therefore, humbly pray your Honorable House will take measures to further the object of your Petitioners.

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

[Here follow 37 signatures.]

